

THE VOTE,
MAY 9, 1919.
ONE PENNY.

WHAT WE THINK OF THE BUDGET!

ETHEL AYRES PURDIE.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. XVIII. No. 498. (Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper and transmissible through the post in the United Kingdom at the newspaper rate of postage, but to Canada and Newfoundland at the Magazine rate.)

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 1919.

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

WHAT WE EXPECT OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

"It will be the duty of the New Government to remove all existing inequalities of the law as between men and women."

NO SHIRKING !

ELECTION MANIFESTO signed by
MR. LLOYD GEORGE, Prime Minister. **MR. BONAR LAW**, Chancellor of the Exchequer

NOW ACT

and remove one "of the existing inequalities of the law as between men and women"

BY OPENING THE WAY FOR WOMEN TO ENTER THE LEGAL PROFESSION

This meeting calls upon the Government to give facilities for the passage through the House of Commons of the Barristers and Solicitors (Qualification of Women) Bill, which has already successfully passed through the House of Lords, so that it may become law at the earliest possible date.

This meeting further asks that the Prime Minister, or Leader of the House of Commons, receive a deputation of women on this subject.

The above resolution was passed unanimously at the meeting at the Central Hall, Westminster, last Monday evening, May 5.

From the chair, Councillor EDITH HOW-MARTYN, A.R.C.S., B.Sc., stated that the following women's societies were co-operating with the Women's Freedom League in the meeting:—The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, the Independent Women's Social and Political Union, the Fabian Women's Group, and the Women's International League.

A note was read from Miss Chrystal Macmillan greatly regretting that she was unable to take part in the meeting, and a message was received from Mr. Donald Macmaster, K.C., M.P., regretting that he was obliged to go out of town and could not be present. Both, however, sent good wishes for the object of the meeting. A very kind note was also received from Mrs. Fawcett, wishing the cause every success.

Mrs. How Martyn explained that men and women had met together that evening to claim a further extension of women's right to enter whatever profes-

sion or occupation they wished. The legal profession was a key profession, and if opened to women it was quite certain to lead to women sitting on the magisterial bench, to women becoming judges, and to women sitting on juries. Women were out to secure full equality of opportunities and awards with men; it was essential that they should get inside the machinery of administration in this country, and the opening of the legal profession to women was one of the straightest paths to their goal.

In proposing the resolution Mr. HOLFORD KNIGHT (Barrister-at-law) insisted that those present were assembled not as those who had no hope; their object was not to express some vague idea to be incorporated into a Bill, but to ask the Government to provide facilities for the further stages of a Bill which had already passed through its stages in the House of Lords. Lord Buckmaster had expressed his great pleasure that this particular meeting was being held, and had said that he welcomed every assistance which would render effective any efforts he had made in this cause. Mr. Knight pointed out that opposition to women entering the legal profession was breaking down on all sides. Who would have thought five years ago that such a Bill would have passed successfully through the House of Lords. In 1913 Mr. Knight had moved a resolution at the annual meeting of the Bar that this branch of the profession should be open to women. That resolution was heavily defeated. In 1917 he had again renewed his appeal to the Bar, without success; but now people were entitled to expect that the Bar would cease its opposition. The present Lord Chancellor had once been a strenuous opponent, but he had changed his views on this matter. In Mr. Knight's opinion, women were now within reach of success in gaining an entry to the legal profession.

MISS FROUD (National Federation of Women Teachers) said that she had recently been paying visits to the Law Courts to try to get hold of the spirit of the law, but devoutly hoped that that spirit would not get hold of the women of the future—it was too deadening in its effect. Women had fought for the parliamentary vote in order to be able to choose the men who made the laws; they had also secured the right to send women to Parliament to make the laws; why then should women be prohibited from interpreting the laws? The nation needed women's practical legal mind plus women's common sense in the making, the wording, and in the interpretation of its laws. Miss Froud asked for the opening of every profession and every occupation to women on equal terms with men.

MR. WM. LUNN, M.P., said that this was the first public meeting at which he had spoken in London, and was pleased that its object was for further freedom for women. He was not convinced that the Government really wanted to give facilities for this Bill. The Government seemed anxious not to make progress, and women must bring some great pressure to bear upon it if they wanted to get facilities for the Bill this Session. He wanted to encourage women to fight until they secured the equality of opportunity with men that they needed. The opposition to the opening of the legal profession to women on the part of the present members of that profession was almost wholly an economic opposition. Perhaps when men have more security in their profession they will not fear women's competition. The same reasoning applied to the industrial world. Speaking for the Labour Party, Mr. Lunn said that every member would support the principle underlying this Bill. It was an act of justice to open the legal profession to women, and he was convinced that some women would make brilliant advocates. He hoped the Bill would pass into law this Session, but warned his audience that more determination must be put into their efforts to pester Ministers into granting the necessary facilities.

MISS HELENA NORMANTON, B.A., reminded her hearers that men's arguments against the opening of the medical and legal professions to women had been mutually destructive of each other. Even now, some men were supposed to believe that if women became barristers the Inner Temple would be turned into a crèche; while, on the other hand, Sir Dyce Duckworth had been credited with saying that no man, in any circumstances, would marry a woman lawyer! It was also stated that barristers did not want women desecrating their dining halls. Such objections were really not worth serious consideration. She suggested that the Lord Chancellor, by way of experiment, should appoint a number of women Justices of the Peace, and compare their records with those of men. The opening of the legal profession to women was long overdue, and the opposition to it was, to women directly interested in the matter, an unconscionable time in dying.

MRS. FINLAYSON GAULD (Catholic Women's Suffrage Society) said that justice delayed was justice denied. She did not believe that the economic ground was the only basis of men's opposition to women becoming lawyers. Was there not also the fear that if women came into that profession they would insist on clearing out many a dark corner, breaking through many entanglements, and sweeping away much circumlocution? Before women entered the medical profession, had the public heard much about venereal disease or its causes? When women made the laws and interpreted them, these laws would be expressed in plainer words to meet the needs of the people. In asking for facilities for this Bill women were merely asking for justice, and if they did not secure justice they would want to know why!

MR. EDWARD A. BELL (member of the Law Society) said that during the last ten years much of the legal machinery had been worked by women. In the Public Trustee's office three hundred women were employed. During the war, in spite of the fact that the heads of various departments had been taken away, this work had been carried on most efficiently. One reason advanced against women becoming lawyers was that they had no respect for Common Law, the inveterate customs of this country, and that they failed to be much impressed with the happenings of hundreds of years ago. That reminded him of the story of a young American who was being shown over a very old-established residence. With much pride a candle was pointed out to him, and it was explained to him that it had been burning for one thousand years. The young American promptly blew it out. What use was it at this time of day? Women were admirably fitted for some branches of the law. For the custody of children who was better than a woman? And why should women be prevented from presiding in Children's Courts? He submitted that the Government should be called upon to carry out the pledge given in the manifesto signed by Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Bonar Law—that all professions and occupations should be thrown open to women on equal terms with men. Let women be given equal opportunities, and they would seize them with both hands!

MISS INGRAM, who obtained her degree in 1913, and has been waiting ever since for the passing of a Bill similar to the Barristers and Solicitors (Qualification of Women) Bill so that she could become articulated to a solicitor and qualify for practice, cordially thanked the Women's Freedom League for getting up the meeting. She said that the question concerned women generally—that there should be women who could explain Acts of Parliament which specially concerned women.

The resolution has been sent to the Prime Minister, and arrangements are in hand for trying to secure a promise from the Prime Minister or the Leader of the House of Commons to receive a deputation in regard to the Bill.

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C. 1.
Telegrams—"DESPARD, MUSEUM 1429, LONDON."

Telephone—MUSEUM 1429.
Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.
Hon. Treasurer—DR. E. KNIGHT.

Hon. Organising Secretary—MISS ANNA MUNRO.
Hon. Head of "Vote" Street Sales Department—MISS ALIX M. CLARK.

Hon. Head of Literature Department—MISS MARGARET HODGE.
Secretary—MISS F. A. UNDERWOOD.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO
BE FREE.

Saturday, May 10.—National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 10.30 a.m.

Tuesday, May 13.—Herne Hill and Norwood Drawing-room Meeting, at 161, Croxted-road, Dulwich, S.E. (Hostess, Miss Davies), at 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Abadam, on "Feminism Up-to-date."

Clapham Branch Meeting, 113, West-side, Clapham Common, 7.30 (by kind permission of Mrs. Sutcliffe).

Wednesday, May 14.—Public Meeting, Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss S. Margery Fry, on "The Women's Deputation to the League of Nations Commission." Admission Free. Tea can be obtained in the Cafe 6d. each.

Tuesday, May 20.—Mock Parliamentary Election in the Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn, W.C., arranged by Miss Janet Gibson. 7 p.m. Tickets 6d. each.

Wednesday, May 21.—Public Meeting, Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3 p.m. Speaker: Mr. William Aird. Subject: "Possibilities of Permanent Health and Complete Immunity."

PROVINCES.

Monday, May 12.—Westcliff Branch Meeting, at the Labour Hall, 6, Broadway Market, Southend, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Dorothy Evans. Subject: "The Male State or Woman Commonwealth."

Monday, May 19.—Middlesbrough. Social Meeting. Address, music and refreshments. Members and friends invited. The Suffrage Rooms 7.30 p.m.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Thursday, June 5.—Cothertstone B.W.T.A. Public Lectures afternoon and evening. Speaker: Mrs. Schofield Coates.

LEARNING TO LIVE.

With so many thronging interests clamouring for attention we are apt to overlook movements that take place in quietness and unobtrusiveness, yet are full of great promise for the future. Such a movement has been set on foot by the recent publication of new regulations issued by the Board of Education with regard to the Nursery Schools which are about to be established throughout the country. The Education Act, that extended the school age and provided opportunities for training and scholarship for all, held yet another surprise in store for a public all too ready to cavil and criticise. Since the announcement was made that the children under school age were to be provided with special teachers and special training an outcry has been raised against spending public money in such chimerical schemes. But the nation that is at last aroused to take heed of the wastage of infant life, and of wasted health and capacity in those who survive, as shown by the military lists of the unfit and rejected, is aware that life must be safeguarded from the very beginning.

The Nursery Schools take up their task where the Crèche and Day Nursery leave off, and they provide for children between two and five years of age a means of healthy physical and mental development under personal care and medical supervision, making provision for comfort, rest, and suitable nourishment and for such definite training—bodily, mental and social—as is represented by good habits of all

kinds and orderly association in games and occupations. The Nursery School is not a school in the ordinary sense, but a place of *nurture*. The need of these schools is greatest in congested areas in large towns, where every influence is against growth, where disease and death lie in waiting for their prey. Physical care and medical watchfulness will be ready to prevent mistakes, while the mothering element will be provided by the teacher.

It goes without saying that teachers for these Nursery Schools must be women of education, insight, and sympathy. Some teachers fear a loss of status, assuming that anyone accustomed to "minding babies" will be made their equal as regards pay and recognition. This apprehension is answered by the Board's own statement that a highly specialised course of training will be deemed essential for all who take oversight and responsibility, and, as time gives experience, eventually for all who take even minor positions in such schools. Thus the Nursery Schools will draw upon a class of women who are teachers and mothers by *vocation* rather than by profession.

In the United States, where infant hygiene and welfare is more seriously considered than in this country, the training course for these teachers in the leading colleges and universities is highly developed, taking the subject of childhood as a whole, dealing with the health of mother and child, child mentality and management, recreation and physical training, child labour, also children needing special care, such as the physically or mentally deficient. The course likewise includes matters connected with housing and income, national responsibilities towards the mother, parental responsibility, and the improvement of family standards. There can be no question of the need for very special gifts and qualifications for this type of work, and it is hoped that women who have not yet found a niche in national service will be attracted by this new and important work. Very slowly, but still surely, the world is realising that it is necessary to learn how to live, that the gift of life confers responsibility. Children cannot be left to pick up the art of life as they go along its high road; they must be guided and directed. The combined wisdom and generosity of each age must be used for their service. This is at once a duty and a privilege. L. H. Y.

Women and the Priesthood.

At a meeting of the General Council of the League of the Church Militant, better known by its former title of the Church League for Women's Suffrage, it was decided by a majority vote "to challenge definitely (whilst not restricting the general programme of the League) what has hitherto been the custom of the Church of confining the priesthood to men." The resignation by the Bishop of Lincoln of the office of President of the League on the ground that the existing programme of the League covered too wide a field was announced at the opening of the Council. The office of the League is at 6, York-buildings, Adelphi, W.C. 2, and the secretary will be glad to hear from members of the Church of England, or of Churches in full communion therewith, who desire to support the League in the attitude it has adopted.

Income Tax Commission.

The Women's Freedom League has been invited to send a representative to give evidence before this Commission. If any of our readers has experience or knows of any particular cases of hardship in connection with married women's or other women's Income-tax, we shall be grateful if they will send a clear statement of such cases to this office at an early date.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors:—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.
 Offices:—144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

FRIDAY, May 9th, 1919.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
 To the Editor—on all editorial matters.
 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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

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

WHAT WE THINK OF THE BUDGET.

Mr. Chamberlain's post-war Budget is a particularly tame affair. It is more striking for the problems it leaves untouched than for those it tackles. It suggests the type of improvident country gentleman who used frequently to be met with, who for the span of his own lifetime was able to maintain an appearance of wealth and to lead a comfortable existence by gradually mortgaging all his possessions, and steadfastly refusing to look his financial difficulties in the face. The consequence of which policy would be that on his death his successors would find themselves inheriting nothing more than encumbrances and anxieties. Such, apparently, is to be the fate of the successor to Mr. Chamberlain's office.

Married women hardly expected Mr. Chamberlain to relieve them of the marriage penalty, so they will not feel disappointed that they are ignored in the Budget. That the rate of Income-tax is left at 6s. in the £ is, to them, in the nature of a negative boon; it might have been raised, making their position even worse. That no attempt is made to deal with the chaotic complexities of Income-tax administration is not surprising. A braver man than Mr. Chamberlain might well hesitate to attempt to cut that Gordian knot, or perhaps one might better say to cleanse those Augean stables. The ideal policy would be to consign the existing system to the scrap heap. It is an irrational conglomeration of irritating intricacies and hopeless contradictions, which becomes more helplessly involved with each year that passes. The only sensible solution is to instal entirely new methods and machinery on modern lines, framed to meet the needs and conditions of the twentieth century.

After Income-tax the two subjects which will most affect women are probably the halving of the Excess Profits Duty and the foretaste of Preference. As regards the latter, it is such a controversial question that many may probably receive it with approval or condemnation according to their party views. To my mind it hardly seems a thing to commend itself to the harassed housewife, who has experienced measures nearly akin to it in the past four years; but time will show.

As to the Excess Profits Duty, some may wonder how women can benefit by its reduction. This is because the average person, at the mention of Excess Profits, immediately conjures up visions of bloated profiteers wallowing in tremendous ill-gotten wealth. This is quite a fallacy. It may come as a surprise to most people to learn that the menace of the Excess Profits Tax has deterred enterprising women from opening laundries, restaurants, garages, or other business adventures.

Thousands of women of all ages and classes have been called upon by men to look after men's business affairs as a consequence of the war. Now war is past, and many of these women naturally think it would be a fine thing to own and run a business for their own benefit, and are quite capable enough to do it. But any trader who makes a profit in any year of more than £200 in excess of what he did prior to the war becomes subject to Excess Profits Duty.

The trouble about women is, of course, that most of them were making no profits at all before the war; they were frequently working at home for nothing, and so their "pre-war standard" is nil. Thus if three women, who were employed at home before the war, opened a business of any kind as a partnership, they would become subject to the Excess Profits Duty if their annual profits exceeded £200, i.e., £66 13s. 4d. per head.

As the basis is the profit made by the *business*, not the share enjoyed by each individual partner, it can easily be realised that the lot of many people who have started in business since war began, without becoming exceedingly prosperous, has not been an enviable one. The truth is that Excess Profits Duty is excellent in principle, but should be applied with judgment, discrimination, and sympathy; but Treasury officials possess none of these attributes.

Very little imagination is needed to see that the case of a man who before the war made £3,000 a year and now makes £3,300, is very different from that of a person who before the war made nothing, and now makes £300 a year. And so we are glad for the sake of enterprising women (though not for other reasons) that Excess Profits Duty is lowered.

The increase of Death Duties is a proposal to which we think no one can take genuine exception, provided always that these are fairly graduated; that is, sloping gently upward from the lower end of the scale, with a steeper and steeper incline as the other end of the scale is approached. But ample consideration ought to be shown where deaths have occurred in a family in quick succession.

It is not to the general interest of the community that individuals should be encouraged to accumulate large fortunes; in fact, it is not conceivable that any genuine democrat would desire to be in the position to do so. Conscience ought to force the individual to inquire at what point his wealth exceeds what his own individual merits or capacity would secure for him, and encroaches upon profits arising out of the capacity and application of other persons.

The tendency of future States will be more and more in the direction of stepping in when this point is reached and relieving the individual of wealth in excess of his personal deserts or value to the community.

ETHEL AYRES PURDIE.

Married Women's Income Tax.

MR. G. LOCKER-LAMPSON, in the House of Commons on May 1, moved the following amendment to the Budget resolution regarding Income-tax:

"Provided that if either a husband or a wife who are living together claims to be separately assessed for purposes of Income tax, neither of them shall be liable to pay a larger sum in respect of Income-tax than they would be liable to pay if they were each married."

MAJOR TRYON supported this resolution, but Mr. Chamberlain despairingly declared that he might lose £50,000,000, or £20,000,000 (he had apparently not made up his mind which figure to adopt) by the suggested alteration, and tried to argue facetiously that the only alternative was to tax bachelors and spinsters. The amendment was subsequently withdrawn because of a technical difficulty about taking a division; but probably more will be heard of this injustice during the passage of the Finance Bill.

MILK—Production and Distribution.—II

By Councillor J. T. MUSTARD, F.R.H.S.

The general public does not sufficiently appreciate the strenuous and patriotic work of farmers during the war, when they worked doubly hard under short labour and many restrictions to provide milk, meat, and cereals, etc., for the nation. Their work was never done, and the risks incurred were many and varied. No cinemas nor much amusement to lighten their toil.

Townspiece complained of paying 10d. per quart for milk, but how many counted the increased cost of production. Suppose farmers had gone on strike, either actively or passively, and townspeople had to start and produce their own milk, I am sure their grumbings would have turned into wonderment as to how farmers could produce milk at the price they were paid for it.

This month farmers are to receive 1s. 4d. per gallon, on rail, say 1s. 3d. net, and the consumer pays 2s. 4d. N.B.—Farmers with their large invested capital in stock, etc., and running all the risks attached to farming, only get 1s. 3d. for which consumers pay 2s. 4d., and in the majority of cases get an article inferior to the original milk.

A few facts and figures will help us to grasp more adequately the business side of milk production. Take the case of a farmer laying down a 20-acre field, and compare costs now and before the war. Labour is double. Manures between two and three times as dear (e.g., superphosphates £6 16s., as against 50s. to 60s. before the war). Lime 39s., 16s. formerly. Seeds, clover and grass, 3s. a lb., 10d. in 1914. In short, before the war, to lay down this field it would cost about 50s. per acre, whereas £7 per acre would hardly cover the cost; i.e., £50 would have been the cost for laying down a 20-acre field in 1914, and £150 would be required now. Feeding stuffs of 1914 quality are certainly three times dearer, and many expenses incidental to a farm have increased enormously—saddlery, repairs, etc. (shoeing is now 14s. 6d. per horse, as against 3s.).

There is one very glaring difference as between production and distribution of milk. The milk producer contracting to supply 100 gallons per day, to be on the safe side and to have some for home consumption, should have 80 to 100 cows, which alone represents a capital of £4,000 to £5,000. Cows which realised £25 to £30 in 1914 would now easily fetch twice as much. If we add farm buildings, land, horses, vehicles, etc., this capital sum will be largely increased. From time to time his stock must be replenished, as cows run dry or are lost through death or disease. How much capital is required by the distributor to send out 100 gallons of milk daily? £400 to £500 would be a generous estimate, and the risks run in distribution are infinitesimal compared with those farmers have to bear.

We should now be in a position to say whether farmers are getting too much or too little of the total price we pay for milk. In *The Evening Standard* on May 2 was a heading "Arrogant Farmers," because some farmers of Lancashire said they could not produce at 1s. 4d. per gallon. I am confident that impartial consumers who know the facts and difficulties of production will agree with the farmers. The obvious question now is: Can we eliminate some of the charges made after the milk leaves the farmers and before it reaches the consumer? If so, can we give the farmer more now to stimulate production—in short, to increase considerably the number of cows in the country, and ultimately to bring about a general all-round fall in the prices of milk? It is a

fact that the milking stock in the country is very much smaller than in 1914, mainly as the result of two causes: (1) The Killing Order of the Food Controller, and (2) the unfair prices given to producers.

As to how the problem is to be solved may be gathered more clearly by considering the various types of milk sellers, e.g.: A, the producer, may (1) sell direct to children from the district coming to fetch it at 4d. to 5d. per quart; (2) send it direct to a neighbouring town in his own vehicle and establish a retail shop. This is not the usual practice, but if farmers would combine and market their milk the dispute as to whether the producer or the distributor was getting the bigger share would disappear; also offences as to adulteration and abstraction of cream could be traced readily to the real culprit.

B, the milk salesman, who buys either from a farmer, but now usually from one of the big combines. It is in this category that we get most of the trouble with milk. The milk salesmen generally sell under a warranty, good or bad, and no matter how serious the milk adulteration is, if a warranty is produced the case is dismissed. These are two fairly typical cases from our last Public Health Committee's agenda:—

(1) J—M—, 16.7 per cent. fat abstracted. Dismissed, warranty proved.

(2) — Dairy Company, gave alleged false warranty to E—N—. Dismissed.

Is not such a state of affairs a gross scandal? And we as a Public Health Committee are powerless because the Government declines and refuses to tackle this infamous abuse of warranties.

Being interested, I visited the Local Government Board's offices last year, where I interviewed a responsible official on the matter, who told me it was not their job, but the Food Controller's, whose offices I next visited. No. 2 said it was another department's job. No. 3 Department came in my itinerary, where I found an official who seemed to know something about warranties, and said it was the business of the Local Government Board, where I had better go, as they could solve the whole problem by introducing a *one-clause Bill* into Parliament.

I did not again visit the Local Government Board that day, but I thought of an incident that happened about that time. An angry woman came into our Town Hall with a bottle of whitish liquid, and wanted to know if that was the sort of stuff she must give her baby. She had a right to be angry. I only wish we could have thousands of such angry women. We cry out for A1 babies. Then let them and their mothers have A1 milk!

(To be concluded.)

In calling attention to Mr. Mustard's important article we suggest to our members to bring pressure to bear on all societies and organisations to consider the pure milk question and to pass a resolution similar to the following:—

In view of the scandalous increase of milk adulteration, and especially of the number of cans in which the warranty is taken as a sufficient defence and the culprits are dismissed, this meeting calls upon the Government to take speedy action to remedy this intolerable state of affairs.

Copies of the resolution should be sent to the Local Government Board and the local M.P.'s.

Important.

Last Saturday, in the turmoil of the Victory march, our office letter-box was again rifled. Arrangements have been made with the Post Office to prevent this in future, but I should be grateful if any friends who posted me letters at the end of last week, not yet acknowledged, would let me know particulars without delay.

E. KNIGHT.

FAIR WAGES FOR HOUSEWIVES.

Societies are springing up in all directions to protect the interests and raise the status of our 2,000,000 women wage-earners. What of the other 12,000,000 or so of our women? Are they utterly idle and non-productive, or are they workers; and if so, is their position ideal? A very large proportion of them are housewives, and although our census returns designate them "unemployed" they are the hardest and worst paid workers in the country. Consider the skilled trades that housewifery covers. The average wife and mother is a skilled caterer, house-organiser, cook, laundress, sempstress, sick-nurse, and educator.

The current idea that a man supports his wife out of sheer disinterested affection as a pensioner is very far from the truth. The widower who has to hire the organiser of his household knows what it costs him. Widowers have borne witness to the fact that it is ever so much cheaper to marry your housekeeper in numberless instances. What are the legal wages of a wife? Because those men who gird at the idea of any obligation to their wives under the law as being the death of romance, would do well to realise that their obligations are already defined. A wife in return for her duties is entitled to just enough food to keep her alive, just enough clothes—well—to keep within the police regulations, and a roof over her head, but it need not be a weatherproof one. If the supply of these things drops below subsistence level and the wife is forced to go to the workhouse, then and only then does the law step in and endeavour to make the husband pay for her keep.

If this arrangement is what fosters romance, it is certainly not one which dignifies a married woman. The truth is that romance, though seemingly ethereal, is really an exceedingly hardy individual, and flourishes in the most unlikely situations, but is not coaxed by vague monetary arrangements, nor is she frightened away by a fair and definite understanding.

A housewife, like any other worker, is worthy of her hire, and should know how she stands. She should have a legal claim on a certain proportion of her husband's wages. Husbands who are fair will not be affected by this, as they will be well within the legal minimum. It will greatly add to a wife's independence and self-respect if she does not have to go to her husband for every penny for her clothes, and has money of her own to give as subscriptions, etc.

During the war, as a result of separation allowances paid to wives, the standard of clothing and

SECURE THEM NOW.

WOMEN BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS.

The Women's Freedom League is determined to secure the passage of the Bill for Women to enter the Legal Profession.

It has passed the Lords, the Government must be induced to bring it forward in the Commons.

There is little opposition, but driving force is required.

The Women's Freedom League is carrying on a special campaign to focus the strong and united demand of women for the Bill.

Once break down the barrier to Women in the Courts, and we shall quickly have women magistrates and women on juries, and the end of many abuses.

Now is our chance, and we cannot use it without your help.

Money is much needed and will be gratefully received by the Hon. Treasurer, 144, High Holborn.
E. Knight.

feeding of school children has greatly risen, we are told by teachers and school inspectors all over the country. This desirable state of things would be even more apparent if the housewife had a definite sum she could count on every week. There is a good deal of difference of opinion about exactly what proportion of a man's wage ought to be paid to his wife.

Among the many cases of two women sharing a flat, a common arrangement is for the wage-earner to pay over to her companion half her wage; they then share equally the week's housekeeping expenses, and each has a surplus to spend as she likes. How would this apply to a married couple with three children? Say the man earned £4 a week. He would have £2 and his wife £2. The housekeeping expenses, including rent, coal, food, children's clothing, husband's travelling expenses (if any) might come to £3 2s. 6d. Each would pay £1 11s. 3d. and have 8s. 9d. for themselves.

This seems a good arrangement, except that in many cases it would be difficult for the wife to get from the husband his share of the housekeeping. Therefore another suggestion is that she be entitled to two-thirds of his income for housekeeping alone. She ought to have some addition as her own allotment, and not have to save more or less surreptitiously in pence for anything she personally wants. Mrs. Fawcett, in an interview in the Press, observed: "Even if a woman saves part of her housekeeping money through her own careful management she has no claim to such savings—the money belongs to her husband, and he can, if he so likes, compel the restoration of money so saved if he finds his wife has spent it in other things for her own pleasure or use."

It is certainly time our suffrage societies became also housewives' unions and organised these ten million workers to raise the dignity of their profession.
DOROTHY EVANS.

The Health Bill in the Lords.

May Day saw the Health Bill in the House of Lords. It passed its Second Reading, and was referred to a Committee of the Whole House.

LORD HALDANE gave notice that he would move the reinsertion of the proviso put into the Bill in Grand Committee and struck out of it on the Report Stage in the House of Commons, that in the appointment of the staffs for the purpose of carrying out the work of the Ministry of Health there should be no discrimination merely on the ground of sex.

This was struck out on the motion of the Secretary to the Treasury, which had always had the most conservative notions about women coming into the Civil Service. The Treasury refused to accept the principle recognised at the last election, and now a settled part of our Constitution, that we should not discriminate on sex grounds alone. He trusted the Government would not be dictated to by the Treasury, but would take the broader ground.

LORD TENTERDEN was apprehensive that the treatment given at hospitals might be interfered with.

COMPULSORY TREATMENT.

Lord Tenterden, in the interests of hospitals, is moving on Committee a not very well-considered and very dangerous amendment that sick persons may choose their own doctor provided that they do have one, whose treatment the Health Minister shall not interfere with except in so far as to see that it is carried out. To this amendment we are strongly opposed.

The Bill as it stands contains no definite provision establishing compulsory treatment, and such an amendment would authorise the compulsory treatment of venereal disease, in favour of which there is very little to be said, whilst the objections to it are overwhelming.

OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

"More Humours of Journalism" was the subject of Mrs. Whish's delightful address on May 1. She is connected with a very popular Press which caters for millions of readers daily, and it was of great interest to know how the news and stories were collected and arranged for the mental digestion of this large body of people. She dealt with many matters of lighter vein; sometimes they were touched with tragedy, and occasionally with much worldly wisdom. Mrs. Whish gave the impression of being a gentle philosopher, and yet was so elusive that it was difficult to understand whether or not she believed in her philosophy. There were many ups and downs in the journalistic world, but there was no room for the pessimist. The successful man or woman needed an extra supply of "grit," and, apparently, perpetual cheerfulness. In fact, the ideal journalist should surely be a genial cynic!

From the chair, Mrs. Keevil Richford congratulated the Women's Freedom League on its decision to "carry on" until women had won full equality of opportunity with men in our national life. The League should become a great rallying centre for the sisterhood of feminists, a forcing house for women's ideas.

The Nurses' Registration Bill. Good Prospects.

While realising that the nurses will do well to keep a keenly watchful eye on the parliamentary machine during the succeeding stages of the Nurses' Registration Bill, we understand with pleasure that the Government is favourably disposed to its passage into law, and if its progress as a private members' Bill is not sufficiently promising, is willing to adopt it as a Government measure.

Equal Pay for Equal Work for Teachers.

It was announced at a conference of the London Teachers' Association held at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon-street, on May 3, that the ballot on the question of equal pay for men and women teachers of equal status had resulted as follows:

For equal pay	6,209
Against	3,595

Majority for... .. 2,614

It was resolved that steps be taken to give effect to this decision, and a resolution was also adopted fixing a minimum of £200 a year as a standard salary for London teachers.

Women and the League of Nations.

Next Wednesday afternoon, May 14, Miss Margery Fry will speak in the Minerva Café on "The Women's Deputation to the League of Nations Commission." Miss Fry has recently returned from Paris, whither she went as a delegate to the International Women's Suffrage Conference, and was also on the delegation to the Commission for the League of Nations. Women are cordially invited to this meeting to hear Miss Fry's account of the questions which specially need watching from the point of view of women in the League of Nations.

Sexes (Equality).

On April 15, in the House of Commons, MR. CLOUGH asked the Prime Minister if the Government will be able this Session to give facilities for legislation to establish equality of opportunity between the sexes in regard to legal and professional careers, and whether any decision has yet been reached with regard to the appointment of women magistrates or the service of women on juries?

MR. BONAR LAW: I see no prospect of further legislation in this connection beyond that already indicated.

What, precisely, did Mr. Bonar Law mean?

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

An Unknown Heroine: A Case for the V.C.

During the bombing of a hospital in France a nurse, who was off duty, returned to her ward to sing to a bedridden soldier, who could not be moved. A bomb fell: the nurse was killed, but the man was left. The name of this heroic nurse, said Major-General Cuthbert Wallace at a meeting of the National Council of Women, has not been revealed.

Industrial Fatigue Inquiry: Two Women Appointed.

The Industrial Fatigue Research Board, recently appointed by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Medical Research Committee jointly to study questions of industrial fatigue, has now been completed by the addition of two women members. Dr. Winifred Cullis, D.Sc., and Miss Mona Wilson have accepted invitations from the appointing authorities to join the Board.

Dr. Winifred Cullis was a brilliant student both at London University and at Newnham College, Cambridge. She is Reader in Physiology, London, and holds several examinerships. She has written widely on her subject.

Miss Mona Wilson, National Health Insurance Commissioner (England) since 1912, was educated at Newnham College, and is a member of Trade Boards for the chain-making and paper box trades.

Another Barrier Going.

The Stock Exchange everywhere has been an institution most closely guarded against the entrance of women, but the Hamburg Bourse is leading the way by applying to the Berlin authorities for permission to admit women, and indeed has already admitted one woman to the Wheat Bourse without sanction.

Women Conductors on the London Buses.

"Three hundred of us have got the sack," said a girl conductor on a London 'bus to a representative of the *Manchester Guardian*. The demon of competition has put enmity between the men and women conductors. It casts a reflection on our whole industrial system that men and women should, even in thought, compete for so monotonous an occupation as the taking of fares and the punching of tickets. Under a more enlightened industrial system, would it not be possible to make this a half-day occupation? We can conceive the possibility of people being set to work for a few hours daily on occupations requiring capacity and intelligence, and then being required to put in a certain number of hours a week on the less agreeable and more mechanical tasks demanded by modern civilisation.

Women Architects in the U.S.A.

Reports of housing conditions in this country accentuate the need for women architects. In the U.S.A. several women architects are said to be making from £10,000 to £15,000 a year. Some of the tallest skyscrapers in New York were designed by Miss Alice Durkin, while the handsomest structure in Manhattan, the Hall of Records, is the work of Miss Fay Kellogg. Miss Josephine Chapman began to practise in Boston, but moved later to New York, where she specialises in what the Americans call "English" houses—low, rambling, many-gabled buildings of brick. "Hereafter," she said, "I am going to build houses and leave my impress on the homes of America."

If Children were Pigs.

Mr. R. J. Parr, a director of the S.P.C.C., said at Oswestry that if pigs died at the rate at which infants were now dying in this country a Royal Commission would be appointed, and both Houses of Parliament would hold special sittings to investigate the cause.

FRIDAY,
MAY 9,
1919.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

"The Working Woman's Home."

An excellent article on this subject by H. Jennie Baker appeared recently in *Ways and Means*. Among many other good things the writer says:—

The house is often referred to as man's dormitory and woman's workshop, but it is really much more than her workshop, as it may be said to be to a woman what a man's tools are to him, or perhaps even more accurately, the material in which she works. A carpenter would not leave his wife to choose his tools for him, nor should a woman leave men to design and choose the house which it is her chief aim and duty to convert into a home, and where she has to do her great life work of bringing up healthy, happy children to become useful citizens.

The houses built should provide what the women who have to live in them want, rather than what someone else thinks they ought to want; and the first things one finds women asking for, when meetings to discuss the matter have been arranged, are usually a hot and cold water supply, baths, sufficient number of rooms for decency, a parlour, an adequate pantry, cupboards, coal cellar, sanitary conveniences, proper scullery with sink, draining board and rack, easy and safe stairs, and no "trap" steps between rooms, a place easy of access to keep the "pram" and the bicycle, and also a garden.

In conclusion, the writer says: "Much is heard to-day of the saving of time and energy by 'scientific management.' Cannot we women have scientific management in our homes?"

Ways and Means also reminds us that "fifteen Government departments are conducting inquiries, a new Ministry of Health is being established to build houses, local committees are discussing the subject by the week, County Councils are tumbling over one another with schemes, and yet after eighteen months nobody has yet succeeded, so far as is known, in cutting a single sod anywhere for the foundation of a single cottage!"

The "Old Vic."

All who admire the dauntless yet difficult work carried on by Miss Lilian Baylis at the "Old Vic" will rejoice to know that the Shakespeare season, which concludes to-night (Friday), at 7.30 p.m., with *As You Like it*, has been remarkably successful. The visit of H.M. the Queen with Princess Mary, also of other members of the Royal Family, gave publicity to the national service of the "Old Vic," and London on the north side of the river is finding it eminently worth while to cross Waterloo Bridge for the sake of the delight of the dramatic and operatic performances at the "Old Vic." A notable feature of the end of the season has been the collection made as a gift to Miss Baylis to commemorate her twenty-one years of management, and which she will devote to help to raise the large sum demanded by the London County Council for the modernisation of the old building.

Next week there is to be a special week of opera, for which the programme is as follows:—Monday, May 12, at 8, *Mignon* (Thomas); Tuesday, 13, at 8, *Il Trovatore* (Verdi); Wednesday, 14, at 8, *Rigoletto* (Verdi); Thursday, 15, at 8, *Carmen* (Bizet) (by arrangement with the executors of the late Sir Augustus Harris; Friday, 16, at 8, *The Daughter of the Regiment* (Donizetti); Saturday, 17, at 2.30, *Lohengrin* (Wagner); Saturday, 17, at 8, *Faust* (Gounod).

The City Temple.

Miss A. Maude Royden will preach at the City Temple next Sunday evening, May 11, at 6.30 p.m. Subject: "I believe in God the Father Almighty."

On Sunday, May 18, Dr. J. Fort Newton will preach at 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

LET US SEND YOU "THE VOTE" EVERY WEEK POST FREE.

Rates: 6/6 twelve months; 3/3 six months.

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

BRIGHTON.—The place for busy women requiring rest; comfortable board-residence, early dinner.—"Sea View," Victoria-road. Tel.: 1702. Hostess: Miss TURNER.

UNFURNISHED ROOM or ROOMS REQUIRED, by vegetarians in business, London district.—Write B. M. C., 24, Henstridge-place, N.W. 8.

ATHEENIC SCOTCH WOVEN UNDERWEAR. Made in all sizes in finest wool. Silk and wool and merino. Guaranteed unshrinkable. Write makers for patterns and prices.—DEPT. 26, ATHEENIC MILLS, Hawick, Scotland.

LINDUM HOUSE, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.—Home School on Progressive Thought lines; large garden, cricket-field, sea bathing; small classes; special care given to delicate girls.—Principal, Miss RICHARDSON, B.A.

WANTED.—Costumes, coats, furs, underwear, gentlemen's and children's clothing, house furnishings. Specially good prices given.—HELENE, 5, Hanover-road, Scarborough.

WANTED, Organiser for the Women's Freedom League.—Apply, by letter only, giving full particulars, to the SECRETARY, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

ISLINGTON DENTAL SURGERY,

69, UPPER STREET, N.

Mr. CHODWICK BROWN, Surgeon Dentist,

Mr. Fredk. G. Baucher, Assistant Dental Surgeon.
Established 35 Years.

Gas Administered Daily by qualified Medical Man, Fee 7s. 6d. Nurse in attendance. Mechanical Work in all its Branches. Send Postcard for Pamphlet. N.B.—No Showcase at door. CONSULTATIONS FREE. Telephone: 3795 North.

Suffrage Health Food Stores,

231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough.

BUY OUR GOODS AND HELP THE MOVEMENT
Send for New List. Carriage paid on orders over £1. Large Stock of Vegetarian and other Health Foods.