

THE VOTE.
SEPT. 25, 1925.

POLITICAL EQUALITY FIRST!

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.
NON-PARTY.

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1925

OBJECT: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the powers already obtained to elect women in Parliament, and upon other public bodies, for the purpose of establishing equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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POETRY AND THE COMMUNITY.

By MARJORIE I. M. GULLAN.

Wherein lies the value of Poetry, written and spoken, in the life of the community to-day? Surely in the humanising influence, in the outlet it affords for the emotions, and in the enrichment of experience which it provides. It is the lack of such humanising influences that has made it possible for us to live in hideous buildings, and travel from hideous railway stations, to wear ugly clothes, and have ugly bodies. Psychology is giving us constant proof to-day of the dangerous results of repressed and misdirected emotions. It is imperative that we provide, for young and old, healthy and varied outlets for these emotions. And if there is any doubt in our minds as to the need for enrichment of experience for the average man or woman, let us sit for a quarter of an hour in any restaurant, tramcar, or train, and listen to the devastating dreariness of the conversation of those around us. There seems to be nothing in life beyond the contents of the cheaper newspapers, a cousin's wedding, a servant's misdemeanours, or a neighbour's failure. Now all these topics might be of thrilling interest if any originality, or breadth, or humour in the outlook were brought to bear upon them. It is the dullness of these minds which oppresses us as we listen. They have never seen life in the large, or made observations upon it for themselves, and, saddest of all, they have long ago lost that God-given sense of wonder which every human being knows when it starts out in life.

It is not given to us all to have adventures in the outer world, but adventures of the heart, of the mind, and of the spirit, we may all have, and no one can take such precious experiences from us once we have learned the way to them.

Now there are some of us who can find this liberation and this enrichment through the silent reading of great poetry, but such are few and far between. Some of us develop a taste for poetry in our young and ardent days by hearing it read, and read by someone who can make it live for us in all its beauty of sound and movement and colour and pattern. How very seldom it has been our lot to have our senses so captured and our thoughts so lifted! Yet for the average man or woman there is no other way to a realisation of what poetry has to give.

Here, then, is the place which Verse-Speaking can fill. The great poetry of our language has never been spoken and shared by the community since the days of the balladists. Yet we have proved again and again, since the Verse-Speaking Movement began, that audiences will listen delightedly for two hours at a time to the poetry of Shakespeare and the Bible, of Milton, Shelley, and Keats, if it is simply and sincerely spoken with care for the beauty and significance of words, the flow of the rhythm, and the mood of the poet. We have discovered in the Unison work of our Verse-Speaking Choir, what we believe will prove a real delight and a new experience to all ages and classes of the community.

Among the children a sense of rhythm is first established by the making of movements to their nursery rhymes and jingles. Later they learn the delight of speaking in unison or antiphonally, in tiny lyrics especially suited for the purpose. It may be said, in passing, that Unison Speaking has nothing in common with the soulless parrot-like shouting together which was known of old as class recitation. In unison verse-speaking, the children are learning to have a real perception of the word music and rhythm, resulting in melody of tone and clearness of speech. The older boys and girls act and mime their ballads, or move to the refrains while they speak them together. In a word, they, like the little ones, are sharing their poetry, and are making living contact with it, while the single recitation work is never allowed to suffer.

The adult work of the Verse-Speaking Choir is mainly concerned with the speaking of Greek choruses, passages from the Bible, from Milton, and poetic drama in general. The speaking of Old English, Scottish, and Irish Ballads also forms a great part of the work, for we aim at presenting every possible variety of our poetic literature. Individual Verse-Speaking is carried on side by side with the Choral work, and forms a regular part of every programme, since we realise that there is much which is impossible to render except by means of the single voice. It is our hope that Verse-Speaking Choirs will soon spring up all over the country, and give the same delight in the experience of this new art to hundreds as it has given to us.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Another Woman Parliamentary Candidate.

Lady Cynthia Mosley, daughter of the late Marquis Curzon, has been unanimously adopted as prospective Labour candidate for the Stoke Parliamentary Division, in opposition to Colonel John Ward, the Independent Member.

The League of the Church Militant.

The League of the Church Militant, formerly the Church League for Woman Suffrage, which works, among other things, for the candidature of women to the councils and ministry of the Church, is again running a campaign during the week of the Church Congress, which this year will be held at Eastbourne, October 3rd to 9th.

Woman as Circuit Steward.

Miss Woods, of Gedney Drove End, Lincs, is the first woman to be appointed a Primitive Methodist steward, her appointment being for the Spalding circuit.

Mrs. Bramwell Booth for Canada.

Mrs. Bramwell Booth will visit Canada in October, when she will conduct the Annual Congress of the Salvation Army in Toronto.

Woman in Charge of Moving Picture Theatre.

Hull Corporation Licensing Committee recently refused to accept women as manageresses or assistant manageresses because the local chief constable considered this was essentially a man's job; but in America, Miss Gloria Gould, the granddaughter of Jay Gould, is in full charge of a Broadway moving picture theatre. She declares that in future not only the orchestra, but also the entire operating staff of the theatre will consist of women only.

Lectures for Women Motorists.

Leicester is the first municipality in this country to inaugurate a course of lectures for women motorists. Twenty women have already enrolled for these classes, which are being held at the College of Technology. A workshop course is also available. There are also classes for men.

To Help the Housewife.

Miss Ann Pope is founding a British Housewives' Association. She says:—"I believe that if we could raise domestic service to the status which Florence Nightingale raised sick-nursing, we could open another profession for women and relieve the overstocked occupations." It is proposed to start a small central office in London to collect and distribute information concerning food values, scientific catering, and skill in the use of labour-saving devices; and it is hoped that the association will appeal to the young housewife and the educated girl who wishes to adopt domestic work as a career.

Village Housing.

The *Daily News* states that Mrs. Brooke has originated and financed a scheme, without reference to the Health Minister or the local council, for providing well-built, roomy cottages at Westcott, near Dorking. The first pair was erected in May, and the second pair is now approaching completion. The cost is £1,300 a pair, semi-detached. Accommodation includes sitting-room, three bedrooms, kitchen, scullery, and bathroom. Gas is laid on, and hot and cold water upstairs and downstairs. The inclusive rent is 13s. weekly, but the money subscribed for the four cottages already built is actually a gift, as the rents are put aside for repairs, the building of other cottages, and the buying-up of slums in the district.

Woman to Teach Fencing.

Miss Dorothy Lee, of Illinois, who is only twenty years of age, has been engaged to teach fencing to the 71st Regiment of the New York National Guard.

Woman Barrister in New South Wales.

Mrs. Morrison is the first woman barrister to practise in New South Wales. She has been warmly welcomed by the Supreme Court, particularly by the men who have taken a prominent part in securing reforms in the law as it affects women and children. Mrs. Morrison is a good speaker, and is doing much good work socially for the education of her sex in matters of citizenship.

Woman Attorney Appointed.

Opportunity, the organ of the Federation of Women Civil Servants, states that Miss Annabel Matthews, who was admitted to the Bar in 1921, has been appointed an attorney in the office of the Solicitor of Internal Revenues in America. She is the first woman to hold this position.

Woman manages Department Store.

Mrs. Edward Hillman, of Chicago, is now managing one of that city's largest department stores. A serious illness forced Mr. Hillman into temporary retirement, and Mrs. Hillman immediately took the business over. It has a turnover of several millions of dollars a year. She is the first vice-president of the firm, of which her husband is president.

Chicago and Women Jurors.

According to *The Woman Citizen*, published in New York, Chicago has lately been interested in the question of women jurors. Mrs. Hannah Fyle recently brought a suit against the jury commissioners because her name had been stricken from the jury list on the grounds of sex. The case went to the Supreme Court, which ruled that the State constitution does not prohibit women from serving as jurors; that, as the statute provides that jurors may be selected from all electors, the enfranchisement of women automatically qualifies them as jurors.

Woman wins Bronze Cross.

Mrs. Don Munday has been awarded the highly prized bronze cross for helping her husband drag a young boy, foot by foot, back up the six hundred feet down which he had plunged in the Canadian Rockies. Mrs. Munday lives on top of the Grouse Mountain, overlooking Vancouver, and is the first Canadian Girl Guide to win the much-coveted medal.

Protest against Dismissal of Married Women in Germany.

The women members of the Reichstag, regardless of Party affiliations, have signed a protest against a proposed law for reducing the Government personnel by first dismissing all married women in the Civil Service. The protest asserts that such a law repeals the rights vouchsafed to women under the constitution, disregards the economic difficulties of marriage under present conditions, and subjects married women civil servants to special legislation.

Women Recommended for Traffic Directors.

Equal Rights, the official organ of the National Woman's Party, Washington, states that the Thirty-fourth Street Midtown Association of New York City has recommended that "strong women and young men" be employed as traffic officers so that the traffic policemen can go on patrol work. But this recommendation is not made on a basis of Equal Rights, since the recommendation to use women suggests that they may be employed at lower salaries than the men now doing the work get.

Jugoslav Women demand Equal Inheritance Rights

The Jugoslav National Women's Federation is engaging in a vigorous campaign to establish equality in inheritance rights for sons and daughters. The present law gives the male heir the right to the greater part of the inheritance, providing only a "decent marriage settlement" for the female heir.

PILGRIM MOTHERS FORGOTTEN?

Last week, the Lord Mayor of Hull, in the presence of British, American, and Dutch representatives, unveiled the Pilgrim Fathers Monument, erected by the Anglo-American Society, near Immingham Creek, to commemorate the departure of that first little band which set sail in search of religious liberty. The Monument, which stands as a landmark to navigators, has been built close to the actual creek from which the little company sailed. The top part consists of a piece of grey granite, brought from the spot at Plymouth Rock upon which the Pilgrims landed. Commodore A. P. Fairfield, of the United States warship *Coghlan*, in a brief address, said the Monument was not only a memorial to the Pilgrim Fathers, but another of the innumerable links of friendship which bound Great Britain and the United States in a friendship that would be everlasting. But why did no one mention the Pilgrim Mothers? The Pilgrim Fathers did not go alone to America, and the women of the two countries have as much concern as the men in the links of friendship which bind Great Britain and the United States in a friendship which we all keenly desire to be everlasting. Whenever there is a struggle for religious liberty or political liberty in any country, the women share fully with the men the hardships of that struggle, yet we hear very little of the women's part in it when that struggle has ended in victory. Puritans of both sexes were persecuted in the time of Queen Elizabeth and the Stuarts. So intolerable was life in England for these Nonconformists that, in 1607, a large number of men, with their wives and children, hired a ship to take them to Holland. The shipmaster failed to keep the appointment, and on a second attempt, when they secured a ship, they were betrayed by its master, put in open boat and taken ashore, "their persons, even those of the women, being searched with gross indignities, and their possessions all taken from them"—so we are told by the old chronicler. It is also stated that they were carried back into the town of Boston (Lincolnshire) through inquisitive crowds, and subsequently taken before the magistrates and kept in jail a whole month. In 1608, another attempt was made to get to Holland. On this occasion the Dutch captain took the men on board, the women and children having been put on a small vessel the previous day. The weather was very stormy; they were all ill; and these women had to be brought back. Deprived of their husbands and their homes, they were in a pitiable plight. Not knowing what else to do, the authorities imprisoned them. They appear to have been rather a handful, and were soon afterwards released; but as they were destitute, and made much lamentation for their husbands and fathers, the authorities were only too glad to get rid of them by shipping them off to Holland. When the "Mayflower" set sail for America, July 22nd, 1620, there were 102 people on board, among these being twenty-four wives, seven daughters, and one maidservant. The daughters and the maidservant appear to have survived not only the genuine hardships of the voyage, but also the no less real hardships of the first few years after their settlement in America; but fourteen of the twenty-four wives died before the end of 1621. The Pilgrims cast anchor in Provincetown Harbour, November 21st, 1620 (old style, November 11th), and on that day signed a civil compact as loyal subjects of King James, agreeing "to enact, constitute, and frame such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions, and offices from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the Colony." This compact was signed by forty-one men—no woman's name being among the signatories. In those days it was not usual to give woman public recognition, but we think it inexcusable on the part of the men who were at the unveiling of the Memorial on the Humber last week to forget to acknowledge the part which the Pilgrim Mothers played in the cause of religious liberty.

WOMEN AND THE LAND.

During the three years that Mrs. Wintringham represented a purely agricultural constituency, she was recognised in Parliament as an authority on agricultural interests, her opinions on the problems of the countryside were always listened to with respect, and she became a member of several of the committees appointed to deal with rural questions. In an article on Mrs. Wintringham, which appeared last Saturday in the *Daily Chronicle*, she is reported as saying:—"Though the oldest of our industries, agriculture in Great Britain has, according to the census returns for 1921, fallen to the fifth place in the occupational groups. We are all agreed that the cause for this decline is mainly social. But the part that women play in this connection has never been sufficiently recognised. The influence of women counts, I believe, for more in the country districts than it does in the towns, and I am convinced that no agricultural policy will ever be successful unless it secures the active support of the women who live and work on the land."

With regard to numbers, Mrs. Wintringham said that the latest official figures show that 62,000 women are regularly employed in dairy and poultry farming, and as stock-keepers, gardeners and farm labourers. There are also 43,000 women in seasonal employment, chiefly engaged in fruit and hop picking, potato and vegetable culture, and harvesting. Then there are the wives and daughters of the farmers and agricultural labourers, who between them number about 1,000,000 men. So women have a large stake, both as paid and unpaid workers, in agriculture.

In discussing the pay of these women workers, Mrs. Wintringham declared that, on the whole, it is miserably inadequate. For instance, in Durham county, it is as low as 3d. an hour, and even this pittance varies according to weather and seasons. She also said that the hours of women workers are not so defined as those of men, and that in market gardening areas, such as Essex and Bedfordshire, they often run from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Moreover, the conditions of work for women are usually unsatisfactory—in many cases no shelter for meals, no supply of drinking water, or proper sanitation. As for the housing accommodation, Mrs. Wintringham said she could only describe it in many cases as appalling.

According to the writer of the article, Mrs. Wintringham considers that the remedy in the first place lies in wider educational facilities for rural women. The great need is for farm institutes all over the country, which would provide training courses in all branches of agriculture and domestic economy, supplemented by itinerant instructors in dairying, poultry and bee keeping, etc. In reply to a question as to whether women took any part in the various boards and committees which regulate the industry, Mrs. Wintringham said:—"So far, an infinitesimal part. The Ministry of Agriculture employs one woman inspector for England and Wales, and there are three women on the Council of Agriculture. Women can sit on the county committees, but there is no obligation to include them either on the Agricultural Education Sub-Committees or on the District Wages Boards. Actually, there are only seven women on the total 46 boards." Mrs. Wintringham, in conclusion, emphasised the fact that the importance of fitting women for agricultural work, and of protecting their interests therein, was not yet appreciated by any class of the community.

SPEECH TRAINING AND VERSE SPEAKING.

CLASSES BY
MISS MARJORIE GULLAN

will be held at the

NEW EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP,

11, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, W.C.,

BEGINNING OCTOBER 21st.

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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 stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

POLITICAL EQUALITY FIRST!

In an article in last week's *Time and Tide*, entitled "The Next Step," the writer says:—

"Surely the time has come to complete the work left uncompleted seven years ago. The time has come to perfect the political weapon, to put women politically on an equality with men. This year, perhaps next year too, should be devoted primarily to removing the two outstanding political disabilities: to achieving votes for women on the same terms as men, and to securing the admission of women to the Upper House. All the forces of the woman's movement should be concentrated on these two political reforms. When these are achieved we shall find that changes now so difficult to effect take on a very different complexion. It will be possible to return to the social battle with far stronger weapons."

The Women's Freedom League is in complete agreement with the above statement. We are convinced that the political inferiority of women is at the basis of the present unequal status and economic inferiority of women compared with men. We are also convinced that unless women's organisations unite to concentrate with vigour on securing political equality, it will not be achieved during the life of this Parliament. What is the position? Last February, Mr. Whiteley introduced a simple franchise measure to concede the Parliamentary vote to women at the same age and on the same terms as men, on the understanding that the provisions of this Bill should not come into operation until there was a General Election. In order to bring about the defeat of this Bill, the Government moved the following Amendment, which passed by a majority of 67—220 votes to 153:—

"That this House declines in the early stages of a new Parliament to accord a Second Reading to a Franchise Bill, involving as it would a General Election with the consequent interruption of important legislative and administrative work, and records its opinion that a considered scheme of franchise reform should be brought before this House at a suitable opportunity within the lifetime of the present Parliament."

It will be remembered that when Mr. Bridgeman was Home Secretary, he informed Mr. Isaac Foot that there were nearly four and three quarter million voteless women over the age of twenty-one in this country, as compared with about 313,000 voteless men over twenty-one. In moving the Government's Amendment, Sir William Joynson-Hicks seems to have been supplied with somewhat different figures. However, he said:—

"I quite agree that there are terrible anomalies in the present system of woman suffrage, anomalies which mean that there are 1½ millions unenfranchised women under 30 years of age who should be voters. I agree that under the present system there are really 2,000,000 of women over 30 years of age who ought

to have votes, and who at the present time have not votes. There are great inequalities between men and women. That is only one consideration. For instance, there is the enormous number of domestic servants throughout the country. They have no vote. There is the enormous number of shop assistants living in lodgings. They have no vote. On the other hand the male domestic servant, the male shop assistant, and the man living in furnished lodgings has, under the present law, a vote. These are anomalies which must be dealt with, and I say at once, will be dealt with and swept away."

Hon. Members in chorus inquired "When?" At that stage the present Home Secretary was not so explicit. He continued to talk about existing anomalies and inequalities, and read the following pledge from the Prime Minister:—

"The Unionist Party are in favour of equal political rights for men and women, and desire that the question of the extension of the franchise should, if possible, be settled by agreement. With this in view, they would, if returned to power, propose that the matter be referred to a conference of all political Parties on the lines of the Ullswater Committee."

Sir William Joynson-Hicks seemed very loth to give any date for this proposed conference. He said they had plenty of time. He had no doubt that the present Parliament would last until 1929. With their present majority, it was, humanly speaking, almost impossible that there could be another General Election before 1928. He pointed out that redistribution proposals would also be a matter for the consideration of the proposed conference. When pressed further to give a date, the Home Secretary said:—

"We can set up the Conference in 1926—it will take a few months to go into the questions which hon. Members desire to be included in the terms of reference—and bring in a Bill the following year."

Since last February the House of Commons has not troubled itself with the matter of women's equal political enfranchisement with men. Beyond a few questions on the subject raised by our friends in the House of Commons about the date of the Conference—to which there has been no satisfactory reply—equal franchise has not been mentioned. Women, most especially members of women's organisation, must determine that this most vital question, the equal enfranchisement of women with men, shall not become devitalised by the present Government's "benevolent inertia."

The admission of peeresses in their own right to a voice, a vote, and a seat in the House of Lords is of no less importance than the equal enfranchisement of men and women in a country in which there are two Houses of Parliament, and our laws have to be passed by both Houses. When we remember all the Bills specially affecting women which were discussed in the House of Lords during the present Session, is it not grossly absurd that there was no woman Member to give her point of view on the subject under discussion? Last May, Lord Astor moved the Second Reading of the Peeresses Bill in the House of Lords, the object of which was to enable peeresses in their own right to take their seat in the Upper House. This Bill was defeated by a majority of 2—78 votes being recorded for the Bill and 80 against it. We firmly believe that there is a substantial majority for the principle of this Bill in the House of Commons. If the Government would take the initiative in this matter, peeresses in their own right would become Members of the House of Lords at an early date. What women's organisations have to do is to make it quite clear to the Government that if it does not want women's organised opposition at the next General Election, whenever that may come, it must concede political equality to men and women—there must be equal voting rights for both sexes, and peeresses in their own right must have the right to take their seat in the Upper House.

PENSIONS AT LAST!

By M. I. NEAL.

After many years of agitation and discussion, after many attempts to get rid of the degradation, and the lowering of personal dignity which attached to the workhouse and Poor Law relief, the Pensions Act of 1925 has come, as such things always do, so suddenly and so completely that it is difficult to realise it, and its immediate and future effects, and there are many misapprehensions of its provisions. It gives briefly:—

Pensions to some widows from January 5th, 1926. The number of those benefiting will increase year by year.

Allowances to some orphans from January 5th, 1926, with an increase in number every year.

Old Age Pensions for some men and some women of 70 from July 2nd, 1926, without any tests as to means, residence, or nationality.

From January 2nd, 1928, to men and women of 65, with certain conditions attached.

It is estimated that in the first quarter of 1926, over half a million widows and children will receive the pension; and that in 1928, when the whole of the Act is in operation, twice that number, including old people, will be in benefit.

The scheme is contributory and compulsory, with certain provisions for voluntary contributors. It is linked up with the Health Insurance Acts at present in force, and covers all manual workers and others whose pay does not exceed £250 per annum, with certain few exceptions.

At present fifteen million workers come under the Health Insurance Act, and it is computed that by 1960 this number will have increased to sixteen and a half millions.

It may be seen from these figures how far-reaching the effect of the Act will be.

Let us take the scheme in detail—the Act is now on the Statute Book, and any woman whose husband is now paying Health Insurance, and *who has children*, will, if her husband dies before January 4th, 1926, be entitled to a pension of 10s. a week for herself, 5s. a week for the eldest, and 3s. a week for each other child under, and up to, the age of 14, or to the age of 16 if the children continue at school. Thus a woman

whose husband dies in October, if she has three children under 14, will, from January 4th, 1926, be entitled to a pension of 21s. a week, but her pension ceases when the children are beyond the age of 14.

A woman who is childless, and whose husband dies before January 4th, will not receive any pension, but one whose husband dies after that date will be entitled to 10s. a week, until she is 70, or until she re-marries.

The qualifications are—Man must have lived and been insured in Great Britain for *at least* two years, and paid 10s. Health Insurance premiums, or a man insured and in the country for longer than two years must have fulfilled the average test of 26 contributions for the last three years. In the case of a large family, when the eldest child arrives at the age of 14 (or 16 if still at school) and the allowance ceases, the next child's allowance is automatically increased from 3s. to 5s. per week.

The widow's pension ceases if she marries again, but the children's allowances remain as before.

At the age of 70, the widow becomes entitled to the Old Age Pension of 10s. per week, without any inquiry as to means or nationality.

Children's allowances are granted on the same terms as the widow's pension, at the rates given above, 5s. for the eldest child, and 3s. each afterwards, but these rates are varied in the case of children who are *orphans*—in their case 7s. 6d. per week for each child will be paid to the guardian of such child or children up to the age of 14, or to the age of 16 if the child is still a full-time attendant at school. Step-children and illegitimate children who are living with the parent at the time of his death are included in this clause.

This provision is made for *orphans of men* dying at any time after the introduction of the Act (April 29th, 1925) provided the conditions (already set out) of the Health Insurance Act have been fulfilled.

[We hope to publish further articles on the provisions and working of this Act by Miss Neal, who is willing to consider and reply to questions on this subject by readers of THE VOTE.—Ed.]

CHILD ADOPTION IN DENMARK.

In the *National Council of Women News* for September, Miss Karen M. Glaesel has an article on "Danish Laws of Adoption," which is of interest in view of the Committees which in recent years have considered the prospects of legalising adoption in this country, and the Bills on this subject which have been before Parliament.

Miss Glaesel says that in Denmark an adoption licence is obtained through the Ministry of Justice, the applicant having first to produce a certificate to prove that the applicant's life is such that the child can be entrusted to his or her care, and that he or she has the means necessary for the upbringing and education of the child. A married person can only adopt with the consent of his or her wife or husband. Married couples only adopt jointly.

An adopted child cannot, during the lifetime of its adopted parent, be adopted by any other than this adopted parent's husband or wife. A child of 14 years of age or more cannot be adopted without his, or her, own consent—if under 21 years of age the consent of parent or guardian also is demanded.

A licence will only be granted when, after careful examination, the adoption is proved to be of benefit to the child, or if there is any special reason for the adoption. If the adopter has any heir of the marriage, the licence will not be granted unless some very weighty reason is proved to exist.

When adopted, the child takes the family name of its adopted parent, unless it is stated in the licence

that it keeps its own, or takes both names jointly. With the adoption, the power and rights of the parents pass over to the adopted parent, and the power and rights of the child's natural parent cease completely. When adopting an illegitimate child, the adopter takes the legal position of the mother in regard to contribution of maintenance from the father; but otherwise the adopter cannot claim to have any expenditure on behalf of the child refunded by its natural parents.

The adopted child inherits in the same way as a child of the marriage, except in certain cases, and a reservation may be put in the licence that the adoption does not make any restriction in the adopter's right of making any provision by will. If the adopter has heirs of the marriage, the adopted child can only inherit that part of the property of which the adopter can dispose by will. Adoption does not give right of succession to entailed estate or landed property unless this is expressly warranted. The children of a deceased adopted child have the same rights in regard to the adopter as the adopted child had.

The adoption can be dissolved by judgment, when this seems to be of importance to the child, particularly when the adopter wrongs the child or neglects his or her duties towards it, or leads a depraved life. The action is then brought by the adopted child itself, or by the guardians, or natural parents. If the adopted child wrongs the adopter, or leads a depraved life, that adoption can also be dissolved by judgment.

GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR.

The Annual Green, White and Gold Fair will be held on Friday and Saturday, November 20th and 21st, in the Basement Hall, at the Central Hall, Westminster, and will be opened each day at 3 p.m.

Chairman, Nov. 20th, Miss Anna Munro (President Women's Freedom League).
Chairman, Nov. 21st, Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P.

Opener, Miss Lind-af-Hageby.

STALLS AND STALLHOLDERS.

The Stalls at present arranged for the League are:—
Hampstead Branch.—Handkerchiefs, Antiques, and White Elephants. Miss Goodliffe, Miss Lyndon, and Miss Vibert.

Montgomery Boroughs Branch.—Welsh Produce and General Stalls. Miss Alix Clark and Friends.

Portsmouth Branch.—Household Goods. Mrs. Whetton and Members.

Overalls and Aprons.

General Stall.—Mrs. Lloyd.

Hygiene Stall.—Dr. Lewin and Friends.

Literature Stall.

Pound Stall.—Mrs. and the Misses Potter.

Shilling Stall.

Sweet Stall.—Miss Mary Knight and Friends.

Toy Stall.—Mrs. Knight and Friends.

"Vote" Stall.—Mrs. Flowers, Mrs. Northcroft, Mrs. Evans, Miss Barton, and Mrs. Newsome.

White Stall.—Mrs. Holmes.

PLEASE HELP.

Many gifts are needed for all these Stalls—will members and friends do their utmost in helping to provide the various stalls with pretty and useful Christmas gifts, and so make the 1925 Fair an unprecedented success?

All the stalls are in need of assistance, but those especially requiring help are the White Stall, the Overall and Apron Stall, Pound Stall, Shilling Stall, and Toy Stall.

The Shilling Stall proved very attractive to purchasers at our last Fair, most of the dainty little articles on it being sold on the first day; therefore many small gifts are urgently required for this Stall. Mrs. Knight has again undertaken the Toy Stall, and would be very glad of any gifts, such as dolls, bricks, balls, boxes of soldiers, puzzles, doll's house furniture, toy animals, etc. The White Stall has always been one of the great features of our Fairs, and Mrs. Holmes has again undertaken this Stall, she will be most grateful for gifts, both in money and in kind, to help to supply the Stall with all the articles that visitors to the Fair always expect to find on this Stall, please remember this Stall when buying, or making, gifts for the Fair. The Overall and Apron Stall has not at present been adopted by any of our Branches, but we hope soon to report that one of them has taken a fancy to it; in the meantime will readers of THE VOTE remember that these useful articles are needed to supply the wants of the "Womanly Woman at home," who comes to the Fair to buy the articles she has not time to make herself.

COMPETITIONS AND GAMES.

The competitions will, as usual, be one of the chief attractions of the Fair, and will include a "Hidden Treasure Hunt," and various other novelties.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

An excellent programme of entertainments is being arranged, and will include a Dancing Display on Saturday, November 21st, by Miss Grace Woollacott's dainty little pupils. Solo Dancing on Friday, November 20th, by little Miss Margery Dunhill (semi-finalist All-England Classical Dancing Competition, 1924).

A Thé Chantant will be held each day from 4 to 6 p.m.; the following have kindly promised to assist:—Mrs. Cunningham, Miss Lettice Newman, Mr. Eric Richmond, Miss Potter, Mrs. Morris-Wood, Mrs. Van Raalte, and Mrs. Sparrow. There will be Character Readings by Mrs. Spon and Mr. Richard Mowatt, also Phrenology and Numerology.

TEAS AND REFRESHMENTS.

Mrs. Fisher has most kindly undertaken the teas

and refreshments, and will be assisted by Miss Reeves, and the staff and members of the Minerva Club.

Teas will be served from 4 to 6 p.m., and refreshments will be served at moderate prices after 7 p.m.

SOCIETIES TAKING STALLS.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

British Commonwealth League.

Council for International Service.

The Food Education Society.

The League of the Church Militant.

Nine Elms Settlement.

The Montessori Society.

The Rally Rendo.

The Bryn Rhodyan Pottery.

Miss Burwood (Beads).

Mrs. Rogers (South Indian Village Industries).

Miss A. M. Sworder (Needlework and Mending Bureau).

Miss Waldram (Art Pottery).

Tickets—including Tax, 1/9 the first day until 5 p.m., after 5 p.m. and on second day 1/2—will shortly be on sale at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, or can be obtained at the doors.

All communications and gifts, also applications for Stalls, should be sent to Miss Elizabeth Berry, Hon. Fair Sec., at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

THE SHORTAGE OF NURSES.

A good deal has been written in the Press lately about the shortage of nurses. We are told that hospitals are finding it very difficult to secure probationers, and that more nurses are urgently needed. It has been stated that young women turn away from this noble calling because they prefer a freer life, with less discipline, etc. A correspondent in the *Daily Express* says that the chief objections to nursing as a career may be briefly summarised as follows:—

(1) The hours are too long, and the period allowed for relaxation and amusement too short. When a nurse has finished her duties she is too tired to feel any desire for amusement.

(2) The pay is extremely poor—much worse than in any other profession. The general servant is much better off by comparison.

The discipline is severe, and the work arduous and very often unpleasant. This consideration would, however, not debar a girl who has a real love for her profession.

The *Daily Telegraph* says that, according to Mrs. Rundle, Secretary of the College of Nursing, Ltd., the average nurse has a salary of only £55 a year; and she asks, "What provision can a nurse make for old age?" Nurses can insure in the Royal National Fund, but in view of their poor salaries, Mrs. Rundle considers that there should be a universal pension scheme for which the employer shared responsibility. Such a scheme is shortly to be considered by the hospitals. When we remember what the nation owes to its nurses, their high skill and specialised training, and all the other qualifications which a woman must possess if she is to be a good and efficient nurse, we think that not only should they have security for their old age, but higher salaries than it has been the custom to pay them up to the present time. The hours are certainly too long for many of the nurses in hospitals, and should be shortened; but the main thing is that nurses should be better paid.

WOMEN'S WORK in the LEAGUE of NATIONS

We learn from the September *Bulletin*, issued by the International Council of Women, that the International Institution for Intellectual Co-operation, which is about to be opened in Paris under the auspices of the League of Nations, will be in working order by the end of the year. There is to be one woman among those appointed to be Heads of Sections—Mlle. Gabriela Mistral, Principal of the Teachers' Training College in Santiago, Chile, having been appointed Head of the Literary Relations Section. In addition, Miss Hocking, of England, is to be in charge of the Records.

Women's Freedom League.

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President—Miss ANNA MUNRO.

Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT.

Hon. Organising Secretary—Mrs. WHETTON.

General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.
LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, October 9th, at 8.15 p.m.

London Members' Meeting at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C. Chair: Miss Anna Munro. Speakers: Dr. Knight and Miss Underwood. Subject: "What Headquarters has done since the Conference, April, 1925."

Saturday, October 10th, at 10 a.m.

National Executive Committee, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

DARE TO
BE FREE.

Monday, October 12th, at 3 p.m.

Hampstead Branch Meeting at 16, Denning Road.

Wednesday, October 14th, at 3.30 p.m.

"Fair" Committee, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday and Saturday, November 20th and 21st.

Green, White and Gold Fair at Central Hall, Westminster. Opener, November 21st, 3 p.m., Miss Lind-af-Hageby.

Saturday, December 5th, at 10 a.m.

National Executive Committee, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

SCOTLAND.

Monday, October 19th, at 7.30 p.m.

Public Meeting in the Philosophical Hall, Queen Street, Edinburgh.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, September 26th, 10—12 and 3—5.

National Union of Women Teachers. Public Conference in Central Hall, Westminster, S.W.1.

Saturday, September 26th, at 3 p.m.

Saturday Speech Club at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C. "John Bright." Speaker: Miss Lucy D. Bell.

October 3rd—9th.

League of the Church Militant's Church Congress Campaign at Eastbourne.

Saturday, October 3rd, at 3 p.m.

Opening Church Congress Exhibition. L.C.M. Stall is in Block R, Avenue 8.

Monday, October 5th, 4—6 p.m.

"At Home" to friends at 4, Queen's Gardens. Mrs. Acres will speak on "The History and Aims of the League."

Tuesday, October 6th, 5.30—7 p.m.

Conference at the New Gallery, Kinema Hall, 61, Terminus Road, on "Women and the Outlook To-day." Speakers: Miss Maude Royden and Mrs. F. Allen. Chairman: Mrs. F. E. Francis.

Wednesday, October 7th, at 8.15 a.m.

Corporate Communion of members and friends of the League, at St. Anne's Church, Upperton Gardens.

9 a.m. Breakfast, to meet Miss Maude Royden at 4, Queen's Gardens.

5.15 p.m. Public Meeting at the Pier Music Pavilion, on "Christianity, Psychoogy, and some Problems of To-day." Speaker: Miss Maude Royden. Chairman: The Rev. J. G. Simpson, D.D. (Canon of St. Paul's).

Thursday, October 8th, 4—6 p.m.

"At Home" at 4, Queen's Gardens. Speaker: Mrs. Powell on "The Need for Revision of the Marriage Service." Chairman: Mrs. Glover.

Friday, October 9th, 4—6 p.m.

"At Home" (at 4, Queen's Gardens) and Tea, followed by Platform Dialogue on "The Admission of Women to the Priesthood."

Monday, October 5th, at 5 p.m.

Six Point Group. "At Home" at 92, Victoria Street, S.W.1. Speaker: Dame Adelaide Anderson on "Women Workers in China." Chair: Viscountess Rhondda.

Wednesday, October 7th, at 5 p.m.

Inaugural Meeting of British Housewives Association in "Adam" Hall of Federation of Medical and Allied Services, 12, Stratford Place, W.1.

Thursday, October 8th, at 5 p.m.

Six Point Group. Lecture at 92, Victoria Street, S.W.1., by Mr. Israel Zangwill on "Modern Drama."

Thursday, October 15th, at 2.30 p.m.

Hornsey Conservative and Unionist Association (Women's Branch), Social Afternoon at St. Peter's Hall, Frobisher Road, Harringay.

Speaker: Mrs. Mustard.

BRANCH NOTE.

EDINBURGH.

Open-air meetings continue to be held at the Mound. A public meeting will take place in the Philadelphia Hall, Queen's Street, at 7.30 p.m., on Monday, October 19th. The Community Players have very kindly consented to give a one-act play in the middle of the meeting. Speakers and chairman will be announced later.

(Org.) LILIAN LENTON, 22, Pannure Place, Edinburgh.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Post Guides.

Among other interesting information, the September number of the *Monthly News Bulletin*, issued by the Girl Guides Association, tells us that Post Guides is the name given to the cripple, blind, or invalid girls belonging to the Girl Guides. Unable to attend the meetings, and sometimes chained to their homes by ill-health, they are still able to take part in this wonderful movement. There are now four hundred Post Guides in England, and their training is carried out by fortnightly circular letters sent on from Guide to Guide, and also by means of practical work with the Guiders or Rangers of the town or village in which the Post Guide lives. These local Guides visit her in her own home, and if she is strong enough they occasionally are able to take her with them to their company meetings. Many Guides in this Post section have not been taught any special craft, yet are keen and anxious to earn a little money to help their parents. For them a special scheme has been arranged which will enable them (1) to be taught some craft for which they show ability; (2) when taught, to have their work tested by an expert; (3) to receive orders for the work they are qualified to undertake.

Common sense in Dress.

The following account of a Munich doctor's experiment is taken from last Sunday's *Observer*. Is not the worthy doctor, however, a little prejudiced in attributing woman's rational way of clothing herself entirely to her vanity?

"On one hot day this summer—July 23 to be precise—a well-known German medical man, Professor Dr. Friedberger, caused his assistant and his assistant's wife to be weighed with and without clothing. He has published the results in the 'Munich Medical Weekly,' and draws the conclusion that what vanity has done for woman, common sense and the laws of hygiene ought to do for man unless he wishes to be hopelessly outclassed in the race for physical fitness. The weight of clothing worn by man and woman respectively was as follows:—

	MAN.	GRAMS.	WOMAN.	GRAMS.
Vest	101	Stockings	20	
Pants	170	Underwear	60	
Socks	80	Corset	65	
Garters	20	Dress	118	
Trousers	650	Shoes	350	
Shirt	250	Hat	128	
Jacket	1,050			
(no waistcoat)				
Shoes	730			
Hat	110			
Tie	14			
Collar	14			
		3,279	741	

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

"Back to the Land."

DEAR EDITOR,—I have read the letter in the VOTE, headed "Back to the Land," by Miss Eunice G. Murray, and am somewhat amazed at such a letter coming from a woman who fought for freedom—certainly for women; but emigration on a large scale—as she suggests—cannot be done without compelling large numbers of women to leave the land of their birth against their inclinations, and many, doubtless, who fought for the vote. Such would be worse than forcing women to take the nationality of their husbands, for such is the result of their own choice. Further it is not a matter of whether more or fewer are emigrating now than before the war, or whether the population is greater or less. Human beings are not stones to be shifted or left alone whether they will or not. It is a crime to compel people by economic pressure to emigrate.

Miss Murray says, "as long as there is room and to spare in the vast spaces of our Empire, emigration is the remedy I should advocate." So long as there is room and to spare—and there is—in the wide unpeopled spaces in Britain, with its thousands of grassy acres where scarcely a foot tread, much less a sheep feeds, and the many acres of heatherland which could be transformed and used for the production of food, as in Denmark, no human being should be forced—not even then, it ought to be from choice—to go from their own country.

We must remember that if there are more wage-earners than before the war, there is just the same number more of producers, if their work is of a productive kind, and it is the responsibility of our legislators and administrators to see that all work is productive, and that every citizen is doing productive work.

Taxpayers cannot indefinitely build subsidised dreadnoughts and provide pensions to many of the one to five-thousand-pounds-a-year type. If the money used to build one or two dreadnoughts were used to pension all workers at sixty years of age, and the Education Act were brought into force completely, which would enable all young people economically to remain at school till the age of fifteen, the unemployment problem would cease to be a problem.

JEAN LAMBIE.

FRIDAY,
SEPT. 25,
1925.

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NOTICES.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED.—Consult Miss H. M. BAKER, 275, High Holborn, W.C.1. Income Tax Returns, Repayment Claims of all Descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 377.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, September 27th. 3.30 p.m. Music Lecture. The Viscountess Rhondda. 6.30 p.m. Miss Maude Royden: "The Foundation of the Christian Religion."

TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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