

THE VOTE,
DECEMBER 19, 1919.
ONE PENNY.

WOMEN ARCHITECTS.

ANNIE HALL, M.S.A.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

VOL. XVIII. No. 530.

(Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper and transmissible through the post in the United Kingdom at the newspaper rate of postage, but to Canada and Newfoundland at the Magazine rate).

FRIDAY, DEC. 19, 1919.

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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WOMEN ARCHITECTS.

Architecture is now an open profession for women, and it is no longer difficult to obtain a first-rate training. I believe all architectural schools and colleges now welcome women students. University Degrees and Diplomas in Architecture and the professional examinations are open to women.

A good general education is the first necessity. Whenever possible it is well for a student to take a good arts or science degree, or its equivalent, before specialising in architecture. The training is necessarily long and expensive, and only those who have a real inborn gift for the work, and who are prepared for a long period of arduous training, should consider entering the profession. There is a tremendous amount to be learned before anyone can venture safely into practice on her own account. It will take about seven years at least to become fully equipped.

The best method of training,

as a general rule, is for a student to attend a first-rate school of architecture for three years or so, where she will obtain the necessary theoretical and academical knowledge, and to follow this with practical experience in an architect's office. Needless to say, both the school of architecture and the office require to be very carefully selected to ensure the most suitable training. The largest and busiest offices are by no means always the best for the student. I give the preference to the smaller offices: for herein the student may have greater opportunity of seeing something of all branches of the work, and the more easily learn how to conduct her own practice when the time arrives. The advantage to be derived from a preliminary training course at a school of architecture is clear—the student will learn the theory and technique more thoroughly and systematically than is usually possible in a busy office.

Although in ninety-nine cases out of every hundred the woman student's goal and ambition will be to become a specialist in domestic architecture, I do not

advocate her specialising until the latter part of her training period. Of course, where a student enters one of the university or other schools of architecture she will naturally follow the courses prescribed. Later on she will find the benefit of the wider all-round training, especially if her own practice includes all varieties and classes of work, from the humble labourer's cottage to the lordly mansion. The different subjects of study necessary are too numerous for me to mention here, and in any case their mere enumeration might scare away the prospective student.

The successful architect

needs to be at least a born artist, something of a scientist, and a mathematician, and to be the possessor of business ability and of social gifts.

It is no advantage as a rule to begin the professional training earlier than twenty. It is most important, however, that a girl should keep up her general education until the time when she begins to train, so that she retains the habit of systematic study. She may very wisely take every opportunity of learning about household work and household management, preferably obtained from actual experience in her own home. For in that special practical knowledge, combined with her professional training, lies her special claim to consideration in house-planning and design.

The would-be architect should make good use of her holidays by visiting different parts of the country, and by sketching and making measured drawings and detailed notes of good specimens of domestic architecture, both old and new. Thus will she become familiar with local types and traditional work. She should continually practice rapid and accurate sketching in different media—pencil, pen and ink and water colour.

In addition to the general training I recommend all women students to take post-graduate courses in the following subjects: (a) the general principles of town-planning, and civic design; (b) garden design—for this is one branch of an architect's practice, and a very

fascinating one for the true garden lover. No one is so well able to design the garden as the architect who designs the house: the whole design should grow together to ensure perfect harmony between house and garden; (c) furniture design—for nowadays the architect is frequently called upon to design the furniture, or part of it, or if not to design it, is often responsible for the decoration and furnishing throughout.

The cost of training is considerable. I do not recommend the profession to girls unless they have ample means to carry them through without any anxiety. The educational fees will vary with the school or college chosen; they will amount to about £130 for the three years' course. In addition, there will be expensive books, instruments, drawing materials, professional subscriptions, and so on. Premiums vary very much. Where a student enters an office direct as an articulated pupil, without any preliminary training, the premium may be anything up to £500 for a three years' period. There will be fees for the post-graduate courses, and any special tutorial help required. The cost of living, especially if away from home, must be a considerable sum for the long years of training necessary. And a further sum must be set aside for use during the early years of building up a practice.

In the present state of affairs no girl—other than the daughter of an architect—should be advised to enter the profession unless she has a reasonable prospect of getting together a practice of her own. There is as yet little demand for the highly-paid woman assistant.

ANNIE HALL, M.S.A.

[Miss Hall will be pleased at any time to answer questions about the profession, and to give advice to any girls who care to ask for it. Apply first to the Editor of THE VOTE.]

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Spain and Suffrage.

Since the eighth Convention of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance, after an interval of seven years, is to be held in Madrid in May, 1920, it is interesting to note that the Conservative Party in Spain is introducing a Woman Suffrage Bill during the coming Parliamentary session. The Women's Movement, too, is spreading very rapidly in the Spanish-American countries. A Women's Group has been formed in Mexico, and the same is being attempted in Honduras. In Uruguay and the Argentine special developments are being recorded.

Women Workers in Italy.

Increasing unemployment and general displacement of women workers is reported in Italy, as in this country. Milan seems to be the centre of the anti-women agitation, where the numbers of unemployed women are quoted as being 39,000. A meeting of women workers was held in Milan on November 1st, to discuss the problem.

Nursing Sisters classed as Soldiers.

The Repatriation Department has decided that nursing sisters who served abroad with the Australians shall be classed as soldiers, and eligible with men to all the benefits under the various acts providing assistance, securing homes, obtaining occupation, and monetary allowances while unsettled.

Russian Women as Factory Managers.

One of the largest factories in Moscow has on its works committee three women, one of whom was elected as manager. At the outset she had to carry on the direction of the big establishment alone, and though in most places factories were stopped for lack of raw material and fuel, her factory continued without interruption. Another factory, a large confectionery works, also has at its head three women. In both establishments social efforts have resulted in the addi-

tion of dining-rooms and schools, and in one case a crèche has been added. A third large Russian factory has also many women in various branches of its administration.

Women Accountant's Victory.

Miss Mary Harris-Smith has just been elected an honorary member of the Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors. Not only have all sex barriers now been removed in this particular quarter, but women are even invited to article themselves to enter the profession. It is largely owing to Miss Harris-Smith's continued efforts since 1888, the date of the Society's foundation, that this victory has been secured.

Song-Writer's Death.

We regret to announce the death in Paris a few days ago of Mrs. Amy Elise Horrocks, F.R.A.M., the well-known song-writer. Among her most popular works were "The Bird and the Rose," the cycle of Greek love-songs, and "The Lady of Shalott." Shortly before her death a jury of musicians and literary men in Paris awarded her the prize, open to the world, for a song in honour of the "Drapeau Bleu"—the ensign of the League of Nations.

First Woman Barrister.

Miss Helena Normanton, a budding barrister, and a member of the Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League, expects to become a member of the Middle Temple before Christmas. Once admitted, Miss Normanton will attend lectures and eat the necessary dinners "in Hall" in order to become fully qualified as a barrister. Special provision, we have been told, is being made for her accommodation. Miss Normanton comes of an old legal family, and is already well known to many members of the legal profession as a student of Constitutional law.

Women Bank Clerks to Stay.

The women bank clerks who have been fighting against the Bank Officers' Guild for the right to retain their posts, have won a substantial victory. Notices issued by one of the largest banking firms in London to 4,000 women clerks have been withdrawn, though they were to have taken effect at the end of the month. Another firm, in addition to retaining its women employees, has agreed to pay them the same rate of wages as the men clerks.

Women Diplomats?

The American Civil Service Board has let down the bars on all positions as far as women are concerned, so from now on any women may compete with men in any examination for any Civil Service appointments. This leaves practically every career open to women in the States, except a diplomatic career, and it will probably not be long before cute American women will manage to convince their men folk that it is time female Ambassadors and Consuls tried their skill on international affairs.

Land Girls to Stay.

More than 4,000 women have joined the new Association of Landswomen within a week of the demobilisation of the Land Army, and at least three-quarters of the members of the army at the date of its disbanding have elected to remain at work. The records of the Women's Land Army are being compiled and a history of the whole movement is being written.

OUR ADVERTISERS

like to know the results of their Advertisements. When writing them mention the 'VOTE'.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Venereal Disease.

LORD WILLOUGHBY DE BROKE brought forward a motion in the House of Lords on December 10th to call attention to the prevention of venereal disease by the method of immediate self-disinfection (the new name bestowed upon the "prophylactic packet" system); to ask the Health Ministry how far they were helping prophylaxis, and what they were doing for early treatment centres, and to move for statistics of disease in the Portsmouth area, where prophylaxis was vigorously pursued as compared with the rest of England, and for reports and records of Hilsea Hospital. The mover was the spokesman of the newly-formed and very enthusiastic Society for the Prevention of Venereal Disease, which is confident that not self-control, but an omnipresent approved disinfectant, is the one thing needful to eliminate venereal disease from the universe.

LORD SYDENHAM maintained that the packet system did not give security. Figures of disease in the Australian Forces, where it was extensively used, were higher than our own. Not very long ago the C.-D. Acts were thought to be an absolute specific, but since they were suspended in 1883 disease had been reduced to less than one-fifth.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY said that the problems of cattle plague or rabies in animals, and venereal disease in human beings, were essentially different, and could not be dealt with alike. As regards prophylaxis for the general public, he distrusted, detested and abhorred it. He believed it to be in the highest possible degree prejudicial to public welfare and the public good. The Medical Officer for Birmingham had said: "The only true prevention for civilians is sexual morality. The alternative teaching and supplying of prophylactics would more surely destroy the family life of this nation than any other method you could advocate. To destroy the family is to destroy the nation. It was to similar methods that the glory of ancient Rome owed its eclipse." Colonel Snow, of the United States Army, said too: "So far as the 'packet' has a bearing on the moral question, its official promulgation seems to me to favour increased sexual promiscuity." The American Navy Secretary circulated during the war his views: "It is wicked to seem to encourage and approve placing in the hands of the men an appliance which will lead them to think they may indulge with impunity in practices which are not sanctioned by morality, military or civil law." Colonel Harrison was convinced that the results of prophylaxis in the civil community would not justify the price to be paid.

LORD MUIR MACKENZIE asked the Government or the Health Ministry whether there was to be any outcome of the labours of the Joint Committee on the Sexual Offences Bill and the Criminal Law Amendment Bill which worked for so long last session.

VISCOUNT SANDHURST was not in a position to give this information, but would mention the matter to the Minister of Health. He promised to give all the papers asked for in the motion as far as could be done. As regards prophylactics, the Minister of Health was not prepared to authorise a recommendation of any drug for these purposes. He was prepared to sanction the issue of advice such as: "Those . . . who have exposed themselves to infection will certainly diminish that risk, to some extent at least, by effectively cleansing themselves immediately. They are further advised to watch carefully for several weeks for the first signs of disease, and to seek medical advice at a clinic or elsewhere immediately such signs appear."

LORD WILLOUGHBY DE BROKE then withdrew his motion, regretting that "we had not proceeded further in combating venereal disease than a promise from the Minister of Health of a certain amount of soap and water"!

Government of India Bill.

This Debate was resumed in the House of Lords on December 11th and 12th, and passed its second reading on December 12th, with the women still left out.

THE MARQUESS OF CREWE referred to the great interest which had been excited by the question of the women's vote in India. The Joint Committee had left the matter, because of its great complexity, to the different provinces of India to solve, but whilst on the subject he wished to pay a tribute to those wives and mothers of Indian soldiers in the quiet homes and small farms in Northern and Central India and in all parts from which soldiers came, for the quiet power of resistance and heroic patience they had displayed during the war.

EARL CURZON expressed smug approval of the Committee's wisdom in refraining from touching the question of the female franchise—because he believed that the woman question in India cut much more deeply into the roots of social life, and of tradition, custom and prejudice than in this country. He even went so far as to doubt if India would deal with the question at all!

Bills after Midnight.

The frequent lack of Parliamentary management displayed by the Government has been particularly noticeable of late. Two or three weeks ago the House of Commons rose at an absurdly early hour, but last week Members sat late night after night, commencing the committee stage of the new Housing Bill close upon midnight, and labouring away at it through the early hours of the morning. Again, when the County Courts Bill was being considered, also during last week, its twenty-seven clauses were adopted by jaded Members step by step, and the whole matter passed through all its stages after midnight, without any real opportunity having been given to the House to amend it.

E. KNIGHT.

THE PRICE OF MILK.

The London and Provincial Master Dairymen's Association held a meeting at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street on Wednesday, to discuss the "Milk Crisis." The subject was debated under these heads:—

Winter Prices: Can they be Reduced?

Public Protests: Municipalisation Schemes.

Profits: Retailers who cannot Survive.

A deputation from the Southern Section of the Women's Co-operative Guild, one of the largest organisations of working women in the country, recently waited upon the London Divisional Food Commissioner to protest against the high prices of milk.

Miss Allen, secretary of the Section, said the Guild had overwhelming evidence that at the present time the future healthy life of the nation was in grave danger, unless the price of milk was reduced. The Society in Surrey with which Miss Allen was connected retailed milk at 10d. a quart, and, if undelivered, all they had to spare at 8d. a quart. "But we know full well from our returns that even so our members cannot and do not take as much as they need."

Urging a reduction in price equivalent to 8d. a quart all the year round, Miss Allen suggested that the surplus milk should be collected nationally and placed in cold storage to meet any deficiency.

Mrs. Fulbrook, Surrey district secretary, said there were some favoured spots in that county where the producer sold direct to the consumer at 6d. a quart. Why, she asked, could not this be done in all districts?

Mrs. Graham, Rochester and Sheerness, quoted instances of hardship from her experience as a Poor Law Guardian and a member of an Insurance Committee, and protested warmly against a practice of giving a substitute for milk when it was asked for by the necessitous.

The Commissioner, who undertook to convey the deputation's views to the Food Controller, regretted that he personally could give no definite promise of a reduction in price or the fixing of a flat rate to operate all the year round.

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Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.

Offices: 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19th, 1919.

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EDITORIAL

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

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WOMEN'S RIGHT TO WORK.

The Women's Freedom League claims that every woman has a right to work who is willing to work. No matter what pressing business is before the country, Members of Parliament are constantly asking the Government if women cannot be dismissed forthwith from some Government department so as to give their jobs to men. We quite agree that the unemployment of demobilised and disabled men, indeed of all men, should be a matter of concern to Members of Parliament; but we insist most strongly that the unemployment of women should equally concern them. What can women possibly do? At present women are excluded by the Pre-War Practices Act from nearly all the adequately paid trades and sections of trades in which they became skilled workers during the war; the Women's Land Army has been disbanded; nurses and V.A.D.'s are no longer wanted by the Army; it is becoming more and more difficult for women clerks to get employment; and many University women find it almost impossible to secure any means of livelihood. Yet the urgent need of every country in the world is production and more production! After all their years of talk about Reconstruction, why is it that the Government, with so many resources of the country at its disposal, cannot devise some scheme to increase production in this country and give employment to thousands of women, as well as men, who are willing to work? How is it that Members of Parliament cannot be persuaded to use their brains in initiating such schemes instead of repeating their parrot-like questions to Heads of Departments, "Why not turn the women out?" At the back of their minds these Members think vaguely that domestic service, laundry work and needlework are sufficient outlets for the energies of all unemployed women; but women who believe they are capable of doing other kinds of work have no more liking for those particular outlets than the ordinary skilled worker has for stone-breaking. The majority of men acquiesce in our present system of competition, and women demand that this competition shall be free and open to both sexes; and that they shall have an equal right with men to a share in every kind of work within the State. We demand in the first place that all restrictions on women's work and chance of work shall be removed; and, further, that the Government at once take in hand this pressing problem of unemployment and turn its attention to the necessity of securing that every adult person, irrespective of sex, shall have the best possible chance of leading an industrious life and adding as much as possible to the production of this country.

CHRISTMAS FARE.

It is more than a year since we ceased fighting and began to organise our resources for Peace. Yet the ordinary housewife is still experiencing almost the same difficulties as in War time to provide sufficient food for the members of her family. Prices are still unnecessarily high; milk is at the scandalous figure of 1s. a quart; a loaf of bread and a pound of butter are twice the price they were before the war, and sugar has mounted from 2d. to 8d. per lb. Sugar and butter are rationed to $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. and 1 oz. respectively per person each week. Yet in the largest confectioners we can see an extraordinary wealthy display of costly cakes and the most expensive sweets, which must have absorbed an enormous amount of sugar; and we learn with indignation that the Ministry of Food has recently declined to allow 2,000 tons of the best Danish butter to be imported into this country. Worse still, a special representative of the *Globe* reports that he has seen in the London Docks thousands of tons of sugar which have been held there for four or five years, that their bags have burst, and that he himself was able to walk ankle deep in sugar. Currants also are scattered all over the Docks, although the price of currants is now 1s. 2d. per lb. The Christmas Plum Pudding is a pressing problem at the present moment with raisins at 2s. a lb. (which used to be 9d.), sultanas at 1s. 6d., candied peel at 2s. 6d., and eggs at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. each. One paper has taken the trouble to compare the cost of Mrs. Beeton's famous recipe for a large Plum Pudding in 1913 with a similar plum pudding in 1919—these costs being 8s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and £1 3s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. respectively. We are convinced that this increase in the price of every kind of food is an unnecessary hardship upon millions of our people, and we urge that before another year passes an earnest attempt should be made by the Government to bring down the prices of food. If the Ministry of Food continues in existence and cannot see its way to secure better organisation in the distribution of food and an all-round lowering of its price, we suggest in all seriousness that this department be handed over entirely to women before Christmas, 1920.

MADRID CONFERENCE.

It is nearly seven years since the last Conference of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance was held at Budapest. By invitation of the Marquesa Delter, the next Convention will be held in Madrid in 1920, at an early date in May. This meeting, after so long an interval, will be of the utmost importance to the Women's Movement. Since the Budapest Convention in 1913 eleven new countries have gained votes for women. These are Great Britain and Ireland, Canada, the United States (in process of completion), Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bohemia (Czecho-Slovakia), Belgium (partial), Italy (promised), Holland and Sweden. In some countries the enfranchisement is partial; in others—and amongst some of these are the more backward nations—it is full and complete. Much spade work, however, remains to be accomplished. For many countries still exist without the suffrage, and in the East the work of emancipation has hardly yet begun; whilst in no country, even where women are fully enfranchised, does an equal moral standard, industrial equality, or equalisation in the marriage laws really obtain.

Mrs. Fawcett, in the December number of *Jus Suffragi*, draws attention to the happy selection of Spain as the seat of next year's Convention. In Spanish South America the Women's Movement is making remarkable strides; all the more unexpected that this has been in the past one of the chief seats of the White Slave Trade, but a circumstance which Mrs. Fawcett believes has given rise to a determination from both men and women in those regions to refound society in purity and equality. This movement in South America has evidently had a reaction in Spain itself, and may probably have been one of the forces which finally located the meeting place of 1920.

WOMEN AND THE LAY MINISTRY.

Women's position with regard to Church government is at present far from what it should be, but the general position of the laity as a whole is absolutely unsatisfactory. Fortunately, reform in this direction is at hand. The Enabling Bill has passed its second reading, and if it becomes law in its present form women will have the Church franchise, and will be eligible to sit on all parochial and diocesan councils and to take their places in the grand assembly.

The vexed question at the moment is the lay ministry of women. This problem has become articulate since the inception of the National Mission in 1916, when the Mission Council passed a resolution urging upon the Bishops the importance of "using the services and receiving the message of women speakers." Angry protests followed the permission given by the Bishops of London and Chelmsford for women to speak, subject to certain restrictions, in their dioceses. To save the Mission from being wrecked women acquiesced in the withdrawal of the permission, and the matter was dropped. Women delivered their message, however, but it was given at the street corner, in the factory and workshop, in public hall, schoolroom or cinema.

At the end of the same year several committees were appointed to enquire into various aspects of Church and national life, but the one on the women's movement was conspicuous by its absence. In February, 1917, a research committee started to study the

Position of women in the early Church.

The report of that committee has recently been published. ["The Ministry of Women" (S.P.C.K.), 12s. 6d. nett.]

In May, 1918, the matter was brought before the Lower House (Canterbury) by the late Archdeacon Escreet, discussed and deferred; in February, 1919, the Bishop of Ely moved a resolution in the Upper House (Canterbury) that women should be allowed to speak in Church, but with masterly strategy the matter was referred to a Joint Committee for further consideration. In July, 1919, in the Upper House (Canterbury) the Bishop of Peterborough formally presented the report of this Committee. In the Lower House (York), on the motion of Archdeacon Gresford-Jones, the report was accepted. The Lower House (Canterbury)—presumably from pressure of other business—did not discuss the matter at all. The Committee recommended that under certain conditions to be laid down by the Bishop of the Diocese concerned, women who satisfy the authorities as to their spiritual and intellectual fitness should be allowed to "speak and pray in consecrated buildings at services or meetings for prayer or instruction other than the regular and appointed services of the Church."

That "some simple form of distinctive dress should be worn," and that "no woman under the age of thirty should be allowed to address a mixed assembly in a consecrated building" were further recommended. The last injunction seems an echo from the political sphere, and makes one again ask, "Why thirty?"

Meanwhile there has been much

unofficial preaching

and speaking going on in various places, notably in the London and Lincoln Dioceses, carried on with express episcopal sanction, as that given to Miss Picton-Turbervill to preach at statutory services at Somercoates in the absence of episcopal prohibition. We can all recall the lamentable episode of last Good Friday, when Miss Royden was prevented from conducting the Three Hours' Service in Church. That happening strained the loyalty of many to the breaking point, and made those who remained within the Church more determined than before in their efforts for reform from within.

I would like to urge all who are members of the Church of England to sign a petition being presented by the League of the Church Militant asking that the question of the Lay Ministry of Women should be settled speedily. Forms for signature can be had at the Freedom League Office.

There is a stiff fight ahead. The spiritual equality of man and woman is accepted by all Christians in theory; practically to many minds it is a dead letter. Until the Church removes the sex bar from its own ordered life spiritual equality in practice cannot be achieved. From this source grow moral and physical evils unending. If spiritual equality is compatible with a "permanent subordination," then respect for women can be held side by side with the desire to degrade some women. There is a very real connection between the question of the admission of women to the priesthood and the outcast prostitute of the street.

The true recognition of spiritual equality between the sexes will go a long way towards bringing about the regeneration of human society. E. L. ACRES.

WOMEN AND NATIONAL REWARDS.

The curiously inadequate provision of national rewards for the various services women are constantly rendering the State is becoming increasingly noticeable with their steady influx into public life, and the efficiency with which they perform their new duties. Women's orders undoubtedly exist in all civilised countries. But they need reconstruction on a more democratic basis, and adaptation to the extended mental horizon of the present day.

Women themselves have made no special claim for public recognition of their services to the commonwealth. In the majority of cases they have even repudiated the necessity for State distinctions. And a parsimonious Government, with smug, masculine predilections, has accordingly taken them at their word.

In olden times national rewards for men, and in a lesser degree for women were based on the two chief preoccupations of mediæval days—warfare and religion. The ancient orders of chivalry were founded on these twin themes, and woman, either as nun or nurse, was allowed a share in their splendour. Relics of these past glories still exist, in the Ladies of Justice and of Grace in the cosmopolitan Order of St. John of Jerusalem; in the ancient Austrian Community of the Starry Cross, instituted by the Empress Eleanora to commemorate the miraculous preservation from fire of a portion of the true Cross; in the Russian Order of St. Catharine, founded by Peter the Great, in grateful remembrance of his rescue on the river bank by Catharine I; and in the numerous religious orders of the Teutonic kingdoms.

Queen Victoria was the first British sovereign to recognise women's services to the State by creating separate orders for women only. Though two of these, the Royal Order of Victoria and Albert, and the Crown of India, are limited to ladies of Royal, or at least aristocratic, descent, the well-known Order of the Royal Red Cross, awarded for nursing services to the sick and wounded in war time, is entirely democratic in its application.

The late King Edward also made decided innovations in the popularisation of public awards to both sexes. Both the Imperial Service Order and the Order of Merit were instituted shortly after he came to the throne. The first-named ranks immediately after the Distinguished Service Order for military prowess, and forms the chief modern recognition of public services rendered to the State by civilians. The Order of Merit, as is well known, is awarded for distinction gained in fields of activity other than warfare, though soldiers are not excluded. Everyone knows that at least one woman, Florence Nightingale, has become a recipient, even though it reached her at a time of life when she was no longer able to appreciate the honour.

Our present King has made a valiant attempt to remedy matters by the recent institution of the Order of the British Empire, but what is more needed in the present day is a British order something akin to the French Legion of Honour, instituted by Napoleon, which ranks with the highest European orders, and yet possesses a distinct democratic appeal. At least three noted women, Rosa Bonheur, Madame Curie, and Madame Bartet, have received it in the past.

D. M. N.

THE DIVORCE LAW AS IT AFFECTS WOMEN.

In his address to the Women's Freedom League last Wednesday Mr. E. S. P. Haynes referred to the Marriage Laws in this country as imbecile for both sexes, but bearing especially hardly on women, not so much because of masculine legislation as because women were usually economically dependent on their husbands.

Matrimonial offences were generally grouped under three heads. (1) Adultery. With regard to the husband's adultery there was no relief for a poor woman unless she had money herself, or unless her husband had enough money for her to obtain security for costs. The existing facilities for poor persons were of no use whatever to any who did not live in or near London. The Summary Jurisdiction (Married Women) Act, 1895, gave no relief to the wife in respect of adultery. It was estimated that this hardship applied to

75 per cent. of the population.

In the case of a well-to-do married woman, her only remedy was a decree of judicial separation, coupled with an order for maintenance if the husband had any property or earning power. In the case of a wife's adultery, a single act gave a husband the right to divorce her, and to deny her any sort of access to her children to the end of her life unless the children in later years chose to see her again. A husband was also entitled, as in the case of divorce, to refuse her any maintenance without divorcing her at all. (2) Cruelty. The question here was whether the existing test of cruelty, viz., injury to health, was too severe a test. In other civilised countries persistence in serious insult was enough to constitute cruelty. On the whole, the law in practice was fair to the wife on the ground of cruelty, and certainly more fair than it was to the husband. (3) Desertion. The law was

extremely harsh

to the wife in cases of desertion, whether she was rich or poor, for in either case she had to wait two years for a divorce, and in order to get this she had to prove adultery as well. Desertion was a more cowardly offence than adultery or cruelty. It should be in itself a sufficient reason for divorce, and far more facilities should exist for enforcing maintenance from the husband. In America the State took far more trouble than we did to trace the husband and to make him maintain the family. Where a husband could not be traced it was obvious that a woman of marriageable age should be allowed to marry again.

Many hardships for women arose from the dipsomania, lunacy or imprisonment of the husband, and no relief could be expected in such circumstances until this country was prepared to regard a permanent or indefinite period of separation as in itself an offence against public policy whatever the cause might be. Clergymen and politicians were fond of telling us that the marriage laws of this country were an invaluable protection to women and the family. This was

utterly untrue,

and the sooner we got rid of all this cant the better would be the condition of women and children in this country. Though the House of Commons had voted the necessary funds to appoint a Royal Commission to report on the marriage laws nearly ten years ago, the recommendations of that Commission had been ignored ever since.

The particularly lively discussion which followed Mr. Haynes' lecture, and in which several men and women in the audience took part, proved the great public interest which the subject of Divorce Reform inevitably provokes.

ANOTHER TRADITION GONE.—In the same week that a woman took her seat in Parliament the Lady Mayoress replied to an after-dinner toast, and thus broke through a City tradition hundreds of years old.

BOOK REVIEWS.

Lessons in Verse-Craft. By S. Gertrude Ford. C. W. Daniel. 4s. 6d. net. (Can be obtained at this office.)

This is a decidedly well-written little handbook on the niceties and varying structure of different verse-forms. Its aim is frankly the untutored enthusiast, and a more intelligent and useful guide the amateur could scarcely have. Of the many chapters, each touching lightly and illuminatingly upon its subject, we can select only a few for criticism. All that is necessary is said upon the subject of "The Lyric," but the chapter is rendered noteworthy by the quotation of Mrs. Meynell's "Shepherdess," that exquisite little poem, which, as the author says, came "in the sunrise-time of that wonderful new love of woman for woman which seemed to come in with the new century." An unfortunate misprint mars the selection of Shelley's lyric.

We disagree with the author in "What poetry is" in her illustration of "doggerel," holding that though it certainly does not show Wordsworth in one of his finer moods, the marvellous rhyme "all"—"water-fall," and the significance of the stanza, quite redeems it from being "doggerel." It certainly does not fall so low. We should have transposed chapters three and four, because it seems to us that the sonnet being a fixed form, might well have been followed by the French forms. But this is merely a matter of arrangement. Entire agreement must be expressed with the author's wise observations upon rhyme, which we wish we could quote; we should have made them much stronger. The only needless chapter in the book is that on "Epigrams"; better have written more upon the thorny subject of "Blank Verse."

On the whole, the book is delightful, one worthy of a much longer review. It is evidently written *con amore*, and the various illustrations from the author's own pen are selected with judgment and taste.

Christ and Woman's Power. By E. Picton-Turbervill, O.B.E. Morgan and Scott. (Can be obtained at this office.)

This little work, dedicated to Mrs. Fawcett, and with an Introduction by Lady Frances Balfour, comprises a summary in thirteen chapters of the various aspects of the struggle for emancipation which women have been waging during the past fifty years. The beginnings of this struggle in the Mid-Victorian age—"the genesis of many courageous movements for the welfare of the human race"—are described under separate departments; the struggle for knowledge, the fight to enter the medical profession, and the insistence on an equal standard in morals and industry. Though the illustrious names connected with each phase of the warfare—Elizabeth Blackwell, Sophia Jex Blake, Mrs. Josephine Butler, Emily Davis, Anne Clough—have now become household words in the Feminist Calendar, the general survey of these chapters provides a useful recapitulation for the younger suffragists now growing up in our midst. Miss Picton-Turbervill is convinced that a great spiritual force is now being released in many countries, and that the principal wielders of the new power are the women of all nations. The women of the East, especially in India, and also in China, are sympathetically referred to, showing that in all parts of the world the new leaven is making itself felt. India's recent demand for the inclusion of her women in the new Bill for self-government now being debated affords eloquent testimony that Indian women are asserting the claims which their Western sisters have already fought for and won, whilst throughout the Chinese Empire women are pleading everywhere for increased knowledge and a higher education so as to fit them for the position they will one day seize for themselves. The only criticism we would make is that the book is too discursive, and provides no new contribution to the Woman's Movement.

Women's Freedom League.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO
BE FREE

Wednesday, December 31.—Golder's Green: Dance. Tickets 3s. Particulars from Hon. Sec., 59, Ashbourne Avenue, N.W. 4.

Wednesday, January 14.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Nevinson, L.L.A. Subject: "Our Young Women Poets." Chair: Mrs. E. M. Moore.

Thursday, January 15.—Political Sub-Committee, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 12 o'clock.

Saturday, January 17.—National Executive Committee, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 10 a.m.

Wednesday, January 21.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Subject: "Mothers' Pensions." Chair: Mrs. Tanner.

Friday, January 30.—Debate, Minerva Café, 7 p.m. "Does Dr. Montessori Preach a New Gospel in Matters Educational?" Speakers to be announced later.

Wednesday, February 4.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Norah March, B.Sc. Subject: "Child Welfare." Chair: Miss F. A. Underwood.

Thursday, February 5.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 6 p.m. Speaker: Mr. W. Clarke Hall. Subject: "The Naughty Child."

Wednesday, February 11.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Zangwill. Subject: "The Reading Public."

Monday, March 8.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Mr. W. L. George. Subject: "Women Under Socialism."

Wednesday, March 10.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Jessie March. Subject: "The Unmarried Mother."

Saturday, March 27.—Women's Freedom League Annual Conference, Council Chamber, Caxton Hall, Westminster, 10 a.m.

SCOTLAND.

Thursday, January 8.—Edinburgh. Social Meeting, 44, George IV Bridge, 7.30. Debate on "Endowment of Motherhood."

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, December 31.—Portsmouth: New Year Eve Party, Unitarian Schoolroom, High Street, 7—10 p.m. Tickets 1s. 3d. each.

The Women's Freedom League Settlement,

93, NINE ELMS LANE, S.W. 8.

This week we shall be very busy arranging for the Christmas Tree and Breaking-up Party, and still need some toys and evergreens, also apples and oranges or sweets to present to the children. Any odd woollies for the times will be especially welcome, or little balls. We have to thank Miss Gardiner for knitting socks, Miss Mary Smith for a parcel of children's clothing, Miss L. A. Kennedy for toys, Mme. Behrend for a parcel of woollies, and Mrs. Allen for some clothes for the Guest House. Miss Riggall and an anonymous donor have promised toys, and the Committee of the Save-the-Children Bazaar Fund evergreens for the party. Mrs. Miller kindly organised a working party at Moyloen, Marlow, to make dolls, so we are looking forward with much eagerness to Monday, December 22nd, the date of our treat. Mr. Snow has most kindly sent us £5, and Mrs. Rosenbaum, 10s., Mrs. J. E. Cory 7s. 6d., Mrs. Bell Lloyd 3s., Miss N. O'Shea 5s., and Mrs. Brend 10s. Miss Turton promises toys for the Play Club. Miss Greenville gave up her Saturday afternoon to take the first of the Guest children to Harrow for a long Christmas visit. We still badly need towels and sheets for the Guest House.

WOMEN IN THE PULPIT.—Miss Picton-Turbervill will preach next Sunday, December 21st, at Blenavon Methodist Church, Newport. Subject: "The Destiny of Man."

LADY ASTOR AND WOMEN'S SOCIETIES.

Readers of THE VOTE will be interested in the following letter received from Lady Astor by the Secretary of the Women's Freedom League. We think they will agree that it clearly shows the advantage of having a woman M.P., and this letter should greatly increase their enthusiasm to secure the early return of many more women to Parliament:—

December 2nd, 1919.

Dear Madam,—Since I am the first woman to take her seat in the House of Commons, I feel that I have a special opportunity of helping Women's Societies, and I am therefore anxious to be thoroughly in touch with their opinions and wishes. I am writing to you now to ask whether your Committee will send me the current reports and publications of your Society, and to ask if they will keep me informed of their opinions and wishes with regard to Parliamentary matters.

I think that the fact of having a woman in Parliament ought to be of considerable advantage to women's movements, and I trust that I may be able to be of service, both by asking questions and by affording an easier channel for making representations to the Government.

I cannot, of course, guarantee that I shall always agree with the opinions and policy of your Society, but I can assure you that I shall honestly endeavour to understand the reasons for every matter you may put before me, and that when I shall feel able to act I shall do my utmost to be useful.

It is a serious responsibility to be the first woman in the British Parliament. I hope that even when we do not agree we may succeed in working together with mutual understanding, and I believe that in the majority of cases we shall be entirely at one.

I am determined to do my best to be useful to the causes and interests of women. I hope and beg that your organisation will back me up in so far as it politically can. What I hope is that we women will be able to act up to our beliefs irrespective of party politics. I see no political salvation until we do.—

Yours truly, NANCY ASTOR.

BRANCH NOTES.

(Please send all Reports, Notes, &c., this week to the offices of THE VOTE by Saturday, December 20th.)

MANCHESTER.

On Monday, December 8th, our Study Circle met to discuss finally the scheme which we have been studying on the "Endowment of Motherhood." Although there was a strong feeling among our members that there should be some kind of recognition of motherhood, yet the scheme proposed is so costly that, as one member put it, "It is no use asking for something we know we shall not get." It was decided to start by urging the need for Widows' Pensions in the hope that the larger measure of endowment of all mothers would follow. A resolution was carried in favour of Widows' Pensions.

Our next meeting will be held on January 12th, when we hope to discuss the position of Women in Industry. We have also decided to hold another Dance in aid of Branch Funds at the end of January. The remnants of the Manchester Stall were sold at this meeting, and we raised £2 5s. towards the expenses of the Fair.

Organiser—Miss M. SACKUR, 149, Plymouth Grove, C.-on-M.

RYE.

A Branch Meeting was held at the New Room, Cinque Ports Street, on Wednesday, December 10th. Final arrangements were made for Mrs. Despard's Meeting on Wednesday, December 17th. Members undertook to distribute handbills, etc. Mrs. Strickland, President, Hastings Branch, has kindly promised to be present at the Meeting, and to say a few words. We hope to have a Public Tea and Lecture on the last Tuesday in January. A Sub-Committee was formed to deal with this important event, which will meet at Mrs. Spier's house in Market Street, some time early in January.

Organiser—Miss WHITE, Magazine House, Winchelsea.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

The Freedom League offices will be closed from 1 p.m. Saturday, December 20th, to 9.30 a.m. on Monday, December 29th. The Hon. Treasurer and the Secretary can be seen by appointment at the office on Monday and Tuesday, December 22nd and 23rd.

FRIDAY,
DEC. 19,
1919.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

MODEL PARLIAMENTS.

Model Parliaments are really Debating Clubs formed on the House of Commons principle. All parties are represented, and the rules and etiquette of Westminster are strictly adhered to throughout the evening. All questions of State and commonwealth are discussed, and members can ask questions and introduce resolutions by giving notice beforehand.

It will be seen from the above what a splendid field of propaganda is open to members who take advantage of the local Parliaments, and I would urge all women who are interested in politics and social welfare to find out if there is one in their particular neighbourhood, and if so, to become a member immediately.

The Muswell Hill Parliament, held at The Athenæum every Thursday at 8 p.m., introduced a Bill for the "Amendment of

the Franchise" on October 29th, and after a lively discussion a division was taken, and the Bill was passed by a majority of six. This instance will give illustration of what can be done in a suburb. It attracts the public notice, even if it is only reported in local newspapers, and may probably have some weight with women who do not attend political meetings. It is difficult to discover in what neighbourhoods Model Parliaments are still held, as, owing to the war, many had to be discontinued, but I would urge women to write to their local papers making enquiries on the subject, and if there is not one already in existence, perhaps sufficient interest would be aroused to start one.

The papers are full of the "apathy" of the electors, and it is time women took an active interest and made good use of the vote which is now theirs. We do not want "plural voting" from husband and wife, but an "independent" vote from both, for it is only thus that a true balance of opinion can be obtained.

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