

THE VOTE,  
NOVEMBER 14, 1919.  
ONE PENNY.

THE MODERN NOVEL.

W. L. GEORGE.

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

VOL. XVIII. No. 525.

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FRIDAY, NOV. 14, 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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## IN PARLIAMENT.

### Judges' Salaries.

On November 5th Captain Loseby asked the Prime Minister if, in view of increased taxation and the reduced value of money, he will consider the advisability of causing a special inquiry to be made into the adequacy, or otherwise, of the present salaries of His Majesty's Judges in general, and County Court Judges in particular. Mr. Bonar Law replied that the Government were not prepared to consider this suggestion.

### Income Tax.

In reply to a question asked by Mr. Locker-Lampson, on November 6th, Mr. Baldwin said that it was hoped that the Report on this Royal Commission might be ready early next year.

Mr. Robert Young asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether widows who are under the necessity of employing a housekeeper to enable them to earn a living in some professions, such as teaching, can deduct any part of the expense so incurred for the purposes of income-tax from their annual income; and, if not, will he favourably consider the position of such widows, seeing that under the present economic conditions such expense for wages, food, etc., is approximately £2 per week? Mr. Baldwin said that the answer to the first part of the question was in the negative; and urged him to remember that, in regard to the latter part of the question, the whole matter of income-tax reliefs and allowances was under consideration by the Royal Commission on the Income-Tax.

### Women Administrators in the Ministry of Health.

In compliance with a request made by Major Hills for the number, names and duties of all women who are employed in the Ministry of Health, in an administrative capacity, Captain Guest supplied the following statement:—

Women employed in the Ministry of Health in an administrative capacity, November, 1919: Miss M. M. Anderson, administrative duties in the Intelligence Division; \*Miss E. A. Charlesworth, administrative duties in the Intelligence Division; Miss V. D. Dumbleton, administrative duties in the Establishment Division; Miss E. S. Durrad, administrative duties in the Intelligence Division; Miss M. G. Elias, administrative duties in the Intelligence Division; Miss E. A. Ferris, administrative duties in the Intelligence Division; Mrs. D. K. Foster, administrative duties in the Intelligence Division; Miss M. M. Knight, private secretarial duties; \*Miss A. K. Leach, administrative duties in Health Insurance Branch; Mrs. A. M. Macintyre, administrative duties in the Intelligence Division; Miss A. A. Malcolm, administrative duties in the Tuberculosis Division; \*Miss Z. L. Puxley, administrative duties in the Maternity and Child Welfare Division; Miss I. St. C. Tisdall, administrative duties in the Insurance Division; Miss C. Rowson, private secretarial duties; Miss M. M. White, O.B.E., private secretarial duties.

Of these all but the three marked with an asterisk are temporary. A large amount of clerical assistance is provided by women, about 2,500 in number, of whom 343 (including ninety-four typists) are permanent. The administrative duties performed vary to some extent, but consist generally in drafting letters and memoranda, passing draft letters, etc., prepared by junior officers, and in minuting cases in the preliminary stages.

### Nurses Registration (No. 2) Bill—

"To provide for the registration of nurses," was presented by Dr. Addison on November 6th, and down for its second reading this week.

F. A. U.

## TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS, 1919.

The Women's Local Government Society, 19, Tot-hill Street, Westminster, has received the names of the following women who have been elected as Town Councillors:—

ALDEBURGH-ON-SEA.—Miss Pettit.  
 BIRKENHEAD.—Mrs. Mercer (Lab.).  
 BIRMINGHAM.—Miss Clara Martineau (C.) (unopposed), Mrs. Mitchell (Lab.), Miss Mary L. Wilson (Ind.).  
 BOOTLE.—Mrs. Smith (Lab.).  
 BRADFORD.—Mrs. Clayton (Lab.).  
 CAMBRIDGE.—Mrs. Rackham (Ind.), Mrs. Stevenson (Ind.).  
 CANTERBURY.—Mrs. Gardner (Ind.), Mrs. Prentice (Ind.), Mrs. Wells (Ind.).  
 CARLISLE.—Mrs. Buchanan (Ind.).  
 CHELTENHAM.—Miss Geddes (Ind.).  
 COLCHESTER.—Mrs. Alderton (Ind.).  
 COVENTRY.—Mrs. Hughes (Lab.).  
 CROYDON.—Mrs. Duncan Harris, Mrs. Squire.  
 DARLINGTON.—Mrs. Holmes (Lab.).  
 GLOUCESTER.—Mrs. Siveter (C.).  
 GODALMING.—Miss H. Robinson (Ind.).  
 HASTINGS.—Miss A. M. Lile (Ind.).  
 HOVE.—Mrs. Badcock (Ind.) (unopposed).  
 HULL.—Mrs. Hatfield (Ind.).  
 LANCASTER.—Mrs. Helme.  
 LICHFIELD.—Mrs. Stuart Shaw (Ind.).  
 LOUGHBOROUGH.—Mrs. Eames (Lab.).  
 LOWESTOFT.—Mrs. Joe Harris (Lab.).  
 MANCHESTER.—Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Annie Lee (Lab.).  
 MIDDLESBROUGH.—Mrs. Schofield Coates (Lab.), Mrs. Coates Hansen.  
 NORWICH.—Mrs. Bloom (Lab.), Mrs. Stuart (L.).  
 OLDHAM.—Miss Marjory Lees (Ind.) (unopposed).  
 OXFORD.—Miss Thackeray (L.).  
 PLYMOUTH.—Mrs. Simpson (Lab.).  
 POOLE.—Miss Briggs (Ind.).  
 PORTSMOUTH.—Mrs. Holmes (Lab.).  
 RAMSGATE.—Mrs. Dunn (Ind.).  
 REIGATE.—Mrs. James Powell (L.) (unopposed).  
 RICHMOND.—Mrs. Edwards (Ind.).  
 SCARBOROUGH.—Miss Brown (Ind.).  
 SHEFFIELD.—Mrs. Barton, Mrs. Wilkinson (Lab.).  
 SOUTHPORT.—Miss Kate Rimmer (C.) (unopposed).  
 STOKE-ON-TRENT.—Miss F. A. Farmer (unopposed).  
 SUNDERLAND.—Mrs. Pratt (Lab.).  
 TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—Miss Power (Ind.), Miss A. Scott (Ind.).  
 WIMBLEDON.—Mrs. Chalkley (Ind.), Miss Richardson Evans (Ind.).  
 WINCHESTER.—Miss Du Boulay (Ind.), Miss Fernstone (Ind.), Mrs. Hooley (Ind.).  
 WORCESTER.—Mrs. Herbage Edwards (Lab.).  
 YORK.—Mrs. Crichton (Ind.), Mrs. Fawcett (Lab.).

## SCOTLAND.

EDINBURGH.—Town Council: Mrs. Miller (Ind.), Mrs. Somerville (Ind.). Parish Council: Miss Greenlees, Mrs. Boeme, Mrs. Johnstone (Lab.), Mrs. Sidan (Lab.), Mrs. Inglis Clarke (Ind.).

DUNFERMLINE.—Town Council: Miss Martha Trew (head of poll). Parish Council: Miss Ann Marcus (re-elected).

## MEDIÆVAL INSTANCES.

Women have not always been debarred from certain of the public appointments which the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill proposes to turn open to them. History cites more than one instance of women sitting in the bench—Margaret, Countess of Richmond, mother of Henry VII., acted as a J.P., whilst the post of hereditary sheriff of Westmorland was once occupied by Ann, Countess of Pembroke, who, by all accounts, was anything but a sleeping partner when in office.

## MISS DOUGLAS-PENNANT.

The House of Lords Committee enquiry into Miss Douglas-Pennant's dismissal in August, 1918, from her post of Commandant of the Women's Royal Air Force terminated on November 11th. The Report of the Committee will in due course be presented to the Lords. Meanwhile the Chairman declared the unanimous finding of the Committee that no evidence of immorality in the Force had been forthcoming.

A strange incident marked the close of the enquiry, a letter received by the Chairman from an ex-sergeant-major at Hurst Park offering to supply just this missing evidence. Invited by the Chairman to bring forward or to decline this spontaneous unknown witness, Miss Pennant accepted the challenge and asked leave to call also two new women witnesses on the condition of the camp. Leave was given by the Chairman by "special indulgence," but on the condition that Miss Pennant from this point onwards should pay all the expenses of all the parties.

Faced with the alternative of paying out thousands of pounds a day, Miss Pennant had no option but to decline. The Inquiry was granted by the Lords on the understanding that it would be carried out with public money; it has been so carried out since October 14th, and this belated reversal of the arrangement, shutting out the evidence of three possibly vital witnesses, is not consistent with sound public policy.

## OUR OPEN COLUMN.

(To the Editor of THE VOTE.)

Dear Madam,—I read the Hon. Mrs. Forbes's article in last week's VOTE on "A New Opening for Women" with much interest, and felt glad that the subject had been brought up. Having worked in a West End estate office, I can endorse, from experience, what Mrs. Forbes has said. Inventory taking and checking of furnished houses and flats would be a splendid opening for women, and if they are well trained a very lucrative one. I think the majority of women are, by nature, more domestically inclined and spend more time in the house than men do. Women, as a rule, do most of the purchasing where furniture is concerned, and they certainly always have the care of it after it is bought. A man, unless trained, is not naturally adapted to household affairs, therefore a woman is more suited for this profession.—Yours sincerely,

G. MABEL TELLING.

## SPECIAL INJUSTICES FUND.

The Home Secretary refuses to release Elsie Smith. We cannot let the matter rest here—we are continuing the fight. Public opinion is our strongest weapon, Parliamentary pressure too is now being vigorously employed.

We look to all readers, members and friends, and the general public to help in securing this poor girl's release by giving us their active support and donations towards the expenses of this campaign. We must spend a large amount to carry through this piece of work, and it is our readers who must make this possible.

E. KNIGHT, Hon. Treasurer.

144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

## NOTES ON THE NEW COUNCILLORS.

Miss Amy Hughes, one of the women councillors returned for Westminster, was for twelve years superintendent of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Nurses. She trained as a district nurse in the pioneer centre of this movement in Bloomsbury Square, and began work in the very district that has now returned her as councillor. She has served on all sorts of committees and commissions working for the health and welfare of the poor.

Dr. Ethel Bentham, who has been returned for Kensington as a Labour representative, was a distinguished student at the London School of Medicine for Women, and has worked long and devotedly for the welfare of poor mothers and infants. The clinic in North Kensington was established by her efforts.

Miss Alice Gilliatt, of the Lillie Ward, Fulham, is well known in pharmaceutical science, and is president of the Society of Women Pharmacists.

Miss Mary James, returned for Bethnal Green, has worked there all her life, and, until two years ago, acted as chairman of the Board of Guardians of that district.

Miss Mabel Crout, of Woolwich, is an assistant Parliamentary agent, and a member of the Central Committee on the Profiteering Act.

Miss Balkwill, a sitting member, who has been returned for Kilburn, was one of the first women to find a place in a Municipal Council. She is also a school manager, and has devoted herself more especially to the formation of departments for children in connection with public libraries.

Miss Virginia Crawford, a successful Labour candidate in Marylebone, has been for several years a Poor Law Guardian for this district, and has written several books on social and economic subjects, and travels.

In St. Pancras, Miss Edith Vance, the "blind Guardian," headed the poll in the ward in which she stood.

Miss Amy Hughes, returned for Stepney, was previously a member of the Whitechapel Board of Guardians. She is the daughter of Thomas Hughes, of "Tom Brown's Schooldays" fame, and has lived and worked in Whitechapel for 20 years. She is collecting funds for a "People's Parlour" in this neighbourhood.

Mrs. Samuel (Chelsea) and Mrs. Muirhead (Hackney) have been well-known workers for women's suffrage in the past.

Miss Jessie Stephens, returned for Bermondsey, is well known on Labour platforms in London. Officially, she is local organising secretary to the Bermondsey Branch of the National Federation of Women Workers. She especially champions the cause of the domestic servant, having been one herself in her younger days.

Mrs. Schofield Coates (member of the National Executive Committee of the W.F.L.) is the first woman councillor to be elected in Middlesbrough, where she has been for many years an indefatigable public worker, not only in the cause of women's suffrage, but for the general welfare of women and children.

Miss Annie M. Lile is the woman councillor for Hastings, having been returned with the largest majority of any successful candidate. She was previously a member of the Board of Guardians.

Miss Thackeray, a first-cousin of the novelist, who headed the poll in the North Ward, Oxford, has already filled various public offices with success.

Miss Norah March, author and lecturer on sex hygiene, and Editor of "National Health," has been returned for Holborn.

Miss Beatrice Kent, elected in St. Pancras, is a trained, certificated nurse, and has taken an active part for many years in the campaign for the State Registration for Trained Nurses. She takes a great interest in all Public Health Questions, especially Infant and Child Welfare, and has addressed meetings during the annual Baby Week. Having worked as a district nurse, she has had practical experience of the conditions under which the poor live.

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

## A Pageant of Women.

Women were very much to the fore in the Lord Mayor's Procession last week. Dressed in picturesque national costume, they represented the various countries of the world, and the Dominions overseas, and were attended by some 200 white-robed maids of honour, drawn principally from the Lord Mayor's own firm of insurance brokers, from big wholesale drapery houses, and other well-known City firms.

## Women's Clubs

The recent opening of the Forum Club in Grosvenor Place forms a notable addition to Women's Clubs in London. It starts with a list of 1,600 members, of whom the majority are professional women. The rooms are spacious, and include an oak-panelled dining-room, large drawing-rooms overlooking the grounds of Buckingham Palace, a library, and a "bridge" room. There will also be several bedrooms to let on the upper floors. City women also, whose means are less than those of their West End sisters, are about to be catered for in Fleet Street, in a house brimful of historic and literary associations. This City club is to be opened at No. 9, Wine Office Court, where Oliver Goldsmith once lived, and from the back windows of which he was wont to signal to Dr. Johnson, then living in Gough Square. A restaurant will be provided, where meals will be served at moderate prices, and a lounge, with which will be associated a programme of evening lectures, study-circles, and so on. The club is being formed under the auspices of the Women's Council of the National Free Church Council, and the annual subscription is only 15s.

## Maternity Homes.

The Queen, acting in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, is giving enthusiastic support to the movement for the provision of maternity homes and hospitals in all parts of the country. Funds sent as silver wedding gifts to her are to be devoted to a maternity home, the site for which has been placed by Lord Leverhulme at the Queen's disposal, close to Hampstead Heath, and will bear her name. The institution will accommodate from 16 to 20 women, and its benefits will extend to both working and professional classes. A most successful Maternity Home has recently been opened at Parkside, Hammersmith, and bids fair to be the pioneer of hundreds of similar Homes all over the country. There is also a small institution at Islington, opened under the auspices of the Women's United Service League, which takes 13 patients.

## A Possible Solution.

Ex-soldiers are now being selected as recruits for domestic service in place of unwilling maids. At an association known as Comrades of the Great War, with headquarters in Grosvenor Crescent, at least 150 names have been registered of men who want employment as servants in civil life, whilst at Bromley, Kent, a bureau has been formed with the express object of placing ex-Service men in domestic situations. Wages of £30 a year are asked for male domestics who engage only in rough work below stairs, and a higher rate for men who can cook and wait at table. Several men, it is said, have already been placed in situations.

## Lunch Time at St. Botolph's.

Miss Picton Turbervill is preaching a series of lunch-time sermons at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, during November. She wears a cassock, surplice, and biretta, and is of the opinion that until the Church opens her doors more widely to women, preaching orders for both sexes should at least be instituted. Miss Picton-Turbervill is the only Englishwoman who has preached on Sunday in an English church with the permission of the Bishop. This was in Lincolnshire, when the vicar asked his churchwardens to go through the parish asking if there were any objections, but not one was put forward.

## THE VOTE.

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 To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders,  
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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.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

At Home and Abroad ... Post free, 6/6 per annum.

## MORE VOTES FOR WOMEN.

In the committee stage of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill the equal franchise clause for men and women was ruled out of order by the Chairman on the ground that it was outside the scope and title of the Bill. We, in company with Sir Samuel Hoare and Major Hills, do not understand why the Chairman, and, presumably, the Government, came to the conclusion that the fact that no woman under thirty years of age is allowed to vote at a Parliamentary election while men are allowed to do so from the age of twenty-one is not a legal disqualification for women. Will the Chairman please supply the answer to his own riddle: "If the absence of a qualification is not a disqualification, why is it that a woman of twenty-one has no Parliamentary vote?" The Chairman's ruling on this matter has prevented any further discussion this year of the further enfranchisement of women, the Government having taken control of the time of the House of Commons for the remainder of the session. In the past all women suffragists had one common object—the securing of an equal franchise for men and women. Until that object is attained they have no right to complain if disfranchised women accuse them of betraying their cause if they do not press any Government in power with might and main to grant equal political liberty to men and women. The Pre-War Practices (Restoration) Act has shown women—especially the women under thirty years of age who are in the labour market, that their economic freedom is not safe in the hands of their fellow-men workers who wield political power. We maintain that women cannot secure equal treatment with men in industry until they have equal power with them in politics; and it should be the business of our branches, and indeed of every member of the Women's Freedom League, from now until next session, which will probably begin in February, to get the following resolution passed at as many meetings as possible—

"That this meeting urges the Government to bring in an equal Franchise Bill for men and women early next session, and to pass it into law without delay," sending a copy of this resolution to their local Members of Parliament, as well as to the Prime Minister and Mr. Bonar Law, both of whom signed the manifesto which stated that "it will be the duty of the new Government to remove all existing inequalities of the law as between men and women."

This "new" Government has now been nearly twelve months in office, and has failed to remove any single inequality of the law under which women suffer, while it has succeeded in imposing fresh disabilities upon working women by legalising men Trade Unionists' pre-war practices of injustice to women. The special need of working women is equal political power with men. Let us all work together to secure this power.

## Paving the Way.

The National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League, at its meeting last Saturday, sent its best wishes to Lady Astor for her success in the Parliamentary contest at Plymouth, and expressed the hope that she would be the first of a great number of women Members of Parliament. In a letter to Lady Astor, Lord Robert Cecil very properly says: "If the House of Commons is to be truly representative of its constituents it is essential that it should contain some exponent of woman's point of view." Lady Astor herself says:—

"It is too late not to believe in women going to the House of Commons. Women have got the right to be there; and ought to be there. In Parliament I can do five times what I can do outside. I do not believe in sex war any more than I believe in a class war. But I do think there are questions of vital importance to the nation on which a woman's opinion must be of more value than a man's, simply because she is a woman—and, might I add, a mother? My hope is that I may pave the way for other women who desire to enter Parliament. There are many splendid women who would make most useful members, and do as much good for their country as men."

We entirely agree with these views, and we warmly approve the spirit of independence which prompted her to assert:—

"If you want a party hack don't send me to Parliament. If you want a repetition of 600 M.P.'s, don't vote for me. If a good Bill is brought forward in Parliament I shall work for it heart and soul, no matter which party brings it forward."

Such a spirit taken inside the House of Commons would completely revolutionise that conventional assembly; and we are convinced that a woman member who possesses it would be a blessing, not only to women and the whole country, but also to the six hundred odd members now in possession of the House.

## Our Obdurate Home Secretary.

While the Government has been fiddling with women's "disqualifications" in both Houses of Parliament, the heavy hand of the law has been falling in all its brutal clumsiness on its women victims. Elsie Smith is still in prison because she attempted, in a moment of distraction, to smother her seven-days-old baby. The name of the man who deserted her, the father of the child, was suppressed in Court, although in the evidence it was stated that he gave drugs to the girl when she told him of her condition. This was premeditated murder, and he ought to have been charged on that ground in open court, but there was no evidence to show that the unfortunate mother "premeditated" murder in the hospital, and the fact that she immediately called to another occupant of the room that she had smothered the baby because nobody wanted it, showed that there was no effort made to conceal what she had done—it was simply an act of a frenzied woman! The public realises this, and we have received more than fifteen thousand signatures for her release. In spite of all this Mr. Shortt refuses to release her because he holds to the theory that she must be punished to deter other girls from attempting to murder their unwanted babies. During the past week his theory has proved lamentably false. In one case a girl of 18 years of age was, after five months' imprisonment because of the disagreement of the Jury, convicted of manslaughter by a second Jury, and sentenced to another nine months' imprisonment for causing the death of her child. At Bath a domestic servant was sentenced to five years' penal servitude for the murder of her child. We yield to no one in our regard for the sacredness of child life; but we submit to the Home Secretary that the imprisonment of these unfortunate women does not safeguard that sacredness. Why did these women offend? Would they have done so if there had been a recognised equal moral standard, an equal moral responsibility for both sexes?

## THE MODERN NOVEL.

The title of Mr. W. L. George's lecture to the Women's Freedom League last Monday night should have been "Woman in the Modern Novel," but, as he confessed to his audience, that subject had proved to be one of extreme difficulty, for the more modern a novelist was the more he seemed to return to the Stone Age, to become a mongrel Nietzschean, decorative and sexual in his treatment of women. Therefore, Mr. George changed the title of his address to "The Modern Novel," and said that at the present time there were three different types of novelists:—

(1) The Neo-Victorians, in which he included H. G. Wells, Arnold Bennett, Galsworthy and Samuel Butler.

(2) The Edwardians, whose novels dated from about 1906, and included Beresford, Cannan, Lawrence, E. M. Forster, Compton Mackenzie, Walpole, and the speaker.

(3) The Neo-Georgians, whose novels dated from 1913, and included James Joyce, Dorothy Richardson, Virginia Woolf, Wyndham Lewis, and May Sinclair in her new mood.

The average age of the Neo-Victorian novelist when he began to write, said Mr. George, was the early thirties, the Edwardians produced their first novels at 25, while the Neo-Georgians wrote novels at 21. The Neo-Victorians mostly depicted character, or exposed some abuse, and Mr. George maintained that there were strong points of resemblance in the purpose of Thackeray and Arnold Bennett, Dickens, Wells and Galsworthy. Some people had characterised the writings of Galsworthy as slushy sentimentalism, but Mr. George thought that his teachings would result in less suffering to humanity than those of Nietzscheism in shining armour. The Neo-Victorians might now be considered prosy and congested, but they were honest, and animated by a sense of public right. Their novels also had a plot, instead of the shock substituted by the modern novelist, who in the fifteenth chapter, apropos of nothing, would observe:—

"So it was you, Ermytrude, who put Arsenic into the Ginger Ale!"

The difficulty with the Edwardians was, they were all so young that they did not know the world, so they wrote about themselves, and produced a novel of self-exploitation. Fresh from the University they came to London, were invited to innumerable tea-parties; if particularly reckless, they would visit the Café Royal, then go to Kew and have an intrigue with a waitress, after which they knew life, and wrote a novel about it!

The Neo-Georgian novel was intellectual and sexual; it had no purpose of any kind, was entirely unpreoccupied with moral ideas, and purported to see life sanely, and to see it whole. Mr. George contended that we wanted a criticism of life.

A lively discussion followed, in which the claims of realism and imagination were contrasted, while Mr. George declared there was no such thing as imagination! He also stated that 85 per cent. of the novel-reading public were women, which fact was accountable for the perennial love interest of the novel. One woman stated that she was tired of the everlasting expression of young people's feelings. Could not novelists give people something to think about?

In reply to Mr. George's enquiry as to what modern novelists were going to do in the future, one speaker expressed the hope that they would soon grow older, more experienced, more mellow with age, and write political novels with serious intent. With regard to the political novel, it is interesting to recall that Disraeli, the greatest of our political novelists, defined the fashionable novel of his time in the "Young Duke" (1830) as follows:—

"Take a pair of pistols and a pack of cards, a cookery book and a set of quadrilles, mix them up with half an intrigue and a real marriage, and divide them into three portions."

It really seems that our own popular novels are simpler!

## FLORENCE DAVENPORT HILL.

Miss Florence Davenport Hill, whose death is reported at Headington, near Oxford, at 90 years of age, was a noted worker in the Victorian era for women's rights and social reform. She and her elder sister, the late Miss Rosamund Davenport Hill, retired to Headington after many years of important public work in London. Rosamund was well known as an energetic member of the London School Board for 18 years, whilst Florence became in the early 'seventies one of the first female Poor Law Guardians.

When still in their girlhood the two sisters worked with their father, then Recorder of Birmingham, to promote the creation of reformatories for juvenile offenders, and also of industrial day schools. The removal of the Hill family to Bristol brought the two girls into close connection with Miss Mary Carpenter, who started the first industrial day school in that neighbourhood.

In 1868 Florence wrote her well-known "Children of the State," in which she pleaded for the abolition of the old barrack system of herding pauper children together in workhouses, and proposed as a substitute the plan of boarding them out in cottage homes and elsewhere. She was greatly assisted in this reform by her younger sister Joanna. The State Children's Aid Society grew out of this movement, and in 1908 she drafted the Bill for the establishment of Children's Courts. She took a great interest in women's suffrage, and worked for its promotion for 60 years.

Canon Barnett, who knew the Miss Hills for 30 years among the London poor, wrote of them as follows:—

"The Miss Davenport Hills are obedient servants of the will of the age. They are not poets to see the future, nor leaders like Moses who go on Pisgah. But they are doers of the hard, dull duty which the hard, dull age imposes."

## REMEMBER!

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Variety Stall ...	Mrs. & Miss Presbury.
	(Kindly provided by the Hon. Mrs. Forbes),
Penny Stall ...	Miss White
Vote Stall ...	Mrs. Northcroft & Miss Jacob.
	(In Memory of Mrs. Snow, kindly provided by Mr. Snow).
Montgomery Boroughs Stalls—	
(1) General ...	Miss A. M. Clark assisted by Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. & Miss Elias, Misses Codd, Miss Felix Jones, Miss Alice Kirkham, Mrs. Dixon.
(2) & (3) Produce	

The Friends of Armenia, the Independent W.S.P.U., the Women's Freedom League, Nin Elms Settlement, League of the Church Militant, Women's International League, Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, Divorce Law Reform Union, and Free Church League will also have Stalls at this Fair.

**DOES THE BIBLE ADVOCATE WOMEN'S FREEDOM?**

Speaking at the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., yesterday afternoon, Mrs. Wheatley congratulated her Chairman, Councillor Beatrice Kent, on her election to the St. Pancras Borough Council, and said that if women and men had understood their Bible better women would have been on all governing bodies centuries ago! The Bible was on the side of all human freedom, but it had been mistranslated by men, misinterpreted, misunderstood by them, and its teachings expounded with a strong sex bias. No woman had been allowed to take part in translating the various books of the Bible; nor in revising the translation. The higher branches of study, which would have enabled women to assist in this work, had most generally been closed to them; but she hoped now that there were able women Greek and Hebrew scholars, women as well as men would be responsible for any future revised version of the Scriptures. Many of the Fathers of the Church had been extremely hard on women, regarding them as special inventions for leading men astray; and even John Wesley had issued a warning to young Methodist preachers to converse sparingly with women, and more especially with young women! St. Peter may have thought that women should obey their husbands; but Abraham had been enjoined by the Almighty to "Hearken unto the voice of Sarah!" St. Paul had been brought up as a strict Jew, and it was always hard for a man to divest himself of the prejudices of his youth; but the attitude of Christ towards women was very different from that of the leaders of the Church. He had, according to the Scriptures, occasion to rebuke men 31 times; but only thrice rebuked women.

**BOOK REVIEWS.**

*Sapper Dorothy Lawrence*; the only Englishwoman Soldier. (London: John Lane, "The Bodley Head.") 5s. net. (Can be obtained at this office.)

One finishes this book with a sense of disappointment. It is, in a way, unique; but for the life of us we cannot see that any good purpose was served by the author's amazing adventures. If they had been undertaken for some really worthy cause we should have heartily applauded, but if such a cause existed it certainly does not appear.

It is undoubtedly true that Miss Lawrence, dressed as a British engineer, did penetrate the closely-guarded regions of "the front," and in doing so underwent singularly few unpleasant experiences. She says: "Ten men eventually shared in this exploit! All gave me help owing to the fact that I behaved like one of their own naughty schoolgirls, and only later I realised how splendidly these men had behaved—rough soldiers, away from civilisation, surrounded only by the coarsening influence of war. Yet no one harmed this fool of an English girl!"

The author underwent much discomfort and a good deal of physical privation. She gives a lively account of it all in the pages of this book. Perhaps the best account in the book is the picture of her dwelling amidst a French camp where she had amusing and insistent difficulty in keeping the *poilus* from making love to her.

What brought her plans to the ground was the fainting fits which came upon Miss Lawrence while in the trenches—those and her fatal mistake of telling her "pal," Sapper Dunn, that he might inform the sergeant of her identity. In military parlance, "that did it." The sergeant betrayed her, so she says; his reply was, "I am a British soldier. I am a soldier of the King"—and a very proper reply, too, under the circumstances.

For it must be borne in mind that she was not an accredited newspaper correspondent, and any newspaper interest she hoped to serve by her experience was all knocked on the head by her arrest as a "suspected person" and her eventual shipment to England, where she was met by a detective from Scotland Yard,

**BOOK REVIEWS.**

*The Child She Bore*. By a Foundling. (Headley Bros., 72, Oxford Street.) 3s. 6d. (Can be obtained at this office.)

This story of an unknown infant handed over to the Foundling Hospital more than fifty-years ago is not aimed at the Foundling Hospital in particular, as the preface carefully explains, but at the whole system for which it stands. The prime object of the book is to draw attention to the unnatural practice of mothers giving up their children to any stranger, or governing body, where the child's happiness and future interests are at stake. There are some deeply pathetic passages drawing attention to the terrible after-consequences of this absence of natural mother love. In the case of the Foundling Hospital these unwanted babies suffer the deprivation of a mother twice over in their lives, for until the age of five years (formerly three) they are boarded out in the country under worthy women, who care for the children as their own. The writer speaks of the "shock" of separation which she experienced when she was moved back to London at the age of three. She describes the scene in the dormitory at the close of each day, when "each child got into bed and covered itself up, having no mother to kiss and say 'Good-night' to," and the frequent night terrors from which the younger children suffered, and where "no one hushed these little ones who were in such dire need of a comforter." The next six years were spent in the infant school, except for one glorious period of three months' stay in the country whilst the Foundling Hospital was closed for repairs. One of the minor hardships from which the younger orphans suffered was constant thirst, a natural craving of childhood which seems to have been entirely overlooked by those in authority, and which they were unable to gratify until moved to the upper school, when more freedom was allowed, and we "could get out of bed and put our mouths under the tap! "Once and once only the writer received a kiss from a teacher, and brooded over it for months. At the age of 14½ the writer was sent to service with an outfit containing long dresses, devoid of cut or shape, white stockings, elastic side boots, and a pre-historic hair-net, which her artistic soul consistently loathed. She passed from situation to situation after convenient intervals of years, some where the employers were kindly and some not, but where in all cases the hours were long and monotonous—a 15-hour day was no unusual occurrence—and her pay extraordinarily scanty. The book ends somewhat abruptly with a lengthy quotation from Sir Arthur Hobhouse on the evils of endowed charities and a passionate appeal to all mothers, whether married or unmarried, to rear their own children even though in the poorest of homes.

*Borough Finance*. By J. B. Carrington, F.S.A.A., Borough Treasurer of Paddington. (Women's Local Government Society, 19, Tothill Street, Westminster.) Price 6d. (Can be obtained at this office.)

This little brochure, the substance of a paper read at a recent meeting of the Women's Local Government Society, is of particular interest in view of the Borough Elections only a fortnight ago. It is, however, confined mainly to the finances of Metropolitan Boroughs. After a brief introduction explaining the ever-increasing responsibilities of Boroughs, and consequent additional expenditure, the author proceeds to detail the statutory duties of Finance Committees, and the compilation of yearly and half-yearly estimates, and order of procedure. The history, and past and present system of rating is dealt with as space permits. Loans and borrowing powers are briefly alluded to. The mysteries of Adoptive Acts and Precepts are explained, and a disturbing but necessary feature of the pamphlet is a comparison in the increases of rates between 1913-14 and 1919-20,

**Women's Freedom League.**

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Mrs. METGE, and Mrs. PIEROTTI (Business).

General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.**

**LONDON AND SUBURBS.**



**DARE TO BE FREE**

Tickets 3s. Particulars from the Hon. Secretary, 59, Ashbourne Avenue, N.W. 4.

Thursday, November 20.—Political Sub-Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 12 p.m.

Wednesday, November 26.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Abadam. Subject: "Come, and She Cometh; Go, and She Goeth."

Friday, November 28.—Green, White and Gold Fair, Central Hall, Westminster. Opening ceremony, 3 p.m., Mrs. Besant.

Saturday, November 29.—Green, White and Gold Fair, Central Hall, Westminster. Opening ceremony, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, December 3.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss M. A. Tata, B.A. (Hons.); Representative Bombay Women's Association and 45 Indian Women's Association. Subject: "Indian Women and the Vote."

**PROVINCES.**

Monday, November 17.—Westcliff Labour Hall, 6, Broadway Market, Southend-on-Sea, 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 19.—Portsmouth. Public Meeting, 2, Kent Road, 3.15 p.m. Speaker: Dr. Marie Grigsby. Subject: "Sex Hygiene."

Monday, December 1.—Westcliff Labour Hall, 6, Broadway Market, Southend-on-Sea, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Alexander. Subject: "State Endowment of Motherhood."

Monday, December 7.—Middlesborough Social Meeting, Suffrage Rooms, Linthorpe Road, 7.30 p.m.

**SCOTLAND.**

Wednesday, November 19.—Edinburgh. Joint Meeting with N.U.E.C., at N.U.E.C. Rooms, 49, Shandwick Place, 7.30. Subject: "Industrial Equality."

Thursday, December 4.—Edinburgh. Social Meeting at 44, George IV. Bridge, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Dr. Aimée Gills. Subject: Miss M. P. Willcock's "New Horizons."

**SEW FOR THE "FAIR!"**

Mrs. Holmes hopes that as many members as possible will offer to help make up the many garments already cut out. They are all easily made, and will be sent (with instructions if necessary) to members who apply to her for them. Her address is 97, Upper Clapton Road, N.E.

**WOMEN ALDERMEN.**

We heartily congratulate Mrs. Minnie Lansbury, a former member of the W.F.L., on being co-opted on to the Poplar Borough Council as Alderman. Miss Susan Lawrence, so well known in connection with work on the L.C.C., has also been co-opted with her on the same Council.

**OUR TREASURY.**

**NATIONAL FUND.**

Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1918, £31,454 1s. 5d.

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Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund— 779 19 8

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

**WOMEN PREACHERS.**

Miss Maude Royden will preach at the City Temple on Sunday, November 16th, at 6.30. Subject: "The Revelation of God."  
Miss E. Picton-Turbervill will preach at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, on Thursday, November 13th, at 1.15. Subject: Series of addresses, "What is the Kingdom of God?"

FRIDAY,  
NOV. 14,  
1919.

# THE VOTE

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PENNY  
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## BRANCH NOTES.

### BEXHILL.

A well-attended public meeting was held at the Kahveh Café last Friday evening, when Miss Anna Munro gave an excellent address on "Women and Municipal Affairs." Mrs. Meach presided, new members were made, and the announcement that the local branch of the Women's Freedom League intends to hold meetings on the first Monday in every month caused much interest. We congratulate our new Secretary, Mrs. Winter Perry, on the number of new members she has made since our last meeting. Seventeen members means a lot of time and energy given to the work. We warmly welcome the new members. Is everyone thinking of the Green, White and Gold Fair? The organiser is running a stall for the South-Eastern branches, and asks all Bexhill members to give her something suitable for Christmas presents. Mrs. Taylor Sabin has very kindly promised to receive all goods. Her address is: Clevedon, Amhurst Road, Bexhill.

### HASTINGS.

In spite of a counter-attraction in the form of a concert in aid of the "Open Door" Club for Working Girls, arranged by the Mayor and Mayoress, a successful meeting was held at the Wellington Square Lecture Hall on Friday afternoon, when Miss Anna Munro spoke on the Elsie Smith case. Mrs. Strickland presided. The resolution: "That this meeting considers the imprisonment of Elsie Smith a serious miscarriage of justice, and requests the Prime Minister to advise the Home Office to effect her immediate release," was passed. Mrs. Harlow Phibbs proposed another resolution to the effect that such cases required women officers and women magistrates to be present in Court, and the sooner this was accomplished the better for the com-

munity. This resolution was also carried unanimously. Seven new members were made. We were very pleased to see our Secretary, Mrs. Brock Lane, with us again. The organiser makes a special appeal to members and friends on behalf of the South-Eastern Branches stall at the Green, White and Gold Fair. Will each one send money or goods suitable for Christmas presents to her address?  
*Organiser, S.E. Dist.*—Miss WHITE, Magazine House, Winchelsea.

### MIDDLESBROUGH.

Will members please note that the Jumble Sale has been postponed until Monday, December 14th, at 3 p.m., owing to the elections? Please send all parcels to 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough. Miss D. BARRS (Hon. Sec.), 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough.

### The Women's Freedom League Settlement,

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

Our receipts this week commenced with a parcel of "Honesty" from Miss Holmes for the Play Club, followed by a parcel of clothing from Mrs. Allen, a little coat sent anonymously, as was also a pair of mittens. Miss Reeve has given us 1s. 6d. for bazaar goods; Mrs. Hughes two pedestals also for bazaar; and Miss Isobel Harvey sent us a box of spills. Various friends have either helped or promised to help with bazaar work, but no one has yet undertaken to make some bed socks for which we have orders. Will someone who can knit or crochet please come forward and help us? We still need a resident helper, and daily ones, also a Play Club helper would be gladly welcomed on Tuesday evening sometimes. We are hoping to extend our Guest House work in the New Year, and would welcome any nursery chairs or tables, or furniture of any kind that kind friends might have to spare.  
A. M. COLE.

64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS AND HOW TO USE THEM, 2d. Send for one.—TRIMNELL, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond Road, Cardiff. Established 1879.

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