

THE VOTE,  
SEPT. 17, 1920.  
ONE PENNY.

**"TO DO RIGHT TO ALL PEOPLE."**

Mrs. M. W. NEVINSON.

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 17, 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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## OUR GATESHEAD WOMAN MAGISTRATE.

*Interview with Miss Jeanette M. Tooke, J.P.*

"I very much dislike talking about myself, but if you *insist*, and you really think the members of the Women's Freedom League will be interested in anything I have to say, I suppose I shall have to give in!"

Our representative was immensely gratified at this concession on the part of Miss Tooke, and began to ply her with questions straight away.

"I am to begin at the beginning, am I? Well then, you might be interested to know that I received the first part of my education at The Chantry, near Frome, a school mentioned by Miss Helen Mathers in her novel, 'Coming thro' the Rye,' and of which she herself was a pupil. It was an unique school in many ways—a forerunner of the future higher education women were about to receive. For instance, ours was the first girls' school in England to play cricket! The authorities, too, held very advanced ideas respecting self-government, and we girls were allowed to form our own discipline by a system of monitors. I still have the little brooch with its three C's—Chantry's Chosen Child—which was given to head girls as a reward of good conduct.

"From Frome I went to Göttingen, principally, of course, to study German, and from there to Newnham,

where I took the the undivided History Tripos, specialising in the Theory of Government.—Afterwards I taught for some years in the Sheffield High School, returning to Germany at odd intervals for various purposes of study.

"Finally I settled down to philanthropic work in Gateshead, and have been doing this now for over twenty years. That is the reason why I wear this uniform. Not because I belong to any special Church or Society, but merely because a uniform is economical in these days of high prices, and also because it is so convenient for visiting, or for rescue work, in which I am keenly interested. I gain an entrance into people's houses more easily by this means, and to me this is everything, for I am convinced that the personal contact gained by house to house visiting is the only true basis of social reform.

"Apropos of my uniform, however, I must tell you rather a funny story. I was once travelling in Rome, seated in a tram next to two Catholic nuns and a Lutheran deaconess. The

nuns sat with downcast eyes, but their lips were moving, and I caught the following conversation:—  
"First Nun: 'Sister, what is that?' (with an upward roll of the eye towards the Lutheran deaconess).



"Second Nun: 'Sister, I know not.' Pause in the conversation.

"First Nun: 'Sister, what is that?' (with another upward roll, this time in my direction).

"Second Nun: 'Sister, God only knows!'  
"You must not imagine that all my days are spent in philanthropy so-called. I have an immense amount of municipal work always on hand, and am on no end of Committees. I have been a Poor Law Guardian in Gateshead for about eight years. I am also a co-opted member of the Education Committee, where I have served for some twelve years, and I have been connected with Health Insurance work ever since it was instituted. I am a member of the Juvenile Advisory Committee which assists boys and girls to take up suitable trades, and I have a great deal of work to do in connection with the women's section of the Labour Exchanges. During the war I served upon the Gateshead Soldiers and Sailors Pensions' Committee. This was no sinecure I can assure you, as the Emergency Sub-Committee meetings frequently began at 9.30 in the morning and went on till 4 in the afternoon! I am keenly interested in the welfare of mentally defective children, and as a contrast to this rather depressing work I act as Vice-President of the Gateshead branch of the Workers' Educational Association, and have given lectures on Tyneside during the war on International Law, Political Theory, and Modern Literature. In fact, I am a sort of odd-job woman to the community! Only the other day the Chief Constable insisted on my addressing a class of young policemen on the assistance they could give women workers and how to handle women and girls' cases. I may add here that our Chief Constable is most enlightened in his views, and has always been a great stand-by in all social work attempted in the town. I put down a good deal of my success to the fact that North Country men are much more progressive in their ideas, and consequently easier to work with, and although I have appeared before the public as an independent and feminist candidate, I have met with success.

"However this may be, I have always set my face resolutely against anything in the nature of sex antagonism in my public work, and, of course, in private too. To me this sort of thing is too utterly silly for words, and prevents world progress. Women need to realise more than they do that it is just as difficult for them to understand men's point of view as it is for men to understand the point of view of women. The stand I always take is the family as a unit, and of this family both men and women form component parts.

"There are times, of course, when men need to be roused, and I am by no means averse to doing it when necessary, but in my public work my best supporters have always been men. Nothing can exceed the cordial goodwill with which they have greeted my latest achievement—election to the magistrates' bench. I expect you know I was chosen unanimously by the Magistrates' Selection Committee; the Member for Gateshead, Brigadier-General Surtees, gave me every assistance he could as he told me he considered me a very suitable candidate; and one of the leading solicitors of the town sent to say he much hoped before long he would soon have the pleasure of pleading before me!

"In fact I was quite overwhelmed, and began to believe there really must be something after all in the admiring tribute once paid me by a dear old woman who used to attend my Bible Class: 'Eh hinny, what a grand funeral ye'll have!'

"I also gave evidence before the Royal Divorce Commission as to the working of the present Separation Acts—showing how hardly conditions pressed on working women—and urging that wife desertion should be made a felony.

"As a member of the Women's Freedom League, I suppose it is hardly necessary for me to say that I have always insisted on the necessity of equal pay for equal work, and that marriage should be no bar to a woman's employment. On the Education Committee I have always urged that the payment for male and female bursars should be the same."

## WOMEN CIVIL SERVANTS AT ILFORD.

Equality for women and men is truly a live question at last. Over a thousand people collected in Ilford Town Hall on Thursday, September 9th, at the invitation of the Federation of Women Civil Servants to hear all three Candidates for the bye-election and to question them on the subject of the relation of men and women wage-earners. The meeting was packed to the doors, and at the close of each speech a perfect fusillade of questions was hurled at each Candidate. In fact Miss D. Elizabeth Evans, in the chair, had her work cut out to keep the meeting in hand and to cope with the questioners. All went well, however, and the interest in this question never flagged for two hours or more.

Mr. Thomson, the Independent Liberal, led off, and made a brief but complete exposition of the principle of equality of pay and opportunity, pledging himself to uphold it. He was severely heckled as to the past record of Mr. Asquith and his Party, which he parried adroitly, and most creditably stuck to his adherence to equality through a thorough cross-examination on the position of married men and ex-soldiers. He pledged himself readily to speak against the Orders in Council which gave power to the Commissioners to restrict women's opportunity in the Civil Service.

Mr. Wise, the Coalition-Unionist Candidate, revealed in his short address a very complete ignorance of the issue, and under his questioners he evinced a desire, though no particular skill, to hedge on any definite points.

Mr. Joseph King (Labour), whose championship of women in the past earned him a very hearty reception, made an able speech, and acquitted himself well throughout the heckling. He was anxious to carry out his pledges to support equality of pay and opportunity in the House if he should be successful.

Stirring speeches were given by Miss O. King and Miss D. Smyth, who made a clear exposition of the Federation's attitude, especially to the questions of married men and ex-soldiers. They completely carried that great audience with them.

The meeting was a practical demonstration of the new importance of women's concerns now they are electors, and of this power we shall have to take full advantage.

## VENEREAL DISEASES.

### Need for Watchfulness.

Huddersfield Board of Guardians carried, on September 6th, the reactionary resolution that "Boards of Guardians should have power to detain any person coming into their institutions suffering from venereal diseases, and that copies of the motion should be forwarded to other Boards and to the Minister of Health."

This is one of the points on which legislation was proposed a few years ago, and strongly opposed by the Women's Freedom League as being certain to operate unfairly as between women and men and as between the poor and those better off, and also tending to deter sick persons from seeking infirmary treatment, and so increasing the spread of infection. The proposer urged that the measure "would be to the advantage of females who entered their institutions for treatment, to be kept there until they were free from disease," proving the truth of our contention that this measure which seems so plausible is really an embryo C.D. measure, and its beneficent advantages are not to be bestowed upon the thousands of infectious male patients who also crowd our infirmaries and are centres of infection outside their walls. At Swansea, on September 7th, an unsuccessful attempt was made at the Swansea Port Sanitary Authority to get support for a resolution of the Tees Port Sanitary Authority calling for Government provision for compulsory notification and treatment of venereal diseases. The medical officers opposed the suggestion as being impractical, and driving the disease underground.

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

### American Progress.

President Wilson has appointed Miss Mabel Boardman, for many years the organising head of the American Red Cross, to one of the most important posts at his disposal—Commissioner of the District of Columbia. This is the first appointment of a woman to such a high position. There is also talk of the possibility of a woman in the next Cabinet, and women members of Congress will probably be elected; five women propose to stand for the House of Representatives and two for the Senate. Both the political parties have placed women in high positions in their organisations.

### Woman Ambassadors.

We understand that Lady Astor, M.P., and Mrs. Maude Nathan, an American woman, have recently met in London and agreed to use their influence to get women Attachés appointed at their respective Embassies.

We heartily agree, and have always urged that women should have a much larger place in international affairs, and should be appointed to the higher positions in the Diplomatic Service. We should like to suggest that Mrs. Chapman Catt, who has shown such a wonderful gift of statesmanship, would be a most suitable person to represent America as Ambassador at 4, Grosvenor Gardens.

### Turkish Women Leave the Home.

We read in a contemporary that owing to "after-war" conditions Turkish gentlemen are being obliged to reduce their harems, as a consequence of which many women are being thrown upon the labour market. This has necessitated the abandonment of the veil, upon which we congratulate the Turkish women, as well as upon the ready way they have been able to adapt themselves to new conditions, and the many useful occupations for which they have been found capable, in spite of their lack of training; many of them being now saleswomen in Constantinople, street sweepers, telephone operators, cashiers, janitors, and tram conductors.

### More Women Magistrates.

The first woman magistrate for Cardigan, Mrs. Evans, the wife of the Mayor, has served four terms as Mayoress since 1907, and has worked for her townspeople on most of the local committees. Mrs. Morris, already a magistrate for the county of Stafford, has now been appointed also to the Commission of the Peace for Stoke-on-Trent. Mrs. Beardmore has received a similar honour, and Miss Farmer has been appointed magistrate for the neighbouring town of Longton. All three ladies are members of the Stoke Board of Guardians. Portsmouth's first woman magistrate, Miss Elisabeth Kelly, has been appointed.

### Not Fewer but More!

The Eastbourne Town Council will consider the advisability of dispensing with the services of women policemen! Just now, of all times, when the violent and miserable death of a poor little girl on the beach of this very town is still under investigation, seems a singularly unsuitable opportunity for dispensing with the most useful protection for girls and women against crimes of violence, assault and murder. We hope the suggestion will bring a local counter demand and result in the appointment of a strong force of policewomen in each of our holiday towns, where the dangers to giddy and thoughtless and foolish young people are so serious.

### The Limit!

A woman recently left a bequest in trust to the French Academy to provide an annual literary prize, for which no woman writer should be eligible. The members have now decided that such a condition is so repugnant to the spirit of the twentieth century that they must decline to administer the trust. We congratulate the Academy, and hope we shall soon see them themselves electing eminent women members to fill vacant places as they occur in their ranks.

### French Women Students.

French women have been beating men candidates at most of the public examinations this year. The nine successful candidates out of thirty who took the entrance examination at the Paris University were all girls.

### Women Freemasons?

The Grand Lodge of France has decided by a majority to admit women to Freemasonry, and the matter will come up at the next world's Congress of Freemasons. There are already several women's masonic lodges in London, and others all over the world, but though they were admitted to co-Freemasonry in 1902, they are not yet entitled to the full privileges of the Order.

### Holding the Fort at High Wycomb.

Sixteen "Barracks" houses at High Wycomb, which have been empty since the Armistice, and which Mr. Winston Churchill promised some time ago in reply to a question in the House, should be released for the benefit of ex-Service men, have been taken possession of by a number of ex-soldiers, their wives and families.

The police informed the new occupants that they would have to vacate the premises, but they have received a unanimous refusal. The women are extremely determined, and are guarding their premises while the husbands are away at work, having been rendered desperate by their discomfort and the unhealthy conditions under which they and their children have had to exist.

### The Modern Mother.

Two women were charged, on September 8th, at Highgate, with breaking and entering a house at East Finchley. One of the prisoners took her baby with her and tucked it up comfortably on a bed while she ransacked the premises.

## AMATEURS FOR IRELAND!

In relation to the items of news chronicled last week, that a number of members of the Women's Police Service had been engaged and despatched for service in Ireland, our attention has been called to the very peculiar position in which this places Sir Neville Macready.

It will be remembered that, when instructed as Chief Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police to enrol women for service with the police in London, Sir Neville refused to acknowledge in any way the training and service of this particular corps; he stated in an interview with a representative of the *Star* that he "did not believe in amateurs," and would train his own women, but that the members of the W.P.S. would not be debarred from enrolling for this "training"! The extraordinary intolerance of this attitude was lost sight of at that time in the outbreak of congratulation that women's services as police should be utilised at all. The fact that Sir Nevill himself, fresh from the Army Council, was far more of an amateur than women with four and a half year's training in the dangerous and responsible duties of policing the munition areas (as sworn-in constables with the fullest powers) was never pointed out to him.

In the peace and security of London, Sir Nevill boasted that he would train his own women. Removed now to a very different atmosphere, an atmosphere of open and secret warfare, of riot, assassination and ceaseless danger, Sir Nevill sends, not for the women he trained himself, but for those others he condemned and turned down as amateurs.

Will anyone ask for an apology from this egregiously administrator, and insist that when the trouble is over he shall use his influence with the Home Office to secure the incorporation of the Women's Police Service with the permanent police forces, all officers to be chosen from among them, and their present chief appointed to the position of Assistant Commissioner?

C. N. B.

## THE VOTE.

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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.

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## THE CASE OF MAUD JEFFERY.

On September 8th, at the Old Bailey, Maud Elizabeth Jeffery, aged 24, was sentenced to death for the murder of her thirteen-months-old baby. This girl lived with a man named Duffy. They had a boy of four years old and this delicate baby. The girl herself declares that she was unaware that the man was married, and she seems to have been in the position of those irregular "wives" whom the War Office decreed to be entitled to draw separation allowances.

On August 24th the regular Mrs. Duffy made a very violent descent upon the home, scratched the girl's face, tore out her hair, and promised to smash up the furniture unless the landlady turned the girl out. Maud Jeffery then went to the house of a brother-in-law for the night. The boy slept upstairs; the mother and baby camped out in the sitting-room. In the morning the gas-jets were found turned on, the mother was unconscious and the baby dead.

The jury gave a verdict of guilty with a strong recommendation to mercy, in which Mr. Justice Greer concurred.

This girl, driven to desperation and under the stress of extreme mental torture, tried to end her troubles and to save her baby from a cruel world. In the strain of her position, terrified and discouraged, she was in no condition to weigh her actions justly. She failed to kill herself, and now, after being nursed back to health, lies in prison with the cruel death sentence hanging over her. We hope that she has been told before this that the execution will not be carried out, but equally inappropriate would be a long term of imprisonment. She was described on all hands as quiet, sober, clean and industrious, devoted to her children and to their father. If she had succeeded in her attempt at suicide, a coroner's jury would have passed a verdict of "temporary insanity"; she ought not, therefore, to be held accountable for the partial failure of her attempt, but should be, for a time, not in prison but cared for with kindness and consideration, and helped to face the world again. The child's father was said to have treated Maud Jeffery "honourably"—that is he supplied her with money for the family; but there is much more that we should want to know before acquitting him of blame, and we must reiterate the demand in the words of our Conference Resolution, that in all these cases involving infants "the father, if known, as well as the mother, should appear in court and be held equally responsible for the care of their child." The lives of many babies will be thereby saved. When it is possible for these poor girls to be advised and defended by women solicitors and women barristers we shall have heard the last of this cruel farce of the death sentence which is never intended to be carried out. Meanwhile a strong local movement is on foot for Maud Jeffery's reprieve, a petition is being organised in the Press, and the Women's Freedom League has sent a letter to the Home Office.

## OUR CRIME.

As we go to Press the twelve hunger-strikers still live. They lie now unable to speak, unable to move, often unconscious, with recurring periods of collapse; their grey, drawn faces shrivel more each day, their skin is atrophying, either continual racking pain or the exhaustion that is almost worse than pain oppresses them. They have nothing left but faith and sacrifice.

This is the way the Government for which we are responsible fights its opponents in this land of sportsmen. Eleven of these men have never even been brought to trial, the twelfth was sentenced by court-martial not to death but to two years' imprisonment. Yet the Government has determined that they shall all die "as an example to others," because they persist in carrying out their political views. Reckless and obstinate with the brutality of the weak, our Government has lost all sense of proportion and of reality. The death of these twelve men will raise up a myriad waverers to take their place, and our difficulties in Ireland will be increased a thousandfold.

A Government which is blinded by prejudice and which cannot look facts in the face is the greatest danger to ourselves and to our Empire. This is not a Party question, and it is independent of the particular opinions of the prisoners. In all Parties and in most of the civilised countries of the world the action of the Government is condemned. All classes of the community have petitioned for humanity to these our fellow citizens, but officialdom is entrenched in stupidity, and rushing headlong to its doom.

## A LITTLE IMPROVEMENT.

Manchester is leading the way in its criminal trials with the juries of six men and six women which have always been our ideal; sometimes the foreman is a woman, sometimes a man, which is as it should be. Before one of these equal juries on September 9th came a case of malicious wounding. The victim demonstrated in detail with the blood-stained razor just how his throat was cut, and at this horrid sight one of the jurywomen collapsed. Another woman was empanelled, the trial began again, and the prisoner was found guilty. In the bad old days before women had the vote this little incident would have brought down scorn and a burst of "I told you so's" upon our heads, but it is interesting to notice that at this stage only one leading daily thought it necessary to take up the question of the suitability of women to serve on juries in connection with it and to produce evidence that the liability to faint at a grisly spectacle was not a sex perquisite, but a matter of constitution affecting alike a few individual men and women. Slowly but surely public opinion is veering round to the sane view of equal value of women and men in the service of the community.

## LITERATURE DEPARTMENT. (Women's Freedom League).

### NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Three Attractive Pamphlets on Subjects of Particular Interest to Women.

**Women and Income Tax.** By Mrs. Ayres Purdie (Certified Accountant). 3d.

The only Pamphlet published on this subject.

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### PRESS CUTTING.

"There should be an enormous demand for the charming little 'cameo life sketch' of the late Dr. Elsie Inglis, written by Dr. Aimée Gibbs, and published at the modest price of fourpence by the Women's Freedom League. Dr. Inglis' magnificent war service should be held in everlasting remembrance by all British women. Her singularly loving and inspiring personality will ever be remembered by those who had the privilege of her friendship."  
"National News."

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## THE SUMMER SCHOOL OF SUFFRAGISTS.

The second Summer School organised by the N.U.S.E.C. is now over, and it is possible to "take stock" of the work done. In the first place, the School has been an unqualified success, both with regard to the number of students attending, the high quality of the lectures, and the general interest aroused. Most of the evening lectures took the form of public meetings, and at all of these there was a large number of the public present, as well as the members attending the School.

The programme afforded evidence as to the directions in which women are most keenly interested. The first week was mainly devoted to the study of those questions which must be dealt with if peace is ever to be attained, either in the field of international politics or of industry. Thus the economic problems connected with women workers, the "equal pay for equal work" formula, and the resolutions of the Washington Labour Conference, under the League of Nations were considered. In both cases the feeling of lecturers and audience was unmistakably for absolute equality, an occupational rate as recommended by Mrs. Sidney Webb in the Minority Report of the War Cabinet Committee on Women in Industry, i.e., a standard rate equal for men and women. In the case of the Washington resolutions it was clear the School had no desire for restrictions on women's work, such as the prohibition of night shifts, if these would result in penalisation of women workers. Women have had enough of "protective legislation," and the dangers of the Government Bill for the Employment of Women and Young Persons were fully recognised, while the really valuable resolutions regarding the employment of women before and after childbirth and the provision for maintenance during this period were not overlooked.

The lectures on the Theory of Population, in connection with a course on the Economic Independence of Women, dealt with one of the most serious questions of the present day. The National Birthrate Commission has recognised that the birthrate falls as the income and the standard of family living rises. This was rightly termed by the lecturer one of the most tremendous facts confronting us at present. It is hard to say at once to what lengths we might be carried if the issues involved were fully worked out, but the lecturer refrained from comment, and simply placed the position of the population question before the students.

Mrs. McKillip gave a most interesting course of lectures on Economics of Domestic Life, in which the questions of high prices, food supplies, and methods of labour saving were all dealt with.

The League of Nations formed the subject of a series of lectures throughout the whole course, one lecture on the Economic Breakdown in Europe by Sir George Paish attracting special interest.

It will thus be seen that enfranchised women are approaching their duties as citizens in no spirit of antagonism to men. There are questions which must be faced. There has been much talk of rendering the world fit for heroes to dwell in, but it has first to be made one in which men and women can live and work together. Women recognise that knowledge as well as enthusiasm is needed if they are to give a full measure of help, and hence such gatherings as the Summer School. Here different societies from Great Britain were represented, such as the Women's Freedom League, which has stood shoulder to shoulder with the then National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies in the long fight for enfranchisement, and societies from Scotland and from Ireland. Women had also come from Sweden, France, Japan, Australia, and Canada. Young people were there in numbers, eager to rise to the height of their opportunity, and determined that the mysterious limit "over thirty" should be soon abolished. Men were there, including one from Holland, as well as many from Oxford itself, to show they also realised the new spirit of comradeship. That is indeed the spirit of the woman's movement as it stands to-day. Women are learning to be comrades, to study together, to work together for the common good.

The recreation side must not pass unnoticed. Excursions were arranged by the Recreations Committee, appointed by the students, an evening's social was provided, and a model election held, with speeches by the candidates and much heckling by the audience.

The work now devolving on municipal bodies is so immense that women's organisations, especially in more distant centres, sometimes show a tendency to concentrate on this, somewhat to the neglect of the wider national and international issues which are fundamental. For this reason it is especially good to have such opportunities provided as the Summer School, where workers from far and near—even from Ireland!—can meet and "encourage each other" as was done in those ancient days when a nation, after a long agony of war, had likewise to face the task of reconstruction. It is, after all, this mutual encouragement which is the great outstanding feature of the School. We need it sorely, if we are to hold steadily to our work.

DORA MELLONE.

## "TO DO RIGHT TO ALL PEOPLE."

On September 14th, at the Clerkenwell Sessions House, before Sir Robert Wallas, Chairman of the Court, two new magistrates, Mrs. M. W. Nevinson, L.L.A., and Dr. Janet E. Lane-Clayton, were sworn in, and took the oath of allegiance to "the King and his Heirs," and promised "to do right to all people according to the laws and ordinances of the realm, without fear or favour, affection or ill-will." A very beautiful oath with the rhythm and music of Elizabethan English, but very difficult. "To do right to all people" is not easy, "according to the best of our ability and judgment" was taken for granted, no hesitations or qualifications in those dogmatic old days.

An unexpected and unaccustomed courtesy and a warm welcome was extended to us both by judge and officials. The ancient chivalry of "ladies first" prevailed, and the two women were sworn in first, a bass chorus of male magistrates taking the oath later.

The Court was stuffy and asphyxiating after the bright sunshine outside, as is the custom where men assemble to administer justice and make laws, and at least one new magistrate was seized with sick qualms at the thought of hearing evidence and doing justice in such an atmosphere. Swooning has long been a lost art, and certainly ought not to be revived by women magistrates or even women jurors, but let us hope, with tact and perseverance, a little light, air and clean linen may be allowed in these Calcutta holes to aid clear thinking and to help us in our difficult task of trying to administer justice and maintain truth. Members of the Women's Freedom League were present in the Court.  
M. W. NEVINSON.

On September 6th the sixteen new magistrates, including Miss J. M. Tooke and her three women colleagues, Mrs. Wicks, Miss Temperley, M.A., and Mrs. Allen, took the oath and their seats at the Gateshead Police Court. The Mayor presided, two of the ladies being neatly arranged on either side.

The new members were warmly welcomed by the Mayor. The innovation of appointing women magistrates was quite in accord with the spirit of the times. For some time past in Gateshead women had served with great acceptability on the Education Committee and the Board of Guardians. We had a woman M.P. making the laws of the realm, and women who, before many years, would be practising in our courts; we also had women police in many places enforcing the keeping of the laws; therefore it was only right and natural to have women on the Magistrates' Bench to administer the laws. He was quite sure that they would do very good work indeed when women and children were brought before them.

The gracious custom was observed of discharging the first prisoner to be brought before the new magistrates, a first offender ex-soldier of 63, charged with drunkenness, who promised never to return unless fetched.

## WOMEN AFTER THE WAR.

Writing in the *Daily News* last week, Sir Leo Chiozza Money pointed out that, since many of our finest young men had been killed in the late war and many more had been reduced to total or partial incapacity, an independent career had been thrust upon a further great army of girls in a country which already contained a majority of women. During the war, too, the nation had deliberately created a new army of women workers to take the place of the men at the front, but at the end of the war these women were turned adrift by the Government and ruthlessly flung upon their own resources. Sir Leo further stated that there was not even mercy or consideration for the girls and women who had done some of the most dangerous work of the war—the workers who were poisoned with T.N.T. and picric acid were turned off with the same indifference as to their future welfare as the Government showed when sacking the female clerks in its own offices in order to make room for ex-Service men. All this, of course, is no news to readers of *THE VOTE*, but we hope that Sir Leo will censure not only the Government for its outrageous treatment of women workers, but the members of his own political party who forced the Government to pass its Pre-War Practices (Restoration) Act, and are now doing their best to impose restrictions upon women's labour, through the Women, Young Persons and Children (Employment) Bill, which no body of men workers would tolerate in regard to themselves. Between the Government and the Labour Party women's economic position becomes daily more insecure. In view of the great impending strike, whether the blame for it will lie at the door of the Government or of the great industrial unions, it is certain that the wives of the workers will be the greater sufferers, both on their own account and on account of their children. Other women will realise, too, that if a husband refuses to work, either on principle, through laziness, or for any other reason, his wife and children have but little legal redress. There has not been much improvement in the position of the married woman since the war. By law she is still the chattel of her husband; the divorce laws are unequally in favour of men; she cannot claim to be the recognised parent of her own child, and has not yet secured equal rights of guardianship with her husband. Now that the war is over, women of all classes should carefully review their position. Only by determined, persistent and organised effort can they reach the goal of the Women's Freedom League—absolute equality with men in the rights of the family, in industry, in the Civil Service, in the professions, and in the world of politics. That goal may be in sight, but it is certainly not yet within reach.

## MALE IMPERTINENCES.

Clergymen and male physicians have frequently singled out women for adverse criticism. Last week a curate at Scarborough passed several strictures upon the modern girl, who, he stated, "sat on the edge of the table, crossed her legs, smoked a cigarette, and addressed her father as some kind of vegetable." It is not recorded that this censorious gentleman had anything to say about the modern boy. He might be as much worth this curate's attention as his sister! But now a pamphleteer, signing himself "The Widowed Physician," gives us in "What to Tell Our Grown-up Sons," a list of the things he dislikes in girls, and warns young men against marrying girls who manicure their nails in a certain way, who wear special colours, who have unusual types of head and hair, and some other eccentricities. We should hardly have thought there was a call for such a pamphlet, or that young men needed special safeguards in this matter; but possibly the Silly Season is accountable for it. We cannot help wondering, however, what kind of company these male critics of women keep which makes them responsible for expressing such impertinences in connection with women.

## BOOK REVIEWS.

*A Dull Day in London.* By Dora Sigerson. (Eveleigh Nash.) 4s. 6d. (To be obtained at this office.)

This is a quaint book of stories, gaily tragic and tragically gay! In an interesting introductory note Thomas Hardy "wonders what might have eventuated if the writer had done more than given us a collection of short stories." But therein lies their charm to our mind. So fragile and dainty are they that one thinks of the Thistle-down so graphically described in "Waste." All animal lovers will revel in the "Dull Day in London" and recognise the airs and graces of the dogs and cats and birds. So many times one has thought these things, it is a delight to see them put into words.

And "Sunshine in Rain"—how deliciously true is the description of the bus full of shivery wet people, all dull and disagreeable till a cheerful little lady steps in, and all seems sunshine, because of her merry smile.

Each story has its moral, but so original is the setting that we read and read on, finding each more charming than the last. One feels the writer must have drunk deep of the sorrows of life as well as of its philosophy. All nature was full of life to her, and the "little furry things" were indeed her brothers.

In the "One Left Behind" there lies the tragedy of many a woman's life; there is no attempt at laboured explanation. A few almost crude sentences strung together of the meeting of three one-time school friends—two of them prosperous and well married, tell the third one—the ugly duckling—of their life since they last met, and she, poor thing, lies to them that they may not know of her lonely life and heart hunger, and infers that the children to whom she is governess are her own. And so the little pen pictures run on, each more fascinating than the last.

*Women Workers in the Orient.* By Margaret E. Burton. 2s. 6d. United Council for Missionary Education. (To be obtained at this office.)

Miss Burton is to be congratulated on her admirable book, and the Council for their foresight in bringing out a British edition. It contains much valuable information on the industrial, educational and medical work of the Orient and the marvellous change in ideals that is taking place in every nation in the Near East. The terribly tragic industrial conditions, especially in Japan, are to some extent compensated by the eagerness with which educational opportunities are seized by young and old. In Japan there are 30,000 young women teachers, and in China only two women's colleges exist. The former in all matters educational are going rapidly ahead. Red Cross work in both these countries, too, was eagerly sought after during the war, and the loyalty of Indian women has never been more convincingly expressed and demonstrated than in their work for the St. John's Ambulance Association. In all the great cities, Hindu, Mohammedan, Parsee and Christian, women worked together to send comfort bags, clothing, bandages, food supplies and money to the front.

All through the book it is the same story everywhere—India, China, Persia, Japan—the awakening of women and the breaking of the barriers of their subjection, which has for too long meant the stultification of the race; and the educated women of the Orient are making strenuous efforts to lessen the illiteracy of the masses. One of the leading spirits in Turkey to-day, Mdme. Woiye, declares "as the veil is a badge of inferiority and slavery, so polygamy is a moral monstrosity, and both in Persia and Turkey the women say 'the veil must go'—and go soon!"

A special plea is put forward "that our hearts and homes may be opened to the Oriental women who come here with their husbands, and the girl students who are coming in increasing numbers to our colleges and medical schools. All who value the Suffrage should read this book, that they may see how much there is to be done for Women's Suffrage the whole world over. Indeed one feels we have only "just begun." T. D.

## Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C. 1.

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General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, September 24.—Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Reception to members of N.E.C. 7 p.m. For fuller particulars see special note.

Saturday, September 25.—144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. National Executive Committee. 10 a.m.

Saturday, October 2.—Dance, Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Wednesday, October 6.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Miss Vida Goldstein. Subject: "Election Experiences in Australia." 3 p.m.

Wednesday, October 13.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. 3 p.m. Speaker will be announced later.

Wednesday, October 20.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. M. W. Nevinson, L.L.A., J.P. Subject: "The League of Nations."

Wednesday, October 27.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Miss Lind-af-Hageby. 3 p.m.

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

PROVINCES.

Saturday, September 18.—Middlesbrough. Garden Party at "Agecroft," Linthorpe. 3 p.m. Mock Election, music, palmistry, refreshments. Speaker: Miss Morton, of the London Proportional Representation Society. Tickets 1s. 3d. each.

Monday, October 4.—Westcliff-on-Sea. Social. Details to be announced later.

Monday, October 11.—Westcliff-on-Sea. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood.

Saturday, October 16.—Newtown, Montgomery Boroughs. Gigantic Jumble Sale. Proceeds towards Branch and Headquarters Fund. Congregational Schoolroom. 2 p.m.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Thursday, September 23.—Conservative and Unionist Women's Association, Muswell Hill, N. 10. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard, on "The Legal Disabilities of Married Women." At 3 p.m.

Wednesday, October 6.—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 Kirby. 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."

## THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT,

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

We are getting busy again, after the holiday, but, as usual, are very much in need of a great many things. Children are coming into the Guest House, and both our clothing and socks are wearing out. We should be especially grateful for boys' jerseys—boys are such destructive creatures! Mrs. Delbanco is kindly knitting a new one, but we should be very grateful for some old ones as well. We would still be grateful for a helper. We have to thank Miss Moody for flowers and a hammock; Mrs. Harrison, a doll and doll's clothes and clothing; Miss Foley, blackberries; Mrs. Stutchbury, apples and blackberries, a cradle and pieces of carpet (we should be very grateful for more blackberries or other fruit if country friends would pick and send them); Miss Isobel Harvey, a bag of vegetables; Mrs. Harvey (of Hartfield), a parcel of children's clothes; Miss K. Holmes, £1; Miss Riggall, 2s.; Mrs. Jacobson, £1 1s. Mrs. Despard has kindly given us linoleum for the hall. We now need a front door mat.

## CONGRATULATIONS.

Members of the W.F.L. and friends of Mr. and Mrs. Padfield (née Miss P. le Croissette) will be delighted to hear of the birth of a little daughter on the 11th inst., at 2, Cedar Villas, Bath. Welcome to the little new member!

## BRANCH NOTES.

### HASTINGS.

The Whist Drive held at the Oriental Café last week was a brilliant success. Mrs. Barton was unable to give the prizes owing to the indisposition of her little son. Her place was taken by Mrs. Rymill. Special thanks are due to those members who so energetically worked to make the Drive a success. Madame Osterveen, Mr. and Mrs. Pompey and Mr. Coma deserve special mention. A profit of £2 6s. was made, which goes towards clearing a debt of over £3 on the 1919 account. Another Whist Drive will be held in November, when we hope that the branch will stand free of debt.

A branch meeting will be held at the end of this month. (Mrs. Strickland is away, otherwise it would have been held earlier.) It is to be hoped that as many members as possible will attend. We want to plan our winter campaign.

### THE WOMEN'S CLUB, ASHFORD.

The next Meeting will be held at the Adult School, South Ashford, at the end of the month. On Wednesday, October 13th, a meeting will be held at the Guild Room at 2.30 p.m. Councillor Annie Lile (Hastings' only woman councillor) will speak on "Women and Municipal Work."

MAUD L. WHITE, 8, Holmesdale Gardens, Hastings.

### RECEPTION TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

All members are urgently requested to attend the Reception to be held at the Minerva Café on Friday, September 24th, at 7 p.m. Mrs. Mustard is to be in the chair, and short speeches will be delivered by members of the N.E.C. on the coming winter's work. Light refreshments will be provided at popular prices.

### NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Most of the social organisations of the city have joined in arranging a conference on public morals to take place on October 26th—28th. The Lord Mayor will preside, and Dr. T. C. Fry, Dean of Lincoln, will give an address. The object of the conference is to urge the public to deep and serious consideration of the grave problems touching the morality of our country and in particular how they affect Newcastle. The subjects discussed will include prostitution, preventive measures, the unmarried mother and her child, immorality, education, housing and overcrowding, literature and newspapers, the use of leisure, rescue work and social purity. Under the auspices of the Northumberland County Council a campaign for Northumberland will shortly be opened by the National Council for the Combating of Venereal Diseases. Lectures will be given on Tyneside and in the mining villages along the coast.

## OUR OPEN COLUMN.

Dear Madam,—I noticed in *THE VOTE* for August 20th that the reply to a question as to the lodging and comfort of nurses gave the answer: "That State grants paid were paid only in respect of the treatment of specified diseases." What diseases? Women's money meets these grants equally with men's, and women must see that it goes to the fair and proper treatment of nurses tending the sick, and to the prevention of the causes of sickness rather than to the continual treatment of a great deal of unnecessary illness. We know only too well what is at the bottom of it all, to what is traceable the larger part of disability, and the early senility of the population. Will they name the specified diseases, or are we to conclude they are the V.D.'s? It is only too likely, with the cost increasing every year as it does.—Yours faithfully,

MARY C. D. WALTERS, A.R.S.N.I.

16a, Park Road, West Dulwich, S.E. 21.

September 13th, 1920.

## DANCE

The coming Dance at Caxton Hall, on Saturday, October 2nd, has been advertised for so long that we anticipate an overwhelming demand for tickets and would advise members to apply as soon as possible.

Although prizes will be given for the best Fancy Dresses, members and friends are not obliged to appear in costume.

Refreshments will be provided by the Minerva Café.

Tickets (including refreshments) will be 4/- and can be obtained from:—

Miss LILIAN PIEROTTI,

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

Send for Tickets NOW.

FRIDAY,  
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# THE VOTE

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**F**ELLOWSHIP SERVICES,  
Kensington Town Hall, Sunday,  
September 19th, Dr. Percy Dearmer, 3.15  
p.m., Miss Maude Royden, 6.30 p.m.,  
Subject: "The Feeling Behind the Strike."

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