

THE VOTE,  
SEPT. 24, 1920.  
ONE PENNY.

THE SESSION'S WORK.

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 24, 1920.

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

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## INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

QUINQUENNIAL MEETING, CHRISTIANIA, SEPTEMBER, 1920.

*"Do unto others as ye would they should do unto you."*

The above motto of the I.C.W. surrounded us everywhere, was quoted at all our gatherings, and gave the keynote to our work and play alike.

It is difficult to judge how much force and weight the resolutions of any international conference possess. If 28 countries of the world can agree unanimously, or almost so, on any given resolution it cannot be a remarkable advance on any previous thought on the matter. But in considering the resolutions of the I.C.W., we ought to remember that they sum up the greatest common measure of agreement of the mass of women in the different countries, and this gives them an enormous value. If you are an expert on education you can learn from the resolutions the standard reached by most countries and the state of public opinion on which you must work.

We pronounced in favour of an international exchange of teachers with provision that such service abroad should count in their service qualifying for a pension, and that in all schools more adequate provision be made for training in citizenship, and that in the upper classes of high schools and continuation schools instruction be given to girls in the leading principles of the laws of their country, and recommended the I.C.W. to seek co-operation with other international organisations on such points.

The position taken up regarding illegitimacy is most interesting, and seems to me to show a real advance in average public opinion. One may say that the mass of women of all countries are absolutely agreed on the great principles. Firstly, that the father should be sought for; secondly, that the child should bear his name, or should have at least the choice of so doing; thirdly, that the child should have the right to be maintained by his father. There was a great difference of

opinion over the further right of inheritance. In Norway during the last two or three years a law has been passed by which illegitimate inherit equally with the legitimate children, and Norway wished it laid down as a principle. This was supported by Canada and the U.S.A., as far as I could see, but the large majority of countries were against it. By the time we meet again we shall have the experience of Norway and one or two other countries to go by, and may by then be able to come to a further decision.

The nationality of married women was discussed at length, and was finally voted on as a principle, but remitted to the Standing Committee on laws for information to be collected and proposals to be drawn up. Among all the belligerent countries the hard cases produced by the war had evidently deeply influenced public opinion, and in some countries, such as Canada, a woman had already been put on much the same footing as a man, even if she were married. The U.S.A. felt strongly for, and had made and was making, changes. Great Britain, Belgium and France reported some alterations. The very able Convener of the Standing Committee on Laws, Dr. Van Dorp, of Holland, opposed a general resolution, and wished the question to be studied further. The real difficulty was expressed by Miss Macintosh, of South Africa. Under Roman law questions of personal and family law are determined by one's nationality. Under Anglo-Saxon law personal and family law is determined by one's residence. It is, therefore, easier to grant a married woman the option in countries where Anglo-Saxon law prevails, i.e., the Empire and the U.S.A., than in the countries whose law is based on Roman law. As finally passed the resolution reads: "That in view of the importance of international agreement on the laws



of nationality and the confusion which arises from differences between one country and another, especially in the case of women, the I.C.W. urges the affiliated National Councils to study legislation in their respective countries by which women who marry aliens may retain their own nationality and domicile when they so desire, and that women who have lost their native citizenship by marriage may resume the same, and to draw up proposals to this effect for international legislation for presentation to the League of Nations and the Governments, and that this be referred to the Laws Committee." The question of the League of Nations was obviously one of enormous difficulty and delicacy. Germany was not present, but Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, China and Ukraine were amongst us.

The following resolution was passed unanimously: "That the I.C.W., comprising delegates from 28 National Councils of women, desires to place on record their high satisfaction that a League of Nations for the prevention of war and the submission of international disputes to arbitration has been created as an integral part of the Treaty of Versailles, and considers it is of the first importance for the settlement of political and economic questions and for the establishment of international justice that the membership of the League should as rapidly as possible be extended to include all fully self-governing States." This was proposed by Great Britain and seconded by France. It was wired to the absent members of the National Council of Women of Germany, who wired back thanks and good wishes, and thanks to the I.C.W. were spoken by Austria and Hungary. This was followed by a strong resolution pressing for the inclusion of women in the Assembly and Commissions of the League. I may add that a special meeting to advocate the League of Nations took place on the last afternoon, when, after a magnificent speech by Lady Aberdeen, representatives from Bulgaria, China, Denmark, Great Britain, Norway, Jugo-Slavia, and the Ukraine spoke. Certainly on this matter the women of the world are advanced in their views.

Following this came a resolution calling upon the women of all countries to do all in their power to save the children in the famine-stricken districts of Europe. It was carried unanimously after speeches from the women of some of the countries affected, in which they thanked the women for the help already sent, and especially the Scandinavian countries, who had invited so many of their children over and had done such wonderful work for the prisoners of war.

The Greek delegation gave 300 kronas on the spot, and the French delegation 500 francs to the fund. After discussion on child welfare it was decided to set up a special committee on the subject.

Public health was dealt with in three resolutions, one urging the establishment of a Bureau of Public Health within the League of Nations, provided that in venereal diseases the equal moral standard between men and women be observed.

The second resolution urged greater touch between the various departments affecting public health, and also as between countries.

#### EMIGRATION.

To prevent hardships which immigrants frequently suffer because of lack of an exact and severe examination at ports of embarkation, we urge all National Committees to request their Governments to establish in their countries such a system of medical examination as shall be identical with the requirements of the examining board at the port of debarkation.

The Council also voted for a return to simpler mode of dress and against luxury in the home or society, and later on against extravagance in dress and dancing, the former as increasing class animosity and discontent, and the latter as encouraging immorality.

#### ENDOWMENT OF MOTHERHOOD.

The Council pronounced in favour of the principle of the endowment of mothers in necessitous circumstances, and it was recommended as a subject of study to all National Councils.

#### ECONOMIC POSITION OF THE WIFE.

The I.C.W. asks the National Councils to consider the economic position of the wife, and recommends that she should be legally entitled to a certain fixed proportion of her husband's income.

#### HOUSING.

An urgency resolution on the Housing Question was passed unanimously, and also a resolution in favour of local option and against an international language.

#### EQUAL MORAL STANDARD.

A long and vigorous resolution in favour of the equal moral standard was carried unanimously and enthusiastically. The French text was voted on, so that I have not the official English version. To those of us who are interested it may be enough to mention the various points mentioned: Vigorous enforcement of the laws for the protection of girls and women and against procuration in all its forms; the abolition of the regulation of prostitution, especially in the form of compulsory medical examination of women; the registration of prostitutes; the licensing of houses of ill-fame; and so forth as being both ineffective in reducing disease, and deteriorating to public morals. Further, while urging fuller study of the question of combating venereal disease, it warns women all over the world to oppose the re-introduction of regulations which, under the guise of health measures against venereal disease, give power for the compulsory examination and detention of women.

The position of women in the mandatory countries was examined, together with the different clauses in the covenant dealing with slaves, drugs and the exploitation of native races, and the I.C.W. was of opinion that mandates should only be granted by the League of Nations on condition that there should be no State regulation of prostitution within the mandatory territory. A strengthening of the laws punishing men who have committed sexual offences was also demanded. Women were asked to assist to obtain an improvement in films.

One afternoon was given to the discussion of future work, when formal resolutions were not taken but the sense of the Conference taken. This resulted in the following statements:—

1.—That the I.C.W. Conference declines the invitation to support the proposal of the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance of an annual official Women's Conference under the auspices of the League of Nations and at their expense.

2.—That the I.C.W. Conference recommends the I.C.W. executive and officers to keep in view the desirability of co-operation with other great international women's organisations on subjects of common interest.

I have given so much space to the work of the Council that I have no space to speak of the wonderful reception we received everywhere. Our landing at Bergen was the signal for a wonderful lunch and evening party. At Christiania their Majesties entertained us at the Council, and themselves presided over the two tables at which officers and presidents were placed. The Foreign Minister entertained us to supper, and the Municipality of Christiania to a formal and generous lunch at the wonderful ski-ing spot of Frognersaeteren. The National Theatre gave us a concert, and the Christiania Council of Women a farewell dinner. That this was not merely formal hospitality, but real kindness, was proved by the thousand kindly attentions of tramway conductors, shop assistants and waiters, and the innumerable friendly private invitations we received.

The spirit of all may best be seen in that the Scandinavian countries combined to make it financially possible for delegates from countries with an impossibly low standard of exchange to reach us.

If, alas! we cannot claim to have brought peace on earth, goodwill among men, we surely attained.

M. I. CORBETT ASHBY,

Delegate for Great Britain Nat. C.

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

### Innovation at Cambridge.

Miss Alice Normington has just been appointed pastor of the Primitive Methodist Church, Cambridge, and will be in charge of the circuit. Miss Normington has been preaching for six years, beginning at Kingswood, Bristol. For the last two years she has been a "sister" at Chippenham, Wilts.

### The Woman Dentist.

Chiswick Council have appointed a woman dental surgeon for their school and maternity clinics.

### Not on Equal Terms.

The ex-Service men's organisations have amalgamated into one great body, to be open to all who have served at least seven days in any of the services. Ex-Service women, however, are not to be members, because, though it would be logical to admit them, they would "cause a great deal of trouble," so ex-Service women are to be invited to join with wives and relations of ex-Service men in a "women's section," which will "collaborate in every way."

### The Penalisation of Marriage.

In view of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, the Bradford Education Committee is getting the Town Clerk to report on the legality of obliging women teachers to resign their posts on marriage.

### Taking the Money.

At Tottenham Police Court last week: "I work very hard for a living—at least my wife does, and it amounts to the same thing, because I take the money." On the other hand, a Tottenham wife, asking for a summons for maintenance, declared that for the last nine months her husband had compelled her to keep herself and child on five shillings a week.

### Women and the League of Nations.

The International Council of Women has adopted a motion by the U.S. delegation endorsing the principle of the League of Nations. It was decided to urge each State which is a member of the League to send a woman to the Assembly as one of its three representatives.

### International Women's Federation.

Lady Aberdeen, after serving for twenty-three years as President of the International Women's Federation, has been elected Honorary President, and has consented to collaborate with Madame Chaponiere Chaix, of Geneva, her successor in office.

### Presentation to Lady Aberdeen.

At a banquet given to the foreign delegates of the International Council of Women, Lady Aberdeen, the retiring President, was presented with two silver bowls by the Norwegian Women's National Council.

## NOVEMBER 26 & NOVEMBER 27.

Make a note of these dates at once, and remember that

then we shall have

## "All the Fun of the Fair."

There will be many new attractions at the Green, White and Gold Fair, as well as Palmistry, Music, Dancing, etc.

### WE WANT YOUR SUGGESTIONS.

Send them along at once and do your bit to ensure success.

## THE DEACONESS.

### And a Possible Danger.

It is unnecessary to point out to readers of THE VOTE how the recent revolution in the status and work of women in the political, professional and industrial fields has found an echo in the decisions of the Bishops concerning the ministry of women in the Church.

In the resolutions the Bishops accept the principle that women should be given a larger share in the government and work of the Church. They argue that women should be admitted on an equality with men to all the councils in which the laity have a part. They recommend the revival of the Diaconate for women and thus give sanction to the admission of women to Holy Orders. This is a tremendous step in the right direction, for much has been written in the past in support of the view that women were incapable of the grace of Orders. Duly qualified laymen and laywomen are to be allowed to preach at other than the regular services of the Church.

One hesitates to say what will be the outcome of all this, and much discussion will result—probably at the Church Congress and in the National Assembly—before a great deal of practical work can be done.

There lurks a danger, however, that in the minds of some, the services of the Deaconess will be viewed as a means of getting a substitute for a "cheap curate." It would be disastrous if this were so in practice. The whole question of remuneration for church work—clerical and lay—needs very careful adjustment.

There is also danger that through apathy on the part of the most efficient women this opportunity for service will go by default. Suffragists who are Churchwomen should combine forces to help bring these resolutions into practical use in the everyday life of the Church. The League of the Church Militant, formerly the Church League for Women's Suffrage, is making this its immediate work. Many women have complained bitterly in the past that they have no use for the Church because the Church has no use for them. That reproach is no longer true. Here is the opportunity. Let our response be immediate. E. LOUIE ACRES.

## BLACK or BROWN.

This week a Brown Maria is travelling the London streets, and another is promised shortly. These vehicles are said to be lighted by electricity and well ventilated, and to comprise cubicles for twelve prisoners.

One of the most pressing small reforms which the Women's Freedom League deputation urged upon the Home Secretary some eight years ago was the abolition of the scandalous insanitary torture boxes in which unfortunate men and women are carted to and fro between courts and prisons. Now at least it is to be hoped that with these new vans prisoners will not have to be dragged out unconscious, or in a dying condition, as has happened in the past.

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

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## THE VOTE.

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

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## THE SESSION'S WORK.

This week the Women's Freedom League begins another session's work. We have every reason to congratulate ourselves on the progress made in the women's cause during the last year. Women now have the right to qualify for both branches of the legal profession, and some hundreds of women have been selected throughout the country to serve as Justices of the Peace; but it certainly cannot yet be claimed by women that they have anything approaching equality with men in either the making or the administration of the law. Supporters of this Government never weary of telling us that since its return to power many important concessions have been made in the way of remedying women's grievances. How could it have been otherwise? Have not some women the parliamentary vote? But the real test of the Government's sincerity in its professed desire to remove women's existing disabilities will be found in its treatment of the question of the equal franchise of men and women; and the Women's Freedom League is determined to put the Government to the test on this question during the next few months. Political equality is the surest way to open the door to every other kind of equality as between the sexes, and we shall do our utmost to secure that the Government shall pass an equal franchise measure at the earliest possible moment. We recognise, however, that equal franchise alone will not give women political equality with men. Equal voting rights is certainly the first step in this direction, but the next step, perhaps the more difficult one, is to get an adequate number of women Members of the House of Commons. With a good number of women of all parties and all shades of political opinion in Parliament, it would be impossible for the members of any Party to advocate restrictions on women's labour, differentiation in the status and salaries of women and men doing similar work, or the retention of all the higher posts in the Civil Service and public offices for men. With keen women Members of Parliament it would be impossible for the Home Secretary to block the way to all prison reform and the appointment of women governors and women medical officers of women's prisons; it would be impossible, too, for the Government and the municipalities to assist in maintaining an unequal moral standard for men and women, and the penalisation of women in order to make vice easier for men if this subject had to be debated with women Members of the House of Commons. With a good number of capable women in Parliament it could not be long before some of them were appointed to positions in the Cabinet and to the Privy Council. All these reforms and very many others will be obtained when women have real political equality with men. The Women's Freedom League, therefore, calls upon all its members and friends to help it financially and in every other way so that it may leave no stone unturned to secure absolute political equality as between men and women.

## SUMMON PARLIAMENT!

Three weeks ago we expressed the view that, in the face of general unrest and the strike with which the country was threatened, Parliament should be summoned to deal with these matters of national importance. This week other papers are making the same suggestion in a more or less half-hearted manner. We are convinced that the time is more than ripe for Parliament to assert its authority over the Executive. Since the adjournment of Parliament things have been growing steadily worse as regards our foreign relations, the travesty of Government in Ireland and in the industrial unrest at home. The threatened miners' strike spells disaster for this country, and if the dispute between the miners and the Government cannot be settled, Parliament should at once reassemble and know the reason why. We expect our representatives to assume control in a crisis like the present, and to do their best to save the nation from the incalculable amount of unemployment and destitution at the beginning of what will in any event be an unusually hard winter for millions of our people. Cannot our representatives themselves move in the matter and insist that Parliament should be summoned immediately to deal with the dark days ahead? What confidence can women, or indeed any portion of the public, have in Parliament when our representatives take so poor a hand in our national affairs, and shirk their responsibility by leaving everything to an Executive whose chief business seems to be to make confusion worse confounded?

## SOVEREIGNS OF THE NATION.

We are rejoiced that American women have their vote safe at last. Probably by now Tennessee legislators are feeling "sorry they spoke," for the antics of Tennessee antis will have no other result than to ensure that certain gentlemen do not return to the scene of their present legislative efforts. Connecticut, already rather sore at not having been able to give direct help, was quick to seize its opportunity to make history, and on September 14th, in a special session for which its women had been working very hard, both Houses of the Connecticut Legislature ratified the Women's Suffrage Federal Amendment, making a total of 37 States. So American women are able to make a present to Tennessee of its contradictions and broken pledges and journeys over the border to escape the resolution, and still have the 36 ratifications necessary to enfranchise all American women.

"Women," says Mrs. Chapman, "are no longer subjects of the nation; they are sovereigns."

Possessed of their costly vote, the emblem of equality, the guarantee of liberty, American women are now setting to work to use it to serve the common good. A discussion has arisen concerning Parties. In America it is possible that the political parties may welcome women into a place of equality, so that it may be possible for American women to do their best work within the parties. We know that in this country, though party women may wield a very definite power in modifying the programme of their party, yet it is necessary for women also to stand together in non-party organisations if we are to do our best work here.

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## THE NEW CALL FOR WOMEN.

Since the Enfranchisement Bill gave some women the Parliamentary vote, there has been a certain amount of disorganisation of the various Societies which had that for their main objective. This is quite natural, and was to be expected. Votes for Women was a rallying cry for all those of independent thought, whatever their political or religious convictions, or social position might be, but when the Vote was won these other considerations came into force once more, and women who had given up every other interest for the Suffrage Cause took up the other work which most appealed to them.

Meanwhile the forces of reaction having been compelled to yield the one point, have devoted themselves to strengthening the two next barriers to the Freedom which women have claimed. Readers of THE VOTE will remember the threefold claim which sounded in every number; and from every Women's Freedom League platform, "Freedom, political, industrial and moral; and political freedom first, because it is the door to the others." That the second will come, despite every effort of the reactionaries in the labour and professional world, no one can doubt. "Pre-war Practices" and similar Acts may delay, but cannot prevent it; but that it must be preceded by the third many of us are coming to realise.

It is necessary to speak very plainly, for the attack is very subtle, and therefore the more dangerous. It is a matter of general knowledge that the medical examination of men and women for military service revealed the fact that an enormous number of our population suffered in some way from the effects of venereal disease, and, further, that owing to the totally unnatural life led by both men and women during the war, the being herded together in masses all of one sex; the nervous excitement engendered by the knowledge of danger; the spirit of "eat, drink and be merry for to-morrow we may die" led to a certain amount of promiscuous sexual intercourse which encouraged and spread the disease.

The Military system, recognising that it could not remove the cause, was concerned only to prevent the resultant incapacity of the sufferer (man or woman) as long as he (or she) remained in its care; what happened to those outside its care did not concern it. To put it bluntly, from the Army Medical Service standpoint, the soldier must be a healthy animal; the healthy animal, said the Service, requires sexual intercourse, but circumstances make that difficult except under unhealthy conditions; therefore, make the conditions as safe as possible, provide disinfectants, preventatives and cures where you cannot control the conditions, and when these fail—damn the consequences!

And from the Military standpoint that quite logically ends the matter!

But women have a different standpoint, and a longer outlook. Even in war time they protested against the Army one, and the very strength and success of their protest has, it would seem, put a fresh weapon into the hands of their enemies, and a deliberate attempt is being made to so far hamper and restrict women as a sex, as to minimise, if not entirely destroy, the advantages they have so dearly gained, and the progress they have so recently made.

The doctrine is being quite skilfully promulgated that prostitution for men can be made quite safe, provided they take certain precautions and use certain disinfectants before and after running risks; stations where such "self disinfection" can take place are being provided in certain towns (at the ratepayers' expense, but without their general knowledge), and it is now proposed to establish similar centres for women. Is it not probable that these will be used to identify certain women and so lead practically to a system of registration and some of the worst abuses of the old C.D. Acts?

This is the great danger to womanhood, and this should bind together women of all classes and all creeds as in the old days, to fight the battle for purity, to

refuse for themselves and their sisters the shackles of lust, to claim moral as they claimed political freedom, and to save the coming generation of women from a worse slavery than this generation ever endured! Let there be no misapprehension; vice made safe (?) and easy for men means the degradation of womanhood—a loss not only to a few women, but to the whole sex; a lowering of status which will react on the whole of our political and industrial life. It may not be a new acute one, and the fact that it is being fostered by public bodies and disguised as a health measure makes it far greater. Not only for our own sakes, but for the sake of our girls and our boys, we cannot, we dare not, let it grow!

Every reader, therefore, should ascertain what measures are being adopted in her own town in this matter, and should make it a test question for every candidate at the forthcoming Municipal elections; should insist that no posters should be put up in public places, and no directions issued from the local Health office which can incite to vice, but that all measures of prevention shall be based on a clean (and equal) moral standard, and, above all, that no measures of prevention shall be adopted which in practice place women of all classes and all kinds in the position of helots!

M. I. NEAL.

## WANTED A DICTIONARY.

Sir James Crichton Browne presided last week over the annual conference of the Sanitary Inspector's Association at Margate, and took the opportunity to deliver a diatribe of the kind with which we were so familiar in pre-suffrage days. He complained bitterly of the 250 Bishops at the Lambeth Conference for giving their verdict in favour of the equality of the sexes and decreeing the revival of the order of deaconesses. "The equality of the sexes," says this authority, is an anatomical and physiological heresy of the first magnitude." We are sorry to see that Sir James confuses the ideas of equality and identity. Two sixpenses are equal to a shilling, or to twelve penny stamps, and both are equal to a shilling postal order, but none of these useful tokens are identical in every respect; nor will a ton of feathers, though equal to the ton of coal that we should welcome so heartily, serve the same purpose because though equal it is not identical.

Sir James went on to lay down the law that women should stop at home and mind the baby, and men should go out to work, but we fear the time is long gone by when women will be willing to rule their lives and actions by the dicta of authorities of eminence.

Women and men are equal in value as human beings, and in responsibility for their lives, and it is for them to choose the life and the work that is best suited to each one, for, strange as it may seem to Sir James, all women cannot be classed together and treated as a row of pins any more than all men could be compelled to follow any one trade or profession.

## MAINTAINING A WIFE.

In connection with the recommendation of the International Council of Women at Christiania last week that a wife should be legally entitled to a certain proportion of her husband's income, a recent case in the Luton Police Court is interesting. The Luton Guardians summoned a husband for maintenance of his wife, and it was finally agreed that the husband should pay 25s. a week. This man was proved to have been recklessly extravagant, and was said to have spent £300 this year on a fortnight's holiday with another woman. Yet his legal wife has to be satisfied with this paltry allowance, on which, even if she can obtain it regularly, she cannot possibly live.



## WOMEN'S PLACE IN THE KITCHEN!

We are told that cooking is a supremely suitable occupation for women, and that all women should learn to cook.

It appears curious, therefore, to the logical mind when we learn that the only place where a young person can study cooking under the L.C.C.—the premier Council of the country—is reserved for young persons of the male sex, viz., at Westminster Technical Institute. Surely this is retrogressive and should be changed. Of course there are many places where a girl can pay fees and learn cooking, but I am writing of those who are not moneyed. Girls anxious to earn their livings and command good salaries as cooks should have equal opportunities with boys and should not be relegated to scholarship classes for domestic servants and to the limited training for home use of the L.C.C. cooking centre.

Recherché cookery, the cooking of club, hotel and restaurant, is what people are willing to pay for, and girls should not be debarred from learning it provided they are apt and suitable pupils.

Now is the time to strike while the iron is hot, for now, as a result of the war and the practicalities connected with it cooking is the vogue, and has never been so popular before. During the war, at a town in one of the home counties there were hundreds of cookery students at the local technical school as compared with scores before, and this must be the experience of many such centres.

The desire to make themselves proficient in sick cookery in anticipation of the return of our wounded from the front and the difficulty of managing the rations were the chief incentives, but obviously the trial trip in the regions of pots and pans has proved so fascinating to the quondam golfers and batswomen, that in order to satisfy their creative instinct they wish to essay further, and are eager to learn the fashioning of more elaborate plats than those one would be permitted to serve the sick or which could be manufactured in the lean days of rationing. At demonstrations, alert with notebook and pencil following the intricacies of ragoût, soufflé and mousse, at practice, garbed in overall or apron, we see them clumsily trying to imitate the deft gestures of their instructress and to cultivate the interaction of hand and brain so essential in the performance of domestic arts.

But it is for the would-be professional, not the amateur, that I would plead. Beneficial as a serious course in cookery would be to the girl of leisure who was a temporary war-worker and who usually has things made so easy for her, and who, in learning to cook, would come up against the inexorable laws, both physical and chemical, of uncoaxable Dame Nature, how essential is it to make openings, and lucrative openings for wage-earning women, more especially in an art deemed so especially womanly and domesticated by the opponents of woman's ingress into other professions.

Let us see that public money spent so lavishly on matters of less import is expended in helping our would-be women cooks to qualify in the higher branches of the art, and benefit will result not only to them but to the nation at large, knowing as we do that cooking is a sign of true culture and civilisation.

MARGUERITE FEDDON.

## MAUD JEFFERY.

The death sentence has been commuted to one of penal servitude. It would be difficult to imagine less suitable surroundings for this poor girl than her present position—shut up to brood upon the past, her mind unoccupied and her future without hope, and it is earnestly to be hoped that when the full circumstances of her condition have been taken into consideration the sentence will be remitted. This is surely a case where the authorities should help to make the girl fit to face life and her responsibilities, instead of crushing her with a long term of penal servitude.

## BOOK REVIEW.

*The Slippery Slope and Other Papers on Social Subjects.* By the late W. A. Bailward, M.A. (London: John Murray.) 10s. 6d. (To be obtained from this office.)

These papers, fourteen in number, on Poor Law administration and other social problems connected with it are based on twenty-five years' experience of Poor Law and charitable administration in London. The author adheres to the principles laid down by the Poor Law Commissioners of 1834: (1) that only destitution should be relieved, such destitution to be tested by the willingness to accept institutional relief; and (2) that the position of the pauper should be "less eligible" than that of the self-supporting workman. He contends that it is the uniform experience, both of this and other countries, that State relief (in which he includes such measures as Old Age Pensions and Medical Inspection of School Children) saps the foundations of human effort, and that the pauperism which results means the deadening of effort, ambition, self-respect and self-reliance. Most social reformers, in his opinion, ignore "the elementary law that human nature, like everything in the physical world, follows the line of least resistance, and that so long as the State offers, or appears to offer, the means of subsistence upon easy terms, a large majority of the poorer population will shape their lives accordingly, and "become atrophied in body and soul." To him the Minority Report of the Poor Law Commissioners, 1909, is a "gospel of materialism, which is sure to defeat its own ends. Its authors," he says, "profess to be able to cure pauperism by making everyone a pauper, and they advocate, with but little disguise, universal provision by the State of the necessaries of life."

Mr. Bailward's cure for poverty is the adequate payment of labour—how this is to be brought about he does not say; the growth of the spirit of self-maintenance and self-respect among the poorer classes of the community; the extension of the work of the Friendly Societies; and wisely directed voluntary charity.

The papers are all lucidly and interestingly written, and express the honest convictions of one who has a first hand knowledge of his subject. As such they should serve as a warning to those who rely too much on State intervention. They are an interesting revelation of the limitations of the official mind, of its narrowness of outlook, and its total lack of vision.

A. G.

## NEW MEMBER'S TEA PARTY.

On the kind invitation of Dr. Knight all new members have been asked to tea in the office on Friday, October 8th, between 3—5 or 6—8 p.m., so that we shall all get to know each other, and feel that we have a real interest in the work of the League. Every member will want to do something to help the work, and we shall also be delighted to see any members of older standing and make plans with them to help the League, if they can come at the same time and talk things over. We want help in all sorts of ways:—

Stewarding at meetings.  
Bill distributing.  
Vote selling.  
Clerical help in the office.

A definite promise of a stated monthly contribution to the funds of the League (even a small regular sum is a great help).

Help for the Green, White and Gold Fair. The Fair is our chief means of paying our way through the busy winter months. Its success chiefly depends on the amount of goods for sale. Any quantity of really useful articles is cleared out quickly, but we can only have a large stock if all our members rally round the flag and help to get the things together. We are arranging several working parties, both here and in other parts of London.

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

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Mrs. PIEROTTI (Business).

General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



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

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

Saturday, October 2.—Dance, Caxton Hall, Westminster. 7.45 p.m.

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

Wednesday, October 13.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Speaker: Mrs. Shaw McLaren. Subject: "What Place, if any, has the Father in the Home?" 3 p.m.

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

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

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

### PROVINCES.

Monday, October 4.—Westcliff-on-Sea. Opening Social, at 7.30 p.m., at Crowstone Congregational Hall, King's Road. Tickets 1s. 6d.

Monday, October 11.—Westcliff-on-Sea. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood, on "The Need for Women on Councils."

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

### OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, October 6.—Central London Parliament will meet at Holy Trinity Hall, Kingsway, W.C. (adjoining Holborn Restaurant) at 7.30 p.m., and every Wednesday.

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

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

## THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT,

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

We gratefully acknowledge an anonymous parcel of clothing and toys; flowers from Mrs. Stutchbury; Miss Stutchbury, fruit; Miss M. Cole and Mrs. Delbanco and Miss Vere Foley, vegetables; Miss T. Harvey, jumble goods from Mrs. Delbanco; 2s. from Miss Riggall; £5 from Mr. Snow; and £10 from Messrs. Delbanco and Co.; £1, Miss K. Holmes; £1 1s., Mrs. Jacobson; collected by Miss Greenville, £2 5s. We shall be grateful if any of our friends will commence making work for our bazaar stalls and sales of work, of which we have several in prospect. We anticipate a heavy winter, and shall be grateful for anything that will help our people to help themselves. We could send articles to be made to any who would help but do not care to supply the material as well as to give work.

## THE AGONY OF A RE-BIRTH, INDIA 1910-20.

(Under the auspices of the Indian Section of the British Dominions Women Citizens' Union.)

MR. A. YUSUF ALI will give a Lecture on the

"Present Position in India,"

(As he has just returned from a Tour in that Country, IN THE

CAXTON HALL, on Thursday, Oct. 7, at 8 p.m.

To be followed by Questions and Discussion.

Doors Open 7.30 p.m. Admission Free. Reserved Seats 2/6.

for which Tickets can be obtained from Hon. Sec.,

COUNCILLOR MARGARET HODGE, 13 Temple Fortune Court, N.W. 4.

All interested in India are Cordially Invited to Attend.

## BRANCH NOTES.

### MIDDLESBROUGH MOCK ELECTION.

A large and enthusiastic gathering assembled at the Mock Election held in the Suffrage Café on Saturday evening, under the auspices of the Women's Freedom League. The candidates were as follows:—

COUNCILLOR SCHOFIELD COATES, Women's Freedom League.

Mrs. JOHN SMITH, Co-operative Society.

Miss MAW, Women Teachers.

Mrs. BARKER, Independent Liberal.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Labour.

The League of Nations and Coalition Unionist were included in the voting, but unfortunately their candidates were unable to be present.

The Election was based on the Proportional Representation principle. The views of the various political bodies represented were very ably put forth in the five minutes allotted to each candidate, all of whom were afterwards subjected to considerable heckling from members of the audience. The hecklers were frequently called to order from the chair. All sides entered fully into the true spirit of an election, and at the same time good-humouredly bowed to the Chairman's ruling.

The candidates gave good reasons why they should be returned, and assured their supporters if they had the honour of being elected they would endeavour to put into practice the principle for which they stood.

The count was superintended by Miss Morton, of London, who afterwards explained the value of this method of voting, and demonstrated to the audience how the results were obtained.

Four candidates out of the seven were to be returned to Parliament. The successful ones were Mr. Cunningham (Labour), who headed the poll, Councillor Schofield Coates (Women's Freedom League) second, Miss Maw (Women Teachers) third, and Mrs. John Smith (Co-operative Societies) fourth. Mrs. Newton made a most excellent chairwoman, and carried out her duties in a very fair and impartial manner.

During the supervision of the voting papers, refreshments were handed round by members and friends of the League, to whom we owe our thanks for the splendid way in which they carried out this service. Madame Cora, a member of the League, proved a great attraction by reading hands.

Votes of thanks to Miss Morton for the masterly way in which she had simplified the Proportional Representation principle, to the Candidates, and to the Chairwoman brought the evening's programme to a very successful close.

DOROTHY BARRS, Hon. Secretary.

### KENSINGTON BRANCH.

A meeting of the above will be held shortly, full particulars of which will be announced in THE VOTE. In the meantime will any members and friends who could meet on Saturday afternoons at Hampton Court, for tea and sewing, please communicate with Miss Reeves, The Maze Parlour, Hampton Court.

Last year we were able to hold quite successful sewing parties for some weeks before the Fair, and should like to do the same again if we have the necessary support. If any friends or members of other branches who live within easy distance of Hampton Court would join us, we should be delighted to welcome them. Perhaps they could combine a visit to Hampton Court Palace and grounds, joining us afterwards for tea at 4 sharp.

MARIAN REEVES, Hon. Secretary.

### CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES.

On September 7th, at St. George's Church, Bloomsbury, Miriam Gwenllan Fisher was married to Gerald Joseph Wyld McMichael.

## DANCE

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

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

Refreshments will be provided by the Minerva Cafe.

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

Miss LILIAN PIEROTTI,

Women's Freedom League Office,

144, High Holborn, W.C.

Send for Tickets NOW.



FRIDAY,  
SEPT. 24,  
1920.

# THE VOTE

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**FELLOWSHIP SERVICES**,  
Kensington Town Hall, Sunday,  
September 26th, 3.15. Mr. Martin Shaw,  
"The difference between good and bad  
Hymns, with illustrations," 6.30, Miss  
Maude Royden, "The disproportion of the  
Sexes: A Moral Problem."

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