

THE VOTE,
OCT. 22, 1920
ONE PENNY.

VOTES AT 21!

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, OCT. 22, 1920.

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

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THE OXFORD OF TO-DAY.



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The Sheldonian Theatre at Oxford was densely packed on October 13th, when the University, for the first time in its history, conferred degrees on women graduates.

The degree of M.A. was conferred by Convocation on the principals of the five societies of women students in Oxford—St. Hugh's College, Somerville College, Lady Margaret Hall, St. Hilda's Hall, and the Society of Oxford Home Students, and two of the Principals thus honoured were pioneer women students in the University, Miss Jourdain (St. Hugh's), the first woman to take the final Honour School of Modern History, and Miss Penrose (Somerville), the third woman to take "Greats."

The woman graduates numbered 50, on 29 of whom the M.A. and B.A. were conferred. There was one bachelor of civil law, two bachelors of letters, one B.Sc., and 19 B.A.s.

About 400 former women students are qualified to take degrees, and many of them will be admitted on degree days later in the term.

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M.A.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD. A PLEA FOR A TRANSFERABLE VOTE.

Child Welfare in Rome.

Although they do not enter public life as readily as Englishwomen, Italian women are nevertheless deeply interested in all questions which affect the welfare of the family and home. To-day in Italy little groups of earnest-minded women are to be found in every large town uniting their energies to better the conditions of their less fortunate sisters. A little colony at Rome, under the direction of Mme. Modigliani, has done wonders for the amelioration of the lot of unmarried mothers. Until recently it was the custom of the municipality to allow the mother 14 lira a month for herself and her child (3s. 6d. according to the present rate of exchange!) with the result that she speedily returned to the streets. Then the women philanthropists came to the rescue, and to-day not only have crèches and baby kitchens been established, but laundries, and factories for women's underclothing, where unmarried mothers are employed at a rate of payment sufficient to support themselves and their babies in decency and comfort.

Votes and Morality.

According to the *Woman Citizen*, Belgium has given municipal suffrage to all native-born or naturalised women over twenty-one, except the registered prostitutes. They are specifically excluded; but the men who are responsible for their degradation are allowed free access to the ballot-box.

Idaho disfranchises owners, inmates and frequenters of houses of ill-fame. The *Woman Citizen* adds that, so far as is known, Idaho is the only State in the Union that takes account of sexual morality in its franchise laws; and that Idaho women are proud that its legislation is impartial.

An International Home.

The Women's International League, which for some time has occupied temporary offices in Geneva, has lately established itself in a permanent home, to be called the "Maison Internationale." The building is an attractive old house in the central part of the town. Two British members are making their home there, and devoting themselves to furthering the political and social development of the League. A suggestion has been made to establish similar international homes in the capital of every country as a rallying point for internationally-minded men and women of all classes, creeds and nations.

An Unsolicited Testimonial.

The Wigan Corporation have decided to dispense with the services of women and girls in the tramways department, following representations made by the Tramwaymen's Union that females should be replaced by male employees. The Wigan Tramways Committee, before giving notice to the women and girls employed as tram conductors and car cleaners, have placed on record their high appreciation of the excellent and faithful service rendered by women in the department.

A Great Concession.

Women are now admitted into the schools of lithography and printing in the great French School of Fine Arts. Until now, although both sexes were admitted on equal terms to the sculpture and designing classes, halls reserved for other subjects of instruction were rigidly reserved for men.

American Women Voters.

Figures compiled by the Census Bureau and other Government Departments (says a Reuter Washington message) indicate that the number of women in the United States over 21 years of age is 28,035,000, of whom approximately 26,500,000 are eligible to vote in the elections in November.

Champions of the Vote.

At the historic luncheon given on Tuesday by 100 representative women to 100 representative men on behalf of the Royal Free Hospital and London School of Medicine for Women, the Suffrage hostesses were Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Fawcett.

By SIR LANCELOT HARE, K.C.S.I.

Now that the municipal elections are approaching we should like to say a few words about them. And, first, we would like to call attention to the system of voting. Does it enable you to secure the man of your choice? In all elections, since one represents many, there must be some restriction. A voter cannot have the man of his own choice unless a sufficient number of other voters are in agreement with him in wishing to have the same representative. But, subject to this unavoidable restriction, does the present system of voting give all the freedom in making a choice of representatives which is possible? Under the present system of voting any vote cast is irrevocable. It is tied to the particular candidate to whom it is given. Our system, therefore, may be called the tied-vote system.

Now what is the consequence of this irrevocable tie between the candidate and the vote given to him? It is that if there are three candidates between whom the voter can choose, the voter is in danger of losing his vote. He can, indeed, cast it, but it may be ineffective. Just so at the game of Aunt Sally—the stick may be thrown, but if it does not hit the mark you get nothing but the fun of having had a throw. If A, B and C are the candidate, a vote given, say, to C will be quite ineffective in expressing any choice between A and B unless when it is found to be useless to C it can be transferred to your next choice. The tied vote is like an unripe fruit which may come to no use. This restriction goes much further than it first appears. It not only gives no choice between A and B because the vote has been cast for C, but restricts the number of candidates between whom selection may be made. For, inevitably, the larger the choice the greater the danger of votes being given ineffectively. This is an inevitable condition of the tied vote system.

Given, however, the power of transfer of the vote (the transferable vote system), this restriction is removed. Anyone may propose a candidate without the danger of making his own vote or that of anyone else ineffective. It will be useless to put up a candidate who gets insufficient support to be elected, but no harm will be done either to yourself or to your party.

And surely this transferable vote is in accordance with common-sense. Why, in the name of all that is funny or foolish, should I be refused the right of choosing between A and B because I should like to have C? Is it such a sin to want C as my representative that I am to be penalised for it? Why should I be stopped from going on to the end of the election? It would be as sensible to tell a woman if she cannot get the man of her choice as a husband she must not marry at all. Perhaps she won't, but she will want to exercise her own choice about that.

Now why is not this sensible system of the transferable vote adopted? It is because some of the members of Parliament think they see their interest in refusing the elector the freedom that the transferable vote system gives. They believe that, given half a chance, the voters would not elect them, but would elect someone else. They accordingly obstruct this simple measure of reform. It is for you women to say that, having got the vote, you mean to have all the freedom possible to use it. This claim you make not for yourselves alone but for all electors. You must tell your Member of Parliament you quite see through his selfishness; and if he doesn't give you the transferable vote you will make short work of what he is pleased to consider his vested interest in his seat.

CONFERENCE ON INDIA.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30th, at 2.30 p.m.
Mortimer Halls, 93, Mortimer Street, W.1.
(Near Oxford Circus.)

C. JINARAJADASA, M.A.: "The value of the Indian Temperament to Civilisation"; A. YUSUF ALI, M.A.: "Educational Ideals in India"; Miss MINAKSHI DEVI, "Some Aspects of Indian Life."

EVENING, at 7.30 p.m.
Indian one Act Comedy, "THE MAHARANI OF ARAKAN,"
INDIAN MUSIC, SONGS, DANCES. Special Exhibition of Indian Arts & Crafts
Chair: Mr. Ernest Rhys.

Tickets: Afternoon 1s., Evening 2s. 6d. (reserved) and 1s. from Hon. Sec., Britain and India Association, 7, Southampton Street, High Holborn, W.C.1. or at the door.

VOTES FOR WOMEN UNDER 30.

Meeting at Caxton Hall.

On Tuesday evening the Women's Freedom League held a Meeting in Caxton Hall, Westminster, on behalf of women under thirty who still remain disenfranchised. Other Societies co-operating were the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, Women's Engineering Society, Federation of Women Civil Servants, Women's International League, National Union of Women Teachers, National Federation of Women Workers, Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.

Mrs. Despard, who presided, said the question of giving the vote to women under thirty should be dealt with at once. There never was such a time when all the intelligence of the country was so badly needed as now. At the next General Election women would most certainly be elected to Parliament. Then why not enfranchise the younger women at once? Women at twenty-one were far more matured than men at twenty-one. Very often, too, in the working classes, they were married and the mothers of families.

Miss Maguire (Federation of Women Civil Servants) put the following resolution to the meeting:—

"That this meeting in the Caxton Hall, realising the large share young women are taking in the domestic, industrial, commercial and professional work of the country, urge His Majesty's Government to introduce into the House of Commons without delay a Reform Bill to enfranchise women on equal terms with men."

It was admitted on all sides, she said, that the women who were doing the hard work during the war at home and abroad were nearly all under thirty, yet they had been excluded from the vote.

Miss Haslett (Secretary, Women's Engineering Society), in seconding the resolution, said she would have preferred it to have been so framed as to imply very clearly that giving the vote to the younger women was nothing short of an "act of justice." There would be no difficulty in proving to Parliament that women under thirty were capable of using the vote. Women between 21 and 30 were everywhere nowadays doing responsible work, and also possessing sufficient energy and initiative to start enterprises of their own, as, for example, the Women Builders, and the Women's Engineering Factory at Loughborough. The manners and customs of the day were changing. The tumult round about was due to the fact that we had lost our old values and not yet found new ones. The younger women must have economic freedom to develop upon the lines which appealed to them most. Unless they had equal opportunities of training with men, women would always be relegated to the sweated trades.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby (National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship) said she supported the resolution from the point of view of the middle-aged married woman. Youth was needed in the counsels of the nation, largely on account of its flexibility of mind and sensitiveness to high ideals. So much of the government of to-day was entrusted to older people who could not keep pace with the shifting conditions of the times. It was the older brains that had landed Europe into the great catastrophe of the war, and they were also responsible for the present muddle. It was only the young who could help to make the League of Nations a glorious reality.

Councillor Jessie Stephen (National Federation of Women Workers) referred to Mr. Arnold Bennett's recent strictures upon women, who declared that there had never been any great women artists, authors, musicians, or inventors. The truth of the matter was, however, that men were experts in the art of self-advertisement, and women had not yet learnt it. Women had got to realise that they could do the things they were allowed to do. Men put their own handicap upon women, and then complained that they did not achieve the same amount as men. Men had asserted that women were not good administrators, but she, the speaker, had had considerable experience in women's industrial work, and could vouch for the fact that women were

equally as good speakers and organisers as men.

Miss A. G. Hewitt, L.L.A. (President, National Union of Women Teachers) paid a glowing tribute to the Women's Freedom League as a women's organisation that was always ready to break a lance in the cause of oppression and injustice. She pointed out that some of the ablest women in the teaching world to-day were under thirty. They taught lessons in citizenship to girls and boys, yet were themselves disqualified for the vote. In teaching, the work of women was on exactly the same level as that of men. If anything, the balance was in favour of women, since men could neither teach infants, nor teach needlework. Yet the Burnham Committee, now sitting, intended to standardise women's work as four-fifths compared with men's. Once the younger women were enfranchised a very strong weapon would be forged to combat this injustice.

The resolution was then put to the audience, and carried unanimously.

(Copies of the Petition Form, asking the Government to enfranchise women on the same terms as men, were signed at the meeting. Others can be signed at 144, High Holborn, or can be sent on application. These forms can only be signed by women under thirty.)

IN MEMORIAM.

JESSIE MARGARET MURRAY, M.B., B.S. Durh.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death, after a long and painful illness, of Dr. Jessie Murray. All our members and friends who knew Dr. Murray by hearing her speak at protest meetings in Hyde Park and elsewhere, after her Tax Resistance Sales, or as her friends and patients, experienced her sympathetic kindness and infinite pains in bringing cheer and healing, will be grieved to hear of the death of this staunch fighter for women's freedom.

Of those who took part in the Suffrage struggle some were undoubtedly born fighters, and will spend their lives breaking lances for one case after another. Others had fighting thrust upon them by the conviction that only thus could they be true to principles which they believed to be of vital importance, and Dr. Jessie Murray always gave one the impression of belonging to this class. It was, therefore, not surprising to find her in the ranks of the Tax Resisters, and year after year she was "sold up" because she believed that "taxation without representation is tyranny," and that to submit to tyranny is to become a consenting party to it. If she was able to do so she always spoke at the Protest Meeting in connection with her sale, and her quiet logical way of stating her case never failed to impress her audience. Dr. Murray studied at the London School of Medicine for Women and Durham University, and qualified in 1908. It was natural that, professionally, she should be attracted by pioneer work, and she was greatly interested in the new psychotherapeutic methods of treating nervous and mental disorders, and here, too, she was a very clear exponent of the views she held. Such women can be ill-spared, but of them all it may be said: "Their works do follow them."—A FELLOW TAX-RESISTER.

Green, White & Gold Fair,
26th and 27th NOVEMBER.

Have you begun any of those pretty things you are going to make for the Fair?

If not, begin at once, only Five Weeks left.

Please Don't Forget the GENERAL STALL
Work Parties are held in the Office on Wednesdays at 5 p.m., following the Afternoon Meetings.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22nd, 1920.

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

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

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

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PARLIAMENT REASSEMBLES.

No one can deny that the present session of Parliament is of grave importance to the life of our nation. The country has scarcely emerged from the most devastating war in history when it is faced with the greatest industrial upheaval of modern times, and Ireland, from north to south, is practically in a state of anarchy. A heavy responsibility rests on every one of our representatives in Parliament. They were elected by the men and women of this country to safeguard our interests, and they are responsible to us for the government at home and throughout the British Empire. Our very existence as a nation is threatened by the conflict and disorder in our midst. We could wage war with confidence in the ultimate victory when a united nation was behind the Government intent on securing victory; but a continuance of the present struggle between the Government and important sections of the people spells disaster for all of us, and will be a death-blow to our national prosperity. Parliament is the place for the free and full discussion of national affairs, and we rely upon our representatives of every shade of opinion frankly to investigate all the causes of the present discontents, to listen impartially to all sides of the questions which have to be solved, and then to use their utmost endeavour to secure an adjustment of their differences and a firm settlement of them for the future. We cannot believe that this country is so bankrupt in statesmanship that it cannot find a way out of the present impasse. The common interests of the people of these Islands are so much more numerous, so much more important than their antagonisms that it is incomprehensible that the latter should be allowed to lead us all to the brink of ruin. Our great regret is that women, apparently, are to have so little authority or power in bringing about a settlement of these difficulties. There is no doubt that women are the greatest sufferers in upheavals of this kind, although they are in no way responsible for them. Is it not time that more women were in Parliament to voice women's point of view on these matters, and, together with men, help in the solution of these pressing problems? The freshness of their point of view and their special experience would be an invaluable contribution to the solution of the difficulties with which we are beset. When the Parliamentary vote was granted to women over thirty years of age it was recognised by all parties that women's co-operation was essential in the life of the nation. Will not all parties, therefore, put forward woman candidates at the next bye-elections and support them with the whole strength of their party organisations? Nowhere is women's co-operation more needed than in Parliament at the present time, and we suggest that at Hemel Hempstead every Party which contests the seat should run a thoroughly reliable woman candidate. We should rejoice whichever of these women the constituents returned, and feel certain that she would be a valuable asset in the House of Commons.

A WOMAN PRESIDENT?

Now that American women have secured equal suffrage with men, they are losing no time in their efforts to secure equal political power with men. Miss Harriet May Mills has been nominated for the Secretaryship of New York State by the Democratic Party, and the *Sun and New York Herald* is asking in all seriousness: "Why not a woman President of the United States?" This same newspaper proceeds to say that Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt might very well be the first woman President. It doubts whether she would consent to be nominated for the Presidency, but points out that in 1924 a woman might very well be put forward for this high office, as well as for most of the other Cabinet positions. Now that women are securing their enfranchisement in nearly every country throughout the world, it is only natural that we should expect to see them filling the highest offices of State in the near future. Suffragists in America, equally with suffragists in Great Britain, realise that the securing of the vote is by no means our final victory, but that the biggest fight is ahead of us—the fight for justice, equality and fairplay. We must get women into responsible positions so that they can more effectively help us in that fight. We all look forward to the time, however, when we shall not have to spend our strength combating prejudice in regard to sex, but that in the future men and women will be prepared to support impartially the man or woman, irrespective of sex, who has the best qualifications for the post which has to be filled.

COURTS FIT FOR WOMEN TO WORK IN!

"When we have the vote we will come back and clean up your Courts and blow the microbes of the ages out of them," was a common promise in suffrage prosecutions of pre-franchise times, but none of us knew just how simply it would come about. Directly women had votes it was an absurd anomaly to exclude them from any portion of our social edifice. Soon all barriers keeping them from an equal share in the administration of criminal law were removed, and women walked up to the Magistrates' Bench and into the jury box.

Now we come up against the difficulty that women are modern, and Police Courts are antique. Many years ago when most of our Courts were constructed, it was not the fashion to criticise the contents of one's lungs. Buildings were designed principally for shelter and warmth; windows were made small and were opened as seldom as possible; and the upper portions of all large public rooms were the abodes of spiders, dust and dirt. Gradually our homes, where women arrange the details, have altered for the better, and been flooded with sunshine and air and cleanliness, but our Courts, till now with men only in official positions, retain the horrors of our unhygienic past.

A week or two ago a Miss Smith, armed with a doctor's certificate that her health would suffer from the bad air of the Courts, appealed at Willesden Police Court against the inclusion of her name in the jury list. The Clerk refused to admit any impurity in Court air, but the Magistrate, apparently astounded at the lady's eccentricity, allowed the objection, and removed her name. Women do not shrink from work, but they do expect proper conditions of work. The supposed difficulty of the "unpleasant" case has evaporated. At Walsall one such case has just been quietly tried in the ordinary way before a half-and-half jury. It is the unnecessary hindrances to work patiently endured by men with which women think it silly to wrestle. They object to trying to work in a pestilential atmosphere, and do not intend to put up with the headaches, the stuffiness, the colds and the germs which now infest our Courts, the causes of so much official brain muddle, irritability, incapacity and injustice.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

Report of Conference, October 11—15th, 1920.

The twenty-fifth Annual Conference of the National Council of Women opened at Bristol last week, and was attended by about 400 delegates from all parts of Great Britain and Ireland. The proceedings opened on Tuesday with an address of welcome from the Lady Mayoress of Bristol, and from Miss Smith, President of the Bristol Branch of the National Council. It seemed peculiarly fitting that this great Conference of women should be held at Bristol, which has been the birthplace, as well as the home, of very many remarkable and gifted women—Hannah More and Mary Carpenter among the number.

Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, who has been President of the Council for four years, devoted a large part of her presidential address to the desirability of having women in Parliament. She said that in spite of the importance of the Council and the unwearying efforts of its members, they had to register one failure—namely, to secure laws based on an equal moral standard for men and women. In 1892 they passed a resolution demanding that "reasonable cause to believe that a girl was of, or above, the age of consent" should not be a defence to any charge under the Criminal Law Amendment Act. This reform was not yet granted. She believed that the quickest way to get this and kindred reforms would be

The Return of Women M.P.'s

and suggested that women voters should take thought as to the methods by which their return could be secured. She also spoke of the League of Nations, and the great help it ought to be in the future in the prevention of war and the promotion of trade under just conditions. There were also on the platform representatives of the Council from various parts of the world, and we had the pleasure of listening to short speeches from Mrs. Smillie of Canada, Mrs. Scandrick of South Africa, and Mrs. Barton from the Argentine.

Resolutions were passed urging that the responsibility of the father to maintain his illegitimate children should receive increased recognition; that the process of obtaining affiliation orders should be facilitated with a view to the ultimate recognition of the equal responsibilities of both parents; and demanding a system of State Pensions for widows with dependent children. An amendment by Lady Selborne, asking that the pensions be paid through the existing Poor Law Authorities received very little support.

A resolution condemning the "adoption of the Civil Service National Whitley Council's Report, which fixes

Unequal Conditions for Men and Women

in entrance, promotion and pay, holding that as the report lays no foundation for better conditions in the future its proposals are not in the best interests of the country" roused a great deal of interest. Mrs. Oliver Strachey made a very forcible speech in support, as also did Miss King, of the Federation of Women Civil Servants. The latter particularly objected to the system of selection for Upper Grade posts, which she characterised as a retrograde step.

This resolution was carried, and also one protesting against the injustice involved in the taxation together of the incomes of married persons, and urging the Government to provide for the separate taxation of incomes of husbands and wives.

Mrs. A. J. Crossfield brought forward a resolution urging upon the Government the necessity for immediate temperance legislation granting to the people the right of local option. A million pounds a day, she said, was spent on drink, which meant that every family on an average spent £42 per year. Miss Picton-Turbervill moved an amendment asking for legislation through the medium of State purchase and control of the liquor traffic, and this was carried. A resolution in favour of scientific instruction upon the nature of alcohol and its effects on the human body being given in all Training Colleges and in all schools receiving Government support was also carried.

Other resolutions that were carried dealt with

legalising adoption, giving mothers equal rights of guardianship and custody of their offspring with fathers, and the forming and enforcing of by-laws by local Education Authorities restricting the employment of children of school age; the suppression of all known brothels, and putting them out of bounds for British troops wherever they are stationed; but the enabling of magistrates to accept the unsworn evidence of very young children in order to obtain convictions in cases of criminal or indecent assault was referred back to the Executive.

A resolution proposed by Miss Helen Ward on behalf of Nat. Un. of Societies for Equal Citizenship—"That the National Council of Women calls on the Government to introduce without delay a measure for extending the franchise to women on the same terms as it is granted to men"—met with some opposition. An amendment was proposed by Lady Selborne, seconded by Lady Frances Balfour, that the age for men be raised to 25 years and that for women lowered to 25, which was lost, and the original resolution carried.

I had the privilege of proposing on behalf of the

Women's Freedom League,

"That the National Council of Women shall devote a considerable part of its energies to securing the election of women to Parliament, as the best means of obtaining the reforms which women generally desire." Miss Helen Ward seconded. My speech was very well received, and the resolution was carried unanimously and with enthusiasm.

An urgency resolution was then proposed by the President on behalf of the Executive Committee that propaganda on the need for women in Parliament be conducted, and that suitable women be approached in various parts of the country, more particularly where Parliamentary vacancies are likely to occur, with a view to their coming forward as candidates, provided that—

- (a) No Party political bias be displayed.
- (b) Neither the Council nor any of its local branches undertake to run a candidate.
- (c) Neither the Council nor any of its local branches be committed to support women candidates in preference to men.

The President explained that these provisions were absolutely necessary in view of the non-party constitution of the Council, and the resolution was carried.

The last resolution dealt with the

League of Nations,

and urged the extension of membership of the League to all self-governing States; the appointment of a woman as one of the three delegates to the first assembly of the League in November, 1920; the selection of women as well as men to all advisory and consultative capacities under the League, and on any commission or organisation formed to deal with the concerns of men and women and the well-being of the family.

The above clauses were all carried without opposition, but the last, which ran thus, "that the Council is of opinion that the establishment of a Women's Annual Conference in connection with the League of Nations is undesirable, inasmuch as it would militate against the appointment of women on the various bodies under the League, and tend to delay their full co-operation with men on equal terms," was opposed by the National Union for Equal Citizenship, one of whose delegates, after some discussion, moved the previous question, which, however, was lost, and the clause was carried with some dissentients. We had, in addition, some very interesting public meetings—one being a debate on Lord Buckmaster's Matrimonial Causes Bill, between Mrs. Seton Tiedeman, secretary Divorce Law Reform Union, and Lady Beecham, hon. secretary Marriage Defence Council.

KATHLEEN S. TANNER.

THE FATHER AND THE HOME

The query, "What place, if any, has the Father in the Home?" was raised last Wednesday afternoon in the Minerva Café by Mrs. Shaw McLaren, and aroused an immense amount of interest, both among the general public and in the press. Mrs. McLaren described the present position of the father in most families as one of supremacy. The Church, the Law, and Public Opinion all helped to foster this idea. The Church upheld it by the retention of the word "obey" in the marriage service. The Law followed suit by causing a woman to lose both her name and her individuality on marriage, as well as her nationality if she married a foreigner. The Law also gave the husband, not the wife, the custody of the children. Public Opinion, too, all over the world upheld the supremacy of the father. In India, for instance, there was not even any discussion upon this point. The real reason for this supremacy lay in the economic dependence of the wife and children upon man, the breadwinner. It had been suggested to the speaker in all seriousness—and by a man, too—that it was therefore high time the father be turned out of the home, not only because it was bad for the man to be in this position of supremacy, such power containing great temptation to abuse it, but also because men of genius invariably had their faculties frittered away by the burden of supporting a family. It was also bad for the children. Children required very delicate handling, and an enormous amount of sympathy, freedom, and love. No man was capable of this delicate management. It was entirely women's work because of their greater powers of intuitive knowledge. A great deal of havoc was wrought amongst children by tyrannical fathers, the best of whom were too frequently prone to bully their children into adopting their own profession or religion before the children were really old enough to form an individual opinion. The mother, in many such cases, had to act as a buffer between her husband and children.

Mrs. McLaren, however, dismissed this suggestion of the deposition of the father as too drastic a remedy, and contended that unlimited power was equally bad for either sex. She proposed instead that his position should be reformed! Such reform opened up immense possibilities, since it involved the reform of the Church, the Law and Public Opinion as well. It also implied reform in all our previous conceptions of the family. In the past the idea of the family had grown up round the man. The correct idea of the family, however, was that of a commonwealth, in which father, mother and children played their respective parts, each one being a necessary element in the perfect whole, and no one element predominating.

POINTS FOR HUSBANDS IN JAPAN.

A thousand Japanese women answered a circular inquiring what the requests of a wife to a husband should be. The tabulated results, the Central News Tokyo correspondent says, are—the word "please" being prefixed in each case:—

1. Get up at the same time as I do.
2. When you leave home tell me where you go.
3. Let me know when you go out and when you return.
4. Do not scold me in the presence of visitors or the children.
5. Grant me a few privileges and some of my wishes.
6. Give me a fixed sum of money for my personal use.
7. Refrain from doing in front of the children things which may set a bad example.
8. Allow me certain hours for reading and study.

From the answers of the thousand women to the question "What is your greatest wish?" it appears that 980 wanted new clothing, 720 to go to theatres and other places of amusement, 150 frankly confessed to a craving for good food, 100 generally specified happy homes, and 50 wanted to travel. Only 30 were eager to accumulate money.

BOOK REVIEW.

The Household Account Book of Sarah Fell of Swarthmoor Hall. Edited by Norman Penney, F.S.A. (Cambridge University Press.) 42s. (Can be obtained at this office.)

This manuscript, now printed for the first time, has been for some years in the possession of the Society of Friends at Devonshire House, Bishopsgate. At the head of the front cover can still be read the words of Sarah Fell: "An old Cash Booke which is written thorow." The whole is in Sarah's handwriting, probably copied from some earlier book or books of accounts. The first entry is dated September 25th, 1673, and the last August 15th, 1678. The book probably remained at Swarthmoor Hall with a large number of other manuscripts until the sale of the estate in 1759, when they were divided among descendants of the Fells. At a later date the cash book fell into the hands of a Lancashire grocer, which accounts for its mutilated condition, and a message written at the top of page two of the cover: "This Booke was rescued from oblivion by ye care of a Friend of Lancaster, Bridget Whalley, who discovered it in the hands of a Grocer there, who was using it as Waste paper." From thence it passed into the hands of several owners until it finally reached its present resting-place in company with many other rescued Swarthmoor manuscripts.

Sarah Fell, as is well known, was the stepdaughter of George Fox, the founder of the Society of Friends, and one of seven sisters, only three of whom, including Sarah herself, were unmarried and living at home during the period covered by the transactions of the Account Book. Swarthmoor Hall, situated in Furness between Windermere Lake and the Duddon Valley, was evidently one of the big houses of the neighbourhood, for the hearth tax roll of 1673 shows that it possessed thirteen hearths liable to the tax, whereas, with one exception, no other house in Ulverston had more than five hearths, and the majority fewer still. A purchase of beeswax for candlewick indicated how the Hall was lighted, and the various payments mentioned for cutting and carrying turf suggest that peat was the fuel in common use. Sea coal, at that time, was just beginning to be burnt, and when used at Swarthmoor was probably brought by sea to Piel, the old fortress-harbour of the monks of Furness, or from Conishead Bank. Owing to the high cost of transport, however, it was evidently not in general use. The varieties of food and drink mentioned remind us of the necessity there was in old time to keep a large stock of useful articles always in the larder and store-room. According to the Account Book these included such miscellaneous items as bedsteads, garden shears, scythes, spades, nails, bridle, salmon, red herrings, seed wheat, French beans, fruit, spices, salad oil, vinegar, oil of almonds, starch, books, writing-paper, a cask of sweetmeats, chocolate, hops, flax, linen, cloth, serge. The nearest shopping town, moreover, was Lancaster, some twenty miles distant by a road across two estuaries passable only for a few hours each day. Purchases were also made at Ulverston by means of a weekly carrier.

The Account Book is largely concerned with the work on the farm, which was the chief occupation of the district. Cattle, sheep and horses were bought and sold at the local fairs. Female labour was employed in the farm work, and many details of wages paid to men and women are given. In addition to agriculture the Swarthmoor family embarked on other and more ambitious enterprises. These included the purchase and sale of coal and iron ore, and the fitting up of at least two vessels laden with produce for Bristol and Cornwall. In addition, the Fells appear to have acted as Bankers for the countryside. This record of the past is especially valuable for the light which it throws on the activity of women in production during the 17th century, and of the extent to which trading was usual at that time. In all these transactions the women of the household were closely concerned, so that their interests became immensely widened by contact not only with their home and the outside town or village, but with the larger life of the nation. D. M. N.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Wednesday, October 27.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. 3 p.m. Miss Lind-a-Hageby. Subject: "Should Women Citizens Pursue Special Politics?" Chairman: Mrs. E. M. N. Clark.

Wednesday, October 27.—Working Party for the "Fair," 5 p.m. "Fair" Committee, 6 p.m. Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Saturday, October 30.—144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. National Executive Committee, 10 a.m.

Monday, November 1.—Halloween Party, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. 7 p.m. Admission 1s.

Wednesday, November 3.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 3 p.m. Speaker: Councillor Margaret Hodge. Subject: "Popular Fallacies."

Saturday, November 6.—Procession to and Mass Meeting in Trafalgar Square of Women's Organisations to demand Equal Pay for Equal Work.

Wednesday, November 10.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss K. Raleigh. Subject: "What St. Paul Really Said to Women." Chairman: Mrs. Northeroft.

Saturday, November 13.—Clapham Jumble Sale, at Morris Hall, Clapham. 3 p.m.

Wednesday, November 17.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 3 p.m. Speaker and Subject to be announced next week.

Wednesday, November 24.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Margaret Russell. Subject: "Education among the High-Caste Women and Girls in India."

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

PROVINCES.

Monday, October 25.—Westcliff-on-Sea. Purcell House (School of Music), London Road. Speaker: Mrs. Cattell, on "Citizenship and its Responsibilities." Chairman: Mrs. Newberry.

Wednesday, October 27.—Portsmouth. Public Meeting, 2, Kent Road. 3.15 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Probyn Turnbull. Subject: "Child Outrage." Chair: Mrs. Whetton. Annual Meeting, 5.15.

Monday, November 8.—Westcliff-on-Sea. Purcell House (School of Music), London Road. Speaker: Dr. Maude Kerslake. Subject to be announced later. Chairman: Miss Burnes.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, October 27.—Central London Parliament will meet at Holy Trinity Hall, Kingsway, W.C. (adjoining Holborn Restaurant) at 7.30 p.m., and every Wednesday.

Monday, November 1.—Bethnal Green Women Citizens' Association, 33, Blythe Street, E. Speaker: Miss Newsome. Subject: "Equal Pay for Equal Work." 8 p.m.

Monday, November 22.—Penge Congregational Church Women's Meeting. Speaker: Miss Underwood. Subject: "The Need for Women Members of Parliament."

CONFERENCE ON INDIA.

The Britain and India Association has arranged an important delegate as well as public Conference on India to take place on October 30th, at the Mortimer Hall, Mortimer Street, W. 1. The afternoon programme includes two rarely accomplished and well-informed speakers—C. Jinarajadasa, Esq., M.A., and A. Yusuf Ali, Esq., to both of whom it is sheer delight to listen. The voice of Indian womanhood will be heard in the person of Miss Minakshi Devi, a student of both law and medicine, and before whom lies a promising career. The evening will be devoted to an entertainment. A performance of "The Maharani of Arakan" (Tagore's play) will be given with an almost entirely Indian cast. Alice Coomara (Ratan Devi), whom both Tagore and Bernard Shaw have praised greatly for her beautiful voice and perfect rendering, will sing some British and Indian Folk Songs. Miss V. Drummond will give her fascinating Indian Dances, and Miss Helen Young delightful and skilled violin solos. Exquisite specimens of Indian Craft work are being loaned by Thakur J. Seesodia. The whole Conference is being warmly supported, will have a special educational value, and will provide a unique opportunity for all to come nearer to the heart and spirit of India.

OUR TREASURY.

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Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1919, £33,542 6s. 2d.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
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"A Friend"	3	15	0			
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	24	13	0	

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Miss M. I. Saunders	10	0	0
Miss Bland	5	0	0
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Miss Brouneau	5	0	0
Mrs. Northeroft	5	0	0
Mrs. de Vismes	5	0	0
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Mrs. Gillings	2	6	0
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Office Sales	1	12	0
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Collections	2	11	6
Collections (per Miss A. M. Clark (Bournemouth))	1	4	0
Tickets	10	5	0
Branches, Delegates' Expenses—			
Ashford Club	0	5	0
Bexhill	0	5	0
Rye	0	5	0
	£651	14	10

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

BRANCH NOTES.

PORTSMOUTH.

Three work parties, for the Green, White and Gold Fair, have been held, by the kind invitation of Mrs. Binley, Mrs. Slatter and Mrs. Whetton. Portsmouth must send its usual £5 worth of articles, so will members who cannot attend the sewing meetings please send an article to Mrs. Whetton before November 20th? The first Public Meeting of the season will be held on Wednesday, October 27th, at 2, Kent Road, at 3.15 p.m. Mrs. Probyn Turnbull will speak on "Child Outrage." Members are urged to make this meeting widely known so that Mrs. Turnbull may be assured of a good audience. There will be tea at 4.30, after which the Annual Members' Meeting will be held. The Secretary and Treasurer will give their reports, and there will be the election of officers. Members are reminded that the annual subscriptions are now due.

Hon. Sec.—Mrs. WHETTON, 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

MONTGOMERY BOROUGH.

A highly successful Rummage Sale was held in the Congregational School, Newtown, last Saturday to raise funds to further the work of the Women's Freedom League. Large quantities of clothing, hats, boots and shoes were sent from all parts of the country from members and sympathisers. The result is as follows:—Boots and Shoes, Miss H. Evans, Miss Ethel Reece, £1 14s. 7d.; New Stall, Miss Edie Roberts, Miss Vera Pope, £5 10s. 2½d.; Hats, Mrs. and Miss Worrall, £1 16s. 4d.; Ladies' and Gent's Clothing, Mrs. and Miss Daniels, Miss V. Jones, Mrs. Morgan, Miss Ainsworth, Miss Hilda Evans, £11 8s. 4d.; Children's Stall, Mrs. Barratt, Mrs. Oliver, Miss Hilda Reese, Miss Edna Phillips, Miss Jennie Reese, £4 4s. 6d.; Odds and Ends, Miss Florrie Jones, 18s. 10½d.; Cakes and Provisions, Miss Hylda Jones and Miss Edie Jones, £3 14s. 10d.; Refreshment Stall, Mrs. Nock, Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Reese, Mrs. Lewis, Miss Hilda Phillips, £2 0s. 3½d.; Draw for Watch and Jewel, £3 10s.; Door, Mr. Douglas Andrew, £1 8s. 8d.; Donations, £3 14s.; total, £40 0s. 7½d. Splendid assistance was given by Mr. and Mrs. Roberts, caretakers of the church.

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