

THE VOTE,
Nov. 26, 1920
ONE PENNY.

THIS IS FAIR WEEK!

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, NOV. 26, 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.

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A GREAT SUFFRAGIST LEADER.

MRS. CHAPMAN CATT.

Mrs. Chapman Catt, President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, and founder and President of the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance, was born in Charles City, Iowa. Her sterling independence of character shewed itself early, when, at fourteen years of age, she began to earn her living as a school teacher, and in two years' time had saved enough money to pay her way through Iowa State College, where she graduated at the age of twenty. She was then appointed as a teacher in the High School at Mason City, Iowa, and two years later was made school superintendent over the whole city.

Her marriage with Lee Chapman, a Mason City Editor, though it put an end to her teaching career, merely diverted her energies into other channels of usefulness. She helped her husband in the editing of his newspaper, and, upon his death a few years later, she acted for some time as an advertisement agent for a trade paper, in those days a distinct innovation in the usual routine of women's orthodox work.

When still in the twenties she was swept into the swirl of the Woman's Suffrage Movement, then at the height of its activity, and, in 1890 made her first appearance on a national suffrage platform, where she spoke on the "Symbol of Liberty." Her second marriage, to Mr. George W. Catt, also took place in this year.



The two rival American Women's Suffrage Associations having then become amalgamated under the title of the National American Woman's Suffrage Association, Mrs. Chapman Catt pleaded for a more intensive plan of work, with the result that for the first time in the history of the suffrage cause, a national organization committee was formally appointed, with Mrs. Catt in the chair. In connection with the work of Chairman of this Committee she travelled 15,000 miles, visited twenty States, gave over fifty lectures, and sent out several thousands of letters. It is gratifying to reflect that during her active suffrage career, all the full suffrage States, except Wyoming, which had enfranchised its women

as far back as 1869, were won.

In 1900 she was elected President of the National Woman Suffrage Association in the place of Miss Susan B. Anthony, America's veteran suffragist, who admiringly described her successor as "the ideal leader."

In 1902 Mrs. Catt founded the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance, and has been its President ever since. This was the outcome of a long cherished plan, Mrs. Catt believing the time had arrived when the suffragists of the entire world could meet to their common benefit. The first meeting of this now widely known organization took place in Washington in 1902, and was followed by others in Berlin, Copenhagen, Amsterdam, London, Stockholm, and Buda-Pest. The last was held in Geneva in June of this year.

From 1913 to 1915 Mrs. Catt organized and directed the New York State campaign, and in 1917 instituted the Leslie Woman Suffrage Commission, the Leslie Bureau of Suffrage Education, and the *Woman Citizen*, at that time the only woman's political journal in the United States. In February, 1917, at the first mention of war, Mrs. Catt called a meeting of executive officers of the National American Woman Suffrage Association together in Washington to consider offering the services of the organization to the Government in time of war. Mrs. Catt and Dr. Anna Howard Shaw were both sworn in to service later as members of the Woman's Committee, Council of National Defence, Dr. Shaw acting as Chairman.

In 1918, foreseeing suffrage for women as an immediate achievement, Mrs. Catt outlined a plan for a national and international League of Women Voters, the former becoming an actuality in St. Louis in the spring of 1919. As a step towards fitting the new voters to take an intelligent, informed, and controlled point of view into the various political parties, a national school of citizenship was started by Mrs. Chapman Catt a few months later, where classes were held in Government operation, national issues, election, self-government and legislation.

All these activities, however, were subsidiary to Mrs. Catt's magnificent campaign during the last two years, in which she travelled thousands of miles, and spoke before numberless Legislatures, to secure ratification by the 36 States of the Federal Suffrage Amendment. A description of the colossal activities involved in this tour, and its triumphant conclusion, will be found on p. 277 of this week's VOTE.

THE WORLD VICTORY. MONDAY'S GREAT TRIUMPH.

Twenty-six million American women have just for the first time elected their Senate and Congress and their President. This is a great landmark. They rejoiced with us in our enfranchisement, and we have watched with joy and sympathy the ups and downs of their great struggle for many years past. Now we have the chance of honouring Mrs. Chapman Catt, "the foremost Statesman of the day," who has been the central figure at the heart of the great movement in the United States, and by her wonderful courage, wisdom and pertinacity, has led our American sisters to triumphant victory.

On Monday, November 29th, at 8 p.m., the Women's Freedom League is co-operating in the great historic Celebration and Welcome to

MRS. CHAPMAN CATT

in the Central Hall, Westminster. Tickets (reserved) 10s., 5s., 2s. 6d. and (unreserved) 1s., and 6d. We have good places at all these prices. Please write at once for what you will require. We have promised to do our part as a League in supporting the meeting, and we have taken a large number of tickets, relying upon a big demand from our members. We shall be very glad if you will send for handbills and make the date known and order as many tickets for friends as possible. We shall probably have some tickets on sale at the "Fair," but do not wait till the last minute or you may lose your seat.

MRS. FAWCETT, J.P., AND LADY ASTOR, M.P., will both speak, and it will be a thoroughly International Demonstration of the unity of the Women's Freedom Movement throughout the world.

E. KNIGHT.

YOU MUST BE THERE!

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Cambridge Women Graduates.

The question of Degrees for Women comes before the Senate at Cambridge on December 8th. There is strenuous activity on both sides, and all our readers who have any relatives or friends among resident Cambridge M.A.s are specially reminded to ask them to support and vote for Report A.

Report A opens the University to women and men on equal terms. There is bitter opposition, but its supporters are very hopeful of success, and are working like Trojans. Should Report A be defeated, a vote will be taken on Report B, which proposes the separate women's University so firmly declined by the women's Colleges.

Women and the Press Gallery.

At the annual Press Gallery dinner, which took place last Friday night, women were admitted for the first time in history. Sir Robert Horne, the guest of the evening, was in capital form, and though an obdurate bachelor, he ranged himself on the side of the feminists, and warned journalists that now women were on the floor of the House they could not be kept out of the Press Gallery either.

Women and Church Government.

The Anglican Church has only tardily admitted women to its governing bodies. What it has lost by the delay probably some of its leaders now appreciate. Last week, at the National Assembly, several women joined in the debates to the point, and (it goes without saying), fluently. Women like Miss Maude Royden, Miss M. C. Gollock, and Miss S. A. Thesiger, know their subject, and evidence a keen and intelligent type of speaker far removed from that of the ordinary parochial lady visitor.

Chinese Women Suffragists.

A new Chinese Woman's Suffrage Society has been started in Canton, with Miss Li Lien as President. The women of Canton are at this moment actively engaged in demanding a representative in Parliament, the right to be elected M.P.s, and that the new Constitution shall include Woman Suffrage. A Woman's Suffrage Society is also in existence in Shanghai.

Danish Women M.P.'s.

Danish women workers are represented in the Folketing (Lower House of Parliament) through Mrs. Helga Sarsen, president of the trade union of women working in the brewing trade (2,000 members), and also in the Landsting (Upper House) through Miss Henriette Crone, who has been working in the typographical trade, but who is now manager of the Women Typographers' Union. As a result of the recent elections there are now 11 women members of the Danish Parliament—3 in the Lower House, and 8 in the Upper House.

Educating Belgian Women Citizens.

During the summer lecturers on civics have been visiting the 2,000 communes of Belgium to teach the new women municipal voters all things which come within the range of local government. The subjects include the Belgian Constitution, and the task of women in Municipal Administration.

HUMANITARIAN CONFERENCE

(organised by the League of Peace and Freedom)

IN THE

MORTIMER HALL, 93, MORTIMER STREET, W.

On DEC. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, at 8 p.m., & DEC. 4th, at 3 p.m.

Speakers will include Mrs. BAILLIE-WEAVER (G. Colmore), Mr. H. BAILLIE-WEAVER, Mr. H. N. BRAILSFORD, Mrs. DESPARD, Mr. CARL HEATH, Miss LIND-AF-HAGEBY, Miss I. O. F. RD., Mr. H. J. MASSINGHAM, and Dr. WALTER WALSH.

Tickets (1/6) admitting to all the sessions, programmes and full particulars from the League of Peace and Freedom, 90 Avenue Chambers, Southampton Row, London, W.C.

WOMEN COUNCILLORS IN CONFERENCE.

Urgent Need for Economy.

Glorious sunshine on the glistening river highway of the greatest metropolis of the world rendered the Thames Embankment, with its stately and lofty buildings, a very attractive spectacle to the many women Councillors coming from different parts of England to the Conference held at the Metropolitan Asylums' Board on November 16th. The Meeting itself was fraught with great significance to those of us who could remember the fight waged by valiant women at the end of the last century for the right to administer the laws as members of local bodies, a privilege tardily accorded to them in 1907.

Miss Leigh-Browne opened the meeting by a touching address on the death of Mrs. James Stuart of Carrow Abbey. The whole of the audience rose at the conclusion of it and stood in perfect silence for a minute as a token of respect to the memory of this departed champion of the Woman's Cause and of all great liberal ideals.

Sir Willoughby Dickinson, the well-known advocate of woman's suffrage in the House of Commons, spoke from the chair of the

Invincible Childishness

of that body, continually suffering from sudden panic and scared by the most ridiculous bogies. He specially instanced the dread of municipal and political affairs passing under the control of "Petticoat Government." We had now 978 Councils, and only 479 women Councillors. Many Councils had no women members at all, and others had only one woman to twenty or more men. There should be a much larger number of women, as membership had been possible since 1907. There was still, however, a prejudice in the mind of the electorates against returning women to do public work. This was absurd, for women had much more experience in spending money to the best advantage than men had, and that power alone should secure their election, at a time when the strictest economy in local as well as national affairs was of the utmost importance. The rates, which in 1901 were 46 millions, in 1921 will be 146 millions. Economy was chiefly effected by careful attention to details, and women had much more training in and talent for such work than men.

Alderman Sir William Glyn-Jones, M.C., J.P., gave an interesting address upon "Economy in Local Government Expenditure." He contrasted economy with parsimony, and showed that what was needed was really judicious expenditure. He urged that all Councils should give more time and attention to matters of finance, as we had arrived at a time when the least extravagance with public money was an unforgivable offence. We had just passed through a war that was purely destructive in character. There were "no spoils of war." The accumulated wealth of the world for generations was blown into the air or sunk in the sea, and we were an almost

Bankrupt Nation.

In expenditure we must learn to distinguish between what was useful and what was absolutely necessary. We should find with a little thought that even what was essential could, by a little contrivance, be more cheaply obtained by utilising what we had than by heavy expenditure on what was new and up to date. Women were much more ingenious at devising substitutes and make-shifts than men were, and they took their work as Councillors much more seriously, hence the crying need at this crisis for many more women Councillors.

In the discussion which followed, one of the women Councillors complained of the expenditure forced upon local bodies by the Health and Education Ministries, but the majority present protested against this view, as all the money spent in these two departments promoted the welfare of future generations, and was, in fact, the truest economy. Mrs. How-Martyn, M.C.C., declared it would be time enough to call upon us to economise in matters vital to the children of the race

when the Government had ceased its own worse than wasteful and spendthrift policy in Mesopotamia and Ireland.

At the afternoon Session, Miss Smee, Chairman, Acton U.D.C., spoke upon the Woman Councillor and Committee Work. She said she had been eight years creating an atmosphere for women on the Council, and she laid great stress upon the need for tact and the importance of willingness to oblige by serving upon any Committee, for on every one, even "Works," there was great scope for woman's work. The election of three women Mayors in different parts of the country was a proof of the appreciation of the value of their work upon local bodies.

In the discussion which ensued, many of the councillors present gave examples of how they had been successful in effecting economies, and one from the North told how the introduction of revolving searchlights in the Park, at her suggestion, had been effective in checking immorality.

MARGARET HODGE.

Green, White & Gold Fair.

This year's Fair must be a Record Success. We are delighted to announce that the Lady Amherst of Hackney has very kindly consented to open it on Friday, November 26th, and we are all exceedingly pleased that Mrs. Chapman Catt, who reaches England on November 26th, after leading to victory 26,000,000 American women, will again be with us and will very kindly open the "Fair" on the Saturday.

You will want to come on both days, so write to all those friends you so seldom manage to meet, and ask them to tea at the "Fair" (Minerva Café refreshments). There will be plenty of fun—music, songs, dances by children from the Children's Theatre, pupils of Miss Elsa Lanchester, on Friday; fancy and classical dancing by children, pupils of Miss Grace Woollacott, M.I.B.A.P.T., on Saturday; an Indian play by Rabindranath Tagore, many amusing competitions in the Gallery, games, a bran tub, "Great Grandmother Dear," Psychic Delineations by Mrs. Thomson-Price, Character Reading by Mrs. Goodall and others, Psycho-Dietetics by Mr. D'Arcy Denny and others. Bring the children with you, and we will find them an interesting job.

LIST OF STALLS.

- General—Mrs. Mustard, Mrs. Tanner, Mrs. Sweetlove.
White—Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Trafford Williams.
Toy—Misses Stutchbury and Miss Avila.
Handkerchief—Misses Underwood, Miss E. Berry, Mrs. Terry.
Stationery and Christmas Cards—Mrs. Legge, Mrs. F. Legge.
Scotch—Miss Bunten and Miss Munro.
Montgomery Boroughs—Welsh Produce and General—Miss Alix Clark, Mrs. and Miss Elias, Mrs. Dixon, Mrs. and Miss Reynolds, Mrs. and Miss Earengy, Miss Pritchard, Mrs. Flexman, Miss Jones, Misses Codd, etc.
Manchester—Miss Ellison, Mrs. Newsome.
South-Eastern; Two Stalls—Mrs. Strickland, Mrs. Jansen, Mrs. Brock Lane, Miss White.
Literature—Mrs. Pierotti, Miss Bergman, Miss Telling.
Vote (in memory of Mrs. Snow)—Mr. Snow, Miss Reeves, Miss Jacob, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Northcroft, Mrs. Flowers.

There will also be Stalls for the Women's Freedom League (Nine Elms) Settlement, League of the Church Militant, Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, "Crusader," Federation of Women Civil Servants, Friends of Armenia, London Vegetarian Society (two), Peasant Shop, Misses Perry and Davis (Hats and Frocks), and Miss Burwood (Bead Necklaces).

Tickets, 2/6 on Friday 3 to 5, after 5 and on Saturday 1/3, (tax included), from 144 High Holborn, from the Societies taking Stalls, and at the Door.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26th, 1920.

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

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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

At Home and Abroad. ... Post free, 6/6 per annum
(Postage on 3 copies the same as for 1).

WOMEN AND EDUCATION.

Not very long ago a correspondence took place in one of the daily papers on the advisability, or otherwise, of a different kind of education for men and women. It was argued that men and women have different types of minds, and that therefore they should be treated differently in the matter of education. One writer pointed out that few women were known as distinguished scholars, which led him to the conclusion that it might be advantageous if women ceased to learn exactly the same subjects as men and set themselves to specialise in others. It is only in comparatively modern times that men have allowed women to get any education at all; and even now there are not anything like the same number of scholarships for boys as for girls, and certainly women have not the same facilities that men have in the way of training and research. Men have imposed their ideas of education and scholarship upon the world, and after every obstacle to securing either has been placed in the pathway of women, there are yet men who are prepared to suggest that women are failures so far as men's tests are concerned, and this in spite of the fact that women have so often beaten them at the Universities, and that, although some men may not have heard of them, there are women who are well known as distinguished scholars in the classics, theology and many other branches of learning. Whatever men's opinions of women's capabilities may be, they are apparently quite willing to take advantage of their knowledge for the smallest possible remuneration. The other week an advertisement appeared in a contemporary under the heading, "Posts suitable for University women," stating that a good and experienced secretary was required by a consulting chemist in London, at a salary of £4. She was to have a knowledge of science and mathematics, she was to be an expert shorthand-typist, and a good French and German scholar. We wonder what salary would have been expected by a man with similar qualifications? In the City, too, at the present time it is quite usual for employers to advertise for women expert shorthand-typists with a good knowledge of French and German, and offer the applicants £2 10s. a week! These particular subjects may be the ones that some men think women should specialise in. If that is the case, our advice to women is that they should avoid them like the plague until men learn to put a higher monetary value on their acquirement. There is no doubt that the educated woman is tending to become the most sweated of all employees, and will continue to do so as long as the Government steadily refuses to open all the higher posts in the Civil Service to women and thus set the example to all other employers, throwing open all positions to men and women on equal terms. Positions of trust and authority should be allotted according to the merit and not according to the sex of the worker; and, if this were so, not only women, but the whole nation, would benefit by the result.

CHILD VICTIMS.

The frequency of Child Outrage cases and the light punishment meted out to men for their brutal assaults on little girls is a matter of grave concern to women. Last week, at the Middlesex Sessions, a man of thirty years of age was sent to prison for six months for assaulting three little girls, and this week a man was sentenced at Aldershot to one month's imprisonment for assaulting a little girl of four years of age. When one remembers the great harm done to these children and the further fact that they have to repeat their gruesome story to a magistrate in a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, and again before a Judge and Jury at the Assizes, when every effort seems to be made to impress upon the child's memory all the horrible details of the assault, it is no wonder that women should be indignant at the light sentences imposed on the men offenders, and we are glad to note that recently at the conclusion of a trial at the Liverpool Assizes of a man for an offence against a girl of eight years of age the foreman of the jury said he wished on behalf of some of the jurors to urge that the law should be so amended that more severe punishment could be meted out to those convicted of such offences, which had become so prevalent that parents were afraid to allow their children out in the evening. Now that women can sit on juries it is not likely that so many men accused of child outrage will get off scot free. When men realise that there is generally a certainty of conviction for them in these cases, such cases will probably be fewer. The protection of its children should be one of the chief concerns of the nation, and the law should come down heavily on anyone who victimises a child.

WOMEN—NOT WANTED.

With monotonous regularity, week after week, some Member puts a question to one or other Head of a Department as to whether women are still employed in that Department, and, if so, why is it that they are not substituted by ex-Service men. These Members make no suggestion as to what women shall do when they are turned out of their employment; they apparently think that as woman's place always was the home, these women will find their way back to it, and be kept there by the kind provision of their male relatives, notwithstanding the harassment of the present high prices of everything. Not only are the Government Departments dismissing women; the Hallé Orchestral Council has decided to dispense with the services of the female players of the Orchestra. The conductor of the Hallé Orchestra has stated that the dismissals were not due to any lack of ability on the part of the women players or to any objection on the part of the male members of the orchestra; but some members of the Council felt that complete unity of style could not be obtained in an orchestra of men and women; and, further, that as the Orchestra travels about a good deal, it is sometimes difficult to make proper arrangements for the women members of the Orchestra. It is perhaps unnecessary to comment upon the "unity of style" excuse; but in regard to making proper arrangements for the women on tour, we can only point out that every touring company, in which actresses as well as actors are employed, experience a similar difficulty—if it is a difficulty. We sympathise fully with the protest made by Dr. Ethel Smyth against this further attempt to turn women out of employment; and we do not think that the British public shares the conductor's hope that in the future there will be an orchestra of women only, able to hold its own with the best male orchestra! Most of us would prefer that all these orchestras should consist of men and women members; and as women as well as men compose the audiences, we hope that they will make their view on this subject realized in a practical way.

THREE CHEERS FOR AMERICAN WOMEN!

AN UPHILL FIGHT FOR VICTORY.

The long drawn out struggle for women's political rights in America, which reached its triumphant conclusion in September of this year, may be said to have had its commencement as far back as 1647, when one Mistress Mary Brent, of Maryland, a property owner, demanded that as representation in Maryland was based on property qualification, she should have "place and voice" in its Legislature.

The immense task which lay before the women may best be realised by an explanation of the special difficulties which confronted them in the National and State constitutions of the United States. The latter represent 48 separate and complete governments in all except matters that concern the entire nation. When the National or Federal Constitution was framed it was silent on the subject of suffrage, and the assumption was that each State could regulate this to suit itself; so all of them put into their constitutions that only males could vote, and the constitution could be amended or changed only by consent of a majority of the electors. To amend required a

Two-Thirds Vote

of each House, and their submission to the State Legislatures, three-fourths of which must ratify or endorse it. In every other country except Switzerland the National Parliament can extend the suffrage, but in the United States this power was not reserved by the Congress. Therefore the women everywhere were faced with the hard situation that they could get the franchise only by permission of the majority of the men.

In 1851, organised work for women's rights began to take shape in New York. Miss Susan B. Anthony had now joined the movement, and in 1852 she began her wonderful career of leadership in the Cause. In 1869 the National Woman Suffrage Association was formed at Washington, to work with Congress for a Federal Amendment, as the women believed it would be an endless task to amend the constitution of each State. Mrs. Cady Stanton was made President of this Association, and Miss Anthony was put upon the Executive Committee. Another woman's suffrage Society, known as the American Woman Suffrage Association, with Henry Ward Beecher as President, and Lucy Stone as Chairman of the Executive Committee, was formed in the same year at Cleveland, to work exclusively to enfranchise women in the separate States, until there should be a large voting constituency back of the movement. It was generally believed at that time that the objects of the Associations would be achieved within a very few years, whereas over

Half a Century

was destined to elapse before victory was finally consummated.

Both societies held national conventions in each year following, but as time passed each organisation saw the value of the other's method, and began to adopt it until in 1890 the two amalgamated under the title of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, with Miss Anthony as its first President. This joint Association, since the women's victory in September of this year, has been merged into the League of Voters, founded by Mrs. Chapman Catt, where "members may counsel together as to the wisest and most effective way in which women can use their votes."

The campaign for women's suffrage in the various American States, which began as far back as 1869 with the enfranchisement of the women of Wyoming, is now past history, but the record of the Federal Suffrage Amendment, and how it was ratified in one after another of these States, still lingers with us in all its thrilling detail.

The history of the Federal Suffrage Amendment,

which had been before the Congress of the United States for over forty years, entered its last stages after the victory in New York State in November, 1917, and was finally concluded in June, 1920.

The Suffrage leaders were then faced with

Two Alternatives,

either to wait for the ratification until the Legislatures met in the winter of 1921, or attempt the herculean task of obtaining special sessions. They chose the latter course, and the next day after the amendment was submitted Mrs. Chapman Catt, who, since 1915, had been elected President of the National Association, sent letters to the Governors of the various States, calling attention to the emergency, and requesting a special legislative session.

In some of the States very little work was required; in others, for various reasons, the obstacles seemed insurmountable. The ten hopelessly reactionary coast States from Louisiana to Delaware defeated the Amendment. Every western, northern, and eastern State ratified it except Vermont and Connecticut, whose Governors stubbornly persisted in their refusal to call their Legislatures in extra session.

The enfranchisement of the women of the entire country now depended on the action of the Lower House of the Tennessee Legislature, and the fight that ensued was utterly unparalleled by any similar event in legislative history. The organised anti-suffrage forces of the entire country, men and women, sent their representatives to what Mrs. Catt afterwards referred to as the most vicious lobby she had ever experienced in her whole suffrage career. But the forces of evil were unsuccessful, and Tennessee ratified the Federal Amendment for woman's suffrage in both houses on August 18th of the present year.

Even in the hour of triumph, however,

A Hitch Occured

which might have proved disastrous to the suffragists. When they realised that they had been out-voted, twenty-five anti-suffragist members of the Legislative left the State in a body so as to prevent a quorum from being secured for the final formalities, and although the Attorney-General of Tennessee held that the ratification was valid none the less, the absconding members were able to obtain a restraining order from the Chancery Court, which temporarily prevented the Governor from certifying to the Secretary of State that the ratification had been completed. This order, if it had been confirmed by the Legislature, might have held up the Women's cause until after the Presidential Elections, but, happily, the ratification of Connecticut, a few weeks later, on September 14th, changed the atmosphere with the suddenness of a bolt from the blue. The long struggle of some seventy years for political equality with men was at last over!

D. M. NORTHCROFT.

On the occasion of the Meeting in London of the Officers of the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance.

A MASS MEETING

TO CELEBRATE THE
ENFRANCHISEMENT OF THE WOMEN OF THE UNITED STATES,
AND TO WELCOME Mrs. CHAPMAN CATT.

Who led Twenty-Six Million American Women to Victory, will be held at
The Central Hall, Westminster, Monday, Nov. 29th,
At 8 p.m. Doors open at 7.30 p.m.

Speakers—Mrs. CHAPMAN CATT, VISCOUNTESS ASTOR, M.P.,
and Mrs. FAWCETT, J.P.,

and Representatives of the Women's Movement in other countries.

Chair—Miss E. F. RATHBONE, J.P., C.C., M.A.

Tickets, numbered and reserved, 10/-, 5/-, 2/6; unreserved, 1/- and 6d
A few seats free.

Apply Women's Freedom League, 144 High Holborn, W.C.

THIS WILL BE AN HISTORIC AND UNIQUE MEETING. DON'T FAIL TO COME.

MORE POLICEWOMEN NEEDED.

In an eloquent address at the Minerva Café last Wednesday afternoon, Sub-Inspector More-Nisbett, W.P.S., a member of the Edinburgh branch of the Women's Freedom League of many years standing, gave several cogent reasons as to why more policewomen are needed in our cities and country towns. Before the general public could sufficiently appreciate the pressing need for more policewomen, they would have to realise the darkness and bitterness of that great underworld in their midst, into which so few people ordinarily penetrated.

Policewomen were needed to take entire charge of women and children before their convictions, when they were at the police station and actually in the cells. Each of these cells had its own sanitary convenience exactly opposite the door and an aperture in the door itself through which the inmates could be inspected at any moment by the policeman on guard. It was not fitting that women should be subjected to inspection by men at all hours of the day and night. It was true there was a female turnkey attached to most police stations, but these women held no really official position, and though they watched the women prisoners, the official in charge was often present as well. The hardening process of our younger women prisoners might be said to begin with this male supervision in the police station. To the speaker's certain knowledge, where these men had been replaced by policewomen, who had had opportunities of speaking a word in season to the women when they were in the cells, many of these poor creatures had been given a fresh start in life. Policewomen were also most necessary after the prisoners were taken from the police station and brought into court. Once sentence had been passed, nobody was allowed to speak to a convicted prisoner except officials of the law. Seventy-five per cent. of convicted persons at such a time were not hardened criminals, but first or second offenders. Policewomen were the only people who came in contact with them who had the psychological opportunity of touching their hearts before the hardening process of prison life became a reality.

Policewomen were also particularly needed in cases of indecent assault. Many a scoundrel got off scot free because women would not tell a man official what had happened to them. Child outrage was another reason for enrolling more policewomen. This unnatural crime had doubled since the war. Depraved men believed it to be a cure for venereal disease, and these little victims, in consequence, frequently became infected. The maximum of punishment in cases of indecent assault was sixty days. For actual outrage it was 12 years penal servitude and 12 strokes of the cat. The speaker contended that both crimes were the same, in intention at any rate, and merited equal punishment. Physical assault or outrage upon an innocent little child was nothing short of murder. It was estimated that only 25 per cent. of the men who outraged little children got convicted, yet so greatly were these cases on the increase that to-day, in a certain town in Great Britain it was the life's work of one plain clothes policewoman to deal with little girls who had been outraged, these cases taking up each day of the week, from morning to night. Very few of these horrors found their way into the police courts because the men had escaped.

Policewomen were also a necessity when female prisoners had to be taken from one part of the country to another. At present girls and women prisoners were put in charge of two policemen when going on journeys. Policewomen were also needed when there was a raid on bad houses. Women had the Parliamentary vote, and also the vote for the Town Councils. These bodies could employ policewomen if there was sufficient demand. Women should see to it that this demand was made an imperative one.

Dr. Knight presided, and at the close of the Sub-Inspector's very eloquent address, an animated discussion took place, and many questions were put from the audience.

BOOK REVIEW.

Women as Army Surgeons. The History of the Women's Hospital Corps in Paris, Winnereux and Endell Street. By Flora Murray, C.B.E., M.D., D.P.H. (Hodder & Stoughton.) 12s. 6d. (To be obtained from the Literature Department, Women's Freedom League.)

All suffragists have been waiting impatiently for the appearance of this delightful little volume, and it will be hailed with acclamation.

Written by Dr. Flora Murray, the only woman Lieutenant-Colonel in the British Army, for her "dear Fellow Members of the Women's Hospital Corps" to give them pleasure because their "work was too good to be left unrecorded," dedicated to Louisa Garrett Anderson, "bold, cautious, true, and my loving comrade," with a preface by Miss Beatrice Harraden, in terse and simple language the epic is told of how two women, by their determination, initiative, courage and patient toil, combined with high professional skill, wide experience and splendid organising capacity, forced open the door of opportunity and won for women that fair chance to use their powers which is our immediate aim.

In the fateful August of 1914 many medical women were longing to join in the care of the sick and wounded, but for our War Office women were non-existent, though our Allies welcomed them.

Dr. Louisa Garrett Anderson and Dr. Flora Murray determined that the woman Army surgeon should become a fact. They did not go to our War Office (for as militant suffragists they had dealt with our Home Office, and all varieties of red tape possess a family likeness); they lost no time. The French Army wanted surgeons and hospitals. On August 12th they offered a complete surgical unit to the French Red Cross, and it was accepted with alacrity and asked to start in a fortnight. Two thousand pounds was collected; half this was spent on a very complete equipment got together with lightning speed, and surgeons, nurses and orderlies were quickly found. Dr. E. Garrett Anderson, the veteran pioneer, came up to London to share in the bustle. "If you go, and if you succeed," said she, "you will put your cause forward a hundred years," and "twenty years younger, she would have taken them herself." All was ready long before. On September 14th Paris sent for the Women's Hospital Corps to take possession of the desolate newly-built Hotel Claridge and transform it into a military hospital. Red tape and transport difficulties and official formalities abounded, but the Corps cleaned away and arranged wards. The first fifty patients were admitted on September 17th, and operations went on most of the night. Organisation was rapidly perfected. Dr. Murray became Médecin-en-Chef and Dr. Garrett Anderson Chief Surgeon. The many French officials were usually kind but rather trying. "Claridge's" soon became famous for its success, and in November the Corps was invited to establish a hospital in Boulogne under the British War Office.

Three months later, the way being thus paved, the two doctors sought the War Office and Surgeon-General Sir Alfred Keogh asked them to bring the Unit back to London, enlarge it and establish a hospital of 500 or 1,000 beds. Six months of enthusiastic toil had conquered our War Office which never would have capitulated to a frontal attack.

What follows is the story of "Endell Street," the workhouse where Oliver Twist asked for more, full of fascination and thrilling interest, the tale of high courage, unwearied patience, self-sacrificing toil, of the merry, plucky little orderlies gently nurtured all their lives who rose so blithely to every obstacle and vanquished difficulties with laughter, of the surgeons who operated on occasion for days and nights on end, of the Doctor-in-Charge (the only member of the staff who does not here receive the generous appreciation that is due), who bore the brunt of all the organising and administrative details of this large establishment, and secured the smooth working of all, but it must be read in full.

E. KNIGHT.

Women's Freedom League.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, November 26 and Saturday, November 27.—Green, White and Gold Fair, Caxton Hall, Westminster. 3 p.m.

Monday, November 29.—Mass Meeting at Central Hall, Westminster. Speakers: Lady Astor, M.P., Mrs. Chapman Catt, Mrs. Fawcett, J.P., and others. "To celebrate the enfranchisement of the women of the United States, and to welcome Mrs. Chapman Catt." 8 p.m.

Wednesday, December 1.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss E. Picton-Turberville, O.B.E. Subject: "Religion and Politics." Chair: Rev. W. C. Roberts, M.A.

Monday, December 6.—Clapham Branch Meeting at Mrs. Samuel's, 46 Lynette Avenue. Tea 4.30 p.m. Meeting 5 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard.

Wednesday, December 8.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. La Chard. Subject: "One Year of Municipal Work." Chair: Mrs. E. M. N. Clark.

Friday, December 10.—Mid-London Branch Meeting, 144, High Holborn. 7 p.m.

Saturday, December 11.—144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. National Executive Committee. 10 a.m.

Wednesday, December 15.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 3 p.m. Speaker: The Lady Amherst of Hackney. Subject: "The New Spirit and the Home." Chair: The Hon. Mrs. Walter Forbes.

Friday, December 31.—Hogmanay Party, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Full particulars later.

EDINBURGH.

Thursday, December 2.—Social Meeting at 44, Geo. IV. Bridge. Speaker: Miss Grace Mewhort. Subject: "What I Saw in Ireland."

PROVINCES.

Monday, November 29.—Southend-on-Sea. Meeting at Mrs. Sweetlove's, 1, Grange Gardens, at 3 p.m. Tea.

Wednesday, December 1.—Middlesbrough. Public Meeting, at Suffrage Café, Linthorpe Road at 8 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Seaton Tiedeman, London. Subject: "Lord Buckmaster's Matrimonial Causes Bill." Chair: Councillor Schofield Coates.

Saturday, December 4.—Portsmouth. Whist Drive, Unitarian Schoolroom, High Street. Tickets 1s. 6d. each, including refreshments, from Mrs. Whetton, 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

Monday, December 6.—Westcliff-on-Sea. Purcell House (School of Music), London Road. 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Alexander. Subject to be announced later. Chair: Mrs. Nichols.

Tuesday, December 7.—Manchester. Meeting, Milton Hall. 7.15 p.m. Speaker: Miss Neal.

Wednesday, December 8.—Hull. Whist Drive. Tuesday, December 14.—Bexhill. Public Meeting at National Kitchen, St. Leonards Road. 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Edith W. Kirby. Subject: "Women Jurors."

Tuesday, December 14.—Hastings. Drawing-room Meeting, "Sea View," Pelham Crescent. 7 p.m. Speaker: Miss Edith W. Kirby.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Sunday, November 28.—The Ethical Church, 46, Queen's Road, Bayswater, W. 2. Speaker: Mrs. Chapman Catt (President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association). Subject: "How the Women of America Won the Vote." 6.30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 1.—Central London Parliament will meet at Holy Trinity Hall, Kingsway, W.C. (adjoining Holborn Restaurant) at 7.30 p.m., and every Wednesday.

MORE PEERESSES WHO WANT SEATS.

In connection with Viscountess Rhondda's petition to the King, which is now being considered by the law officers, other peeresses in their own right have similar sentiments. The Duchess of Norfolk says: "If by having a seat in the House of Lords I can be of any use to the Government of my country, I would welcome the position." Baroness Dorchester "sympathises with Viscountess Rhondda's appeal to the King to allow her the right to sit and vote in the House of Lords," and Baroness Wentworth is "strongly of opinion that peeresses in their own right should sit in the House of Lords and have a position in no way different from that of other peers. The title being personal to themselves, the privileges attached to it should descend with it from their predecessors."

BRANCH NOTES.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA AND DISTRICT.

A few members and friends of the Women's Freedom League met at Mrs. Sweetlove's, 1, Grange Gardens, on Monday, November 15th, when an Auxiliary was formed. The next meeting will take place at the above address at 3 p.m. on Monday, November 29th. Mrs. Cattell will speak on "Citizenship and its Responsibilities." Questions and discussion. Tea.

A Committee Meeting of Westcliff Branch on November 19th unanimously resolved to change the name of the Branch to Southend and District, so as to embrace a wider area. Eight new members have joined. A Concert will be held on November 27th, and a Rummage Sale in December, to pay off the debt on the local election. To further the work during the winter months, we have formed Auxiliaries at Southchurch (Mrs. Sweetlove, 1, Grange Gardens, Southend, President, has kindly consented to have fortnightly meetings at her house, and Mrs. Gaunt, 71, South Avenue, Southend, is Hon. Sec.), and at Leigh. These Auxiliaries will send representatives to the quarterly Centre Committee Meetings.

Hon. Sec.—(Mrs.) F. B. STAFFORD BAILEY,
48, Argyll Road, Westcliff.

MANCHESTER.

A Meeting was held on November 15th at the Milton Hall. Gifts for the Fair were received, after which Miss Connaughton, of the N.U.W.T., gave a short address on the Teachers' Fight for Equal Pay. She urged the necessity of equal opportunities for women with men teachers, and mentioned striking instances of the difference between the salaries of men and women in Manchester, in spite of the fact that women teachers are often expected to qualify in more subjects than men. The difference is in many cases increased by the scales in the Burnham Report. Miss Connaughton reviewed the work done in Manchester by the N.U.W.T., which has just obtained direct representation on the new Salaries' Committee. The address aroused great interest, and a lively discussion followed.

Hon. Sec.—Miss E. M. McDONALD, 62, Ashford Rd., Withington.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

Madam,—The word "prophesy," used by St. Paul, means "preach," as my report clearly stated. On page 267 of the November 9th issue occurs in parenthesis (= teach). This is a misprint which injures a valuable piece of evidence for women preachers.

K. A. RALEIGH.

OUR MODERN YOUTH.

Young Oxford decided recently in the Oxford Union, by 108 to 180, that "this House regrets the recent triumph of the Feminist Movement." Women members of the University crowded the galleries, and many gems of thought came their way. "A race would now arise who were neither men nor women, but something possessing all the disagreeable characteristics of both." "Women would end by insisting that in the College Eight at least four must be women" (an excellent suggestion for co-operative sport). "Women were granted equality in the period of the decline of the Roman Empire, and the same deleterious results would soon be seen here." The gallery departed home in no wise depressed, to bide its time till women members of the University are admitted to membership of the Union to speak for themselves.

THE MUDDLE-HEADED MUSINGS OF THE MIDDLE-AGED.

Under the above title, Miss Alison Neilans recently opened a discussion at the Garden Suburb Club House on the "Modern Girl." She was chiefly concerned with the unhappiness of the modern girl and her "what's the good of it all" attitude towards life. It was suggested that the difference between the girl of yesterday and the girl of to-day is chiefly one of expression. The girl of yesterday was afraid to say what she thought, but the girl of to-day has no respect for grown-up people, as such, and speaks outright.

The general trend of the discussion was that, although the modern girl has more freedom and more scope for her abilities, she is unhappy by reason of her lack of ideals, her self-centredness, and her insatiable desire for excitement. One little faction, however, was of the opinion that adolescence is always a restless period, and that the girl of to-day is even further handicapped by the war atmosphere in which she has grown up. Stress was laid upon the importance of sympathetic home life for the modern girl, and other people were inclined to think that she will only find her salvation in religion or work.

A. M. PIEROTTI.

ACKNOWLEDGED WITH THANKS.

The Secretary of the Green, White and Gold Fair Committee has much pleasure in acknowledging that, in response to an appeal, Messrs. Mansell, Hunt, Catty & Co., Ltd., have sent a generous parcel of their fancy paper goods. Also gifts have been sent by Messrs. George Newnes, Ltd., and Messrs. the International Icilm Trading Co., Ltd.

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