

THE VOTE,  
JULY 23, 1920.  
ONE PENNY.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE MAGISTRATES!

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

VOL. XX. No. 561.

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FRIDAY, JULY 23, 1920.

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

## PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

WOMANHOOD AND THE FUTURE. Interview with the Hon. Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G., M.D.  
CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT. E. Knight.  
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY AND WOMEN'S DEGREES.  
MRS. DESPARD'S VISIT TO HUNGARY. [A. Fox.]

MUDDLED MISMANAGEMENT!  
234 MORE WOMEN MAGISTRATES.  
WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.  
A YEAR OF HEALTH EFFORTS. E. Knight.

## WOMANHOOD AND THE FUTURE.

*Interview with the Hon. Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G., M.D.*

Sir John Cockburn's doughty championship of the Woman's Cause is well known to suffragists all the world over, especially in the Dominions Overseas, where, as a former Premier of South Australia, he had the satisfaction of introducing and carrying the first Act which enfranchised women in Australia.

As President of the Men's International Alliance for Woman Suffrage, Sir John Cockburn still maintains, with unabated zeal, the enthusiasm for the Woman's Movement which characterised him in his youth, and, had he not been prevented by unexpected illness, it was his full intention to have been present last month at the Geneva Congress, to which he was invited as a distinguished visitor.

In addition to these activities Sir John is also a prophet—a far-seeing one—of the deep philosophical meaning which underlies the great cosmic upheaval popularly known as

### Woman's Suffrage,

so that it was indeed a stroke of good fortune when a representative of THE VOTE recently obtained from Sir John himself certain pregnant utterances, not only upon this inner meaning, but also upon the future relationship between the sexes.

"All my life," Sir John explained, "I have been a student of the hidden wisdom of the ancients, and the deep mysteries of the Kabbalah, which to some extent still continue under the names of Freemasonry and Rosicrucianism. In the course of my studies I discovered that originally the Divine Feminine was of far greater potency than the masculine God. In Egypt, Isis, the Goddess, was more venerated than Osiris the God. Even the awful word Jehovah, the Tetragrammaton, whose four letters connoted the deity of a race with exclusively masculine ideas, is largely built up of feminine elements, whilst the *Elohim*, the

Gods who in the beginning created the world, were androgynous, that is to say, male and female. *El Shaddai*, who appeared to Abram, and is called the Almighty, was a Goddess.

"Co-operation and synthesis are the keystones of the coming age," continued Sir John. "Businesses are now being carried on by joint stock companies instead of by individuals; amalgamations are everywhere shaping themselves amongst railways and banks; Labour and Capital are consolidated into Unions; and Mutual Insurance is the order of the day. It is recognised that no man can live for himself alone; the ties of relationship are becoming more and more emphasised. These are

### Signs of Solidarity.

and are typical of an age in which the tendency of woman towards synthesis will have full play.

"The admission of women to citizenship is the greatest event which has occurred since the commencement of the historical epoch. The effect will be gradual, for women are not prone to revolution, but eventually it will permeate and modify all our existing institutions. The influence of women will be advantageous throughout the whole gamut of affairs, from the domestic business of municipalities up to the high policy of the League of Nations. The growing recognition of the right of a woman to earn her own living in any trade or profession will cure many social disorders, and, incidentally, will greatly diminish prostitution.

"Do you consider women should join existing political parties, or form a party of their own?" asked our representative.

"It might be wiser that they should do neither," replied Sir John. "The party spirit is the curse of Governments, and derives its strength from the sporting proclivities of the male sex. It has a disas-

trous effect upon commerce and finance, and finds its most baneful expression in what has been called 'the great game of war.' From such evils women will do much to redeem the world.

"Stability and permanence will be another feature of the future," Sir John continued. "Constructive purpose will take the place of the combative theories of the past.

"Do you associate destruction mainly with male predominance?" asked our representative.

"Undoubtedly," replied Sir John. "The work of destruction is much more congenial to men's minds than to women's. Women tend to make the best of things as they are rather than seek a radical change. When, therefore, in history a great upheaval becomes imminent, women are relegated to the background so that the destructive propensities shall have full scope. Take, for instance, the epoch of destruction of our glorious Cathedrals and priceless stained glass windows. The iconoclasts found it necessary first to suppress

#### Women's Influence,

for they would never have consented to such wholesale Philistinism. The Protestant age brought many blessings to the world, but these were accompanied with much needless destruction, as well as with the temporary dethronement of women, who, up till that time, had wielded great power and influence as scholars, abbesses, administrators, and were even eligible to sit in Parliament.

"The feminine principle stands pre-eminently for type, the male element for variation. Long before I heard of Lester Ward's *Pure Sociology* I recognised the scientific truth that the female is the race, and that the male organism was introduced into evolution at a much later date, purely for the purpose of preventing stagnation. Whenever, therefore, in any age, the spirit of variation creeps in as a necessary stage of development the work of destruction is a foregone conclusion, just as the removal of an old building becomes part of the contract for the erection of the new. But housebreaking can never become the settled order of society, and the future will be an

#### Era of Restoration

and reconstruction, which will give an opportunity of bringing to fruition the great inventions, due to masculine initiative, of which we have only so far touched the outermost fringe, and which have not yet done much to increase human happiness.

"To-day the pendulum is swinging in the opposite direction, away from destruction, and women will play an ever-increasing part in the future activities of life. This does not, however, imply a return to the Matriarchal period of pre-historic times, but a happy balance between the sexes never hitherto attained. In the future neither the man nor the woman will be supreme, but both sexes will co-operate on all the planes of activity in making life more worth living than has hitherto been the case. Then will be fulfilled the ancient prophecy that only 'when the man is as the woman' will the dream of a Golden Age be realised."

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## CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT.

### Joint Committee at Work.

As previously mentioned in THE VOTE the three Bills with this object which have passed the House of Lords—the *Criminal Law Amendment Bill (No. 1)*, for which the Bishop of London is responsible, a simple Bill raising the age of consent to 18; the *Criminal Law Amendment Bill (No. 2)*, brought in by the Home Office and piloted through the Lords by Lord Sandhurst, which introduces compulsory rescue homes and a general 40D, D.O.R.A.; and the *Sexual Offences Bill* of Lord Beauchamp—have been referred to a joint committee of both Houses. This Committee meets in Committee Room C of the House of Lords, usually on Tuesdays and Thursdays, at 11 a.m. The proceedings are public, and we urge our members to go and hear the evidence given before it. The Chairman is Lord Muir-Mackenzie, and the members Earls Beauchamp, Malmesbury, Pembroke, Onslow and Wemyss, Lady Astor, Sir T. Bramsdon, Major Farquharson, Mr. Maddocks, Colonel Parry, and Mr. Wignall.

The first meeting was held on July 13th. Sir Ernley Blackwell, Permanent Under-Secretary to the Home Office, said that there was now less public disorder in the streets, and the figures as to venereal disease were less grave than during the war. The Home Secretary would offer no objection to the raising of the age of consent to 17. The Health Ministry is leaving to the Home Office the question whether or not there should be a universal 40D clause in the Bill.

Dr. Jane Walker, Dr. Ethel Williams and Dr. Mary Gordon, representing the Federation of Medical Women, said that the many hundreds of medical women in the country were practically unanimous in asking for the raising of the age of consent to 18 for both indecent and criminal assault, and that reasonable cause to believe that the girl was over age shall be no defence. They were strongly opposed to any compulsory detention of girls in "Homes," because such Homes would be, in effect, prisons, and the voluntary principle was essential if Homes were to have any success in reforming character. They also opposed the penalisation of solicitation and sexual intercourse by infectious persons, as it would tend to keep sick persons from applying for treatment at any early stage of their illness for fear of a subsequent prosecution. They opposed all compulsion in treatment, and any penalties for neglect of treatment, for the same reason. These all tended to spread the disease instead of lessening it because patients would postpone treatment as long as possible. They strongly objected to the labelling as "prostitutes" of any body of women, and to special measures for them, and were absolutely against compulsory medical examination. Mrs. Gotto, for the National Association for Combating Venereal Disease, said the Association did not wish to see penalisation for communicating venereal disease included in a Criminal Bill. They wished to see it in a separate Public Health measure.

E. KNIGHT.

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

## PUBLIC MEETING

On Need for Women in Parliament

will be held in the small Lecture Hall,

PICTON HALL, LIVERPOOL.

On SATURDAY, JULY 31st, at 8 p.m.

Miss LEONORA DE ALBERTI in the Chair.

Speakers—

JOS. PH. CLAYTON, Esq.; Professor MARY HAYDEN, M.A. (Dublin)

Miss NANCY STEWART PARNELL.

Miss ANNIE CHRISTITCH, B.A. (London), will give an account of the INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE CONGRESS IN GENEVA. Tickets for Reserved Seats, 2s. 1/2, and 6d., from the Hon. Secretary, C.W.S.S., 66, Park Road South, Birkenhead.

## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY & WOMEN'S DEGREES.

### Rival Reports of the Syndicate.

The Syndicate of University men appointed to consider women's claims are equally divided on the question of admitting them to membership of the University of Cambridge. Six wish to affiliate the Women's Colleges, the other six would have them stay as they are and form a separate University. Accordingly, two reports have been prepared, and will be submitted to the Senate later in the year. These reports are circumstantial and detailed. It is here intended merely to sum up the essential features of both their present values and future dangers.

**Report A** (signed by R. St. J. Parry, H. M. L. Innes, F. J. M. Stratton, C. R. Fay, A. D. McNair; J. R. M. Butler) proposes a Statute for Women Students which would give them membership of the University on what is called "equal terms with men." The word "equal" is here fairly correct as applied to emoluments, degrees, certificates, diplomas and offices, but, nevertheless, the Statute would not give absolute equality.

### Exceptions for Women.

(1) The office of Proctor is not to be held by women, though they could be "pro-proctors." This means that the direct and supreme control of all disciplinary matters for men and women would be in the hands of men.

(2) Women are not to matriculate or graduate, except as members of recognised Women's Colleges or Hostels. That is to say, non-collegiate male students will be allowed to graduate as they always have done, while non-collegiate female students will "cease from the land."

(3) No woman student is to have any right or share in any men's College. It may be supposed that this limitation is obvious and necessary, but that is not the case, as a short explanation will show. When systematic instruction for girls had become general about 50 years ago, most parents would have said, "There is no need for girls to attend boys' schools." But it soon transpired that many so-called "Boys' Schools" lived on funds which had been left, in pre-Reformation times, for boys and girls. These funds have now been in most cases re-apportioned as the founders intended, to boys and girls alike. Similarly, since the term "College" means not only a building, but all material and intellectual property of any foundation, it is possible that in future some Men's Colleges will wish to share their funds with women, either as a duty or as a grace. A University statute to provide beforehand against this possible development is certainly a mistake. The above are the

### Chief Flaws

in Report A. It should also be noted that the signatories of A desire the University to hold complete control of the expansion of Women's Colleges. Such control would enable the authorities to keep the number of women students in a minority if they chose, and it appears that they devoutly wish for, or at least serenely contemplate, this state of things, e.g., "A Constituency which will presumably remain overwhelmingly male." "At least for many years that men will vastly preponderate in numbers on the Syndicate's Boards and other bodies of the University no less than in the Senate itself" (see A's answer to B). Should this male majority hold for a long time, it will do so because it is artificially fostered. The trend of affairs is quite the other way. If women are left free they will flock to the centres of learning and find their own level. This truth being clearly recognised by the authorities, artificial checking of numbers will be resorted to.

Enough has been said to show the incompleteness and partial injustice of Report A. It will, however, obtain the support of women students, not on its own merits, but because Report B is worse.

**Report B** (signed by E. C. Pearce, W. R. Sorley, R. V. Laurence, Will Spens, J. T. Spittle, C. A. Elliott) makes a proposal that is practically the reverse of the A Report plan. B wishes the Women's Colleges to form themselves into a University for women in Cambridge, with power to arrange its own examinations and degrees. The objections to this scheme are:—

(1) That women could have made a University long ago if they had wished to have one.

(2) That it assumes a sex difference in studies and intellectual attainments. A man and a woman may approach knowledge from different standpoints, but the knowledge they approach is the same. In Cambridge men and women have studied together for years. There is no sense in forcing them to be examined separately. Girton and Newnham Colleges have definitely refused the scheme of B. But Report B is not to be wholly condemned. Its great feature is a keen and instructive criticism of A. While giving nothing itself, it proves very ably that what A offers is not nearly good enough. This is perfectly true. B also argues that if women are not admitted to College rights now they will soon be demanding them. We hope this is true also. The position of the Colleges as differentiated from that of the University is well explained in B. The two are much interwoven. Any University appointments traditionally held by specified heads of Colleges are to be closed to women, therefore the exclusion of women from colleges would mean inequality in the University. Notwithstanding all imperfections, the Statute of Report A, granting degrees, emoluments, certificates, diplomas and offices on a partial equality with men would be an improvement on the present unrecognised position of University women.

A. FOX.  
(Ex-Newnham Student).

## MRS. DESPARD'S VISIT TO HUNGARY.

On Thursday, July 15th, the Minerva Café was well filled by a very interested gathering to hear Mrs. Despard's account of what she saw and heard last month in Hungary.

After referring to the extreme kindness and lavish hospitality which were showered upon her in 1911, on her last visit, to the Women's International Conference at Buda-Pesth, she said that there was the same friendliness to Britain and the British to-day. Hungary never wanted to fight with us; it voted against war with the Allies in the Diet in 1914, but it was forced into war by Austria. The Peace Treaty had ruined Hungary. All the surrounding higher land had been taken from her and given to neighbouring small nations, and with it her ancient University of Presburg, her pride for a thousand years; her coal fields and her factories. All that was left was the central corn-growing plain. The destitute children and the old people were put back over the borders from the surrounding districts. There was great distress and a dearth of clothing materials and bedding—only paper fibre was available to cover the babies. Dr. Armstrong Smith, whose delightful lectures to us on children we all remember, was doing wonders at the English Mission. The Americans had fed 150,000 children. Mrs. Despard visited the hospitals, the children's refuge, the people's shelter, and the women's prison, into which she sent baths. The value of the mark was so low that the peasants refused to take money, and insisted on barter for their country produce. It was heart-breaking that out of many thousands of selected children, only a few hundred could be given hospitality in this country.

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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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## MUDDLED MISMANAGEMENT

The proposed increase of railway fares is still being hotly discussed in Parliament and by the Public. An additional 50 per cent. on all fares in the midst of the holiday season is an intolerable tax on the working classes and on people with small incomes. When the Government took over the railways during the war they guaranteed the net receipts of the railways, making the dividends of shareholders secure. Now, our expensive Minister of Transport informs us that the railway services cannot pay their way unless an extra 50 per cent. is placed upon present fares or a heavy subsidy is granted by the Government. One Member informed the House of Commons that the Belgian State railways carry a passenger 100 miles for 3s. 6d.; another enquired of Mr. Bonar Law what was the total number of railway directors compared with pre-war times and what was the rate of remuneration—to which no reply of any kind was given; and a third wanted to know why some of the extra money should not come out of the dividends instead of the workers' salaries?

It seems to us that there must be something seriously wrong in the management of these railways to produce a heavy deficit at the present time; and that it would be in the public interest, if some of the people who mismanage this public service were deprived of their positions; which should be given to men of greater initiative and enterprise, who would restore the railways to paying concerns without this heavy tax on the unfortunate passengers. We cannot see why the companies should still supply First Class Carriages which are often practically empty, and are, of course, more expensively furnished than the Third Class. Why should not everyone travel Third Class? For long journeys a compartment could be reserved for invalids. High prices are the order of the day. Working men protect themselves from their effect by demanding and securing increased wages, which again cause prices to rise; but organised working men are a comparatively small section of the community, and women are not so well able to protect themselves in this way. The colossal extravagance of the present Government is the supreme cause of our ever-increasing prices.

We call upon women to rally to our support and insist that the business of the great railway companies is conducted with the same care, intelligence and economical management as are invariably employed by the head of every successful business, and we should like to see a woman candidate opposing every Member of the Government, including the Minister of Transport when he next stands for election. If the women's suffrage organisations and the Housewives' Unions throughout the country would combine in this matter and make a determined effort to render it impossible for these extravagance mongers again to hold office they would render an immense service to the community.

## WOMEN J.P.'s.

At long last the list of women appointed as Justices of the Peace has been published. It is a tolerably long list recommended by the Women's Central Advisory Committee, who, in their report, say: "These women, who have been selected for appointment by our common consent, have all rendered themselves conspicuous by distinguished public service." This is certainly true in regard to those of our own members who have been selected—Miss Agnes Husband (Dundee), Mrs. Nevinson (London), Mrs. E. J. Smith (Brighton), and Miss Tooke (Gateshead)—who have all for many years acted as Poor Law Guardians and have filled other important public positions in their various localities. We are also delighted to note amongst other well-known names in this list those of Mrs. Fawcett and Miss Marjory Fry (of the Penal Reform League). As a first instalment this list is a fairly comprehensive one. There are many more women whose names we sent up, and who, we consider, would also be most suitable in every way to serve on the Magistrates' Bench, but they do not appear in this first list. We hope, however, that they will be included in the next, because, although the present list is a lengthy one, the total number of women appointed, when we remember the number of men on magistrates' benches throughout the country, is extremely inadequate. We are certain that all these women will do their best in the new duties they are called upon to perform; but we are no less sure that they would do much more effective work if their numbers were substantially increased without delay. We, at any rate, shall not rest content until we see men and women in equal numbers on every magistrates' bench.

## WOMEN JURORS.

The Lord Chancellor has published the following Rules of the Rules Committee of the Supreme Court referring to women on juries. These came into operation as Provisional Rules on July 15th last, and will be officially confirmed. They provide that all jury lists shall include all women qualified and liable to serve as jurors, and the jurors' books shall be made up accordingly. Persons on the jury lists shall be summoned to serve on juries without distinction of sex, but otherwise as heretofore. A husband and wife shall not both be summoned to serve on the same occasion. The relative proportions of women to men on any panel of jurors shall be the same as in the list of jurors from which the panel is drawn, but there should be at least fourteen women upon every panel and the jury shall be selected from the panel by ballot in the usual way. A jurymen will receive with her summons a notice that she may apply for exemption for health reasons, and she may then be exempted from serving. In any civil case in the High Court or at the Assizes an application may be made for a jury composed of men only or of women only.

## WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT FUND.

**We must have Women in Parliament, and if we want them we must send them there. The best of Candidates cannot do everything. Election expenses have to be met, and they are very heavy. Remember it takes several hundred pounds to run one election, but it has to be done. I must therefore call upon you who understand our aims and read our paper to send me your contribution (as much and as often as possible) so that our special Women in Parliament Fund will be all ready for immediate use.**

E. KNIGHT,

Women's Freedom League, Hon. Treasurer.  
144, High Holborn,  
London, W.C.1.

## 234 MORE WOMEN MAGISTRATES!

MISS AGNES HUSBAND (Dundee).  
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GLAMORGAN.—Mrs. M. B. Williams, Mrs. Williams (Swansea); Mrs. J. C. Gould, Mrs. J. T. Richards, Mrs. G. Scholefield, Mrs. Andrews (Cardiff).  
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MONMOUTHSHIRE.—Mrs. C. H. Bailey, Mrs. M. A. Jones (Newport); Lady Rhondda (Caerleon).  
MONTGOMERY.—Mrs. Edward Davies.  
PEMBROKESHIRE.—Mrs. Victor Higgon.  
RADNOR.—The Hon. Mrs. Venables Lewellyn.

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

### A Happy Amalgamation.

The headquarters of the Girl Guides and the Boy Scouts are in future to be under one roof, at 25, Buckingham Palace Road. The Boy Scouts were already established there, and the Girl Guides entered into possession last week. Sir Robert Baden-Powell, in his address at the opening ceremony, said the union of the two movements under one roof, though it did not necessarily portend co-education, would ensure closer and more effective co-operation in one common ideal, viz., good and happy citizenship for both sexes.

### Prince and Women War Workers.

During his visit to Adelaide, the Prince of Wales has had a striking experience with four thousand women war workers, including nurses, members of the "Cheer-up" Clubs, motor ambulance drivers, comforts workers, members of the Soldiers' Home League, who marched past in solid battalions, many bearing the stripes of five years' service, and some wearing badges which told of sons or husbands killed at the front.

### War Medal for both Sexes.

The new French medal in commemoration of the war, which is to be awarded to all soldiers and sailors serving with the colours or in the Navy between August 2nd, 1914, and November 11th, 1918, will also be given to officers and men of the Mercantile Marine, to doctors and nurses of both sexes, to volunteers who carried on organisation work behind the lines, and to civilian guards, police and firemen of bombarded towns. Women drivers, telephonists, and secretaries who belonged to Army organisations under the chief command will also receive the medal on condition that their term of service exceeded six months.

### American Nurse Honoured.

Miss Florence Merriam Johnson, of New York, has been awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal, the highest honour to which any member of the nursing profession can aspire. Only six American women have been so decorated. Miss Johnson is director of the department of nursing of the Atlantic Division of the American Red Cross.

### Women and the Civil List.

Among the names of women recently mentioned as recipients of Civil List Pensions there occurs that of Mme. Albani (£100), who, since her retirement from public life in 1911, has been engaged in teaching music.

### Women's Norwegian Gathering.

The Marchioness of Aberdeen has left for Christiania to meet the officers of the Norwegian National Council of Women and other international officers who are making preparations for the quinquennial meeting there in September.

### Distinction for Lady Rhondda.

Viscountess Rhondda is the first woman to be elected a member of a Chamber of Commerce. This distinction was conferred upon her by the Newport Chamber last week.

### Mrs. Summers Declines.

Mrs. Summers, Mayor of Stalybridge, has declined the invitation of the Stalybridge and Hyde Division Liberal Association to accept the position of Parliamentary candidate for the division at the next election.

### Equal Pay for Equal Work.

The Hackney Borough Council, at their meeting to-morrow, are to consider a recommendation proposing a minimum wage of £4 per week for temporary clerks of adult age, "including adult females, who are now recognised as doing equal work to men."

## A YEAR OF HEALTH EFFORTS.

In presenting the first Estimates of the newly established Ministry of Health to the House of Commons, Dr. Addison sketched the policy of his Department. The spread of good common information was the first essential, for the foundation of very much was in the home and the house. The basis of health was prevention of disease, and for this an adequate supply of trained persons, nurses, midwives, inspectors, etc., was needed, and it took time to produce. Here the housing work of the Ministry came in. The Ministry had acquired 51,000 acres of land from local authorities for building; over 200,000 houses had their final plans approved; 126,000 had their tenders approved, and were only waiting for money and labour; 69,887 had contracts signed, and work started; and another 12,000 had been begun with a subsidy, but actually being constructed at the present moment were only 37,511, owing to the labour shortage.

Over 2,000 houses were inhabited, and another 5,000 or 6,000 would be finished in the next month or two. Both more workmen and greater output were wanted, and new methods. With the slab method two unskilled men began two houses at 10.30 one morning, and in four hours were up to the first floor joists. This caused discontent among the skilled workers of the district, though the trade union officials did not object.

Diseases such as tuberculosis could not be prevented by dispensaries or sanatoria whilst people had to live crowded in unhealthy dwellings. Venereal disease, said Dr. Addison, was being energetically dealt with; the number of patients attending the centres had doubled. He deprecated controversy in regard to the methods of dealing with this disease; "they should all fall upon the disease itself." What was possible with men under military control was not possible with the whole population. The supply of midwives for the rural districts had been increased, but was not yet nearly sufficient. The infant mortality rate had diminished from 154 per thousand in 1900 to 89 per thousand for 1919, and 78 for the last completed year. A corresponding fall was seen in the child death-rate, but in spite of all this nearly half our five-year-old school children were last year found to be physically defective with bad eyesight, bad teeth, adenoids, emaciation, etc.

He had also arranged for a medical survey of the poor law infirmaries, the whole hospital service must be taken into consideration and how it could be made most available for the people; but he could assure the voluntary hospitals that there was no desire to interfere with their efficiency, but to promote their public utility.

E. KNIGHT.

## MORE WOMEN COUNCILLORS.

The success of women candidates in the last Metropolitan Borough Council elections, which resulted in one or more being returned to every London Borough Council, is encouraging women to make a great effort to repeat the success in the provinces. It is hoped to secure at least one woman member on every municipal borough in the country. A committee of the Women's Local Government Society (19, Tothill Street, Westminster) has a special campaign in hand for the boroughs in the home counties. This committee is willing to give advice and help to any women's organisations or individual women in any part of the country who are anxious to encourage suitable women to take their share in the work of local authorities.

Housing schemes, the contemplated extensions of Public Health work, the administration of the 1918 Education Act, the new developments of Maternity and Child Welfare work all demand the energies of all who possess administrative ability—women as well as men. Such women exist, though they do not always put themselves forward, and an invitation from their fellow citizens to stand as a candidate may secure a useful servant for the public good.

## Women's Freedom League.

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Mrs. PIEROTTI (Business).

General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

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

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

### PROVINCES.

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

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

### OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, July 31.—Public Meeting, convened by the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, on "The Need for More Women in Parliament." Picton Hall, Liverpool. 8 p.m. Chair: Miss Leonora de Alberti. Speakers: Miss Annie Christitch, B.A., Joseph Clayton, Esq., Professor Mary Hayden, M.A., and Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell.

DARE TO  
BE FREE

## BRANCH NOTES.

### MIDDLESBROUGH.

A most successful Social Evening was held in the Suffrage Cafe on Monday evening, July 14th. In spite of the sunshine, and the lure of the tennis courts and the green fields, a large and appreciative audience assembled to hear an address by Councillor Schofield Coates on the Women's International Congress recently held at Geneva, and at which Councillor Schofield Coates attended as a delegate. After referring to the difficulties and restrictions of travelling, the speaker went on to refer to the ideals of the women at the Conference, at which delegates from Sweden, France, America, Great Britain, Finland, Germany, Austria, and other countries, including India, were present. All the delegates were agreed to work for the elimination of war, without which it was impossible to build up a world of true Freedom such as filled the vision of every right thinking and right feeling woman. One of the most regrettable features brought out at the Congress, said the speaker, was that although speaker after speaker rose to tell the Congress that women in their country had the franchise on the same terms as men, strangely enough, Great Britain and America were the only two countries in which women were still denied the vote on these terms. Questions asked after the address elicited many instructive points in regard to the work of women for the betterment of the world, particularly in regard to children.

Mrs. Newton made a very able Chairman. A capital programme of orchestral music was arranged by Mr. E. J. Dunn, in which Mrs. Ethel Pelnear, Messrs. Dunn, Spottiswood, Hirde, and Murley took part. Vocal items were contributed by Mrs. Walker and Mr. Frank Lyness, and were greatly appreciated. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Harrison, Miss Hawkins, Mrs. Deucker, and Misses Smith and Goodhall, who so willingly rendered service with the refreshments. Ices and Apricot Melbas sold well. A vote of thanks to the speaker, the artistes, and the helpers, proposed by Mrs. Neale, and seconded by Mr. Symonds, brought the evening to a very successful close.

Hon. Sec.—Miss D. BARRS, Linthorpe Road.

### SWANSEA.

The members of the Swansea Branch spent a very pleasant evening at "Caledon," Newton, on July 15th, when they were entertained by Miss Kirkland. After tea, Mrs. Hutton took the chair and welcomed the visitors. Miss Neal then spoke of the work that the Women's Freedom League had done and was still doing in the country, and made an appeal to those present to contribute liberally towards the funds. One of Miss Hutton's pupils charmed the audience with her graceful dancing, and others gave a scene from "A Midsummer Night's Dream." At the close of the meeting hearty votes of thanks were passed to Miss Kirkland for her hospitality, and to Miss Hutton for her entertainment.

Hon. Sec.—Miss C. M. JELLEY, 14, Carlton Terrace.

## BRANCH NOTES.

### BEXHILL.

The first Autumn Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 14th, at 19, Marine Mansions (by kind permission of our President), at 3.30 p.m. We hope to re-elect the committee and officers, etc., and also plan our work in Bexhill for the winter. In the meantime the organiser is collecting the annual subscriptions from members. Will all those who have not paid for this year kindly send the money if they are spending a long holiday away from Bexhill?

Organiser—Miss WHITE, 9, Holmesdale Gardens, Hastings.

### CLAPHAM.

We had a successful Jumble Sale at Morris Hall last Saturday, at which we made over £7 for the funds of the Women's Freedom League. We are most grateful for the help we received in goods or service from Mr. and Mrs. Heighway, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Pipe, Dr. Knight, Miss Elsie Knight, Mrs. Fisher, Mr. Cole, Mrs. Allum, Miss Briggs, Miss Pierotti, and Miss Underwood. In October we hope to arrange a Whist Drive and another Jumble Sale, so we trust that our friends will again most kindly rally to our support.

## THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT, 93, NINE ELMS LANE, S.W. 8.

We have to thank the Misses Holmes for a large parcel of heather, a kindness which delighted juvenile Nine Elms; Miss Riggall for a parcel of jumble goods, a most useful contribution; Miss M. Cole for carnations and marguerites; Miss Pinchen for towels, a more than welcome present; and Miss Greenville, paint-brushes for the Play Club paint-boxes. For the last time we ask all those of our friends who would like to meet Mrs. Despard at the Simple Life Exhibition, on Tuesday, July 27th, at 3.30 p.m., to send us for tickets of admission which are needed. We should be glad, also, of gifts of any kind suitable for the Stall of Work we are having on that occasion.

Organiser—Miss WHITE, 9, Holmesdale Gardens, Hastings.

## THE NEED FOR MORE WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT.

We are glad to see that the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society has arranged a meeting on this subject in the small Lecture Hall, Picton Hall, Liverpool, Saturday, July 31st, at 8 p.m.; and we hope that all our Liverpool members will make an effort to be present and support the object of this meeting. The Society has also arranged a Sectional Meeting in Room G, Mount Pleasant Convent, at 10.30 a.m. the same day, when Miss Fennell will give a paper on "Widows' Pensions," the chair to be taken by the Rev. H. Hall.

## NORTH WALES CAMPAIGN, ABERYSTWITH.

The above Campaign will open in Aberystwith on July 29th, when Mrs. Margaret Wynne Nevinson, J.P., will speak each evening at 8 p.m., above the band-stand, on "The League of Nations," "Equal Pay for Equal Work," "The Need of more Women in Parliament and on our Governing Bodies," "Why Women should use the Vote," "Pensions for Civilian Widows," etc., etc. These campaigns are very urgent and necessary, for we touch a public whom it is impossible to get to in any other way, so I appeal very earnestly to all members and sympathisers of the Women's Freedom League to send me their donations as early as possible. The Town Council in Aberystwith have refused permission for collections to be taken, so this year I must depend on the generosity of our members and friends.

ALIX M. CLARK,

Hon. Organiser.

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**FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.**  
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