

THE VOTE,
JUNE 21, 1918.
ONE PENNY

Women and Local Government

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.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

A FAMOUS LEGISLATIVE TEST.

40 D SHALL GO! PROTEST MEETINGS, ETC

WOMEN AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS - F. A. Underwood.

THE NEED OF WOMEN ON BOROUGH COUNCILS J. T. Mustard.

PLACE AUX DAMES

THE EDUCATION BILL.

MAKE SURE OF YOUR VOTE!

OUR "WEDNESDAYS" OUR TREASURY.

C. S. Bremner

A FAMOUS LEGISLATIVE TEST

INVARIABLY USED BY

Josephine E. Butler, Rt. Hon. Sir James Stansfield, M.P.,
Rt. Hon. James Stuart, M.P., Rt. Hon. John Edward Ellis, M.P.,
Joshua Rowntree, M.P., and Henry J. Wilson, M.P.

1. Does the legislation tend to make of any women a special class?
2. Does it tend to place women under police control?
3. Does it tend towards the compulsory examination of women?
4. The proposals which appear to be intended fairly, will they operate fairly?

WE STRENUOUSLY OPPOSE ALL LEGISLATION
WHICH FAILS IN ANY OF THESE FOUR TESTS.

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

Join the Women's Freedom League.

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

Name _____

Address _____

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C. 1.
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 Hon. Head of "Vote" Street Sales Department—Miss ALIX M. CLARK.
 Hon. Head of Literature Department—Miss MARGARET HODGE
 Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Wednesday, June 26.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3 p.m. Speaker: Captain A. St. John (Hon. Sec., Penal Reform League) on "Women's Responsibility for Prisons and Prisoners." Chair: Miss F. A. Underwood. Admission free. Tea can be obtained in the Café if desired, 6d. each. (Last meeting of series.)

Friday, June 28.—Annual General Meeting of the London Branches Council, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 6 p.m.

Friday, July 5th.—Birthday Party, Caxton Hall, 3.30 p.m. Short speeches, music, etc. Tickets 6d. each.

PROVINCES.

Thursday, June 20.—BEXHILL. Town Hall, Public Meeting, to protest against 40 D, 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood.

Wednesday, June 26.—PORTSMOUTH. Picnic to Portsdown Hill, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, July 3.—SOUTHSEA. Garden Whist Drive at 14, Festing Grove, 3 p.m.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Monday, June 24.—UXBRIDGE. Suffrage Society Meeting at 63, High-street, 6.30. Speaker: Miss Abadam. Subject: "The Greater Feminism."

Tuesday, June 25.—Central London Lodge of Theosophical Society, 6, Tavistock-square, W.C. 1, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Mustard on "The Housing Problem."

We draw special attention to

June 26.—Minerva Café, 3 p.m. Lecture by Captain A. St. John on "Women's Responsibility for Prisons and Prisoners."

MAKE SURE OF YOUR VOTE! Registration Guide.

The Local Government Board finds that it cannot work to its own time table. The new dates are:—

Publication of lists	June 29
Last day for objections	July 10
Last day for claims	" 17
Publication of objections	" 19
Publication of claimants	" 25
Last day for objections to claimants	" 31

It is now estimated that women voters will exceed the expected 6,000,000.

Some Registration Agents are trying to keep the number of women voters as low as possible. Every woman who considers herself qualified who is refused registration should communicate with us at once.

Send for the "Women's Freedom League Registration Guide to the Next Election," price 1d., and give full particulars in any difficulty. Lodgings to qualify must be let unfurnished. In many cases furniture is hired separately from the landlord. These rooms would be let in an unfurnished condition and would give the vote.

It is the duty of every woman citizen to see that she obtains the vote which Parliament intends her to have. Women graduates must apply at once to the Registrars of their several universities.

Ask for your vote, and see that you get it. Every woman over 21 qualified for the local government

franchise must see that she is on the Register. November 1 will probably bring us the long-deferred municipal elections, and it is of very vital importance for all the questions in which women are interested that they should be able to choose the best and most progressive and most determined men and women to compose the new local authorities.

The following unsatisfactory reply has been received to the letter of the secretary of the Women's Freedom League, reported in THE VOTE last week, to the President of the Local Government Board with regard to the refusal of agents to place on the Parliamentary Register women occupying unfurnished rooms:—

Local Government Board, Whitehall. June 12, 1918.

DEAR MADAM,—I am desired by Mr. Hayes Fisher to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in regard to the applications by women members of the Women's Freedom League to be placed on the Parliamentary register.—Yours faithfully, R. R. Cross.

We are in further communication with Mr. Hayes Fisher on the subject.

REGULATION 40 D SHALL GO!

On June 13 a special meeting was held in the House of Commons by invitation of Mr. Lees-Smith, M.P., when the representatives of the 56 organisations, with a membership of between one and two millions, called together by the Association of Moral and Social Hygiene, discussed with a number of friendly Members of Parliament the effects and administration of Regulation 40 D. Miss Underwood represented the Women's Freedom League.

The meeting called on the Secretary of State for War, in view of the extreme indignation which is being aroused throughout the country by 40 D, to reconsider his refusal to receive the joint deputation, and passed a strong resolution against the Regulation.

As we go to press we understand that Mr. Lees-Smith is bringing the matter forward on the Vote of Credit.

Protest Meetings.

Ashford.

A very successful public meeting was held at the Co-operative Hall, Ashford, on June 12, at which Miss Underwood was the speaker. The Rev. J. S. Corlett, M.A., presided. Miss Underwood impressed her hearers with the expediency of prompt action to secure the withdrawal of Regulation 40 D. She showed how degrading the medical examination was to women, especially to young innocent girls arrested on suspicion. The resolution of protest was passed unanimously by one of the best attended meetings ever held by women at Ashford. Nine new members joined the Ashford branch of the Women's Freedom League, bringing the total to 34. As an outcome of this meeting, another has been arranged to take place at Willesborough, Kent, in the near future.

Bournemouth Active.

Following on the remarkably representative protest meeting at Bournemouth, which unanimously demanded that 40 D shall go, the resolution of protest was carried at the meeting at Bournemouth of the National Union of Women Workers on May 31, and of the National Union of Woman Suffrage Societies on June 3. A similar resolution is on the agenda of the next committee meeting of the Women's Local Government Association.

Clapham.

On June 11, an afternoon drawing-room meeting was held at Woodlands, Clapham Common, by kind permission of Mrs. Woodhouse. The chair was taken by Miss Alix M. Clark, and the speakers were Dr. Annie Sutherland, who dealt with the medical

standard, urging strongly the needs of a higher moral standard as the best means of checking the ravages of syphilitic disease; and Mrs. M. W. Nevinson, who gave a historical sketch of the contagious diseases laws in Europe and the necessity for women standing solidly together against this revival of a tyranny we all thought dead and buried.

On Thursday evening, June 13, a very enthusiastic gathering met at Belmont Hall, Clapham, by kind permission of the Rev. Stanley Russell, who gave a very fine speech in favour of the abolition of 40 D. He said that as an Englishman, a patriot, a son, a husband, and as a minister of the Gospel, he repudiated the idea that vice was necessary for men, and he considered that Regulation 40 D was a gross injustice to women. He deplored the fact that the War Office of to-day had framed such a regulation. Miss Underwood occupied the chair, and the other speakers were Mrs. Despard, Miss Jordan, and Mrs. M. W. Nevinson. Mrs. Despard spoke of the moral remedies of education and a high ethical standard which must be brought into force to check the careless sexual relation and ignorant spreading of disease; Miss Jordan dealt with the historical and legal side of the Contagious Diseases Acts and 40 D; she explained the nature of the C.D. Acts against which Josephine Butler fought so strenuously for 21 years, and the close similarity of Regulation 40 D to the Contagious Diseases Prevention Act of 1864, which, before the C.D. Acts, introduced the principle of the compulsory medical examination of women. She also read extracts from Stead's "Life of Josephine Butler," in which it was proved that women committed suicide rather than undergo the ordeal of this medical examination, which was in fact a surgical outrage. Mrs. Nevinson spoke of the life of Mrs. Josephine Butler and the greater powers that were in the hands of the women of to-day. The resolution was carried unanimously.

Hampstead.

A successful and well-attended meeting, at which the Mayor was present, was held at St. Stephen's Hall on June 14. Dr. Elizabeth Knight took the chair, and the speakers were Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Nevinson, Rabbi Green, Dr. Horton, Dr. Claude Taylor, and Dr. G. B. Clark. In her interesting historical survey of the Contagious Diseases Act in this and other countries, Mrs. Nevinson said that Josephine Butler's cry at elections was "Keep out the man who is willing to put this insult upon women!" 40 D breaks the law of the land which regards a person arrested as innocent till proved guilty. Mrs. Despard, dealing with the moral aspect of the question, declared that every woman must say with regard to the regulation and its working: "This is my business!" Dr. Horton, having worked with Josephine Butler and been impressed by her power of looking into the heart of things unafraid, said he could well understand the indignation of women in the return to the Contagious Diseases Acts. The Army never considered the moral aspect, but went on the assumption that men will resort to vice and therefore it must be regulated. Dr. Claude Taylor insisted that 40 D was particularly pernicious because the blame fell only upon the woman, and welcomed the "watch-dog policy" of the Women's Freedom League. Dr. Clark, who also worked with Josephine Butler, denounced 40 D as unjust, wicked, stupid, and useless. THE VOTE and other literature sold well, and new members joined the League.

Middlesbrough.

The following important letter shows the activity of the Women's Council and its excellent effect in

the strong protest of the Town Council demanding the immediate withdrawal of Regulation 40 D:—

Town Clerks' Office, Middlesbrough. June 12.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

DEAR MADAM,—Your letter of April 16, forwarding a copy of a resolution passed by the Middlesbrough and District Women's Council relative to the withdrawal of Regulation 40 D of the Defence of the Realm Act, has been considered, and the Town Council at their meeting last evening passed the following resolutions on the subject, viz.:—

That this Council regards with deep concern the re-introduction under the Defence of the Realm Act issued in Council on March 22 last of the principle of the Contagious Diseases Act which was repealed in 1886, and in view of the adverse opinion expressed in the final Report of the Royal Commission of 1913 appointed to inquire into the prevalence of venereal diseases in the United Kingdom requests that the said Regulation shall be at once withdrawn.

That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Local Government Board and the local Members of Parliament.

Yours faithfully, PRESTON KITCHEN, Town Clerk.
 Mrs. Schofield Coates, Middlesbrough and
 District Womens' Council.

Renewed Request for Deputation to the War Office.

The secretary of the Women's Freedom League, on behalf of the National Executive Committee, wrote on June 15 to Lord Milner, Secretary of State for War, making a further request for the reception of a deputation of women, representing the societies supporting the mass protest meeting at the Central Hall, Westminster, on April 29. Miss Underwood gave details of about fifty protest meetings held at Anfield, Ashford (Kent), Bournemouth, Falmouth, Gateshead-on-Tyne (11 meetings), London (12 meetings), Letchworth, Manchester, Middlesbrough (including the Town Council), Newcastle, Northampton, Nottingham (8 meetings), Portsmouth (5 meetings), Southend-on-Sea. She pointed out that in no case has opposition been encountered, but that in every case "men and women have expressed great indignation at the cruel injustice to women and the astounding insult to men embodied in the Regulation," also that many more protest meetings are arranged for the near future in various parts of the country.

The Treatment for Women: Are They Informed?

In the course of a letter, dated June 14, to the Rt. Hon. W. Hayes Fisher, M.P., President of the Local Government Board, the secretary of the Women's Freedom League asks to be informed as to the arrangements made for the provision of free treatment for venereal disease in the case of women, and how the information is brought to the knowledge of women by the Local Government Board.

IN PARLIAMENT:

Venereal Disease.

Mr. Lees Smith, on June 13, asked the Home Secretary (1) whether he is aware that at Grimsby recently women have been charged under the new Regulation 40 D of the Defence of the Realm Act for soliciting a soldier while having venereal disease, and have been sent to prison without the soldier alleged to have been solicited appearing to give evidence; what action he proposes to take; (2) whether, in recent cases at Eastbourne and Newport Pagnell, women charged under Regulation 40 D of the Defence of the Realm Act with having sexual intercourse with a soldier while having venereal disease have had their names and addresses published while the name of the infected soldier has been withheld; if so, whether he will give instructions that either the names of both the man and the woman be published or both be kept private. (3) Whether he is aware that a woman at Oxford about April 24, and another woman at Cambridge about April 30, were charged under Regulation 40 D; that military evidence was offered against them, and in neither case was it proved by medical examination, etc., to which the women had to submit; that each woman was discharged, and that the prosecutions involved loss of employment, medical examinations, prison treatment, costs of lawyers, etc., and that no apology or redress was offered; and whether he has had reports on these cases.

Mr. Brace: None of the cases mentioned in these questions have come to the notice of the Home Office. I am making inquiry with regard to them.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, June 21st, 1918.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—

To the Editor—on all editorial matters.
To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.
To the Secretary—on all other business, including Vote orders, printing, and merchandise, etc.

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.
Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

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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WOMEN AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

We may hope that the new Parliamentary and Local Government Register will be completed by October, in which case there will be no excuse for not holding the Borough Council elections in November. On all hands, in most local newspapers, complaints are made that the present Councils are effete and that no interest is taken either in the councillors or the work they do. Yet it is impossible to deny that the work of these Councils is of supreme importance to the nation. The Councils themselves are the sanitary authorities, and have the appointment of sanitary inspectors and women health visitors. The housing question, too, comes within the purview of Borough Councils, and the local authorities have the right to condemn dwellings which are not fit for human habitation. The managers of schools are appointed by these Councils, who can also supply and maintain public libraries. They deal with the adulteration of food, the purity of the milk supply, and their Watch Committees, on which it is essential that women should sit, have charge of the public morals of the borough, and with the power of suppressing disorderly houses. Much can be done by these Councils to check infantile disease and mortality by the help of the Notification of Births Act. The questions of public baths, public washhouses, cleansing stations for children and adults, and special provisions for the use of swimming baths by children have to come before the Borough Councils. These matters are of vital importance to the health and welfare of the nation, and are essentially ones of which women have special knowledge, and in which they naturally take great interest; their innate hatred of jobbery, too, is invaluable to all public bodies.

In the past a very small proportion of men and women who had the municipal vote used it, but now that the women's municipal vote has so largely increased under the Representation of the People Act, women from 21 years of age upwards who have the well-being of their country really at heart will consider it a duty of the highest patriotism to use their vote wisely in the interests of the community, and not only to use their vote but themselves to stand for election to these Councils whenever they can secure a suitable opportunity. Women must realise that they can do the work that is required of them, for the greatest good of the community is impossible whilst so few women share in local administration.

We would specially urge the younger women, who will have the municipal vote when they are 21, to take an interest in the doings of Borough Councils, and to seek election to these public bodies, whose work would be the better for a more youthful point

of view and a little more imagination than has hitherto been made manifest. Moreover, the best training for a successful Parliamentary career is to be obtained in local work, and we hope that many future women members of Parliament will first have won their spurs in the local life and work of the constituency which they will represent at Westminster.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

NEED FOR WOMEN ON BOROUGH COUNCILS.

By Councillor J. T. Mustard.

It has been suggested that I, as a mere man, should give some reasons for this step. First and foremost is the fact that they now have the vote in large numbers, and logically, on the principle that if you want things well done do it yourself, women should come on the Councils. There are many more reasons. As a member of the Central Unemployed Body for London for nearly twelve years where women were a considerable part of the members, I have never seen why the capable right woman should be kept off any public body.

A concrete example will enforce the need for women. Some time ago on our Public Health Committee there was a communication from the Society for promoting improvements in the moral conditions of London, suggesting that a conference be held of representatives from all the Metropolitan boroughs. It was moved that the letter be not received, as it was claimed that it cast reflections on the women and children of London. I proposed that we accede to the request, and send representatives to such a conference, as I considered the aims of the promoters were to protect and safeguard the women and children. I failed to get a seconder. Maternity welfare and Baby Centres, no matter how sympathetic the male members of a committee may be, are surely questions needing mother wit and knowledge.

For the past year I have keenly followed the question of milk with the view of securing pure, full milk, so that we can build up a strong, healthy nation. We spend vast sums on Glaxo, etc., but I would rather that our whole efforts were put to seeing that full rich milk were also supplied. May I point out that in England milk containing 3 per cent. of cream is passed as *genuine*, and appears as such on the Public Health reports? Of course the man and woman in the street take this to mean that such milk is pure full milk as supplied by the cow. The standards in France and New Zealand are, I believe, 4 per cent. As a farmer said to me, "The man who buys my milk can extract 20-25 per cent. of its cream, and it passes as *genuine milk*." Most mothers know that there is nothing better than cream for a sick, ailing child. I remember one irate mother rushing into the Town Hall with a bottle, and exclaiming, "Do you call this milk? And this is the stuff I have to give to my baby." Had there been some mothers on our Council I am certain I should have had stronger and more ardent support of my efforts.

It has been urged that women would be of little use on the Finance Committees. On the contrary, I believe they are needed there very badly, as they would want to know *where the money was going*, and *what they were getting for it*. In fact, it is just another form of housekeeping. I say without fear of contradiction that nothing needs more looking into than the expenditure of our public bodies in London, and I am certain that a rigorous, searching inquiry into such expenditure would reveal much to open one's eyes widely. When War Savings Committees

What Every Woman Needs—

THE VOTE.

Every Week.

One Penny.

In these days of restrictions with regard to paper we make a special appeal to our readers and all friends of women's progress to become annual subscribers to the VOTE. This can be done either through a news-agent—who can only supply the exact number ordered, as no "returned" papers will now be allowed—or through the Secretary, Minerva Publishing Co., 144, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1. Cost 6s. 6d. post free. You cannot afford to miss the news which specially concerns women's interests and progress, published every week in the VOTE.

experiment before us. A referendum taken of the opinion of the boys and girls as to what subjects they desire to study might prove useful.

The Claim of the Cripples.

The children's ambulances, each with a nurse in attendance, is a familiar sight in the streets of London, as they go to and from the schools, never failing to rouse the interest and sympathy of the passer-by. The cripple schools, begun as a voluntary effort, have opened a door into the outer world of sunshine and youthful friendships and given a chance of mental growth to thousands of physically defective children. With admiration for the work which our old opponent, Mrs. Humphry Ward, has done for children, we join with her in the hope that the House of Commons will pass the amendment to Clause 20, which is to be moved by Major J. W. Hills, making the provision of schools for physically defective children compulsory, as it already is permissive, in all urban areas in England and Wales having a population of 50,000. Mrs. Ward, writing a few days ago to the *Manchester Guardian*, points out how children in the convalescent stages of tuberculosis, bone disease, or suffering from infantile paralysis, or severe heart trouble, are either left without education or exposed to the risks of ordinary schools, and denied the chance which training in a special school would give them of earning their livelihood in the future.

"That some 30,000 of these children (according to Sir George Newman's estimate in 1914) should be in this condition is surely a disgrace both to our education and to our humanity. Only 5,000 physically defective children in England and Wales are in special schools, under the permissive Act of 1899, of whom 3,700 are in London. At the same time, wherever the physically defective schools have been started—as in London, Liverpool, Sheffield, Birmingham, Bradford, Leeds, Bristol, and Reading—they have been a conspicuous success whether in relation to the children's health or to their after-employment. We hold," adds Mrs. Ward, "that the permissive Act of 1914 has failed, and that the time is ripe for the advance for which we ask. Let me beg all those who have the interest of children at heart, especially of children so handicapped as these, to bestir themselves, to write to their M.P.'s asking them to support Major Hill's amendment and the Parliamentary Committee which is working with him, and to endeavour, if they are members of local councils or education committees, to do their best to procure resolutions in favour of it, to be sent to the President of the Board of Education."

Mrs. Despard's Birthday.

Last Saturday being Mrs. Despard's real birthday, Dr. Knight dispatched moss-rose buds and yellow roses to the country house in which Mrs. Despard was staying, with love and best wishes from the headquarters staff, the Minerva Café, and Madame Minerva. A charming acknowledgment has been received from Mrs. Despard.

MISS ROYDEN'S CITY TEMPLE SERMONS ON MORAL PROBLEMS are being published as Supplements to *The Christian Commonwealth*, and may be obtained as penny pamphlets.

were first started here I suggested that we should follow two lines at least: 1. Cut down all unnecessary expenditure. 2. Increase production to the utmost possible limits. Had this been done throughout the country I am certain we should be very much nearer the end of this war. Rates were never so high as now; the burden is pressing on women more than ever, and it is their duty to see that economy and efficiency shall be enforced in the near future.

The food question intimately touches women, but too many Councils have been, in the words of Mr. Hayes Fisher, "slow and recalcitrant" in this most important matter. Allotments, with which I have been closely and actively associated, have been the means of providing thousands of families in and around London with wholesome food. Many have said to me, "Without the stuff from my plot I do not know how our family could have gone along." Yet the opposition to that movement from many who should have helped it has been fiendish and sinister. But the women as well as the men will know how to deal with such councillors at the next elections.

Serving on a Public Health Committee one readily grasps the need for wholesome food now, when the analyst's reports deal with so much so-called food in tins and bottles, and from long residence in cold storage. Truly you must not judge a sausage by its overcoat, and you certainly cannot accept food as being according to the label. It may be labelled "Black Currant Jam," but the analyst may only discover the pips and skin plus much foreign matter and colourings.

Food Control Committees were originally supposed to keep an eye on the inequalities in prices and qualities, but they have now become simply a channel for the issue of interminable and inexplicable circulars which to-day are and to-morrow are cast into the fire as of no further use. How many women are there on the Food Control Committees of London?

Finally, my advice to all ratepayers, men and women, is organise, educate yourselves on all matters connected with your local bodies, study closely their agendas, and especially the cash papers. In short, form classes throughout the whole of London for the practical study of Local Government in all its many ramifications, and you will have such weapons to hand that with courage and tact you cannot but win.

THE EDUCATION BILL.

Following upon the passing, in its altered form, of Clause 10 (Compulsory Attendance at Continuation Schools), a further clause has been passed by the House of Commons in Committee providing that a failure to attend a continuation school should be visited upon the recalcitrant young person by a fine not exceeding 5s. for the first offence and not exceeding £1 in case of a second or subsequent offence. It seems clear that some penalty is a necessary evil. As Mr. J. H. Lewis said, "As they had decided that there must be compulsory attendance, there must be some means of enforcing the requirement." But here the difficulties begin. The administration of this clause by the local education authority, in face of the combined opposition of parents, employers and children, would undoubtedly be difficult. As in other spheres of national life, we shall probably have to learn by our mistakes. Sir Philip Magnus said: "They might force children to go to school, but they could not force them to learn." This is universally true, but there is more probability of the boys and girls learning after fourteen than before. He thought that, if the teaching was made attractive, the young people would be glad to attend. There is evidently a large field for

PLACE AUX DAMES—

In Modern Languages and Official.

Mind Your Business—and Modern Languages.

Great stress needs to be laid on training, for language in business is a means, not an end, and every trade has technicalities for the most part unintelligible in one's own language, until they are studied. Many clever girls could be easily poured into the business mould when employers divest themselves of sex prejudice, and when girls learn to regard their talent for languages as a marketable product, a means to earn a livelihood. A censor department of the Post Office has been organised since the war; probably at least 3,000 women are working in it and many of them have an excellent knowledge of several European tongues. How would the G.P.O. have run that department without women's co-operation? It would have been impossible. Where will the Censorship women find an outlet for their energy and capacity after the war if not in the field of business? The Germans have long had technical and commercial colleges in which the students acquire a good working knowledge of English, French, Italian, &c. They out us from trading in South America, Africa, and other great regions, even from India, because they have a working knowledge of the necessary languages; we are ousted even when many of these peoples would prefer to trade with us than with the Germans. We make a present to the Board of Trade of the suggestion that women's services should be utilised in the coming trade struggle, and beg it to free its noble mind of sex-prepossession, and consider the welfare and stability of this great Empire.

The report is concerned about the badness of Army French, yea, even at Sandhurst. This reminds the writer of a French letter she received from a lady who had fled from the banks of the Oise on the German invasion in August, 1914. Mme. P—x said that the British staff put a motor-car at the disposal of her sister-in-law, who has an excellent knowledge of English, and for days that lady acted as interpreter between the British and French Armies. One needs a good command of a language to stand the strain of a retreat; but probably Army French does not go far in peace.

Attachees—Why Not?

To suggest that a woman should be on the military staff savours of the audacity of placing female deities in highest Heaven, but women might well serve in diplomacy; as a matter of fact they do largely, but *sub rosa*. When will civilisation be equal to the task of dragging things from under the rose into the light? Intuition plays a larger part in women than in men. Louise de Querouailles helped to reduce Charles II. to the position of a pensioner of France. One wonders how much we lose diplomatically by a second-rate knowledge of languages that ought to be first-rate! Men keep some secrets pretty well, but how can we appraise their linguistic ability? When we remember that Britain greatly prefers a straightforward course in diplomacy, we shall faintly realise how often we are at a disadvantage. We have the audacity to think that our diplomatic service might better itself by having one or two of its *attachés* as *attachées*. *La carrière ouverte aux talents* is just as good a maxim for women as for men. Practical women teachers of modern languages will smile at the idea expressed more than once in the report that it is soon enough to let a child begin the study of a modern language at about twelve! For girls this would be at least four years wasted. Numbers of little children can speak good French before they are eight, not learned from *bonnes*, but from teachers of the direct method. The ear can be formed early, the organs of speech accustomed to unwonted sounds and positions. It

is well known to nurses that infant girls speak at an earlier age than boys, and it is probable that they have greater natural facilities for language and languages all through. Relatively few persons teach a language to both sexes. This the writer has done, and she would unhesitatingly, so far as her experience goes (with one nation only), give the palm to girls and women.* Mental defects have almost invariably physical causes. There is reason to suppose that deafness, which is of many degrees, beginning with impaired hearing, is more common among males than females. Nature is different from politics. She recognises that woman is the race, and when she strikes she strikes the male rather than the female. Women at the moment have an advantage in modern languages which the nation, the business world, and women themselves should utilise.

C. S. BREMNER.

* Miss Bremner, Borrowdale Gates, Keswick, would be glad to have the experience of other teachers when that experience includes both sexes; age of pupils, or approximately, should be stated.

Our "Wednesdays."

Mrs. Mustard's interesting address on "Girls' Life" on June 12 was heard with keen appreciation by her audience, and has afforded good material for paragraph writers for the Press. Her statement that Members of Parliament, though the majority are married men, appear to forget all about their wives and children directly they enter the House of Commons, has confronted these honourable gentlemen in the columns of newspapers all over the country, as also the declaration that a great deal is expected of a girl to-day; she is to do a man's job well, learning it in a few weeks, and when she gets home at night she must cook her food and make her clothes; if she marries she must be a paragon wife and mother, and an epitome of the domestic arts; but no one expects men to make their clothes after business hours, nor even repair the children's boots. Mrs. Mustard insisted on the wide scope necessary in the education of girls, not restricting them to domestic science, important as it is; she urged that the continuation schools must develop the intellectual abilities of girls. Educated girls trained in a profession or business make good housewives, and have a broader outlook than those who have only been trained as domestic workers. Mrs. Mustard expressed the hope that houses of amusement would be found everywhere as clean and uplifting as "The Old Vic."

Miss Alix M. Clark, who presided, referring to the blame that is cast upon the conduct of many girls to-day, pointed out that while everything possible has been done, and rightly done, to entertain Tommy Atkins, very little, comparatively, has been done to brighten the lives of girls. She told of a successful Girls' Club in Wales to which the members invite their men friends.

We remind readers that "Our Wednesday" on June 26 will be the last of the present series, and ask them to rally in force to hear Captain Arthur St. John on that day; he is well known as the able secretary of the Penal Reform League, and will speak on "Women's Responsibility for Prisons and Prisoners."

Miss Evelyn Sharp's Bankruptcy Proceedings.

Miss Sharp again appeared at the Bankruptcy Court last Tuesday morning to complete her examination. She had no opportunity of explaining why she had previously refused to pay her Income-tax—all this was done by the prosecution. She was asked if she was a writer; if she had refused to pay her tax because she was an unenfranchised woman, not because she wished to evade payment; and now that the political status of woman was assured her objection to the payment of this tax was removed? To all of these questions Miss Sharp smilingly said "Yes." The Registrar concluded the proceedings by hastily informing her that her examination was completed, and at once asked for the next case. He seemed to be quite relieved that it was all over.

Miss Royden preaches in the City Temple, Holborn Viaduct, next Sunday, at the 6 p.m. service. Subject: "Christianity and the Marriage Laws."

OUR TREASURY.

NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1917, £29,465 2s. 1d.				
Amount previously acknowledged ...	£	s.	d.	
Special Emergency War Fund—	500	2	5	
"A Friend" ...	1	17	6	
W. R. Snow, Esq. ...	1	0	0	
		2	17	6
"40 D Protest"—				
Miss M. Smith (per Miss D. Evans) ...	1	0	0	
Mrs. McCracken ...	10	0		
Mrs. Prentice (Speakers' Fares) ...	9	0		
Miss Doris Phillips ...	5	0		
Miss Jessie Maxwell ...	5	0		
Miss Alice Farmer ...	2	6		
Hackney Branch ...	1	0	7	
Ashford (Collection, per Miss White) ...	1	1	6	
		4	13	7
"Torquay" ...	4	0	0	
Miss Bunten, per Miss D. Evans ...	1	0	0	
Dr. Knight ...	17	6		
Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson ...	10	0		
Miss M. I. Saunders ...	10	0		
Miss J. M. Mackinder (Speaker's Fee) ...	5	0		
Miss B. Berry ...	2	6		
Dr. E. G. Briscoe Owen ...	2	6		
Miss F. A. Underwood (money earned) ...	2	6		
Mrs. Sherwen ...	1	6		
Collections ...	1	9	1	
Office Sales ...	6	0		
Branches—				
Tufnell Park ...	7	6		
Branches—Delegates' Expenses—				
Golder's Green ...	9	6		
		517	17	1

Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League, and crossed "London Provincial and South-Western Bank, Ltd."

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Women Members of Parliament.

We welcome the news that the Labour Party has undertaken to remove the uncertainty regarding the right of women to sit in Parliament by introducing a Bill to remove sex disabilities. Meanwhile, we understand that "the Government has called into council not only the law officers of the Crown, but the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Advocate for Scotland, the Irish Lord Chancellor, and the Irish Attorney-General. This galaxy of legal talent is to assemble and discuss the issue. The outcome of their deliberations will be formally submitted to the High Court if an action is entered by a woman candidate who has been debarred from standing by a returning officer. The expectation is that the informal court convened by the Government will come to the conclusion that there is a common law bar against the election of a woman to sit in the House." In the Press a lively discussion of the question continues, proving its pressing importance.

The New Solidarity of Labour.

Of old time, the man trade unionist regarded the woman worker as a blackleg, which indeed she often was. But the war seems to have taught him that women have no preference for low wages and that, if she does his work, he must insist in his own interest that she shall receive equal pay, and that to preserve his own liberties he must uphold hers. In the past we have had occasionally to call attention to the tyranny of male trade unionists. We very gladly chronicle the following incident, which demonstrates the changed feeling:—

A girl in a munitions firm had been dismissed. The South West Wales district secretary of the Dockers' Union appealed to the Munitions Court against the dismissal, alleging victimisation. He asserted that the reason for

40 D.

THE REGULATION FOR 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.

dismissing the girl was because she was too active a member of the Dockers' Union. The firm denied victimisation, and said she had absented herself from work, and failed to give notice. The Tribunal decided against the firm, and fined them £10, half to go to the complainant as compensation.

The Claims of Professional Women.

The importance and the power of the vote as an effective weapon in improving unsatisfactory conditions and salaries were emphasized on June 8 at the meeting of professional women under the presidency of Miss Haldane. Lady Frances Balfour declared that the Government was beginning to respect women as voters, and would do so more and more as the elections drew near, and would be more willing to accept a true valuation of women's services if the women demanded equal chances with men of rising to high positions.

Women as Barristers.

Miss Helena Normanton, B.A., has lodged an appeal with the Lord Chancellor against the decision given by the Benchers of the Middle Temple refusing to admit her as a law student with a view to a call to the Bar. This appeal has only been deferred in the hope that Lord Buckmaster's Bill would have made better progress during the time.

BRANCH NOTES.

Portsmouth.

Weather permitting, a picnic has been arranged for Wednesday afternoon, June 26. Meet on Portsdown Hill, near the George Hotel, at four o'clock. To raise money for the Birthday Fund a garden whist drive will be held on Wednesday, July 3, at 3 p.m., at 14, Festing Grove, Southsea, by kind invitation of Mrs. Slatter. Tickets, 1s. each.

Hackney.

An interesting meeting was held on June 16. Replies from local M.P.'s to the League's resolution of protest against 40 D were read. Nominations of delegates to the London Branches Council were made; Mrs. Holmes (hon. treasurer) and Miss Waddington (hon. secretary) consented to act as representative of the branch. It was decided to hold a garden meeting next month to raise money for the Birthday Fund. Our grateful thanks are tendered to Mrs. Holmes for her delightful hospitality.

Nottingham.

Members are working hard for the Birthday Fund, and hope to have a good sum to hand over at the Birthday Party on July 5. The lovely doll competition has been won by Mrs. Bulleid, our former hon. treasurer.

FRIDAY,
JUNE 21,
1918.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

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

Mrs. Tippet is again having a Jumble Sale in aid of the Settlement at Wetherden in July, and we make an urgent appeal for contributions. She can sell any amount of things in the country, where there are no dealers to spoil trade, and there are never enough goods to go round. Parcels should be sent to the Secretary, 93, Nine Elms-lane, before July 20—the earlier the better. Miss Tollemache has sent us some rhubarb and mint from Bath. If other readers have any to spare we should be glad to pay carriage and send sacks to pack in. We have difficulty in getting jam for our children's restaurant, and could make it if we had the fruit. The mint we dry and keep for winter use. Welcome gifts are a hamper of home-made jams from Mrs.

Miller; jumble goods and 1s. from Miss Riggall; 2s. from "Craiglands," per E. M. G.; mint, per Miss Cole; and we appreciate the kindness of Mrs. Christison, mother of two guest-children, in bringing the staff a bottle of eau-de-Cologne to help them through the present outbreak of whooping-cough in the Guest House.

THE DESPARD ARMS, 125, Hampstead Road, N.W. 1.

We have now an excellent bed-sitting-room vacant, which would suit two friends admirably; also, at the end of June, most comfortable single bed-sitting-room. Terms moderate by arrangement with the Manageress. Meals, as desired, in the restaurant.

ARTICLES FOR SALE.

NEW STRIPED COTTON DRESS;
12s. 6d.

NEW BLACK and WHITE ALL
WOOL CHECK (best quality,
tailor-made) COAT-FROCK; £2 12s. 6d.

ARMENIAN MOTOR - SCARF;
27s. 6d.

COAT - FROCK, small brown-and-
white check, all wool, taffeta
collar; suit tall lady; 52s. 6d.

NEW BLACK WOOL and SILK
PLEATED COAT - FROCK;
37s. 6d.

14 - CARAT GOLD WALTHAM
KEYLESS WATCH, case set
diamonds; £7 10s.; lady's or gent.'s.

LARGE SIZE SILVER-PLATED
COCOA-JUG; 33s.

SUPERIOR QUALITY TUSSORE
JUMPER-FROCK; 29s. 11d.

NEW OLD-ROSE CREPE SILK
SPORTS COAT; 27s. 6d.

NEW ALL-WOOL SUMMER COAT,
small size; 52s. 6d.

JIG-SAW PUZZLES for Soldiers and
others; well cut; from 9d. upwards.
—Write or call "THE VOTE" Office.

ARTICLES FOR SALE.

VERY THIN BLACK SILK COS-
TUME; 15s. 6d.

SEVERAL NEW VOILE JUMPERS,
from 12s. 11d.

SUPERIOR BLACK and PIN
STRIPE TAILOR-MADE COAT
FROCK; stock size; £3 12s. 6d.

SEVERAL VERY DAINTY
EMBROIDERED CREPE-DE-
CHINE BLOUSES; also BLACK
GEORGETTE.

ART GREEN WOOL and SILK
DRESS, small size; 38s. 6d.

SMALL STILL; good condition; 15s.

NEW SAGE BLUE SILK CREPE
SPORTS COAT; 29s. 6d.

NEW, SUPERIOR GREY TWEED
SKIRT; stock size; 19s. 11d.

LARGE SIZE BROWN COVERT
COATING COSTUME; 33s.

BLACK MACKINTOSH COAT, worn
once; suit outdoor worker; 29s.

TWO PAIRS NEW WHITE SILK
STOCKINGS; cost 12s. pair;
half-price.

DARK MAUVE SILK DRESS; oxy-
dised silver trimmings; 37s. 6d.

MISCELLANEOUS.

TO BE LET, FURNISHED, Thorn-
ville, Llanfairfechan, N. Wales,
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and station; two sitting rooms, scullery
(with gas cooker), three bedrooms and
attic, bath (h. and c.); sea, mountain
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terms, 2 guineas per week; August, 3
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fashioned country town, not far from
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Margaret's, Richmond; two recep-
tion, three bedrooms, kitchen and
bath; pleasure-grounds by riverside; 8
minutes from station, Waterloo 25
minutes; rent: 3 months, 3½ guineas;
6 months, 3 guineas; 12 months, 2½
guineas.—Write AJAX, c/o "THE
VOTE" Office.

LESSONS in PIANOFORTE and
SINGING by Mrs. Silvester
Sparrow; engagements solicited as
Accompanist at Concerts, Dances, &c.
—43, Black Lion-lane, Ravenscourt-
park, W. 6.

64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS
AND HOW TO USE THEM,
post free 2d.—TRIMNELL, The Herbalist,
144, Richmond-road, Cardiff. Estab-
lished 1879.

The Articles for Sale are on view at the Minerva Exchange, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1, 10 to 5.30. Saturdays, 10 to 12.

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