

THE VOTE,
JUNE 18, 1920.
ONE PENNY.

THIS LOSPISDED WORLD!

By LADY ASTOR, M.P.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 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 WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL.

Sermon by Miss Maude Royden.

Speaking at Kensington Town Hall on Sunday night, Miss Maude Royden referred to the Women's International Congress at Geneva last week as a tragic gathering compared to its predecessors. It was just seven years since the last Congress met at Budapesth, a bevy of light-hearted women in what was then one of the gayest cities in the world. The women at the Geneva Congress were grave, and even grim, bearing unmistakable traces of the world catastrophe through which all had passed during the last five years.

Remarkable changes, too, were in evidence at this year's Congress. Women were present from countries which until quite recently had not existed as separate states—Czecho-Slovakians, Letts, Lithuanians, Poles—and also from Spain and Greece, and countries of the Far East which had never before sent delegates to any public function—Japanese, Chinese, Egyptians.

It might easily have been conjectured that

The Woman's Movement

would have been hamstrung by the war, but it had all the while continued steadily increasing, both in volume and influence. Amazing successes in many countries had been achieved since the last Conference in 1913. English women were proud of their one English woman M.P., but Germany, once the most backward of all the countries, could to-day claim as many as 37 women M.P.s, whilst Hungary also possessed several in her Parliament. Women from hitherto enemy countries were largely represented at the Geneva Conference, and were received with the utmost cordiality and goodwill. It was a wonderful sight to see, for instance, Madame de Schlumberger, the well-known French suffragist, sitting side by side with Frau Stritt, from Germany. The only important country not represented was Belgium. The Belgian women resolutely refused to attend because the German women would not officially express their regret for the cruelties suffered

by the Belgians during the war. Many German women, however, Miss Royden said, had individually expressed their regret to her.

The proceedings of the entire week were full of interest, and amongst many others two important resolutions were passed. One, welcoming the League of Nations, and the other, to assist the famine-stricken areas and reconstruct the economic situation of Europe. The attitude of the Geneva authorities towards the Congress was cordial in the extreme, especially in the matter of allowing Miss Royden to occupy the Cathedral pulpit on the opening Sunday. English people did not realise the nature of this

tremendous concession.

St. Pierre de Genève was no ordinary cathedral, viz., the chief church of a big city. It was closely associated with Knox and Calvin, the great leaders of the Reformation, and bore the same relation towards Protestant Christianity as *St. Peter's* at Rome assumed towards Roman Catholicism. The Cathedral at Geneva was the nurse and starting point of the whole movement of the Reformation, and was, therefore, the acknowledged head of all the reformed churches of the world. Miss Royden had also been informed that although the Consistory Court was not always able to arrive at a unanimous decision as to who should occupy the Cathedral pulpit, in her case the decision was not only absolutely unanimous, but arrived at immediately. There had been a certain amount of criticism in Geneva itself, for, except in Zürich, Swiss women were quite unaccustomed to the idea of women preachers, but none of it had reached Miss Royden's ears, and the women listeners in the Cathedral gave her a royal welcome. This was undoubtedly accorded her because she was a woman, for scarcely any of the Swiss women knew who she was. Indeed, they were puzzled when she signed her Christian name in the Cathedral register,

IN PARLIAMENT.

and begged her to prefix it with a "Miss," lest she should be mistaken for a preacher of the opposite sex!

It was more than probable that the Cathedral authorities had allowed her to preach in a kind of despair, and with this thought at the back of their minds. Men had turned the world inside-out with their creed of hatred, so why not let women try if they could not offer some other solution to assuage the havoc created by the war. This thought, however inarticulate, was in the right direction. Women all over the world were becoming increasingly conscious that they had a special contribution to make towards the world's future civilisation. This contribution might be great or small, a screw in the machinery, or the very foundation of the whole, but whatever its scope it must be given wholeheartedly and at once.

Women would need a great deal of courage to convey the gospel, which they undoubtedly possessed, to the world. As in the case of the "peculiar people" from whom sprang the Messiah, women to-day were being specially set apart to reconstruct Christianity on entirely new lines. The old jog-trot Christianity must go. Burning zeal, wholehearted unselfishness, and a consuming love of human beings must characterise the religion of the future.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN.

Presiding at a meeting of the Women's Freedom League, held at Mortimer Hall, Thursday evening, June 10th, on "Opportunities for Women in the Film Business," Miss Normanton said that Miss Leila Lewis did not propose to find jobs for women, but to indicate opportunities for them in a new industry. The parliamentary vote had been described as the key to women's advancement, but of what use was a key if there was no lock to put it into? Women wanted the chance to use the key to unlock all the vast sphere of labour, and she maintained that all careers should be open to talent, and should not be the monopoly of one sex.

Miss Leila Lewis said that there were big opportunities for capable women in the film business. Women should aim at the big, the highly paid jobs. There was no reason why women should not become film producers, and express in their work women's view point. The man with this big job often had a woman behind him, who sometimes did most of the work. Women were also wanted in the studios as art-directors. The feminine touch was necessary in representing a drawing-room or boudoir. A woman would give just that touch of personality to a scene which would render it effective. Women were also wanted in designing costumes, and Miss Lewis paid a high tribute to Miss Edith Craig, who was unquestionably the greatest authority on the costumes of various periods. Then, too, there was the casting directorship for small parts, which was much safer in the hands of women. Women were also needed as wardrobe mistresses in studios, and Miss Lewis pleaded for women who would look after the creature comforts of players in studios, where often there was no place to rest and the food was utterly spoiled because of bad cooking! There was scope for women who could teach people how to make-up before posing for the film in various studios. She advocated scenario writing as a career for women, and saw no reason why women should not be camera men. Women, in Miss Lewis's opinion, should certainly be on the film censorship board, and she had great faith in the broadmindedness of the views women would take. The film spoke a universal language, and was the best possible means of propaganda, and she believed that women could take both a prominent and a profitable part in it. Men and women could work together as pals in this industry: woman's intuition added to man's commonsense would make a wonderful team.

A great number of questions were asked, which the lecturer fully answered, and the meeting closed with a very cordial vote of thanks to Miss Lewis.

Married Women Teachers.

MAJOR MORGAN asked the President of the Board of Education if he was aware that the Rhondda Urban District Council education authority had recently passed a resolution which would terminate the engagement of service and provided for the dismissal of each and all of their married female teachers as soon as they become eligible for the minimum pension payable; and, if that were so, would he use his influence and endeavour to mitigate the injustice and inequalities which would obtain between teacher and teacher if this resolution were carried into effect? MR. FISHER acknowledged that he knew such a resolution had been passed; but he had no general authority to interfere with the action of the local education authority in the matter.

Local Elections (Proportional Representation) Bill.

COLONEL BURN asked the PRIME MINISTER whether he would give time this session for the consideration of this Bill? MR. BONAR LAW replied that there was a great deal to do this session, and he could not make any promise in regard to time being given for the Bill.

Legitimacy Bill.

A Bill has been presented by COLONEL BURN, and supported by MR. TURTON, COLONEL NEWMAN, and MR. ANEURIN WILLIAMS, "to amend the law relating to children born out of wedlock."

Public Defender.

The object of this Bill is to establish the office of Public Defender. It provides that the salaries of the Public Defender and his assistants, together with expenses incurred by them, shall be paid out of the Treasury; and that it shall be the duty of this official to undertake the defence of every person charged with an indictable offence who does not provide for his or her own defence. It has always seemed to us that the interests of Justice would be better served if, in addition to a Public Prosecutor, we had a Public Defender, and we shall hope to see women, as well as men, fill that office.

Women Magistrates.

MAJOR JOHN EDWARDS asked the Home Secretary how many women magistrates had been appointed for England and Wales respectively? MR. SHORTT replied that 45 had been appointed for England and one for Wales. It was hoped that both numbers would be increased within a very short period. To MAJOR EDWARDS' further question—can the right hon. gentleman say why, so far as Wales is concerned, while so many ladies are eligible, so few are chosen?—no reply was given.

Race Trains and Excursions.

So far, no promise has been given by the MINISTER OF TRANSPORT that excursion trains can be run for the convenience of workers who want to take a holiday during the summer, and rumours are constant that railway fares are to be raised, but SIR ERIC GEDDES stated last Monday that 203 special trains were run to Epsom on Derby Day, and it can quite well be assumed that many other special trains have been run since that date for other races. We hope this matter of excursion trains and cheaper, as against increased, fares will be pressed in the House of Commons.

Autumn Session.

MR. BONAR LAW stated in the House that an Autumn Session was inevitable. The Government hoped that it would be possible to adjourn before the end of July, but that would depend on the progress of business which had to be dealt with before the adjournment.

WOMEN "BETTER THAN MEN."—"The women employees have given, and continue to give, satisfaction—ever so much better than men—in the discharge of their duties." That was the reply of Mr. J. A. Forde, manager of the Thanet tramways system, to ex-Service men who complained of their employment. The women are to be retained until the end of the summer season.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Women Auctioneers.

Women are now eligible for membership of the Auctioneers' and Estate Agents' Institute of the United Kingdom by a decision of Mr. Justice Astbury in the Chancery Division last week. Mr. Bischoff, who presented the petition from the Institute for permission to alter the memorandum of association so that women might be admitted, explained that since the passing of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act of 1919, membership need no longer be restricted to male auctioneers and estate agents.

Women Law Students.

Rumour has it that one result of the admission of women to the four Inns of Court is that men students are preparing for the Bar Examinations with much greater zeal! Women law students are on the increase; the Middle Temple now possesses no fewer than twenty-four women members. Another woman member of the Inner Temple, Miss Ivy Williams, has recently secured a first in Constitutional Law in the Bar Examinations.

Women Cricketers.

Cricket matches between women are no new thing, says the *Manchester Guardian*. They were fairly common during the 18th century, though the players at that period were usually recruited from the working classes, because strenuous physical exercise was not considered "genteel" by ladies of more exalted social rank. In 1792, eleven girls of Rotherby, Leicestershire, played an equal number of Hoby players, the Rotherby girls being victorious. Four years later a highly exciting match was played on Bury Common, Suffolk, between the married women and maidens of the parish, when the married team won by 80 runs.

Tributes to Edith Cavell.

Last week a public memorial to Edith Cavell was unveiled at Paris in the Tuileries Gardens. The monument, which has been presented to the city by the *Matin*, is a large *bas-relief* by the sculptor Gabriel Pech. The day before, the Italians in London, representing the Italian Army, placed a wreath of laurel leaves interwoven with carnations at the foot of the Edith Cavell statue in Charing Cross Road. Captain Palazzoli said the martyrdom of Nurse Cavell was a noble demonstration that women had the sacred right to full emancipation.

A DELIGHTFUL HOLIDAY.

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Greek Women as Workers.

The women of Greece are being asked to come forward and work, as the shortage of labour is seriously affecting the industrial life of the country. Women of the poorer classes are employed in factories, mining operations, and in agricultural work, but until recently women of the well-to-do and professional classes considered it beneath their dignity if they worked for payment. It is felt that public recognition of the women's movement in Greece by the leading people will encourage the women to come forward as workers, and a suffrage society has been organised, which sent delegates to the Geneva Conference.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE BILL.

We learn that Mr. Grundy's *Representation of the People Bill* can now go no further, and that for all practical purposes it is dead. Its opponents had still several pages of amendments, all of which could not possibly be dealt with in the few sittings which remained for the Committee stage of this Bill. The Chairman of the Committee saw Mr. Grundy and suggested that he should move that the Bill, as amended, be reported to the House, the amended Bill now consisting of one clause only which would have enfranchised women on the same terms as men, securing the parliamentary vote for five millions of women between the ages of 21 and 30. The Labour Members of the Committee, together with Mr. Grundy, agreed to the Chairman's suggestion. Again, Sir Kingsley Wood stated that the Government would not grant facilities for its further stages, and the Government has secured what Lt.-Col. Archer-Shee would doubtless call "a pyrrhic victory" by preventing it from appearing on the Order paper. We hope that every suffragist in the land will remember this item in the record of this Government whenever one of its nominees offers himself for election.

The Birthday Fund.

DO YOUR BIT.

Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party is fixed for July 2nd, at Caxton Hall.

Of course you mean to be there and to make it a great success. We shall welcome back Mrs. Despard and the other delegates from the Great World Gathering of Women at Geneva; please do your part in making that important item, the BIRTHDAY GIFT, worthy of this historic event.

The cost of living for your League is much increased, just as it is for each one of us. Our funds must increase in proportion and we must double the Birthday Fund upon which we live during the summer months.

Branches are working hard. Will YOU double your usual contribution and see that it reaches me, if possible, this week.

E. KNIGHT.

144, High Holborn, London, W.C.1.

Hon. Treas.

THE VOTE.

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THE GENEVA CONGRESS.

Over four hundred women, representing, with the exception of Russia and Belgium, nearly all the European countries, America, Japan, China, India, and our overseas Dominions, met at the Congress recently held at Geneva by the Women's International Suffrage Alliance. At the request of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, Mass had been arranged at 9 o'clock Sunday morning at Notre Dame, to ask divine guidance on the proceedings of the Alliance. At 11 o'clock Miss Maude Royden preached from Calvin's pulpit in the Cathedral at Geneva to a big congregation which included a great number of delegates, and it is interesting to record that the Swiss pastors were charmed by her simplicity of manner and dress and entire absence of gesture no less than by the sermon itself. The same evening there was a public meeting, which did not close much before midnight, to hear addresses of welcome from the Swiss people and the replies from the Vice-presidents of the Alliance, as well as the presidential address of Mrs. Chapman Catt. Quite a number of women M.P.s attended the Congress, and included Madame Furuhjelm, of Finland (the first woman of the world to be elected M.P.), Frau Kaufmann, of Würtemberg, and Lady Astor. Since the last meeting of the Alliance, which took place at Budapest in 1913, twenty countries have been enfranchised, among them being Great Britain, Canada, Rhodesia, Roumania, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Ukraine, Tartar-Crimea, Iceland, Luxemburg, Denmark, and Germany, which have accepted on equal terms manhood and womanhood suffrage with equal rights of eligibility to all offices. The representative from Tartar-Crimea was a young Mohammedan woman, who spoke good English. She is the wife of the President, and told the Congress that the Vice-President was a woman.

It was agreed that the object of the Alliance should be to secure the enfranchisement of women of all nations by the promotion of women suffrage, and such other reforms as are necessary to establish real equality of liberties, status, and opportunity between men and women. It was insisted that on marriage a woman should have full personal and civil rights, including the right to the use and disposal of her own earnings and property, and that she should not be under the tutelage of her husband; further, that a married woman should have the same right to retain or change her nationality as a man. In regard to women's work, the Congress was unanimously in favour of equal pay for equal work, and overwhelmingly against any special regulations for women's work which were not imposed in regard to men's, and the delegates maintained that any protection afforded to women as mothers should be so framed that it would not handicap them in their economic position. It was also urged that a higher moral standard, equal for men and women, should be recognised, that the traffic in women should be suppressed, and the regulation of vice and all laws and practices differentiating against women, or any class of women, should be abolished. The delegates showed

a keen interest in the League of Nations, and various proposals were discussed, the object of which was to bring the Alliance into closer connection with the League. Once again Mrs. Chapman Catt was elected President of the Alliance amidst the unanimous approval of the delegates. She had asked to be relieved from this office, for the amount of work which she does in the United States in the cause of women is stupendous, and she will shortly be starting on a tour to help the unfranchised women in South America, but the consensus of opinion was that she could not be spared from the Presidency, and delegates are looking forward to meeting her at the next Congress of the Alliance, which will be held in Paris in 1922. At a morning session £3,000 was raised for the funds of the Alliance, so it is evident that women are prepared to pay for their politics and to help other women to secure political power.

We are looking forward with the greatest pleasure to hearing from our own delegates, Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Schofield Coates their impressions of the Geneva Congress of Women at the Birthday Party which we have arranged to take place at Caxton Hall, Friday evening, July 2nd.

WOMEN AND NIGHT WORK.

The *Women, Young Persons, and Children (Employment)* Bill was given a Second Reading without a division in the House of Commons on June 10th, and it has been committed to a Standing Committee. This is a Bill to give effect to three Conventions which were agreed to at the recent International Labour Conference held in Washington. We are in cordial agreement with two of these Conventions, which deal with the fixing of a minimum age for admission of children to industrial employment and the prohibition of night-work for young persons in industry; but we protest against the provision which will prevent women from working during certain hours of the night, while no such provision is put into force against men. We strongly object to legislation, whether it is national or international, in respect to women which is framed and passed by men without consulting the women whom it concerns. Such legislation as this Bill proposes cannot fail to undermine women's work to secure economic equality with men, and to establish yet another barrier against their entry into well-paid trades and sections of trades. While the Women's International Suffrage Alliance delegates at Geneva were by an overwhelming majority against such a restriction on women's labour, it is lamentable to record that not one Member in the House of Commons opposed it. The only Member who referred to women's point of view on this subject was Lt.-Col. Fremantle, who did not think that the future health and happiness of the country was compatible with equality in industry between the sexes! Surely women might be allowed at this time of day to look after their own health without the assistance of this grandfatherly legislation on the part of male M.P.s! If night work is bad for women, it is also bad for men, and there should be as little of it as is possible, and that only under the best conditions for both sexes. Men do not object to women working at night as nurses, actresses, doctors, or mothers with sick children, but apparently our male legislators and men Trade Unionists are quite willing that working women should be still further handicapped in their struggle for existence and prevented from entering into an open and fair competition with men in industry.

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THIS LOPSIDED WORLD!

By Lady Astor, M.P.

(A Speech delivered at the Geneva Congress)

It is a very great responsibility, as well as a very great pleasure, to represent the British House of Commons in this Congress of women. It is a responsibility, not only because Britain has great traditions of representative government, but also because in our conservative country it is rather a revolutionary thing that there should be a woman Member of Parliament, and that she should be entrusted with a mission of this kind.

It seems to me that there are many big spheres in which women are specially called upon to work.

First of all there is the fact of this lopsided world in which we find ourselves, heavily overbalanced on the man's side. In that sphere we have to work, first of all, for the political, economic and social equality of men and women, for equal opportunities and equal pay, for equal rights as parents, for equal status before the law, and so on. Many women have given devoted service in this sphere, and I feel that all of us owe a great debt of gratitude to them. It is very up-hill work, but I hope we shall get much useful help from the discussions on these subjects in this Congress.

Secondly, we must restore the balance by trying to

humanise politics,

to put into them woman's special point of view. Women are perhaps specially sensitive to the whole question of human suffering; they tend to think of legislation in terms of men, women and children rather than in terms of theories. That lays on us a special responsibility for securing better protection for children, better care for mothers, better factory conditions, better treatment for the old and the blind.

Thirdly, we have to try and dispel an enormous amount of prejudice which is still handicapping us heavily. I have been coming up against a good deal of it. I find there is a great temptation to meet it by becoming prejudiced oneself—of course, that is a hopeless way to try to get over it. We cannot expect men to drop all at once the traditions they have inherited from all the ages. We must avoid being aggressive; if they bluster it is no good blustering back. It is worse than useless if we begin looking on them as our natural enemies. We shall need a great deal of patience and understanding and self-control, but I believe we shall in time achieve that equal comradeship, which the world needs so badly.

Another great sphere in which women are plunged when they enter public life is the sphere of

moral progress.

Women, I think, realise in a peculiar way that progress is something more than bread and houses and comfort. I believe most women are born social reformers, and to me one of the chief tests of whether a politician is progressive or reactionary is his attitude to women in politics. If he really wants social and moral progress he welcomes the women's vote, because he knows it will help him to get his reforms through. If he is afraid of it, you may depend upon it, he is afraid that the moral standard is going to be screwed up uncomfortably high. That at least is the result of my own experience in fighting for temperance. I shall always be glad that I was able to make my first speech in Parliament on "Drink," because every woman knows how much sorrow and suffering drink brings into homes.

Then there is the huge problem of immorality—I do not want to underestimate the men's share in this blot—it is a heavy one. But I sometimes think women do not take their fair share of the blame. We must clean out our own back yard if we want to help to clean out man's as well. Women cannot altogether escape blame for the continuance of a double moral standard.

There are still too many mothers who do not demand the high standard from their sons which they expect from their daughters. They acquiesce in the accepted order of things. Until women as a whole expect a single morality we cannot blame the men alone.

Finally, still in the moral sphere, there is the question of education. One of the most depressing parts of my experience has been coming up against the indifference of the vast majority of people to the things that really matter. So many people seem to believe in taking the world as it is, when most of us are longing for the world as it isn't. People grow "old and weary and wise," until they become a mere drag on progress. The hope of the world lies in the

next generation

and we women have a large responsibility for their education. Do not let us teach our children, or let anyone else teach them, to be worldly wise, and to be on the look-out for material wealth; let us help them, instead, to care for the things of the mind, and of the spirit. If we really want to be practical about education, there is one thing we can all do—we can go back home and insist that teachers, men and women, are paid a living wage, and a wage which will attract the very best material in brains and character, into the profession.

Women, then, are face to face with great problems and great opportunities, and I think they have certain qualities which will help them to respond to them. My experience is that women have a good deal of moral courage, and are not afraid to face facts.

A few women who came into politics for the sake of service, and who despised personal careers and money and position, could do a great deal to improve national and international politics. Women have ideals, and they are bound, by the nature of things, to have a practical knowledge of everyday affairs; a combination of these two qualities is a pretty good contribution to make to public life.

But we must not flatter ourselves. The world will never be put right by woman as she is now, only by woman as she is going to be. No doubt we are suffering partly from failings which are common to all who have been kept in a state of submission, but we have still a great deal to learn. A good many of us have to learn to investigate facts more patiently, and to weigh them more impartially, before jumping to conclusions. Some of us have to learn to discipline ourselves, to learn to do

"team work,"

as we say in England, which means playing for the side, not for ourselves.

Most of all, we have got to put our professions of brotherhood into practice. Let us be perfectly certain, when we speak about this spirit, that we mean to live by it. Some of the people who talk most about brotherhood can't get on with their next-door neighbour. It is much harder to love somebody at home, who seems to stand for things you despise and dislike, than to love a distant comrade in a far country, but it is really more important.

Let us go away from this Congress determined that if we, as women, go into the full glare of public life, it shall be with this ideal of love and brotherhood before us and with an endeavour to live up to our professions in the small things of our daily lives as well as in the larger issues of the world.

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The Third Annual Summer School of Eugenics and Civics is to be held from Saturday, July 31st, to Saturday, August 14th, inclusive, at Herne Bay College, Kent. It will provide definite courses of instruction in subjects of vital interest and every-day concern to Social Workers, Teachers, Lecturers, Medical Students, and all others who are interested in the promotion of modern social work. The Eugenics Education Society, which is promoting this summer school as an efficient method of educating public opinion, stands for one corporate ideal—the birthright of every child to physical, mental and moral health. It affirms that it is a national responsibility that every child which comes into the world should be provided, prior to its birth, with all that is required for its development into a good and worthy citizen. The methods adopted by the Society to further its ideals include: (1) The awakening of public opinion to the vital importance of Heredity as a factor in both racial degeneracy and racial improvement. (2) Disseminating in a popular and comprehensive form a knowledge of the laws of Heredity so far as surely known. (3) Developing a vivid sense of parental responsibility, and the recognition of the family as the unit in the State. (4) Furthering eugenic teaching in schools, colleges, training colleges, workshops, etc., so that every prospective citizen may be trained to a sense of both individual and racial responsibility. (5) Encouraging marriage and parenthood among those best fitted to hand on good physical, mental and moral qualities. (6) Discouraging, for the sake of the unborn children, marriage and parenthood among the insane, the feeble-minded, and other victims of hereditary disease and defect.

The Eugenics Education Society is now concluding the twelfth year of its existence, and is affiliated to societies with similar aims in at least twenty countries. The movement is growing rapidly by various educational methods, and it is hoped to hold an International Conference of Eugenics in 1921 at New York.

Mrs. DESPARD'S BIRTHDAY PARTY.

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BOOK REVIEW.

A Mouse With Wings. By Henrietta Leslie. Collins. 6s. (Can be obtained at this office.)

Olga Graham, an ardent Fabian, and keenly interested in all progressive movements, including the burning question of women's rights, in an evil hour marries Julian Sinclair, and lives to repent her enthusiasm. He is her exact antithesis, a rank materialist, his business affairs, betting, and sport in the foreground, and a mistress lurking in the rear. He and Olga drift insensibly further from one another, their one and only link, Arnold, the dearly loved child of his mother, and his father's secret pride. This bond also weakens, however, when the doctor orders Arnold a country life; and he and his mother depart from London, leaving Julian to pursue his irregularities undisturbed. His sudden death in a shooting accident breaks the fetters which held his wife so unwillingly, and Olga faces the future only for her son's sake. His subsequent engagement to a charming young suffragist, recently released from Holloway, creates the first rift between mother and son, but develops Arnold's latent manhood in a way his mother had never been able to accomplish. Later he makes the great sacrifice in the war with Germany, and Beryl receives a letter written just before he went into action for the last time, conveying his assurance that all along it has been her attitude towards the Woman's Movement which has been his best inspiration, and caused the crowning act of self-forgetfulness which closed his career. The book contains some graphic scenes of suffrage raids and mob violence, whilst the character of Beryl Tennyson is happily conceived, a clever combination of the highest ideals comprised in the Suffrage Movement, with the imperishable coolness of the up-to-date English girl. The "Mouse" refers, of course, to the notorious Cat-and-Mouse Act enforced when the Woman's Movement was at its height, and the "wings" the ease with which Beryl managed to slip in and out of her various imprisonment ordeals.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO
BE FREE

Saturday, June 19.—Kensington Branch Outing to Hampton Court. Tea, 4 p.m., at The Maze Parlour, Hampton Court Road (100 yards west of Lion Gates). Will any old members or friends of the Kensington Branch please accept this invitation?

Wednesday, June 23.—Open-air Meeting, Hyde Park, 7 p.m. Speaker: Councillor M. Hodge. Subject: "The League of Nations."

Friday, July 2.—Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party. Council Chamber, Caxton Hall, Westminster. 7 p.m. Tickets, 1s.

Saturday, July 3.—National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 10 a.m.

Tuesday, July 13.—Public Meeting, Central Hall, Westminster, S.W. To demand (1) A Royal Commission to enquire into the conduct of those responsible for the Amritsar Massacre. (2) Votes for Indian Women. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and others. Admission free. Reserved seats 1s. 8 p.m.

Saturday, October 2.—Dance, Caxton Hall, Westminster.
Friday, November 26, and Saturday, November 27.—Green, White and Gold Fair, Caxton Hall, Westminster.

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, June 23.—Portsmouth. Garden Whist Drive, 14, Festing Grove. 3 p.m. Tickets 1s. 6d., including tea.

Tuesday, June 29.—Letchworth. Evening Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. How Martyn. Subject: "The Need for More Women in Parliament and on Local Councils."

Tuesday, June 29.—Hastings. Whist Drive, Hastings Pier. Tickets 1s. 6d. (including refreshments). M.C.s: Mr. and Mrs. Pomphrey. 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 7.—Hastings. Public Meeting, Y.M.C.A. Hall, Breeds Place. Subject: Criminal Law Amendment Bill (Bishop of London's Bill). Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. 3.30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 7.—Rye. Public Meeting at the Monastery. Mrs. Mustard will speak on the Criminal Law Amendment Bill. The chair will be taken by the Rural Dean (the Rev. A. P. Howes, M.A.). 7.30 p.m.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Sunday, June 20.—Hampshire House Club, King Street, Hammersmith. Speaker: Miss Raleigh. Subject: "Rights of Animals in Ancient and Modern Times." 11 a.m.

Wednesday, June 23.—Garden Party and Concert (in aid of Nine Elms Settlement) at Buccleugh House, Petersham Road, Richmond. Speaker: Mrs. DESPARD. Tickets (including refreshments), 1s. 6d. If wet at Ormond Lodge, Ormond Road, Richmond.

Monday, June 28.—Uxbridge Woman's Suffrage Society. Speaker: Mrs. Tanner. Subject: "The New Education Act."

Friday, July 9.—League of the Church Militant. Public Meeting, Church House, Westminster, to advocate the full equality of lay women with lay men in all the Lay Ministries of the Church. 8 p.m.

HYDE PARK MEETING.

Our Hyde Park meetings are drawing large crowds, and our speakers are listened to with close attention. Mrs. Nevinson, speaking on June 9th, said that the League of Nations was our only hope for the future. War had shown that it could not end war, but it had once again brought forth the ancient vice of greed. She dwelt on war and its aftermath—the young men killed and disabled, the "frightfulness" of air-raids and of the blockade, and the ubiquity of profiteering; England was far from being a land fit for heroes to live in. The League of Nations must be a league of peoples, not of governments, and the day of secret treaties must pass. She reminded her audience that women would be affected by the provisions of the League, as it would have power to deal with the White Slave Traffic and with women in industry. Mrs. Clarendon Hyde supported the speaker. The temper of the audience can be gauged from the remark of a man listener when questions were asked for, "You can take it you've converted the lot, missus." These meetings will be continued every Wednesday near Marble Arch at 7 o'clock.

BRANCH NOTES.

NOTTINGHAM.

A Debate was held on June 8th, by kind permission of Mrs. Simon, at 26, Zulla Road. Miss Gunston moved that: "In the opinion of this house some form of pension or endowment should be paid by the State to all mothers with children under 16 years of age, according to the number of such children." Mrs. Archer was in the chair.

The chief arguments advanced for the motion were: (a) We are living on a wage system, which, in the unskilled and unorganised classes of work especially, is insufficient to support a whole family in health; and yet the people marry on these low wages, and the children suffer want. (b) As a league believing in the justice of "Equal Pay for Equal Work," we find it necessary to support, as a corollary to it, the scheme of pensions for mothers, seeing that employers cannot possibly pay to all adult workers a wage sufficient to support a whole family. (c) The large annual cost of the scheme is small compared to what was paid in a month for carrying on the war—and would be increasingly counter-balanced by lessened expenses in other directions, such as Poor Law, hospitals, sanatoria, and charitable institutions.

Mrs. Simon opposed the motion, urging that: (a) The expense would make the scheme impracticable. (b) It is not really needed, the workers being well off. (c) It would encourage idleness, and have a bad influence on the output of men workers.

Mrs. Archer, Mrs. Ashbourne, Miss Petty and Miss Corke spoke for the motion; Mrs. Simon was ably supported by Miss Lindsay. The motion was passed with one dissident.

Hon. Sec.—Miss MARY H. GUNSTON, 13, All Saints Street.

PORTSMOUTH.

Mrs. Slatter has kindly lent her garden at 14, Festing Grove for a Whist Drive on Wednesday, June 23rd, at 3 p.m. Tickets 1s. 6d. each, including tea. Members are urged to come and bring friends as the proceeds are to be given to the Birthday Fund. All subscriptions to this fund will be gratefully acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Speck, 17, Duncan Road, Southsea. Already received—Mrs. Speck, 10s.; Mrs. Whetton, 10s.; for Tea (per Mrs. Whetton), 8s. 6d.

EDINBURGH.

On Thursday, June 3rd, the members enjoyed a very interesting paper on Edward Carpenter's Philosophy, given by Mrs. Tonkin. She brought out his profound insight into the causes of the disharmony in present day social life, his prophetic denunciation of the oppression of the weak by the strong, and especially of woman by man. Her well-chosen extracts from his writings were greatly enjoyed by all present.

Hon. Sec.—Miss G. H. JACOB, 34, Dalkeith Road.

WOMEN AT THE INTER-ALLIED HOUSING CONGRESS.

Representatives of more than thirty countries have been meeting in London to discuss Housing. The proceedings would have been more interesting had the number of women delegates been larger. As it was, the few present were almost lost in the overwhelming numbers of men. Women in all countries should hasten to make such an absurdly one-sided affair impossible in future. On Housing, as on Public Health, Education and other vital questions, women's views are as important as men's, and those countries, councils and associations who had the common sense to include women among their delegates are to be congratulated.

Naturally nearly all the speakers were men. A lady sent by the Swedish Government, and Mrs. How Martyn, sent by the Middlesex County Council, made very practical speeches in the discussion on the minimum requirements for houses for families. Mrs. How Martyn also seconded an amendment moved by the New Zealand delegate to ensure adequate playgrounds for children in all town-planning schemes. This was, unfortunately, not well worded, and was lost by 70 to 78 votes, but the need was brought before the Congress, and the Chairman, Viscount Astor, assured the audience it was implied in the resolution.

Among other places the Hampstead Garden Suburb was visited, when Mrs. Barnett, C.B.E., to whose foresight and energy the Suburb owes its existence, acted as guide. After tea at the Institute, Mrs. Barnett addressed the visitors, and made what one delegate described as the best speech of the Congress.

The Congress cannot fail to give a great impetus to good housing in all countries, and all such international gatherings smooth the path towards a successful League of Nations.

CENTRAL LONDON PARLIAMENT.

The next meeting of the above will be held Monday, June 21st, at 7 p.m., in the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, and a resolution will be moved in the "House" for the enfranchisement of women on equal terms with men.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.
Kensington Town Hall, Sunday, June 20th. Dr. Dearmer, 3.15. Subject: "Miracles." Miss Maude Royden, 6.30. Subject: "Is there any place for suffering in God's scheme?"

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