

THE VOTE,
AUGUST 9, 1918.
ONE PENNY.

The Need for Women M.P.'s

F. A. U.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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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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WOMEN IN WAR-TIME.

The Nation's Prayer for Women War Workers.

The national service of women in war time has been recognised nationally. Before the day of National Prayer and Remembrance, August 4, the fourth anniversary of the outbreak of war, the Archbishop of Canterbury called the attention of the clergy to the recognition of the services of women to their country, and writing to the Minister of Labour with regard to the commemoration, he said:—"At such a time we must not forget the wonderful work which is being done, and the great sacrifices which are being made, by the women. Their service, often difficult and exhausting and even dangerous, deserves the fullest gratitude we can give. The measure of that gratitude will perhaps hardly be realised till the war is over."

The special prayer used in the religious services throughout the land was as follows:—

Let us pray for all who are giving their labour, whether of mind or of body, to the service of their country, remembering especially the women and girls of our land who are working at home and across the seas.

O God our Father, Who knowest our necessities: Bless the women of our nation on whom special burdens of service have been laid in this time of war; guard them in all

dangers; preserve them in all temptations; and grant them such health of mind and body that they may serve their brethren faithfully and well, and do the things that are pleasing unto Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Several thousand members of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps attended a special service at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, London; in other parts of the country women land workers were specially recognised.

Taking the Place of Men at the Telephone Exchange.

During the visit of the King and Queen and Princess Mary to the General Post Office and Central Telephone Exchange a few days ago, Miss Heap, the chief lady superintendent, told the visitors that 600 women and girls are on duty throughout the night. Prior to the war night duty was undertaken exclusively by men.

The Postmaster-General supplied some statistics which gave some idea of the enormous extent of the Post Office undertaking. He said the Department had released about 81,000 men and 600 women for naval and military service. Since the outbreak of war two thousand million letters had been delivered

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to troops abroad, beside one hundred million parcels. The postal service to the Navy dealt with 16,000 ships.

"Fany's" Under Fire.

The members of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry, known as the "Fany's," have a fine record of service behind them. Since September, 1914, they have been working in Belgium and France, and to-day the corps has 200 members overseas attached as drivers to the British Red Cross Society, or doing hospital and ambulance work with the French and Belgian Armies.

"They were the first women to drive ambulances in France," said Miss Anderson, commandant of the Allied Section at the London headquarters, to a *Daily News* representative. "They were never under fire before the French offensive, though they did very fine and plucky work during air raids on French and Belgian towns. The German advance brought their base in France within the firing line, and though they evacuated it they kept at their work of transporting wounded."

"Many of our members have won the Military Medal. One girl who lost her leg owing to wounds sustained when on air-raid duty holds the Croix de Guerre, and now Miss Frazer has the Legion of Honour. There only remains the V.C. All the 'Fany's,' she said, "are volunteers, and the majority are in their early twenties. Each girl has to clean and drive her own car, and repair it in most cases, as mechanics are very scarce."

Co-Operative Sale of Allotment Produce.

Last year the Women's War Agricultural Committee of Hertfordshire started a system of co-operative marketing of the produce of allotments, bringing together the small producer and the consumer. Its success has been so marked that this year large numbers of allotment holders are selling their produce through the co-operative depot.

Holding Up Parliament.

A cable from Brisbane on July 31 states that a crowd of women invaded Parliament House demanding six o'clock closing for hotels, and the sitting of the Legislative Assembly was suspended for half an hour. The women meant business.

Women Aviators.

Rumours are current, which will probably soon become realities, that women are being trained by the Government as aviators. Women, on their own initiative, have already become skilled pilots. Among the first to take up aviation was Mrs. Maurice Hewlett, the wife of the well-known novelist. She also designed and built aeroplanes. As balloonists women have long ago successfully faced the dangers of the air. According to Mr. Douglas W. Thorburn, of the Royal Aero Club, the first to make an ascent in England was a young Frenchwoman, Mlle. Simonet, but the first Englishwoman was Mrs. Sage, who took part in an ascent from London on June 29, 1782. Miss Hines was the next, at Beccles in 1785, and following her were Miss Hutchinson in 1809, Mrs. Robertson in 1811, and Miss Thompson in 1814. Lady Capper is a well-known balloonist of the present time.

Auctioneers.

Another invasion of a masculine stronghold. Miss Evelyn Barlow made her first appearance as auctioneer a few days ago at Sotheby's auction room. She carried out admirably her duties in the rostrum, and her persuasive powers proved irresistible. Sir Montague Barlow, M.P., says *The Church Family Newspaper*, is the senior partner of Sotheby's, and as his two colleagues are engaged on national service he enlisted the help of his capable sister. Wise man!

Women's Freedom League.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

CLYDE CAMPAIGN.—Headquarters:

Rothsay, 4, Mount Pleasant-road.

Meetings daily till further notice at

the Pier Head, Rothsay, and at

Dunoon. Hon. Organiser: Miss Alix

M. Clark. Speakers: Mrs. Mustard

and Miss Alix M. Clark.

Saturday, September 21.—Bowes

Park Branch. Drawing-room Meeting,

121, Bowes Road, Palmer's Green, N.,

3.30 p.m.

Saturday, September 28.—London

Branches Council. Debate 3 p.m.,

Minerva Café. Opener, Mrs. How-Martyn. Subject:

"That it is in the National Interests that Women should be

Members of the next Parliament."

Wednesday, October 9.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café,

3 p.m. Mrs. Hall Simpson on "How Women of India and

England can Co-operate."

Sunday, October 20.—Herne Hill Branch. Drawing-room

Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Despard.

W.F.L. Clyde Campaign.

The Clyde campaign continues with unabated success, and the delightful weather of the past week has added to its enthusiasm and vigour. Miss Whitton, B.A., was chaired and sold *THE VOTE* with very good results. Miss Phyllis Mustard, a gay little maiden of thirteen summers, is giving valiant help in all sorts of ways, vote selling, chalking, etc. Mrs. Mustard has spoken daily on the Pier, Rothsay, and on the Castle Rocks, Dunoon, to very large and eager crowds. Resolutions have been passed protesting against Resolution 40 D, and many questions asked concerning it. It is satisfactory to find that men and women in Scotland are strongly indignant at the Government's attempt to thrust legislation through which so vitally affects women before women have been consulted upon it.

"Equal Pay for Equal Work," "Women Members of Parliament," "The Woman of To-day," "Women and Local Government," and other important questions have been very ably dealt with by Mrs. Mustard every night, and the enthusiastic applause has shown the appreciation with which her speeches have been received. Several members of the Northern Men's Federation have been present, also Women's Freedom League members from various parts of Scotland.

The name of the Women's Freedom League is well known here. Overheard: "Dinna ye ken the Women's Freedom League is here, mann?" "Aye, and real claver folk they be. Last year, ye ken, they talked about women havin' the vote, and I didna see why them as pays taxes shudna hae the vote, mann. But this year they be talking about gettin' in the Hoose o' Commons itself! Who would hae thoct it of yon women? 'Deed, I didna see why we are so sair agin them. We'll hae tae wait and see; but let's gae tae hear 'em." "All richt!"

One thousand VOTES have been sold during the week.

I must still appeal for continued financial assistance in order that we may carry on the campaign, so please send your cheques, postal orders, and treasury notes to me at once.

ALIX M. CLARK, Hon. Organiser.

4, Mount Pleasant-road, Rothsay.



DARE TO
BE FREE.

Honouring the First Woman Doctor of Science in England: Dr. Sophie Bryant.

We offer heartiest congratulations to a great worker for the education of girls and the progress of women in this country, Dr. Sophie Bryant, on the tributes of appreciation and affection which have marked her retirement from the position of head mistress of the North London Collegiate School. The governors of the school presented an illuminated address in recognition of her many years of devoted service, and a gift which bears with it strong personal affection is the sum of money subscribed by the staff and the past and present girls of the school. It is to be used in founding an exhibition, bearing Dr. Bryant's name, for prolonging at some place of higher learning the education of girls from the North London Collegiate School.

Dr. Bryant, who was for many years chief of staff to the famous founder of the school, Miss Frances Mary Buss, was the first woman in England to win the degree of Doctor of Science when the University of London broke down the sex barrier and decreed that "Every degree, honour, and prize awarded by the University shall be accessible to students of both sexes on equal terms." Dublin University also bestowed on her the degree of Doctor of Literature. We hope that Dr. Bryant will live to see Oxford and Cambridge break down their masculine exclusiveness and grant to women the degrees they honestly win.

The daughter of the Rev. Dr. Willock, Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin, Dr. Bryant has devoted her life to the cause of education, and was appointed head mistress of the North London Collegiate School in 1895 on the death of Miss Buss. The highest praise that can be given to her is that she has proved a worthy successor of that able and distinguished woman. In addition to the responsible duties of this position, she has rendered valuable service in many directions. She served upon the Royal Commission on Secondary Education, and has been a member of the Consultative Committee of the Board of Education since 1906, and a member of the London Education Committee.

Give Legislative Power to Women Educationists.

Dr. Bryant has also been a strong supporter of votes for women, and her name appears in the list of signatories to the letter that was sent in May, 1884, by seventy-six "representative women of the day" to members of Parliament, urging the claims of duly qualified women to be included in the Reform Bill of that year. What was refused in 1884 was denied to women until 1918. We are glad that Dr. Bryant sees the fruition of her efforts to obtain this act of justice to women. We trust that ere long women who have devoted themselves to the cause of education will soon be able to do more than register a vote for a member of Parliament; that as members of Parliament themselves they will have the opportunity of bringing direct influence to bear on this most important national question.

The splendid service which women members of Parliament in Finland have rendered to the cause of education in their country has been warmly acknowledged for many years. In Finland education is not compulsory, but that little corner of Europe leads the whole of the Continent in its advanced position in education; it has less than 1 per cent. of illiteracy. Women experienced in actual work in the schools, women who are directors of teachers' training colleges, women who, out of their practical knowledge, have been appointed to write books for use in the schools—these are some of the women who have sat side by side with men on Parliamentary education committees and hammered out legislation which has brought their country to its enviable position in education. Not by votes only, but by direct

influence, they have been able to put their powers at the service of the State.

Our new Education Bill has now passed its final stages in Parliament. As readers of *THE VOTE* are well aware, it marks a great advance in this country, but much yet remains to be done, and we trust that when the faults and failings of the Fisher Act are mended women educationists, as members of Parliament, will take their part in improving the hitherto masculine legislation—to the immense benefit of the nation.

Nothing more inspiring in helping to reach this desired end can be recommended to holiday makers or stay-at-homes than the excellent cameo sketch of Frances Mary Buss, written by Mrs. Marion Holmes,* and in constant demand, in which the story of woman's struggle for education is vividly told, as centering round the great personality of Miss Buss, and which contains interesting references to her famous successor, Dr. Sophie Bryant.

* "Frances Mary Buss: A Cameo Life Sketch." Women's Freedom League, Literature Department, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C.1. 3d.

Woman Candidates for Parliament.

Still they come! Miss Margaret Milne Farquharson, a graduate of the University of Glasgow, has been approached by Scottish graduates to stand as a Parliamentary candidate for the largest university constituency—that of the four Scottish universities: Miss J. O. Ford, of Leeds, is the latest Independent Labour Party candidate.

At a recent public meeting at Hendon to advocate the return of women to Parliament, a resolution was carried unanimously supporting the candidature of Mrs. How Martyn, B.Sc., for the Hendon Division. *The Sheffield Independent*, commenting on Mrs. How Martyn's address, says: "The sentence stamps the quality of the thought of the candidate. It reads:—'Women have a special interest in the maintenance of peace and the development of the highest possible type of civilisation.' For these—and many other—reasons we hope to see a number of women M.P.s after the next General Election."

The subject continues to be widely discussed in the Press, and we assure *The Kentish Independent*, which is favourable to the return of women to Westminster, but counsels "Not yet," that the women we expect to see in the next Parliament will not be hot-headed or misinformed or undisciplined, but well able to represent women and take their places side by side with male legislators.

Women Suffrage in the United States

According to a recent cable from New York to *The Daily Chronicle*, President Wilson is using his efforts to obtain women's suffrage in the United States. The fight in Congress has no great disproportion of forces. One vote or a couple of votes in the Senate may be of vital importance. Writing to an anti-suffragist Senator, who shows signs of relenting, President Wilson says: "I do earnestly believe that our action upon this amendment (the Federal suffrage proposition) will have an important and immediate influence upon the whole atmosphere and moral of the nation engaged in the war, and every day I am coming to see how supremely important that side of the whole thing is."

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To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.

To the Secretary—on all other business, including Votes orders, printing, and merchandise, etc.

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EDITORIAL.

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

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THE NEED FOR WOMEN M.P.'S.

For months past those very highly paid officials, the Law Officers of the Crown, have, at the request of the Government, presumably been searching our legal archives to discover whether it would or would not be in accordance with the law of our land for women to sit in Parliament. Their decision has not yet been promulgated, and as no pressure is apparently being brought upon these Law Officers to hasten the publication of their decision, and as no body of men in the present House of Commons seems to show any determination to win this victory for women if the delayed decision proves to be adverse to their claim, women themselves will have to consider what steps they mean to take to secure this right to become representatives equally with men in the House of the People. This is not a matter for women only—it is a matter for men and women, who should tolerate no restriction of sex in the choice of their candidates. Nor is it in any way a party question, for women of all parties have now had a long political education and there are women in every party who are profoundly convinced that they could serve their country in Parliament at least better than many men in their own party have served it during the last few years.

Public opinion is rapidly changing the customs of our land, and it must insist on effecting a change in the interpretation of our laws and in the ways of lawyers which keep women in subjection. Over and over again in the history of women's struggle for equality with men lawyers have succeeded in dispossessing women of their ancient rights. Sir Edward Coke, when speaking against the clergy having a voice in Parliament, first pronounced an opinion on the political disability of women. It was urged that it was unjust that persons should be bound by laws which they had no voice in making. To this he replied:—

In many cases multitudes are bound by Acts of Parliament which are not parties to the elections of knights, citizens, and burgesses, as all they that have no freehold, or have freehold in ancient demesne, and all women having freehold or no freehold, and men within the age of one-and-twenty years.

For nearly three hundred years that one phrase of Sir Edward Coke, unsupported by any authority, remained a barrier to women's political enfranchisement, all the opposition to it and all the pronouncements against it being built up on the opinion expressed therein. It is true that women now have the Parliamentary vote, but they are a long way from being admitted as co-partners with men in the management of the State.

In 1867 Whitelock declared his opinion that

By the custom of England, women are not returned on juries, nor put into offices or commission, nor are they eligible to serve in Parliament, or admitted to be members

of the House of Peers, but, by reason of their sex, they are exempted from such employments.

In 1889 Mr. Beresford-Hope, who had received 1,686 votes against 1,986 received by Lady Sandhurst from Brixton voters for a seat on the County Council, appealed successfully in the Queen's Bench against Lady Sandhurst's return on the ground that she was a woman and therefore not eligible for election. The judge expressed his opinion as follows:—

I take it that neither by the Common Law nor the Constitution of this country, from the beginning of the Common Law until now, can a woman be entitled to exercise any public function.

This judge had received his Seals of Office from a Queen against whom it could hardly be contended that she was not entitled to exercise any public function.

These opinions of lawyers are founded on prejudice and not on fact. In the early history of our country women occupied high positions in the State; they sat in the Witenagemot, they were summoned to Parliament and to Councils of the King; women have sat on the jury bench, they have served the office of High Chamberlain, held the offices of High Steward and High Constable, have acted as Justices of the Peace, have been Governors of Districts and Royal Castles, and have held many other high offices.

Within recent years women have secured the right to become county councillors, aldermen, mayors, and even policewomen! But the profession of the Law, which can always be relied upon to discover obstacles to women's progress, is bolted and double-barred against women. The benchers *unanimously* refused to admit Miss Normanton as a student of the Middle Temple, and in spite of a definite promise on the part of the Government that the Solicitors (Qualification for Women) Bill, which has passed through all its stages in the House of Lords, would be proceeded with if 200 members of Parliament signed a petition that time should be given for its consideration, the Government, through Mr. Bonar Law, has broken its pledge by declaring no time can be found for it during the session, although the necessary number of signatures was obtained, and although the Government could and did find time to pass through its second reading, committee stage, and third reading a Bill for the relief of Solicitors' Articled Clerks on War Service!

It is the heads of the legal profession who are being consulted about women's right to sit in the House of Commons. If the decision is against them women must immediately challenge that decision, and men and women together must get it reversed at the earliest possible moment. Men as well as women must realise that the great immediate problems with which this country has to deal cannot be solved by men alone. Take the matter of the demobilisation of our forces. Can it be imagined for one moment that the Ministry of Labour's statement that "there will normally be at least one woman on the Local Advisory Committees" which are to deal with the employment of men and women after the war will satisfy the men and the women workers of this country? Are men alone in Parliament to decide what are to be the conditions of the labour market for women, which trades they may follow, from which trades they are to be excluded, and what are to be the wages of women? Do not men as well as women agree that women should have a direct say in the amount of pensions to be allotted to our disabled soldiers and sailors after the War, and to the widows and dependents of our soldiers and sailors killed during the war?

Would women Members of Parliament have supported the Government in its acquiescence of the alteration of the sliding scale of the gas companies

in its Statutory Undertakings (Temporary Increase of Charges) Bill? Because gas company shareholders had lobbied Members of Parliament for a fortnight, complaining of reduced dividends, the majority of Members of Parliament agreed that Londoners will have to pay £500,000 more a year for gas. Before the war the yearly cost to Londoners was £6,000,000; in 1918 this had risen to £10,500,000, while every London housewife knows only too well that the quality is immensely poorer, both for lighting and for cooking purposes. The price of this inefficient supply has already risen from 2s. 3d. to 4s. per 1,000 feet; and now, of course, the price will be still further increased. The theory women would have acted upon would have been "the greatest good for the greatest number," whereas the majority of our men representatives decided that there should be bigger dividends for the few, with a higher price and poorer quality of gas for the many.

What would women Members of Parliament have to say to the untold waste of money and material continually taking place in Government Departments? The Select Committee's Report on the Ministry of Information is the most scathing indictment of the prodigality and incompetency of men to whom the Government entrusts the spending of money from our national exchequer. The following are points from the Select Committee's Report:

Method of accounts of Ministry of Information "quite irregular," with inadequate Treasury supervision and control.

In October, 1917, 900 bales of literature, weighing 50 to 80 lb. each, were found lying in sheds and warehouses at Wellington House, out of date for distribution.

During the time of the Department of Information a visit of twelve gentlemen was paid to Dublin, "when £31 of public money was spent in two days in drinks, and £5 in cigars."

"In another case a gentleman was entertained at the private house of one of the officials of the Department to meet some members of the Cabinet, and a charge was made for the dinners not only of the guests, but also of the host himself."

For eleven months the Department was paying a Member of Parliament £30 a month as an allowance to meet

SOMETHING-MUST-BE-DONE FOOLISHNESS. What the President of the Medical Women's Federation Thinks of 40D.

(Concluded from page 338.)

Clause V. (1) of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill enacts that:—

"A person who is suffering from venereal disease in a communicable form shall not have sex intercourse with any other person, or solicit or invite any other person to have sex intercourse with him or her."

Surely it must be obvious to minds that are not really bound in officialism that this clause is entirely unworkable.

It will militate against the very thing it is presumably designed to help—viz., the prevention of disease, as it will surely prevent diseased persons from coming for treatment, for fear of putting themselves into the power of someone else.

Proof will be required that the accuser had no disease previous to the specified intercourse, and that the woman had disease. Thousands of people know they have run the risk of having the disease who do not know whether they have it or are going to have it. Then would come the difficulty of deciding which gave it to the other. They might both have it at the same stage. Again, there is the difficult question of mediate contagion. A woman may be free from disease, and may be infected by a man A. A man B may visit her later and contract the disease. He may swear truly that he has only been with her, and she may be found free from disease.

No, neither of these Bills (the Sexual Offences Bill and the Criminal Law Amendment Bill) will really work towards the end to which they un-

expenses, without requiring details. "This expenditure has now been discontinued."

The most pressing need for women to become members of the next Parliament is seen, however, in the constant attempts made by the Home Office and the War Office to enforce legislation to combat the social evil. The fixed idea of both these Departments of State is that a certain class of women must be victimised in order to make vice safe for men. Acting on the assumption that immorality does not matter, but disease does, these women are to be arrested and subjected to a loathsome medical examination under the pretext of preventing the spread of venereal disease, the inevitable result being that both immorality and venereal disease are increased. Until women's agitation compelled *maisons tolérées* to be placed out of bounds for our troops, the War Office acquiesced in the establishment of these disorderly houses and their use by British troops in France. Women are needed in the House of Commons to give some plain speaking to the Government on these matters. What would men think of women if women alone held the reins of Government and assented to a class of men being set apart, held in degradation, harried and persecuted when diseased, just for the indulgence of women? The sooner women are on the floor of the House of Commons to insist that there shall be a single standard of morality for both sexes the better it will be for the future of our country and of our race.

Union is strength, and women candidates of all parties should unite now and be prepared to take united action in the event of their claim to a seat in the House of Commons being disallowed. In the meantime all men and women who believe in justice and in equal opportunities, responsibilities, and rewards for both sexes throughout all branches of our national life should lose no opportunity in focussing public opinion on this issue. Victory in the end is sure, but the sooner a determined fight begins the earlier will be obtained the rewards of victory. F. A. U.

doubtedly were designed. What, then, can be done? The laws of solicitation should be done away with as being perfectly useless and one-sided. A much larger measure of protection should be given to feeble-minded boys as well as girls.

The age of consent for both sexes should be raised to eighteen. It is just as important to consider the honour of the man as it is of the woman.

The punishment of procuration and of brothel-keepers should be much severer. A great deal of legislation at present in existence might be made a reality and not a sham.

The number of women police should be increased, and they should have real power, and should be able to take up not only girls and women, but boys and men also. They should not only be in the streets with power to arrest, but they should be appointed as heads of the police stations where women offenders are brought.

The education of boys and girls in all our schools from the lowest to the highest grade leaves a great deal to be desired. Schoolmasters and clergy and others who have to deal with the young should dispossess their minds of their terrors of what may be going on among the boys under their tuition. The power of atmosphere for producing not only evil, but also good, is very great, and people are far more likely to do right if you expect them to do so.

Housing is of the highest importance from every point of view. Houses where people live should be their homes, and not merely holes to run into when

they must sleep. Further provision should be made for wholesome recreation, and that not only amongst the soldiers, but for the civil population too. And some real and not sham safeguards should be taken against immoral literature, plays and other entertainments.

Then venereal disease must be healed and not punished. All penal and compulsory measures lead to concealment of disease, and this statement is not controverted by the further statement that it would lead to a considerable increase in the number of known cases—a very different thing from a real increase in disease. Where regulation of vice exists there is the largest amount of venereal disease, and this knowledge has led to the larger number of countries abandoning this method in favour of non-compulsory, but more really curative as well as preventive measures.

There is, and indeed will be more and more interference with the liberty of the subject in matters of Public Health, but a State must take care that it does not exalt material over moral considerations. What is morally wrong can never be physically right.

There is no short cut to morals. The only real remedy is the acceptance of one equal standard, and that not a low but a high one. It is the despair as well as the deep underlying comfort of the whole question that the only real safeguard is a clean and moral life.

JANE WALKER, M.D.

40D in the House of Commons. Why not a Written Consent?

MR. LEES-SMITH (July 30) asked the Home Secretary whether he would give instructions to chief constables that the woman charged under 40 D shall in all cases give her consent to medical examination in writing.

SIR GEORGE CAVE said he would not.

MR. LEES-SMITH: Did he know that a number of these women only consented because they did not know that they were entitled to refuse. The Regulation was being illegally administered. Could not this safeguard be introduced to prevent that occurring?

SIR GEORGE CAVE did not think that correct, because the officers were specially told they must get consent, and he was quite sure they carried out the instructions.

MR. LEES-SMITH: What was the evidence of consent?

SIR GEORGE CAVE: The statement of the officers themselves.

MR. LEES-SMITH: Would not a woman who objects have to bring a case, and are these women actually to bring their own cases before the Court?

SIR GEORGE CAVE: That is not so. If a woman complained the magistrate would send for the officer concerned and ask him to give the facts.

MR. KING: In this delicate matter are the women's rights explained to them by other women, and not by male police-officers? Is it not clear that this should be done?

SIR GEORGE CAVE would inquire.

MR. A. WILLIAMS: What is the objection to giving this consent in writing?

SIR GEORGE CAVE: It never has been done.

(N.B.—Then begin as soon as possible.)

MR. WILLIAMS: Would it not be a great safeguard?

SIR GEORGE CAVE did not think so. He was sure no doctor would examine a woman without her consent.

MR. S. MACNEILL: Would the Home Secretary explain this in his propaganda for the General Election, in order to secure numerous women's votes?

Still Bent on Their Own Destruction.

MR. LEES-SMITH (Aug. 5) asked the Prime Minister whether the Government has reconsidered Regulation 40 D of the Defence of the Realm Act, and whether he had any statement to make?

MR. BONAR LAW: This Regulation has been reconsidered by a Committee of the Cabinet, which recommends that in the interests of the health of our soldiers and of those of the Dominions the Regulation must for the present be maintained.

(N.B.—Till the women electors at the next General Election rise up in their wrath and the Regulation dies its ignominious death?)

MR. LEES-SMITH: Has the right hon. gentleman taken into consideration the fact that this Regulation imposes penalties on women alone, and that it is received with intense hostility by every organised women's society in the country?

MR. BONAR LAW: I cannot add anything to the answer I have given.

The Unanswered Questions.

MR. PRINGLE: Is this part of the policy of social reconstruction for the election?

MR. CHANCELLOR: Is the provision for lust among the ideals for which we are fighting?

40D.: The Northern Men's Warning to the Government.

The Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage has sent the following warning letter to Sir George Cave with regard to 40 D for everyone everywhere:—

To the Rt. Hon. Sir George Cave, K.C., M.P.

July 29, 1918.

SIR,—My Committee desires respectfully to inform you that if the present provisions known as 40 D in the Defence of the Realm Act are by any subtle process introduced into the Criminal Law Amendment Act, as to become permanent law, it will immediately start an agitation as widespread as lies in the power of the Northern Men's Federation to instruct the masses upon the indecency of the principle foreshadowed with such persistency by the promoters of the Bill.

My Committee desires to say that the Northern Men's Federation has stood for constitutional methods in its agitation for the vote, and was anxious for it to be yielded as much to preserve the balance of the country as for the sake of its own inherent justice. But the passionate anger of women, who were denied the constitutional and legal means of defending the honour of their sex in Parliament, was known to all in the Suffrage Movement to be based upon the sexual wrongs done to women by the double code of morals in legislation and out of it; and its harm upon the family life of the nation.

It is an almost foregone conclusion that if the Government seeks to reintroduce the principle of 40 D into the Criminal Law Amendment Act, and before women have had the chance to make their voice heard at the General Election, it will invite trouble of a very deadly and dangerous kind. For the Cabinet to rush through this detested principle at the fag-end of Parliament, after declining to raise the age of consent, and having held up the Criminal Law Amendment Bill so long, is to create nothing but the gravest mistrust among thinking people as to the honourable intentions of Ministers upon the question of the morals of the nation.

The Committee of the Northern Men's Federation wish to say, as respectfully and temperately as their contempt for the threatened legislation will permit, that they will, as an organisation of responsible citizens, ally themselves to the women in whatever action the latter may deem necessary to call public attention to what they hold to be unclean legislation. My Committee feel justified in asking for some sort of statement as to whether rumour in this connection is reliable?—Awaiting the favour of a reply, I am, yours obediently,

MAUD ARNCLIFFE-SENNETT,

For the National Executive, Northern Men's Federation.

Protests.

Belfast.

At a meeting of representative men and women of Belfast on July 20 a strong resolution was passed calling for the withdrawal of Regulation 40 D.

Clyde Campaign.

At Women's Freedom League meetings at Rothesay (Clyde campaign) resolutions demanding withdrawal have been passed.

Swansea.

At a meeting of the Swansea Citizens' Association a similar resolution was passed.

WILL YOU HAVE C.D. ACTS?

You will have them unless you take action to prevent it. The Women's Freedom League is fighting tooth and nail against the reintroduction of State Regulation of Vice in this country. Josephine Butler did her part and secured the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts. You have the easier task of preventing their re-enactment. The Government will not move in the face of the people's determination. Do all you can yourself and send your contributions to the Women's Freedom League to maintain the fight to victory.

E. KNIGHT,

Hon. Treas.

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

Correspondence with National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases.

81, Avenue Chambers, Southampton Row, London, W.C.

July 19, 1918.

The Editor, THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

DEAR MADAM,—We note from your issue of July 5 that you imply that the National Council are advocating Clause 5 as it stands in Lord Sandhurst's Criminal Law Amendment Bill.

I enclose herewith a copy of the amendment which has been proposed by the National Council, and on which they base their support to this clause. You will note by this amendment that they do not advocate any further legislative action in regard to solicitation.—Yours very truly,

S. GORRO (General Secretary).

Suggested amendment to Clause 5 (1) of Viscount Sandhurst's Criminal Law Amendment Bill is as follows:—

"A person who is suffering from venereal disease in a communicable form shall not knowingly or by culpable negligence communicate such venereal disease to any other person."

The following reply was sent:—

July 29, 1918.

MADAM,—In answer to your letter of July 19, drawing attention to our article "Try Another Bill!" in our paper, THE VOTE, of July 5, I think you will see on re-reading it that we nowhere imply that the National Council are advocating either Clause 5 of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill or anything else. Our statement, taken from the report of your annual meeting on June 17, published in *The British Medical Journal* of June 22, mentioned the fact that Mr. Hayes Fisher, President of the Local Government Board, in his speech advocated the passage of Clause 5 as a one-clause measure. This is correct, is it not? The exact measure for which the National Council is asking does not seem to have been made clear at the meeting, and I understand that the members of your Executive Committee hold diverse views.

Thank you for the copy of the amendment to Clause 5 proposed by the National Council. The particular form of words in which Clause 5 is embodied is, in the opinion of the Women's Freedom League and the societies working with us, of such minor importance as to be almost immaterial, since it does not affect the principle of the penalisation of the transmission of venereal disease, to which we are uncompromisingly opposed.—Yours truly,

E. KNIGHT.

ON OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

"A Modern Idealist." C. W. Daniels, Ltd.
3s. 6d. net.

Mr. Wilfred Wellock starts off unusually well in this novel. He brings into juxtaposition a father who is a strong-willed captain of industry, an idealistic son, and a sympathetic mother, who believes in her son, but who also understands and has affection for her husband. The father has set his heart and will on the son following in his footsteps, while the son sees all the injustice, oppression, and hardship of the business from the workers' side of the fence. There you have the elements of a human drama with a tug in it, but after a few fine chapters the artist pops in, and the propagandist prances out to remain rampant till the last word. The hero becomes one of those dreadful socialists who love no other gods but socialism. He is as obsessed as the young man who halted in the full flight of his acceptable proposal to inquire of the girl: "Before I go any further, will you be a socialist?" Incidentally, there are strong pictures of the cotton weavers and what they endured in that æon before the war. I have never met any British manufacturers, but have seen many American manufacturers and their satraps while their employees were striking in tens of thousands, and though they had all the cold brutality and intrepidity necessary to successful and surviving captains of industry or armies, and depicted in the story under discussion, nevertheless in private life and to their relatives they were full of indulgence and frequently of personal charm and culture, and rarely such unmitigated "pigs on horseback" as the author

has represented the "bosses" in this book. But notwithstanding the writer's tendency to reform, the strength and sincerity of his work compel attention.

M. F.

"The Coo-ee Contingent." Cassell.
1s. 3d. net.

This apt title is borne by a brightly covered collection of verbal snapshots of the men of Australia who heard the bugles of England in 1914. As one expressed it:—

The bugles of England were blowing
Across the wintry sea,
As they had called a thousand years,
Calling now to me.

The writer, Mrs. Haine (Gladys Taylor), who has withheld her name, is a graduate of the University of Melbourne and a successful lawyer of that city. Success in a dire profession, however, has not marred an exceptional gift of characterisation, for these shortest of short stories are a "stunt" that any writer would wish she had the originality to accomplish herself. They contain not a word too much or too little. Mr. Fred Leist, one of Australia's leading artists, has produced for the cover a splendid Bill Jim, broad-shouldered and firmly planted on his understandings, gaily grasping an accordion, his features expanded in a good Australian grin.

With fine illumination, these crisp and humorous paragraphs portray the Australian as he really is. The writer has crystallised the irreverence, which is not irreverence so much as innocence of snobbery and certain conventions appertaining thereto; that shallowness of which Australians are accused, which is not shallowness but a clear-eyed sunniness which conceals no foul and festering depths of tragedy; the Australian's love of adventure, of the girl or girls, his sentimentality, generosity, friendliness and impatience of humbug. Well though one may laugh at officer Bindy, who "ducked" his "blanky napper" when ordered by a private, and at "Father," and at the fate of a flirt, and at McGinty, who conducted his own case on "pain-killer" and roosted like a sparrow on a waterspout to get a glimpse of the King, and at the unregenerate who played two-up during religious exercises, at the women who were tiresome and those who were not, nevertheless, readers of discernment will be nearer tears than laughter when they finish the book. For here they will see splendidly strong, happy young men dying in a far and foreign land for that England they had loved but never saw, men who, despite the often bitter disillusionment that exists between an idealised and the real England, have had love of the Mother Country nurtured in them from generation to generation, and the reader will hope, or perhaps even pray, that those

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FRIDAY,
AUGUST 9,
1918.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

ancient bugles, with their siren roon more of liberty than victory, more of home than Empire, will not have called these men falsely, leaving so many thousands of maids and mothers desolate in the far and lonely land from which they came; that the old English freedoms will spring up again with fresh strength and fragrance when the din and horror of war has ceased.

To those that lived and those that died,
Now give them three times three—
The toast is Anzac gentleman,
In far Gallipoli.

M. F.

To Drive Trams in London.

Women tramcar-drivers will shortly be seen in London for the first time. They have been driving in Glasgow and other cities for the past two years, but until recently the Commissioner of Police for London has refused to license them. Mr. Murray, manager of the Walthamstow Tramways, stated recently that five women had passed through the three weeks' course of training, and were ready to take out the cars as soon as their licences were received. They had all been conductresses on the tramway line for some time. They would take the place of Grade I. and II. men, and would be paid the same rate of wage as the men, 31s., rising to 37s. 6d., with a war bonus of £1 a week. The women, he added, had been very apt in learning the work, and he was confident they would make satisfactory drivers.

MISS MAUDE ROYDEN preaches in the City Temple, Holborn Viaduct, E.C., next Sunday at the 6 p.m. service. Subject: "The Meaning of Beauty in Religion."

LOVELY COUNTRY, close sea; bedrooms, use of kitchen and dining rooms, 10s.; good bathing.—Newton, Newton House, Tankerton, Kent.

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