

THE VOTE,
SEPTEMBER 6, 1918.
ONE PENNY.

THE QUESTION OF TO-DAY.

E. M. N. C.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 6, 1918

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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We Demand the Withdrawal of Regulation 40 D.

LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER FROM THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

Rt. Hon. D. Lloyd George, M.P.,
10, Downing Street, S.W. 1.

Women's Freedom League,
144, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1.
September 3, 1918.

Dear Sir,

We urge you to give consideration to the demand of the Women's Freedom League and other women's organisations—representing many thousands of organised women—for the immediate withdrawal of Regulation 40 D under the Defence of the Realm Act.

In watching cases tried in various Police Courts, it is obvious that magistrates and other officials are themselves uncertain as to the full bearing of the Regulation, and this in itself leads to bad administration, to confusion, and to consequent injustice.

The medical examination of women charged under Regulation 40 D, though voluntary in theory, is compulsory in practice. Women are remanded again and again until their consent is secured. The real nature of this shameful outrage is not explained to them by a woman, so that their consent, when given, is usually obtained under false pretences. The law of our country is thus brought into contempt. Moreover, according to medical opinion, no medical examination suffices to ascertain the presence of infection, and this negative aspect discredits the Regulation as a public health measure.

Another very sinister evil of the Regulation is that medical officers of hospitals are now being summoned to give evidence as to the health of their own patients. Women having all confidence in our great charities have gone to them for medical advice and treatment, only to find that the very persons in whom they have trusted furnish the medical evidence which throws them into prison. It is therefore not difficult to understand that this danger will preclude patients with venereal disease from seeking advice and treatment, and thus prevent the decrease of these diseases which we hoped to see as the result of the splendid system of free clinics so wisely established throughout the country under the aegis of the Local Government Board.

It has been acknowledged in the House of Commons that the War Cabinet has received hundreds of resolutions demanding the immediate withdrawal of this obnoxious Regulation, which, by its futile attempt to make vice safe for men through the temporary shutting up of a few diseased women, not only undermines morality, but actually increases the spread of venereal disease throughout the country. This Regulation is arousing a storm of indignation among women voters, whose confidence in the men responsible for the conduct of the War already received a severe shock when they knew of the Authorities' acquiescence in the establishment of the *maisons tolérées* in France and their use by British troops; but this confidence is now being shattered by the atavism of the War Cabinet in its blind policy of the reintroduction into British life of the old and discredited Contagious Diseases Acts.

THIS LETTER HAS ALSO BEEN SENT TO THE PRESS.

Women's Freedom League.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Wednesday, September 11.—Sewing Meeting, 144, High Holborn. 6 p.m.
Saturday, September 21.—Bowes Park Branch. Drawing-room Meeting, 121, Bowes-road, Palmer's Green, N. 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Margaret Hodge, on "Child Welfare."

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 2.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Lind-af-Hageby. Admission free. Tea can be obtained in the Café at 6d. if desired.

Wednesday, October 9.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Hall Simpson on "How Women of India and England can Co-operate."

Wednesday, October 16.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3 p.m. Speaker: Mr. J. W. Williams on "The Empire's Greatest Menace."

Sunday, October 20.—Herne Hill Branch. Drawing-room Meeting at 69, Danecroft-road, 4 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Despard on "Women and the Future."

Wednesday, October 23.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Margaret Hodge, on "Child Welfare."

Wednesday, October 30.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn. Speaker: Mrs. Despard.

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, September 11.—Thatcham. Public Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Chairman: Miss Henry.

Sunday, September 15.—Ashford P.S.A. Meeting at Wesleyan Church, Bank-street. 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Despard, on "Spiritual Alchemy." Chairman: Mr. H. Lee, J.P.

Co-operative Hall, High-street, 6.30. Speaker: Mrs. Despard, on "Hope in Failure." Chairman: Mr. J. Marsh (N.U.R.), supported by Councillor W. Bolton and Messrs. J. Eveleigh B. Mable, G. Gardner, J. Jolley (N.U.R.).

CLYDE CAMPAIGN.

This year's campaign concluded with a memorable meeting on the Pier Head, Rothesay, on Monday, August 26, when it was unanimously voted that full equal partnership with men in the government of the country must soon come. Women are determined not to play second fiddle to men in any department of life. Mrs. Mustard in her interesting discourse said that all women's societies would be up in arms because the proposed Ministry of Health is likely to be officered by men. It is essentially a woman's concern, and we must not be content until it is controlled by women. In politics women will quickly establish a new way of thinking, and when they begin upon their programme they will go ahead, sweeping all opposition on one side.

Mrs. Mustard has dealt most exhaustively with every aspect of the women's movement during the Campaign, and has won her way to the hearts of the many visitors on the Clyde. The Campaign is acknowledged by everyone as a most unqualified success. Over 5,000 VOTES have been sold and all expenses paid, with a small profit to hand over to the hon. treasurer. Also a considerable amount of literature has been sold.

We thank very warmly our many good friends who have so kindly shown their appreciation of the meetings by continuing to attend to the end, and for the hearty words of encouragement and cheers which have been the result of every meeting.

Alix M. Clark.

REGULATION 40 D. CASES OF THE WEEK.

No cases have been reported in the London press this week, as far as can be ascertained. Either no women have been charged or particulars have been kept out of the papers. Once more we must ask all our readers to send us press cuttings of these cases the moment they see them. Many thanks to several correspondents who have done so.

Penryn Police Court. A Cornish Case.

Mrs. Hilda Apps charged (August 23) with infecting the master of a naval vessel. Remanded for a week.

Edinburgh Sheriff Court. First Cases in Edinburgh.

Annie Smart, aged 19; Winifred Smith, aged 21; Mrs. Helen Bailey, aged 23, all charged (August 27) with infecting three soldiers stationed at a camp in England. One month's imprisonment in each case.

According to the Sheriff, the Regulation, which was very drastic, was for the protection of the public generally (!) and for the checking of venereal disease in the Army and Navy, and as the women pleaded that they were ignorant of their condition he should be lenient with these first cases, but much more severe in the future.

A Real Step Forward, only Much Too Long Delayed.

In a circular to approved societies the National Health Insurance Commissioners suggest the repeal of the rule which suspends benefit to persons suffering from venereal disease. It is pointed out that this rule seems likely to have regrettable effects by deterring patients from seeking treatment at the earliest stages.

If this is done these diseases will be put on the same level as other causes of incapacity to work. When a person is ill the thing to do is to help him or her to get well as soon as possible. These societies have all along been taking the contributions of their members, but exercising discrimination as to what are the proper diseases from which they shall be allowed to suffer, and insured women, however innocently they may have contracted venereal disease, have had to manage without the sickness benefit to which in fairness they should have had a right.

"Brutish Legislation."

Mr. William Thomson, B.A., of 23, Montgomerie-street, Glasgow, member of the executive committee of the Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage, and writing as the father of three sons, all serving in the war from its beginning till now, makes the following strong denunciation of 40 D in a letter to the Editor of THE VOTE:—

Our nation, through its representative men, declares that we are engaged in a war on behalf of right and righteousness and liberty, and the same men, with these phrases still warm on their lips, proceed to pass the resolution embodied in Regulation 40 D of the Defence of the Realm Act. We profess allegiance to the sacred principle of right as between nation and nation, and in the same breath decree the unholy degradation of women at the hands of men. We make a public profession of faith in righteousness at the very moment when by our public acts we are invoking and doing our best to ensure the reign, not of righteousness, but of vice. We declare for liberty when what we meditate is licence for men and enslavement for women.

If the chief actors in all this black business believe that eternal law can be dodged and evaded, they must be blind and credulous indeed. But they are worse than blind and credulous. In the full knowledge that no self-respecting women in the land would consent to an inequitable legislation that, for equal guilt, marks out one sex for vileness and infamy, and the other for immunity and respectability, they are taking a mean advantage of the fact that women, though they have secured the vote, are at present debarred from the exercise of it. One hesitates to believe that the British people, straight and heroic in the field, will connive at this crooked policy, or sit down at home content to be called, and to be, cowards and hypocrites.

And to what end? To have clean, strong men to fight our battles. A most laudable aim in itself if it could be compassed. But have the nations which have adopted legislation on the lines of 40 D and other contemplated measures a larger supply of clean, strong men than we have? The evidence of the best authorities is all the other way. Personally, if the abiding safety of a great people were the stake, as it is, I would trust the instinct of women in this connection rather than the many inventions of men.

In any case, and putting their claims at the lowest, women are entitled to be heard on a question for them so momentous; and it is in the interest of the nation as such, and especially of the humbler and poorer classes, who are most keenly struck at, that they should be heard, and heard without delay. The deeper essence of the matter seems to lie in this: Do we believe a moral loss can be a physical gain? Do we believe that to accustom our brave youth to the idea that they may do things dishonouring to their own mothers, and can with impunity dishonour other women created to be mothers in their turn—do we really believe that this is the way to raise up men to be entrusted with the true welfare and honour of their country? I rely on the vigorous common sense of my countrymen to give the only right answers to these questions, and to deny that men are brutes only, and savable only by brutish legislation.

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Manchester Guardian.

Mr. Laurence Housman writes:—One of the abominations of Regulation 40 D, which has not, I think, been pointed out, lies in the possibility that a soldier, after contracting venereal disease from one woman, may before discovering his infection, or before reporting it, pass it on to another. Then, finding himself infected, he may honestly, or in self-defence, accuse number two, with the result that she, being medically examined and found guilty, goes to prison for his offence against her!

Edinburgh Evening News.

The whole affair is revolting, and we should be sorry to think that there are many British soldiers who are proud of such a harsh and inequitable enactment being passed in their supposed interests.

Catholic Times and Catholic Opinion.

Clean living is required by God's law as strictly of men as it is of women, and we do not believe that the great majority of our men now serving are leading anything but clean lives; but, as Mr. Lees Smith, M.P., expressed it at the great protest meeting in London a few months ago, "If the War Office lays down regulations recognising the necessity for vice, it will mean indulgence by young men, hitherto without reproach, who are sensitive to the military atmosphere, and fall in easily with the military code. From the point of view of health 40 D will prove a tragic delusion. The C.D. Acts failed to protect soldiers; 40 D is worse; the only result will be havoc of soul and body among clean young men in whose way the War Office has deliberately put temptation. The higher military authorities must adopt a complete and fundamental change of attitude towards the whole question of sexual vice; moral questions can only be permanently settled by moral means."

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Women M.P.s.

In the midst of the rumours and counter-rumours as to when a General Election may be expected, we note with gratification that the question of the eligibility of women to stand as candidates for Parliament continues to be dominant both in public and in private. The issue must be settled at once in the one and only way possible. There cannot be two classes of voters; those who may vote and be voted for, and those who may only vote. Such a situation would be a mockery of the British Constitution. No delay can be permitted. Whether by an amending Act to the Interpretations Act, which would put women on an equality with men, not only as Parliamentary candidates but on wider issues, or by a Government Measure definitely removing the disabilities which the Law Officers consider debar women's eligibility to stand as members of Parliament, the position must be made clear. Mr. Lloyd George rejoices that he will go down to posterity as the Prime Minister under whose sway the sex barrier against women as citizens was broken down. Unless he goes further, and does full justice to women by making them electors with the same rights as men, he will have an unenviable record in history. Does he really desire that the Labour Party shall wrest from him his laurels and compel the Government to do justice to women? Den-

mark has enfranchised her women and elected nine women members to her new Parliament; Holland, even without enfranchising her women, has opened to them the right to enter Parliament, and one has been elected on the suffrages of men. Canada and the United States have now women legislators as well as electors. Britain cannot remain in the rear. It is the power of the woman's vote which has forced to the front the question of Equal Pay for Equal Work; it will do much more in securing justice for women. It is only by the presence of women in Parliament, however, that their direct influence can be brought to bear on the making of laws. The need is pressing and immediate.

Skill Not Sex.

We are glad to note that the National Federation of Women Workers in conference last week at Manchester, dealing with important questions recorded on page 383, insisted that skill, not sex, must be the test of all work and the worker paid accordingly. The Government has been forced to take action, and we look to the new Committee to tackle, not shelve, the question on a national basis. As we go to press the Women's Trade Union League is in conference at Derby, and we expect a strong pronouncement from them on this as on other questions, including the right of women to sit in Parliament.

A Scandal.

We do not expect all W.A.A.C.'s to be perfect, and breaches of discipline must be punished, but we protest emphatically against keeping a girl from Thursday to Monday in a police cell, as was the case with Gladys May Hollywood at Aldershot last week. We know what police cells are like, and demand a proper place of detention for girls in such cases.

The Police Strike.

Following the example of the 'bus and tram conductresses, the London Police came out on strike as a means of remedying their grievances. We congratulate our old acquaintances on their victory; but we cannot help contrasting their treatment in Downing-street with the treatment meted out to suffragettes on the several occasions they tried to obtain an interview with the Prime Minister. Last Saturday morning Downing-street was massed with policemen in civilian clothes on strike. They sat upon Mr. Lloyd George's garden wall, and, imitation being the sincerest form of flattery, some of their number followed in the wake of suffragettes by speechifying from a waggon, at intervals giving recitations from it—all within a stone's throw of the Prime Minister's residence! We wonder whether the new Commissioner, Sir Nevil Macready, will be more favourable than his predecessor to the appointment of women police on equal terms with men? We are quite sure that women members of the Force would have regulated the traffic at the corner of Wellington-street more successfully and with less fuss than the Special Constables exhibited there last Saturday afternoon.

London's Women Voters.

Some interesting points are revealed with regard to the number of men and women voters in London as a result of the proceedings of the revision courts. In Hammersmith the electorate has increased from, roughly, 16,000 to 52,000, with 30,000 men and 22,000 women. Westminster is nearly doubled, with 41,000 men and 22,000 women; North Kensington has 19,000 men and 17,000 women; in South Kensington there are only 27 more men than women. Other figures are: Marylebone 34,000 men, 21,000 women; Brixton 21,000 men, 16,000 women; Clapham 14,000 men, 15,000 women; Chelsea 11,000 men, 11,000 women; Dulwich 17,000 men, 12,000 women; South Paddington 12,000 men, 13,000 women. Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd George appear on the Westminster register as occupiers of 10, Downing-street.

THE VOTE.

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EDITORIAL.

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

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THE QUESTION OF TO-DAY.

For the last few years the instruction *cherchez la femme* has been somewhat superfluous, since the activities of women have been so ubiquitous that neither she nor they needed seeking. Once again, during the recent strike of the tube and omnibus workers in London, she was sought with earnestness and almost with tears. In the course of a few days she succeeded in making the Metropolis more uncomfortable than it was made by the far more serious strike of the representatives of law and order, who were encouraged by her example. Her reappearance on the footboards was hailed with enthusiasm. The justice of her claim, that if she did the work of a man for the same number of hours with equal efficiency she must be paid the same wages, was almost universally recognised. Indeed, this seems at first sight so obvious as to need no argument. The public not only gave its verdict in her favour, but would probably have been ready to accord her a bonus for the unaccustomed politeness with which it had been treated by the women workers in the transport services.

On the other hand, the old argument was brought out that the man's wages were not to be considered to correspond with the value of his work to his employer or to the public, but were "roughly calculated" on a basis to afford him a sufficiency to keep a wife and family. We need not press the cases of the bachelor and the childless, and may regard them as prospective fathers and husbands for whom no exceptions need be made. Putting them entirely aside, is it true that the man's wages are calculated on the family basis, and, if so, what is the number of children he is supposed to be able to support upon them? How many children was the West Country labourer supposed to support on his pre-war weekly wage of 14s. or 15s.? On what standard were the wages based of the casual labourers and dock labourers, with their constant periods of unemployment and under-employment? What estimate was made of the expenditure of those families in South London living "round about £1 a week," with whose domestic budgets Mrs. Pember Reeves made us familiar? The truth is that every investigation into the lives and wages of the workers, like those made by Messrs. Rowntree and Sherwell, showed that thousands of families, both in town and country areas, were living far below a level of material subsistence based upon the Poor Law standard, that their wages were not sufficient to keep them and their families in good health, or to allow of a decent, self-respecting existence, while the circumstances of their lives cut them off from the higher enjoyments of life. Was

the employer in the habit of consulting with his workpeople on the subject of the number of their children or the cost of living? Indeed, in the case of large employers of labour, was it possible for him to know in how many cases in his establishment the wages paid were starvation wages—starvation for the wife and children if not for the man himself, who was obliged, whatever happened to the rest of the family, to be kept at a sufficiently high level of physical efficiency to enable him to retain his powers of work. It will be seen that the argument of the family wage breaks down when applied to concrete cases, and that any calculation on this basis is far too "rough" to ensure anything like approximate justice.

While conceding practically the demands made by the women employes, the Committee on Production have recommended that "the national issue raised by the claim of 'equal pay for equal work' should be made the subject of a special enquiry in which women can take part."

The Government have been prompt to act on this suggestion, and have appointed a Committee

to investigate and report as to the relations which should be maintained between the wages of women and men, having regard to the interests of both, as well as to the value of their work. The recommendations should have in view the necessity of output during the war, and the progress and well-being of industry in the future.

The Committee consists of Mr. Justice Atkin (chairman), Dr. Janet Campbell (Medical Officer, Board of Education), Sir Lynden Macassey, K.C., Sir W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., and Mrs. Sidney Webb, with Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Matthew Nathan (secretary to the Pensions Ministry) as secretary.

It will be seen that, while on former Royal Commissions and Departmental Committees the women members have been greatly outnumbered by the men (*i.e.*, two women to fifteen or sixteen men), on the present occasion the Committee approaches equality.

Under a competitive system questions relating to industrial remuneration are always matters of great complexity, and the committee is faced with no easy task. It may be able to determine the relative value of men and women's work by a reference to facts. When women's work is inferior to that of men they do not ask to be paid an equal wage. But the number of women trade unionists has doubled since the beginning of the war. There are now three-quarters of a million enrolled members, who are not likely to take less than equal pay when the work is equal. Under existing circumstances the matter of the family wage is a difficult one, and it may be necessary to solve it by means of legislation, on the lines of the Labour Party's proposal, giving a national minimum wage for all adult workers, and adding to this a State allowance for children, to be paid to the mother, as guardian, during the years of childhood and early youth. The present separation allowances have made us familiar with the idea of the responsibility of the State for its future citizens and towards the mother who is rearing them. It will be difficult to persuade many of these mothers to go back to an uncertain dependence upon a man's wages if these are insufficient or are broken by periods of unemployment.

But the work of the Committee is still further complicated in that its members have to deal (1) with the ephemeral conditions connected with the war and the necessity for increased output, but also with (2) after-war conditions, on which they cannot be said to have any very certain data upon which to base their conclusions. Forecasts of the future are so numerous and so varied that only a small proportion of them can possibly be fulfilled, and all that can be said with any certainty is that after-war conditions are likely to differ very considerably from those which prevailed in 1914. By the Munitions of War Act, 1915, it was determined that "Any departure

during the war from the practices ruling in workshops, shipyards, and other industries prior to the war shall be only for the period of the war." This means that where women have been introduced for purposes of dilution they must be discharged at the expiration of the war period. To this the present Government is pledged.

In pre-war times women were jealously kept from taking part in industrial processes which were relatively well paid. The attitude of men towards the women in the printing and engineering trades are well-known cases. It is greatly to the good that men have discovered that the low wages of women are a danger to themselves, though it has taken the greatest war in history to bring this home to the mind of the ordinary Trade Unionist. He now stands by the women in their demand for Equal Pay for Equal Work, and we hope has come to see that women have no preference for low wages, and if they have been blacklegs he has been to a considerable extent responsible. Will he be able to keep women out of the higher branches of industry in the future, and, with a view to the extreme necessity for increased production after the war, is it advisable that he should do so? After the chorus of admiration showered on women, and the assurance having been given to them that they have not only saved the national cause but also that of the Allies, is it reasonable to expect them to acquiesce in their restriction from work which they have so repeatedly been told

they do as well or better than men? This is not a case of the unwillingness of the individual woman to give up her job to the individual man for whom she has been a substitute. This she will see the justice of doing.

Miss Anderson, the principal Lady Inspector of Factories, in her Report for 1917 notes that "there is undoubtedly a growing sense of power and craft pride in the women as they acquire understanding and facility in the more skilled processes." Has the nation found a source of wealth in the brains, capacity, and industry of its women, and is it in the national interest that this should be allowed to run to waste? Clearly, employers will not employ women from motives of philanthropy. The men have the right to ask that they shall not be employed from motives of economy, and this will be assured by the application of the principle of Equal Pay for Equal Work. Women have the right to ask for Equal Opportunities of Work. Though the terms of reference of the Committee may exclude it from discussing this subject, its deliberations must be overshadowed by it. "We women," says a character in one of George Meredith's works, "are taken to be the second thoughts of the Creator; human nature's fringes, mere finishing touches, not a part of the texture." We trust that the Committee has set to its work with the conviction that women are no longer content to be considered as mere accessories to men in any department of life.

E. M. N. C.

SOPHIA JEX-BLAKE, M.D.*

(Concluded from page 374.)

After 18 Years.

Even Parliament grew angry with Edinburgh, and Sir David Wedderburn moved that the vote for the Scottish Universities be reduced by the amount of the salaries of the Edinburgh professors. "Many a cup of wine would be necessary to drown the memory of that insolence," of a University refusing entrance to women when part of its funds are drawn from taxation. But it happened that the judgment of the Lord Ordinary had just been given in favour of women; and in the false hope that the struggle was over, Sir David refrained from pressing his motion to a division. Alas! Edinburgh, in its wickedness, struggled on 18 years longer, with the Press, a large number of the more manly and just men of the medical profession, and an increasing number of serious men and women reformers irritated by its obstinacy and perversity.

"And They Would Not."

The Russell Gurney Enabling Act was passed by Parliament in 1876 to enable nineteen degree-conferring Universities and other bodies to give women education in medicine. But the good horse *Medicus* refused to drink of the water, with the honourable exception of the "Irish College"—presumably the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin. Miss Pechey and Miss Shove immediately graduated there; S. J.-B. and others completed their graduation at Berne. In 1874 Miss Jex-Blake had founded the London School of Medicine for Women, whose students were welcomed in the wards of the Royal Free Hospital. It goes without saying that the Kaisers of the medical profession, unlike Kaiser Wilhelm, who is most anxious that all the world should have a foreible dose of kultur, everywhere shut women out of the hospitals, even when they subscribed to the institutions, thus preventing them getting that experience in diagnosis which is so necessary to the medical practitioner.

* "Life of Sophia Jex-Blake, M.D." By Dr. Margaret Todd. (Macmillan. 18s. net.)

Effects of Efficiency.

S. J.-B. gained her degree in 1876 (Dr. Todd's lack of dates, *years*, when she most meticulously reproduces, *Thursday, May 13*, does not deserve commendation), and settled down to a practice in Edinburgh, where she had many old friends and colleagues—men and women like Prof. Masson, the Stevensons, McLarens, and many others who had helped in the good fight. As she fought the authorities for the admission of women to their old profession even so she fought death for her patients. She was informed one day on returning home from her round that a certain patient was "sinking; we have ceased to worry her with food." Within half an hour, a jar of beef tea in her hand, the doctor was worrying her with the food herself, and the treatment was repeated until the patient was out of danger.

Thorough.

The doctor was an exceptionally able woman, highly gifted, strong-willed, as thorough as Strathford, ready, and apt to level up things in general. These gifts impressed even the man in the street, as witness the two cabmen who had sprawled their vehicles across an Edinburgh road to indulge in the pious practice of "conversations" when the doctor's carriage appeared round the corner. "Mind yersel'; here's the doctor!" shouted one jehu to the other. In St. Giles' Cathedral a memorial tablet ascribes to her the opening to women of the science of medicine and the art of healing by her energy, courage, self-sacrifice and perseverance. She also founded the Edinburgh Hospital for Women and Children in 1886, and a School of Medicine for Women in Edinburgh in 1888. In 1890 Queen Margaret College, Glasgow, started a medical side for women. These, and various other considerations, including the growing demands of women, a more just appreciation of their claims and place in society, perhaps even a glimpse of the absurdity of men excluding women from the honourable and well-paid work of a civilisation raised by both sexes, caused Edinburgh

University to open its gates to women in all faculties in 1894. Arts had already been granted a few years previously.

Women will hold in grateful remembrance the names of Edinburgh professors and doctors who wholeheartedly worked for the admission of women to medicine. Amongst them should be mentioned their staunch friend, Prof. David Masson; Dr. G. W. Balfour, who devoted to them three hours weekly in the wards of Edinburgh Infirmary; Prof. P. Heron Watson, the most eminent surgeon in Scotland, who sacrificed for two sessions his Sunday morning's rest to teach the women students without payment; Dr. Peel Ritchie, at first indifferent to the Cause, but who later, out of sheer love of fair play, gave up a class of men at the Royal Dispensary to teach a class of women instead. Let us praise just and chivalrous men, holding them in remembrance. Always in such a "Life" as this one comes across the reformers. They recur like a stage army and repeating decimals: Josephine Butler, Edith Pechey, Sir J. Stansfeld, Prof. D. Masson, Octavia Hill, Huxley, Blackie, James Stuart, Hy. Sidgwick, Prof. Patrick H. Watson, Dr. King Chambers, Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, the McLarens, the Stevensons, and a host of others less well known, but not less in earnest in the great battle for justice.

Dr. Todd perhaps is too ready to apologise for her subject, and begs us to excuse her on several accounts. There are few people who have the courage, grit and capacity of Jex-Blake. If they complained of an ease-loving world, that cares most for propriety and convention, complained of the fight that Truth has to make for a respectful hearing, and Justice for a throne in our institutions, they would find themselves in the company of the ancient prophets, whose warnings now receive deep respect, yea, admission to the canon of Scripture, but far too little application in our laws and customs.

C. S. BREMNER.

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

The Women's Victory.

The Committee on Production, in its award last week on the strike of the tram and omnibus girls for equal war bonus with men doing the same work, decided that those grades of women, aged 18 and over, whose terms of employment include undertaking that they shall be paid the same rate as men whose places they have filled, shall be paid such advances as shall give 25s. per week over pre-war rates. In the case of women aged 18 and over not covered by this undertaking, advances now paid are to be increased by 5s. a week, subject to a maximum of 25s. a week over pre-war rates. These increases are to take effect as from the first full pay following July 9, and are to be regarded as war wages depending on the present abnormal conditions.

The Committee points out that since its award of July 9 the position as regards women workers has been changed by the action of the Minister of Munitions in granting to female workers employed in munition work an advance of 5s. a week.

A Committee was immediately appointed by the Government to investigate and report on the relations between the wages of men and women. The members of the Committee are Mr. Justice Atkin (chairman), Dr. Janet Campbell (medical officer, Board of Education), Sir Lynden Macassev, K.C., Sir W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., Mrs. Sidney Webb, and Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Matthew Nathan (Secretary to the Ministry of Pensions).

"The Nation."

It would be an overwhelming disaster if employers were able to play off the women against the men, and to exploit their patriotic services by depressing the industrial standard for all and weakening the powers

of the trade unions. It would again be an overwhelming disaster if the workmen reverted to their old traditional attitude of leaving women to their fate, excluding them from a number of desirable occupations and penning them up in sweated industries. War between men and women after peace would be a national calamity.

WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

R.A.F. Nurses to be Officers.

The Royal Air Force is the first of the Services to confer hon. rank as officers upon its Nursing Service. The matron-in-chief will be major; matrons and superintending sisters captains; sisters lieutenants; staff nurses second-lieutenants.

Vicar's Warden.

The Rev. Dr. Eyre, Vicar of Framfield, Sussex, has appointed his wife as Vicar's warden.

Another Possible M.P.

Mrs. Alec Tweedie has been suggested as a possible candidate for Parliament.

Wanted—for Boys' Schools.

There is a great demand in boys' schools for women who can teach mathematics and science. On an average, according to scholastic agencies, there are 70 vacancies a day for science mistresses to one applicant. The new school year will see a greater influx than ever of women as teachers in boys' schools. Though the big public schools get the few men there are, they have, almost without exception, a few women on their staffs. The public secondary schools, the private preparatory schools, and the co-educational schools are staffed in every case almost entirely by women, with the exception of the headmaster, who is generally over military age. Women with University and special qualifications, it is stated, are paid in boys' schools as highly as the men whose places they have taken. Girls who are good at games are in demand for preparatory schools. At last the improvement in the education of girls is beginning to count.

Land Workers' Wages.

Minimum rates for women workers on the land throughout England and Wales are to be fixed by the official board on the basis of 5d. an hour, except in Yorkshire, Cumberland, and Westmorland, where the proposed rate is 6d.

Truth Will Out.

I know my fellowmen fairly well, and I do not wish to disparage my own sex, but I am convinced that men would not and could not carry on for a single year with the marvellous selflessness, the uncomplaining loyalty, and the noble and unflinching courage which our working-class mothers and wives maintain from the day of their marriage to the day of their death.—R. BLATCHFORD, *Sunday Chronicle*.

"OUT OF CHAOS."

BY
MOYSHEH OYVED.

A MESSAGE TO HUMANITY.

Treats on the subjects of love, justice, and beauty. Proves conclusively that the chaos that exists in the matter of love is the main cause of the human downfall, and shows the way out.

Written in the style and spirit of the Hebrew Prophets. Can be obtained from THE LITERATURE DEPARTMENT OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Price 2s. 2d. Post Free.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN THE UNITED STATES.

President Wilson's Championship.

The "whirlwind campaign in support of President Wilson's appeal for an amendment of the Federal Constitution, which shall admit women throughout the United States to the Suffrage," was the subject of a leading article a few days ago in *The Manchester Guardian*—always a good friend to the enfranchisement of women. Attention is called to the fact that the President is obtaining widespread and keen support in every part of the Union, and the enfranchisement of women, it is declared, is at the moment a more burning question than ever before in America.

By adopting the Federal amendment, the State-by-State policy would be abandoned and women enfranchised at a stroke throughout the Union. "An amendment of the American Constitution is a formidable business, and has been carried through only seventeen times in the 131 years since the Constitution was drawn up. To carry it a two-thirds majority of both Houses of Congress is needed, and a three-fourths majority of the State Legislatures to whom it is afterwards referred. The President's supporters can rely on the Lower House, and the latest mails show that senatorial conversions have been so numerous that only a vote or two more has to be got to secure the Upper. As to the States, they are being won over by a campaign, conducted from train, horseback, or automobile, which penetrates to the remotest cross-road and mountain village in search of signatures to monster petitions."

The Manchester Guardian says truly that the newly enfranchised women of Britain will wish the movement all good fortune, and goes on to point out that, should it prove successful, they will have a fresh example to aim at, for the enfranchisement of women in America, when it comes, will be limited by no arbitrary age barrier. It will be the vote for all at the age of 21.

With equality as a watchword here to-day, we look for the speedy removal of the ridiculous limitations, emphasised every day in the voters' claims now being heard, in the enfranchisement of women, and trust that in the near future British and American women will be voters "on the same terms as men."

OUR TREASURY. NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1917, £29,465 2s. 1d.

	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged	589	2	5
Special Emergency War Fund—			
"A Friend"	1	17	6
W. R. Snow, Esq.	1	0	0
Mrs. Sholl		5	0
Mrs. Angold		3	0
		3	5
No C.D. Acts—			
Charles Charrington, Esq.	5	0	0
Miss J. Maxwell		5	0
Two Readers of THE VOTE		2	6
		5	7
Mrs. M. E. Anderson		5	0
Mrs. Hope		5	0
Miss M. I. Saunders		5	0
The Misses Teresa, Gertrude M. and Beatrice J. Barrington		3	0
Mrs. Margaret Bell, P.L.G.		2	0
Miss Julia T. Drewry		1	0
Mr. James Timewell		1	0
		£598	17

Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League, and crossed "London, Provincial and South Western Bank, Ltd."

WOMEN WORKERS' FEDERATION. Strong Demands.

A strong protest against 40 D, a strong demand for equal suffrage for women and men and for women M.P.s, and a strong resolution supporting Equal Pay for Equal Work were outstanding features of the Biennial Conference of the National Federation of Women Workers, held at Manchester last week. The Federation warmly approved the candidature of its general secretary, Miss Mary Macarthur, endorsed by the executive of the National Labour Party, for the Parliamentary Division of Stourbridge.

Resolutions Passed.

This Conference calls for the immediate withdrawal of "The insulting and obnoxious order under the Defence of the Realm Act whereby any woman may be compulsorily medically examined on the unsupported statement of any soldier."

This Conference contests the ruling of the Law Officers of the Crown that women are not eligible as Members of Parliament, affirming the right of constituencies to select any representative they might desire, and demanding that immediate facilities be granted for a Bill to make the position secure.

This Conference declares its opposition to the age limit of 30 in the case of women voters, as it excludes the majority of women war workers, and states that it cannot rest content until every woman is entitled to vote in virtue of her womanhood on exactly the same terms as every man is qualified.

That this Conference protests against the violation of the principle of equal wage for equal work in the exclusion of women from the war advances granted to men, including the 12½ per cent., and against the cynical discrimination made by the Ministry of Munitions in the case of the workers engaged on aircraft, and on all woodworking processes where women employed on work formerly done by men are paid very much lower rates than the wages paid to the men they replace, or with whom they are working side by side; and demands from the Government the fulfilment of its pledge that the substitution of women shall not be used to degrade the standard of wages paid to the men.

That this Conference protests against the delay in formulating satisfactory schemes for the demobilisation of munition workers, and demands that adequate provision be made for all workers during unemployment; it reaffirms its demands that workers in munition and other trades in which there has been excessive overtime should, on the cessation of hostilities, have four weeks' furlough on full pay in order to recruit their strength; and that provision for training, with maintenance, should be made for all women who cannot find employment in their trades, to equip them for their new occupations.

Miss Gertrude Tuckwell is succeeded in the presidency by Mrs. Lauder, of Glasgow.

WILL YOU HAVE THE 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 by writing to your Member of Parliament and talking to all your own friends, 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.

FRIDAY,
SEPT. 6,
1918.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

Confusion in the Registration Courts.

Although at Enfield last week the Registration Officer ruled that nurses in an institution were not enfranchised, we now have the Town Clerk at Finsbury ruling that any person occupying a room by virtue of service is entitled to vote, and enfranchising a woman cashier in a public-house and a barmaid.

All this confusion and injustice would have been prevented by the laying down of a few simple rules for Registration Officers by the Local Government Board, but that was not done, and nurses, who are so busy at the present time, will have the trouble of appealing to the County Court to substantiate their just claim.

Branch Note.

Dundee.

A meeting of the branch was held at Roycroft, Broughty Ferry, by kind invitation of Mrs. Halley, at which there was a good attendance. During the afternoon a very interesting little ceremony took place: Miss Elsie Chinas was presented with a wedding gift of beautifully designed coffee cups. In making the presentation Mrs. Mitchell referred to the part taken by Miss Chinas in the work of the League, and the desire of the members to present her with some remembrance of them, together with their very best wishes for her future happiness. Miss E. Chinas suitably replied. Votes of thanks were also accorded to Mrs. Halley for her afternoon's hospitality.

MISS MAUDE ROYDEN preaches in the City Temple, Holborn Viaduct, E.C., next Sunday at the 6 p.m. service.

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

FOR SALE, an all-weather RALEIGH LADY'S CYCLE; oil bath, new tyres, 3-speed gear; £12 12s.; seen by appointment.—Write or call, "THE VOTE" Office.

A No. 6 SALTER TYPEWRITER FOR SALE; visible; in good order; £7 7s.—Write or call, "THE VOTE" Office.

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