

THE VOTE,
JULY 9, 1920.
ONE PENNY.

WOMEN AND THE LAY MINISTRY.
E. L. ACRES.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, JULY 9, 1920.

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

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WOMEN PREACHERS.

MEETING IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE.

A crowded audience met in St. George's Church, Bloomsbury, on Saturday afternoon, for a short preparatory service before marching in a procession arranged by the League of the Church Militant, to Trafalgar Square. Miss Maude Royden delivered an address on the subject of Women in the Ministry, taking for her text St. John xvii. 19. She impressed the great importance of urging the claims of women at this particular moment, viz., the fact that the Lambeth Conference had this subject of

Women in the Ministry

down for discussion on its agenda during the following week, and begged that the controversy might be waged in such a spirit that those who came after would have nothing to regret or to be ashamed of. Miss Royden also pleaded for tolerance towards opponents, pointing out that even though upholders of the Women's Cause were enlightened in one direction, yet as reformers they were bound to concentrate, and so all unconsciously they became blind in other ways, and needed tolerance for themselves also, as well as for those who disagreed with them.

At the conclusion of the Service a

Pictureque Procession

formed up outside the church. The Cross, borne by young girls dressed in white, was followed by the well-known women's choir of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, in their white veils, and the girl stewards of the "Fellowship Services" in electric blue cassocks and caps. A band of men in scarlet preceded the remainder of the procession, which, with banners and garlands, extended four deep for a considerable distance. On arrival at Trafalgar Square a crowd, in which men predominated, quickly gathered, and was addressed by speakers of the League of the Church Militant.

Miss Maude Royden, who presided, said the Church of England was a long way behind other religious bodies on the question of women in the Ministry. They were met together that afternoon for the express purpose of sending a resolution to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and the 250 Bishops now assembled in England for the Lambeth Conference.

Dr. Letitia Fairfield then read the following resolution: "This meeting considers that sex should be

No Disqualification

for admission to all the lay ministries of the Church." Some people, she said, would think this resolution too broad; others that it was too narrow. The Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill had swept away the barriers from woman's secular life, but with regard to her spiritual gifts, the Church still held the attitude, "Thus far and no further." Women asked for no favours, only the right to serve. A total misunderstanding of tradition was the cause of many of the difficulties that were being placed in the women's way. Catholic custom and tradition did not mean that because a thing had never been done in a previous era therefore it must never be done at all. Such an attitude of mind betokened spiritual death. Rather should tradition mean that we learnt to recognise our mistakes by the light of eternal truth.

Historical Research

showed clearly that the reason why women were formerly excluded from public Church life was one of mere social custom which did not apply in this century. The women of to-day had a great part to play in the Church's life, and should be allowed to do it without let or hindrance.

Mr. Hudson Shaw, Rector of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, who seconded the resolution, said he had worked for "women's rights" ever since his schooldays. They

were not asking at that moment for the priesthood for women, though many present on this occasion no doubt intended it in the end. He had been told by the authorities not to be in too great a hurry over this matter, but to wait for the Lambeth Conference. He had been told this on five separate occasions, and by five different Committees who were considering the position of women in the Church. Even if the Lambeth Conference pronounced favourably for women, there was still a small party in the Church who were definitely hostile. Practically all the Bishops and learned theologians were on the women's side. Was the party in the minority to be allowed to conquer? Even if the Lambeth Conference pronounced unfavourably, women could not be prevented from continuing to preach, for they were doing nothing illegal. He, personally, was very hopeful about the future, and prophesied that in ten years' time women preachers would be as plentiful as blackberries.

Miss Helen Ward said there was an idea prevalent that the Church only should decide these matters, but she contended that the laity were just as much a part of the Church as the clergy, and they certainly knew the capabilities of the ordinary woman far better than any Bishop. This meeting was asking that women might be allowed to preach in buildings, but religion could not be confined to buildings. Women would bring religion right out into the street.

Mrs. Acres said there were three reasons for supporting the resolution. The first was strictly utilitarian, viz., the undoubted value of women's services; the second, the prestige of the Church, which would suffer severely if it preached spiritual equality between the sexes, and did not practise it. Lastly, the continued refusal of the Church to avail itself of women's services was alienating educated women from membership.

Mr. Holford Knight said no authority existed in support of the idea that religion was a sacred enclosure where no one might enter without the permission of the clergy.

Other speakers included Miss Maud Bell and Miss Cicely Ellis, who spoke as the mouthpiece of the younger generation. The resolution was carried with enthusiasm.

WOMEN AND THE HOUSE OF LAITY.

Women, in the proportion of 10 per cent., have recently been returned in the House of Laity. The National Assembly (of which the House of Laity is one of the component parts) is the new governing body of the Church of England which was established by the Enabling Act of 1919. The electors have been the members of the various Diocesan Conferences, women have been equally eligible with men, and the method of Proportional Representation has at once given this remarkable result. The names of the women are below.

Mrs. Perowne (Bradford), Miss Cox and Miss M. Yeatman (Coventry), Lady Mary Trefusis (Truro), Miss Nora Parker (Birmingham), Miss G. B. Ayre and Mrs. Knox (Manchester), Mrs. E. L. B. Jackson, Mrs. Watkins and Miss Frances A. G. Tristram (Durham), Mrs. Champain (Bristol), Hon. Mrs. Corfield (Bath and Wells), The Lady Florence Cecil and Mrs. Knight Bruce (Exeter), Mrs. Woods and Mrs. Watson (Peterborough), Miss L. M. Faithfull (Gloucester), Miss M. C. Gollóck, Miss K. Thicknesse, Mrs. Carruthers, Mrs. Shirley and Miss J. M. Douglas (Southwark), Miss C. M. Ady and Mrs. A. L. Illingworth (Oxford), Mrs. Boustead (Winchester), Dr. Boileau (Norwich), Mrs. Ireland-Blackburne (Liverpool), Mrs. T. M. Hastings, Miss A. M. Royden, Miss J. R. Chitty, Miss S. A. Thesiger, Mrs. Creighton and Miss C. E. Metcalfe, R.R.C. (London), Mrs. F. W. Crewdson (Carlisle), Mrs. M. G. Baugh and The Lady Beatrice Lister Kaye (Wakefield), Miss Geraldine Hodgson, Litt.D. (Ripon), Miss Annie St. Hill, Dame Catherine Hunt, D.B.E., and Miss Florence Hunt (Chelmsford), Mrs. Broome (Southwell).

OUR INDIAN MEETING.

Women Demand an Inquiry.

We urge all readers of THE VOTE, and members of the Women's Freedom League to attend our meeting on Tuesday, July 13th, advertised below, in the Central Hall, Westminster. Englishwomen who are British citizens are directly responsible for the acts of the British Government in India, more especially as they affect our Indian sisters and their children, and it is our business to make ourselves acquainted as far as possible with the manner in which our Indian Empire is ruled. The meeting next Tuesday will demand full enquiry by a Royal Commission, composed of an equal number of women and men, to enquire into the treatment of the Indian women and children under martial law and also the immediate enfranchisement of the women of India upon the same terms as men. The Hunter Report received evidence from one woman only. The remainder of the witnesses were all men.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

AMRITSAR MASSACRE

AND

INDIAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

British Women demand Royal Commission to Enquire into their Treatment under Martial Law, and the immediate Enfranchisement of the Women of India

PUBLIC MEETING CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER,

TUESDAY, JULY 13th, at 8 p.m.

Chair: Mrs. DESPARD.

Speakers—

Mrs. SAROJINI NAIDU,

Miss HELENA NORMANTON

Editor "INDIA"

Miss AGNES DAWSON,

Vice-President National Union of Women Teachers.

Miss ROBINSON, L.L.A.

Ex-President L.C.C. Women Teachers Union.

Councillor Miss MARGARET HODGE,

Mrs. SWANWICK,

President Women's International League.

ROY HORNIMAN, Esq.,

HOLFORD KNIGHT, Esq.

Supporters—

Lady Courtney, Rt. Hon. Sir Willoughby Dickinson, K.B.E., Maj-Gen. Frederic Maurice, C.B., K.C.M.G., Dr. Orchard, Mr. A. G. Gardiner, Mr. G. P. Gooch, and Rabindranath Tagore.

ADMISSION FREE.

Reserved Seats, 1/- From Women's Freedom League, 144 High Holborn.

THE MOTHERS' DEFENCE LEAGUE.

PUBLIC MEETING, at CAXTON HALL, Victoria St., S.W.

On WEDNESDAY, JULY 14th, at 8 p.m.

A RESOLUTION OF PROTEST Against the Bastardy Bill

(1920) will be Proposed and Supported by Miss NINA BOYLE, Mr. G. K. CHESTERTON, Monsignor PROVOST BROWN, and Mrs. CECIL CHESTERTON.

All are Cordially Invited to attend the Meeting. ADMISSION FREE.

MRS. DESPARD'S BIRTHDAY PARTY.

THE NINTH YEAR.

On Friday evening, July 2nd, members and friends of the Women's Freedom League turned up in full force at Caxton Hall to celebrate Mrs. Despard's Birthday.

A short musical programme preceded the more serious speeches of the evening. Miss Jessie Snow played exquisite violin pieces, Mr. Lang gave several splendid songs, and Mr. Francis Jones some excellent piano solos, whilst Miss Julie Huntsman and Miss Marian Elias delighted the audience with their humorous recitations.

Miss M. I. Neal, Chairman, said they had met together that evening for three purposes. The most important function was to do honour to one who had never failed the League in its work for women, and whose name would always be remembered as long as women's organisations existed. The second purpose of that evening's gathering was to raise funds for the League, so as to set it upon a satisfactory basis; and, lastly, they had met together for social enjoyment. If there were any present who doubted the necessity for the continuance of the League, they had but to look at political affairs as at present conducted. The Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill was supposed to open every avenue hitherto closed to women, but it was not doing this in all cases by any means. The Pre-War Practices (Restoration) Bill took away with one hand almost everything that had been offered to women with the other. This Bill was supposed to come to an end this month, but the Government was preparing to continue it for another year. The day of women's complete emancipation was, alas! a long way ahead, so it behoved members of the League to bind themselves together to advance the cause of the women in every possible way. The Women's Freedom League worked not only nationally, but internationally, and had sent its delegates to the recent Congress at Geneva. Some of the delegates were present that evening, and would narrate their experiences.

Miss Helen Ward commented on the fact that though speeches from over thirty nations had been delivered at the Geneva Congress, only a few gave evidence of the qualities of leadership, or even of a sense of humour. Both these characteristics were absolutely essential in the Women's Cause. Mrs. Despard, however, possessed the gifts of leadership, chief of which were absolute clearness of spiritual vision and sympathy with humanity. Women still had a tremendous amount to achieve. Where was the enthusiasm of the old suffrage days? Everything was more complex nowadays, and consequently more difficult.

Mr. Chancellor referred to Mrs. Despard and himself as old friends who had sat together on platforms in past days, not only on behalf of Suffrage, but for other humanitarian causes. He expressed himself as greatly indebted to her for the type of inspiration to which Miss Ward had referred. Mrs. Despard was not of those who led from behind, or, as in the case of some men politicians, who had to be dragged along. Mrs. Despard was not afraid to voice her convictions, and make them prevail in the lives of others. Women were now nearing the goal of citizenship. To what extent were they using their political privileges? Did they watch the issues at the bye-elections? The present Parliament was in no sense representative of the people of the country, or even representative of the voters themselves. Only 60 per cent. of the voters had voted at a recent bye-election, yet in an article in the current number of THE VOTE he had read that 90 per cent. of the women of Czecho-Slovakia were active voters. The Women's Freedom League had a great educational work in store to teach women to use their votes. Probably if women under thirty had the vote there would be more enthusiasm. Women must work to promote peace and understanding between nations now severed by hatred and ill-will.

Dr. Knight then read the long list of donors to the Birthday Fund and the amounts sent by branches, and handed the gift to Mrs. Despard, who returned it to Dr. Knight for the use of the League.

Mrs. Despard, who was greeted with musical honours, expressed herself as touched to the heart by all that had been said of her that evening, and warmly thanked her hearers for the affection and generosity which had prompted the Birthday Gift. She then gave a brief outline of the hardships now being endured in Hungary, whence she had just returned, and described the necessity for watchfulness on the part of women, especially in regard to what was now going on at the Pensions Office, where women, who had done invaluable work in the war, were now being forced to train men to take their places. Women had played a magnificent part in physical healing in the war. They were now being called upon to perform a work of spiritual healing in a world full of tragedies.

Mrs. Schofield Coates, our other Geneva delegate, referred to the humility she had experienced as a partially enfranchised Englishwoman when mixing with women from more enlightened countries who were in full possession of the vote, especially in one instance, when a woman from Tartar Crimea informed the Congress that a woman was not only Vice-President of her country's Parliament, but had actually presided over the councils of the nation.

To each one of our friends who worked so hard to make the evening enjoyable for all of us we offer our warmest thanks; to all whose music, recitations and songs gave so much pleasure, to the Montgomery Boroughs Branch and Alix M. Clark and her helpers at the home-made produce stall which brought in £20 and stocked our larders, to Mrs. Pierotti and the Minerva Café for the refreshments, to Mrs. Lindus, who presided at the piled-up flower stall, to Mrs. J. R. Knight, May Jones, Joan Elias and Mary Knight, who fed us assiduously with strawberries and cream, to Mrs. Harrison, Miss Lee, Mrs. Lloyd, Mrs. Eagle and others for flowers, and to Mr. Elias for cream, to Angela Clark, the fairy, who presented Mrs. Despard's birthday bouquet, and to all our hosts and hostesses, our stewards, and willing helpers. D. M. N.

Garden Fête and Festival of the Pilgrim Mothers.

Thursday, July 22nd, the day of the Garden Fête and Festival of the Pilgrim Mothers held (by kind permission of Lord Leverhulme), at The Hill, Hampstead, is gradually drawing nearer and there is yet much to be done, if we are to have as successful an afternoon as the occasion deserves. Some of the members of the Women's Freedom League may have already visited Lord Leverhulme's beautiful garden, but there must be many who have not, and on this occasion we have also obtained permission for visitors to the Fête to see the fine collection of Art Treasures.

An attractive programme has been arranged, the speakers including President Lynn Harold Hough (President of the North Western University, Chicago, U.S.A.). Mrs. Despard will preside. The speeches will be followed by a Model Parliamentary Election. Miss Reeves is arranging a Concert and there is also to be a Dramatic Entertainment. We hope to have Folk Dancing by Girl Guides in Puritan Dresses, and little Miss Angela Clark and other children will take part in some costume dances. Other attractions are Competitions arranged by Miss Pierotti, and Fortune Telling by a well-known palmist.

A few Stalls are being arranged, contributions for these are urgently needed: Flower Stall, Mrs. Lindus; Fruit and Cream Stall, Ice Cream Stall, Miss Reeves; Cake and Candy Stall, Mrs. Elias; and a "Mayflower," "Bran Pie," for which attractive articles at 1/- and 6d., are greatly needed. There will also be Stalls of useful Fancy Articles, and we hope every member will send a contribution for these.

Mrs. Pierotti has most kindly undertaken all the arrangements for Tea and other Refreshments, 4-5.30. Many helpers are needed to make the Fête a real and great success—will Members and Friends willing to help kindly send in their names to me as early as possible?

ELIZABETH BERRY, Hon. Organiser.
16 Denning Road, Hampstead, N.W.

THE VOTE.

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Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

Telegram: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

EDITORIAL.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

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THE PILGRIM MOTHERS.

This year is the tercentenary of the voyage of the "Mayflower," and we learn from the Press that arrangements are well in hand for its suitable celebration. We hope that the Pilgrim Mothers will be commemorated as well as the Pilgrim Fathers, and that their share in the struggles of those early colonists will not be forgotten. Of the 102 people who sailed on the "Mayflower," twenty-four were wives, seven were daughters, and one was a maidservant. That the women suffered from the hardships of the voyage and the difficulties of life in an unknown country is proved by the fact that fourteen of those wives died before the end of 1621. When the "Mayflower" reached Provincetown on November 21st, 1620, 41 of the Pilgrim Fathers signed the Civil Compact as loyal subjects of King James, which they had drawn up the day before, and which formed the basis of the American Constitution. No woman's signature was appended to this Compact, and women in America are still struggling to secure equal citizenship with men. It cannot be denied that the spirit of freedom which animated those Pilgrims was shared equally by the women and men; it is the same spirit which is abroad among the nations to-day, and when it makes its home among the women of every country it will certainly make for peace and security throughout the world. The men of the seventeenth century did not concede to women the same amount of religious freedom which they themselves claimed, and it has taken their descendants three centuries to realise that women have a right to an equal share with them of political liberty. One of the greatest tragedies in the long struggle of the human race towards freedom has been that the very people who were prepared to make real and great sacrifices to secure liberty for themselves have often refused to concede the same measure of liberty to others. We believe that the cause of this unreasonableness may be found in the fact that until within recent times freedom was considered to be an ideal for which men alone could strive, and women were supposed to be content with whatever condition of dependence men imposed upon them. A divine discontent with this position of dependence has severed the chains which bound women to men's views of things, and women are forming their own ideals of liberty, which will not always correspond with those of men. One certain hope we have—that women will carry through the ages the conviction that there can be no true freedom unless every human being has the opportunity to share it. The recent Congress at Geneva showed the world that the love of liberty is implanted in women of every race, class and creed; and the spirit of freedom which hovered uneasily around the Pilgrim Mothers in that country so far away from the land of their birth is to-day breathing new life and hope in a world which is crushed and shattered after the most devastating war in history.

WOMEN AND NIGHT WORK.

The Women, Young Persons, and Children (Employment) Bill has passed through its Committee stage, and its further stages are being taken in the House of Commons this week. Clause I (2) says that "No young person or woman (the italics are ours) shall be employed at night in any industrial undertaking." Clause II in the original Bill, which provided that women and young persons could be employed at any time between six in the morning and ten in the evening, on any week-day other than Saturday, in shifts averaging for each shift not more than eight hours per day, has been deleted by the Standing Committee, chiefly because the amiable gentlemen who served on it considered that 6 a.m. was too early for a working woman to go to work, and that 8 p.m. was the latest hour at which she should return home. It was apparently of little concern to them that the result of the deletion of this clause will probably be that 25,000 women will be turned out of work next January. The competition of working women can easily be done away with if all trades in which there is any night work are closed to them, and we are not at all surprised that the Labour Party in its Official News expresses satisfaction with the Bill so far as it has gone at present. During the war women had the chance to escape from the overcrowded markets and sweated industries in which so many women have been obliged to work for generations; now that the war is over, and working men see a chance of securing higher wages and shorter hours throughout all branches of industry they have deliberately raised barrier after barrier against women's equal enjoyment of these advantages, and have succeeded in excluding them from all but the inferior grades of employment with the lowest rates of pay.

LAUNDRY GIRLS' STRIKE.

The 400 laundry girls on strike at Hull, by their decision to run a laundry of their own, have given women a useful lead. We should like to see women begin to make a determined attempt to capture a good share of the business and the industry of the country. This, of course, can only be done if a sufficient number of women can be found to support exclusively, so far as it is possible to do so, such enterprise. We should like to see women not only running laundries, but also buying land, planning and building houses entirely with the help of women. There are many women retail grocers, bakers, fruiterers, etc.; why should they not, by co-operative effort or by some system of co-partnership, succeed in becoming wholesalers and shippers? Women's political, social, professional and economic chances would be incalculably enhanced if they could obtain a greater hold on finance, and we would urge women very seriously to consider the possibilities of such an effort. Many great commercial organisations and world-wide industries have sprung from very small beginnings, and we believe that women, if they would co-operate with each other in work and unite their financial resources, could easily build up and control big undertakings with their own rules and regulations, so that women would not then be at the mercy of the restrictions and exclusions imposed on them at present by men's Trades Unions. It is more than possible, too, that in the future such undertakings could secure for themselves representation of their interests by women Members in Parliament. The control of financial resources would prove to be an easy solution of many of the problems with which women are now faced.

OUR ADVERTISERS

like to know the results of their Advertisements. When writing them mention the 'VOTE.'

WOMEN & THE LAY MINISTRY.

Will the Lambeth Conference be Favourable?

There seems to be so much confusion in the minds of many people as to what women ARE allowed to do in the Church of England that before speculating as to how the discussion at the Lambeth Conference is likely to affect their position in the future, it will be necessary to clear the ground of some misconceptions.

Because a distinguished churchwoman has preached with marked success at the City Temple it does not mean that women are allowed to preach in the parish churches of our land. Because the same churchwoman has occupied the pulpit of a Continental cathedral it does not follow that she or any other woman will be invited next week to mount the steps of the pulpit at St. Paul's! The question of the discipline of one particular branch of the Catholic Church is involved. Some Canonists hold that an individual incumbent has the right to invite any lay person who is a confirmed member of the church,

Man or Woman

to officiate at other than the regular services of the church. Others think this permissible if the services are called conferences! In several churches this is being done, and the practice seems to have been accepted by the bishops of the diocese in which it has occurred. In other cases episcopal sanction has been obtained for a woman to preach, but permission apparently has been given as an exceptional thing for a specific occasion only.

In most parishes in town and country we are more or less accustomed to the idea of women being engaged in every kind of parish work outside the four walls of the church. Women churchwardens are even accepted by members of the congregation without protest, while the lessons are read by women from more than one lectern in the land, and are listened to with great attention and without protest. Women sit in choir stalls, slipping in by side entrances and hiding behind pillars, while in some churches, greatly daring, owing perhaps to the pressure of some with a desire for dignity and beauty to be expressed even in the small details of public worship, female members of the choir are robed and take their

Rightful Place

in the procession of clergy and choir.

In many churches at the celebration of Holy Communion, a server, attendant on the priest or minister, is considered needful for the dignified rendering of the service. Many who are quite willing that women should be allowed to exercise the gift of prophecy in the church are most unwilling that they should ever be allowed to act as servers at the altar. Women are considered capable of the reception of the Sacramental Food, but are not to be allowed the privilege—even the most saintly women are barred—of taking part in any official capacity in the service.

Under Judaism there was no thought that women should be allowed the same spiritual privileges as men, but under the new dispensation of Christianity the church professes to carry out the teaching of Christ as summed up by St. Paul, "There is

Neither Male or Female

for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." "It is monstrous," wrote S. Irenaeus, "to preach Jesus Christ and practice Judaism," and is not this what the church is doing in this connection? It undoubtedly lays itself open to the charge of intellectual dishonesty, perhaps even of hypocrisy.

The Lambeth Conference, as the Archbishop of Canterbury has pointed out, is merely a deliberative body and has no power to enforce its decrees, but if it could recognise in the women's movement within the church the moving of the spirit on the face of the waters and register the opinion that the lay ministries should be open to women equally as to men, clergy and laity who

are anxious to remain loyal to the discipline of the church, yet anxious to utilise to the full the services of women, would know what the position was and would act accordingly. At present the gifts of women are being used in the service of the church in—may one say?—a "hole and corner" manner. When the Church of Christ "practises" Christianity as well as "preaches" it, women will be invited by the church with no uncertain voice to bring all their talents to the service of His church.

E. L. ACRES.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Dean of Westminster and Women.

The Dean of Westminster made a special reference to women's services in the Church in his sermon on Sunday morning at Westminster Abbey. Since the last conference in 1908, he said, a revolution had taken place, and women had been raised to a right level of more serious responsibility, and were called to the discharge of far graver duties. They were asking for the opportunity of some sphere of work less restricted than that imposed by the vows of sisterhood, and more active and wide than that suggested by the seclusion of the nunnery. Was the Church really unable to find corresponding scope in its order and discipline to meet the great offer of that wealth of spiritual energy? Amongst those who listened to the Dean's eulogy were the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and some 270 Bishops from all over the world.

University Women's Conference.

The first Annual Conference of the International Federation of University Women meets at Bedford College next week. The United States is sending a number of delegates, Mlle. Amieux, the directrice of the Ecole Normale de Sèvres, is coming to represent France, and Senorita M. de Maeztu, a well-known pioneer of the higher education of women in Spain, will also speak at the Conference. Italy, Holland, Belgium, Norway, Denmark and Sweden are sending representatives, whilst the British Empire will be represented by graduates from all the Dominions.

Women and Finger-Prints.

One of the finger-print experts of the New York City Department of Correction is a woman, Miss Gertrude Sullender. Very few women are engaged in this work, yet it happened to be a woman, Mrs. Mary E. Freeman, who instructed the men in charge of the American Army and Navy files, before and during the war. She was the first American woman to take up dactyloscopy as a profession. She received her training at Scotland Yard, and is now instructor in the New York University.

Will Vermont Ratify?

After a Conference with Mr. Harding, the Republican Presidential candidate, Mr. Clement, Governor of Vermont, indicated that he would immediately call the Vermont Legislature for a special session to consider the Woman Suffrage Amendment to the Federal Constitution, which only requires to be ratified by one more State to make it effective.

No Votes for Belgian Women.

After discussing the proposed change in the Belgian Constitution, last week, the Chamber unanimously decided that the Parliamentary vote should be given to men of 21 years, instead of to some men of 25, after six months' residence. An amendment by Count Voerste, giving votes to women also, was rejected by 89 votes to 74 and 2 abstentions.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB,
9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.1.—Subscription: London Members, £2 2s., Country Members £1 5s. (Irish, Scottish, and Foreign Members 10s. 6d.) per annum. Entrance Fee, one guinea. Excellent Catering; Luncheons and Dinners a la Carte—All particulars, Secretary. Tel.: Mayfair 8932.

BOOK REVIEWS.

The Child Welfare Movement. By Janet E. Lane-Clayton, M.D., D.Sc., etc. (Bell.) 7s. net. (Can be obtained at this office.)

This excellent handbook, written by Dr. Janet Lane-Clayton, who possesses the highest possible qualifications for the work, is intended for the guidance of Health Visitors and all persons interested in crèches, welfare centres, nursery schools, etc. The matter is well arranged, and the whole movement lucidly expounded. The essential thing is that the work is preventive, and this makes it less showy, and in some respects less attractive than curative methods. Dr. Lane-Clayton holds as an article of the faith that the movement exists to preserve the health of healthy infants, and so to bring children up that "all unnecessary ailments or disease be avoided." All nations are waking up to the importance of the health of young children, and it is satisfactory to learn that no country is so fully covered by organisations for child welfare as England and Wales, and in no country have the State and the local authorities combined to produce such complete arrangements for the improvement of children's health.

This is indeed consolatory, for within the present year Sir George Newman, director of the medical clinics working under the Board of Education, London, declared that the national physique, which showed serious deterioration after the Boer War, had not improved, but continued to decline. Many years ago Prof. Earl Barnes, the well-known American educationalist and psychologist, informed us that education is being driven back to sociology; in other words, education alone will not level up the child; his environment and parentage must be improved in order that his educators may have good material to work upon.

Excellent chapters deal with notification of births, the work of Health and Infant Visitors, the clothing, feeding, weighing of a baby, and the improvement seem to need all the virtues of a paragon.

Co-education, and its part in a complete Education. By J. H. Badley. (W. Heffer & Sons.) 2s. (Can be obtained at this office.)

This pamphlet, from the well-known pen of the Headmaster of Bedales School, is a reprint of an address delivered to a meeting of the "Socratic" Society at Cambridge last February, in consequence of the growing interest in the Universities, as elsewhere, in the question of the upbringing of the two sexes together. Mr. Badley first came into personal contact with co-education as an undergraduate when on a walking tour in Norway, and later introduced the principle into his own school. His experience of its results, extending over twenty years, confirms his belief that without co-education education is impossible. "On the intellectual side there is a gain in the somewhat different points of view from which the two sexes approach a fact or problem, and in the larger background of thought and feeling that such differences produce. Especially is there a wider moral outlook as the result of the clash of somewhat different standards by which to try actions and judgments. And greatest gain of all is the basis that is thus laid of intellectual companionship, the thing in which hitherto the sexes, taken as a whole, have been most lacking." The rapid spread of co-education is noted. In America the State system of education throughout all the States has always been, and still remains, co-educational. In Scotland co-education is, and has long been, almost as much the rule as in America. In the Scandinavian countries it has been adopted as the national system within the last two or three generations. More recently it has been introduced into Russia and Central Europe, and there have been a few successful experiments in the Latin countries as well.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Women (Medical Examinations).

DR. MURRAY asked the MINISTER OF PENSIONS whether cases had occurred in which women, on applying for pensions on the ground that they had been deprived of the support of a male relative killed in the war, had been called upon to undergo medical examination in order that their fitness to go out to work might be tested; and, if so, whether he would give instructions for this procedure to be discontinued? MR. MACPHERSON replied that Dr. Murray probably had in mind those pensions to dependants which were, under the Royal Warrant, conditional upon the existence of incapacity of self-support through infirmity or age. Where the evidence on that point was open to doubt it was the practice to ask for a medical certificate, which was ordinarily given by the applicant's usual medical attendant. He did not consider that that procedure entailed any hardship. LIEUT.-COMMANDER KENWORTHY enquired if the policy of the Pensions Department was to force out to work widows of soldiers killed in the war? MR. MACPHERSON stated that there was no question of forcing out to work. Of course, in the case of a young woman, it was not hardship to ask her to do work, and give her a pension which was appropriate; but if she was quite unable to do work, the Pensions Department were anxious to get a certificate, not from their medical officer, but her own medical officer.

Legitimation Bill.

This Bill, "to provide for the legitimation of illegitimate persons by the marriage of their parents," was presented by MR. WIGNALL on July 1st, and is down for its Second Reading next Monday.

Criminal Law Amendment Bills.

It was decided in the House of Commons on July 2nd that a Select Committee of six members should be appointed to join with the Committee of the Lords to consider the Criminal Law Amendment Bill (the Bishop of London's Bill); the Criminal Law Amendment (No. 2) Bill (Lord Sandhurst's Bill); and the Sexual Offences Bill; the six members appointed being The Viscountess Astor, Sir Thomas Bramson, Major Farquharson, Mr. Maddocks, Colonel Parry, and Mr. Wignall. This Committee was empowered to send for persons, papers, and records, and it was decided that three should be a quorum.

Civil Service (Women).

MAJOR HILLS asked the PRIME MINISTER what posts in the Civil Service women were being admitted to and by what process? MR. BALDWIN replied that examinations were being held, or would be held, by the Civil Service Commissions for admission to the new clerical class, to the writing assistant class, and for employment as typist and shorthand-typist. For all those posts women were eligible to compete, but with regard to the higher executive and administrative posts he was unable to give any further information.

The Party & the Fund

The first list of the Birthday Fund will be published in next week's "Vote." This week you are too late for the Party, but there is just time for you to share in the Gift by adding your name to the list. This year must see a record Gift, and if you have forgotten to send to me before, please post off your contribution now whilst you think of it. Very many thanks to all the kind friends from whom money has come.

E. KNIGHT.

Women's Freedom League.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO
BE FREE

Friday, July 9.—League of the Church Militant. Public Meeting, Church House, Westminster, to advocate the full equality of lay women with lay men in all the Lay Ministries of the Church. 8 p.m.

Thursday, July 22.—Mayflower Garden Party and Festival of the Pilgrim Mothers, at The Hill, North End (Hampstead Heath), N.W. 3 (by kind permission of Lord Leverhulme). 3—7 p.m.

Saturday, October 2.—Dance, Caxton Hall, Westminster. Friday, November 26, and Saturday, November 27.—Green, White and Gold Fair, Caxton Hall, Westminster.

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, July 14.—Middlesbrough. Social Evening at the Suffrage Café. 7.30 p.m. Report of the Geneva Conference by Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, and Concert. Vocalists: Mrs. Walker and Mr. Frank Lyness. Orchestral music arranged by Mr. E. J. Dunn.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Friday, July 9.—League of the Church Militant. Public Meeting, Church House, Westminster, to advocate the full equality of lay women with lay men in all the Lay Ministries of the Church. 8 p.m.

Thursday, July 15.—7 p.m. Public Meeting in Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Mrs. Despard—on her recent experiences in Hungary. Admission Free.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT,
93, NINE ELMS LANE, S.W. 8.

The "Grand" Concert, so far the largest function of the season, was a great improvement on last year, and we are hoping the profits from the same will help us during the holiday months, when children have to be boarded out, the staff are on holiday, and no extra funds come in from any source. Many of the people who came to the concert at Richmond came hoping to meet Mrs. Despard. They were, of course, prevented from doing so, Miss F. A. Underwood kindly acting as deputy. Therefore this is a formal invitation to all and sundry to meet Mrs. Despard at a reception at the Simple Life Exhibition, Central Hall, Westminster, on Tuesday, July 27th, at 3.30 p.m. Miss Rachel Wells, 4, Friars Stile Road, Richmond Hill, or any member of the Committee, will send tickets admitting to Exhibition on application. We are arranging to have a demonstration of dishes made without sugar, a sale of work, to which we are hoping that our friends will contribute as far as possible, a delineator of character, music, etc., in addition to the general features of an exhibition devoted to a simpler way of living.

Juvenile Nine Elms thanks all those kind people at the Birthday Party who sent such lovely flowers; Miss D. Greenville for paint brushes; Miss Pinchen for a little frock; Mrs. Harrison, a box of wild flowers; per Miss Riggall, a parcel of well-mended clothes; Mrs. Delbanco, flowers; Mrs. Bell Lloyd, a box of eggs and a cake; and Mrs. Frank, the whole stock of her son's discarded toys.

Hon. Superintendent—Miss A. M. COLE.

AN ENTERPRISING BUREAU!

The General Emergency Assistance Bureau, particulars of which will be seen on the back page of THE VOTE, was originally started by Englishwomen who had been living on the Continent when war broke out, and had practically lost all they possessed. Clever needlewomen are attached to the Bureau, who will mend or make for busy people. Others are "Emergency" helpers who are capable of rendering help in unexpected difficulties at a moment's notice. Others are good linguists, typists, artists in table decorations, specialists in gardening or prize dogs, expert shoppers, competent nurses, etc., etc. In short, there is absolutely no niche in the world's work which these clever women are not qualified to occupy. Give them a trial and see!

BRANCH NOTES.

HASTINGS.

The Whist Drive held at the Hastings Pier last Tuesday was a great success. The prizes were placed in the window so that promenaders could see that a Whist Drive was about to be held. The beautiful hamper of fruit, vegetables and flowers (first prize), given by Mrs. Strickland, Mrs. Vincent Edwardes and Mrs. Prelooker won keen admiration. A crowd quickly gathered, and in a short time over £2 worth of tickets were sold at the door. Other prizes, given by Mrs. Barton, Mrs. Strickland and Mrs. Brock Lane were much appreciated. We warmly thank all those who so kindly gave the prizes and sold tickets. The money for the Birthday Fund must go to Dr. Knight at the end of this week. Gratefully acknowledged: Madam Ostervern, 2s. 6d.; F. C. Clarke, 6d.; E. H. Baenziger, 1s.; Mrs. Prelooker, 1s.; H. Simmonds, 1s.; M. Shrive, 1s.; Mrs. Court, 6d.; Mrs. Royal, 1s.; A Friend, 2d.

Organiser—Miss WHITE, 9, Holmesdale Gardens, Hastings.

MIDDLESBROUGH.

A Branch Meeting was held in the Suffrage Café, Monday, June 28th. It is proposed to hold a Garden Party in the grounds of Agecroft, by the kind permission of Councillor Schofield Coates, early in September or the end of July. Should this idea materialise we shall organise a Mock Election based on Proportional Representation, with local candidates. Our members undertook to obtain signatures protesting against the Finance Bill, which still continues to penalise married women with regard to the Income-Tax. Resolutions were passed protesting strongly against: (1) The persistent refusal of the Government to give facilities for the Representation of the People Bill, and urging the Government itself to bring in a Bill granting votes to women on the same terms as men. (2) The Women, Young Persons, Children (Employment) Bill in so far as it imposes restrictions on the work of women which are not imposed on men's work.

SWANSEA.

Miss Kirkland has kindly promised to hold a Garden Party at "Caledon," Newton, on Thursday, July 15th, at 5 p.m. There will be a stall for the sale of cakes, candy, flowers and fruit, and any contribution will be gratefully received. Will all who intend to be present kindly let Miss Kirkland know before July 10th?

Hon. Sec.—Miss C. M. JELLEY, 14, Carlton Terrace.

CLAPHAM.

A Jumble Sale will be held at Morris Hall, Old Town, Clapham, Saturday, July 17th, at 2 p.m. Readers of THE VOTE are urged to collect anything and everything which we can sell that day. Goods can be sent beforehand to Mrs. Heighway, 80, Larkhall Rise, Clapham, or brought after 11 o'clock to Morris Hall on July 17th. Proceeds to help the funds of the Women's Freedom League.

NORTH WALES CAMPAIGN,
ABERYSTWITH.

The above Campaign will open in Aberystwith on July 29th, when Mrs. Margaret Wynne Nevinson will speak each evening at 8 p.m., above the band-stand, on "The League of Nations," "Equal Pay for Equal Work," "The Need of more Women in Parliament and on our Governing Bodies," "Why Women should use the Vote," "Pensions for Civilian Widows," etc., etc. These campaigns are very urgent and necessary, for we touch a public whom it is impossible to get to in any other way, so I appeal very earnestly to all members and sympathisers of the Women's Freedom League to send me their donations as early as possible. The Town Council in Aberystwith have refused permission for collections to be taken, so this year I must depend on the generosity of our members and friends.

ALIX M. CLARK,

Hon. Organiser.

The Hut,
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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.
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