

THE VOTE,
JUNE 23, 1922.
ONE PENNY.

THE SPIRIT OF DESPARD HOUSE.

HENRY B. AMOS.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

VOL. XXIII. No. 661.

(Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper and transmissible through the post in the United Kingdom at the newspaper rate of postage, but to Canada and Newfoundland at the Magazine rate.)

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 1922

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

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY. Interview with Dr. Marion Phillips. A SAVAGE SENTENCE.
WOMEN'S BAR SUCCESSES. THE BIRTHDAY PARTY.
WOMEN'S SUCCESSES AT CAMBRIDGE. THE SPIRIT OF DESPARD HOUSE. By Henry B. Amos.
IN PARLIAMENT. F.A.U. NOTES AND COMMENTS.

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.

Interview with Dr. Marion Phillips.



Reproduced by kind permission of *Woman's Outlook*.

The Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's organizations, of which Miss Margaret Bondfield is Chairman, and Dr. Marion Phillips, Secretary, was founded six years ago by a group of women's Labour, Trade Union, and Co-operative organisations, to look after working women's interests nationally and internationally. It includes over a million organised women, and represents practically every trade union which has any large proportion of women amongst its members, either directly, or through such national bodies as the Labour Party or the Trade Union Congress; it also includes the Co-operative Women's Guild,

and the Co-operative Union. Abroad it is connected with the International Federation of Working Women, founded at Geneva in October of last year. Dr. Marion Phillips is also international secretary of this Federation.

"There are to-day in this country rather over 2½ million women in industry," Dr. Phillips told our representative, "whilst the number of women in business, Government employments, teaching, and other professional services, is about 1½ millions, making a total of some 4 million, or more accurately, 3,871,000 women. These figures, however, are a good deal smaller than during the war, because of the widespread unemployment nowadays. Of this present total, at least 1,163,000 women are definitely organised, which is a big forward step in women's emancipation.

"Women in industry have suffered very severely since the war, and for two special reasons. (1) Most of the women employed during the war were taking the places of men, who afterwards returned to them. (2)

The trades in which women have been chiefly occupied have suffered very acutely during the last two years. The combination of these two factors has caused a general re-action against women workers, and a number of outcries have been raised. One of these is to the effect that more women should enter domestic service, regardless of the fact that even then a great deal of unemployment would still remain. Another cry is that women who have husbands to support them should not be allowed to enter the labour market. Yet the real unfairness in the present state of things is the condition of industry, with the widespread poverty and unemployment.

"The special conditions which need regulating in women's work are (a) the hours of work, and (b) the provision made for maternity. No woman, or man either, should be expected to work more than 48 hours a week—or 8 hours a day. At present there is no law in this country to enforce this maximum. The legal limit at present is a 60 hours' week, with 1½ hours off each day for meals." As regards maternity, Dr. Phillips holds that the conventions laid down on this point at the Washington Conference in 1919 are still in advance of public opinion, and still further in advance of the Government of this country. This convention fixed six weeks before a confinement as the period for which an expectant mother might cease work, and six weeks after the confinement as the period during which she should be prohibited from restarting work, as well as full and adequate maintenance, medical attention, and nursing for herself and child during the entire period. The law in this country does not deal at all with the pre-natal period, and only prohibits work in industry for 4 weeks afterwards.

"Another reform which, in my opinion is urgently necessary for the welfare of women in industry is Children's pensions for widows, for wives with sick husbands, and separated wives. These women ought to be free

to care for their children at home, and not be forced to crowd into the labour market. A great many reforms are also needed in the present Factory Acts. The question of Lighting, for instance, should be made a matter of legal regulation. Every factory should also have proper rest-rooms and canteens. Children should be at school until they are sixteen, so that they may have a good education, and for a time at least, maintenance allowances will be necessary in order that they may do so. In time, however, the economic position of adult workers, relieved of the competition of the cheap labour of youth, will be so improved, that such provision may not be necessary!"

WOMEN'S BAR SUCCESSES.

We are delighted to record the success of sixteen women law students in the recent Trinity Bar examination, three of whom have passed the final examination. We specially congratulate our old friend and member, Miss Emily Phipps, of Swansea, who passed in Roman Law, and Miss Cornelia Sorabji, the Indian woman counsel and author, who obtained a First Class in Criminal Law. Miss Sorabji, it will be recollected, holds the position of legal adviser to Purdahishins at the Court of Wards, Bengal, Behar, and Orissa and Assam. Other successful students were Miss V. J. M. Stephenson, who passed in Roman Law, and Miss M. A. Wailes, who passed in Constitutional Law and Legal History. In Criminal Law, in addition to Miss Sorabji, six women were successful; Miss E. M. Price, who obtained a First Class, the Misses V. M. Hume, C. Leadley-Brown, and F. I. Taylor, who obtained a Second Class in the same subject, and the Misses I. M. C. Duncan and A. E. Smith. In Real Property and Conveyancing, three women were successful, the Misses E. P. Hope and M. R. Stevens, who obtained a First Class, and Miss M. S. S. Jones. The three students who passed their final examination were the Misses A. Horsman and C. M. Young, who obtained a Second Class, and Miss W. N. Cocks. There are now eleven Law students, who will be eligible for "call" when they have kept terms by dining in hall the prescribed number of times. They are Miss Ethel Bright Ashford, Miss Mercy Ashworth, Miss Olive Catherine Clapham, Miss Monica Mary Geikie Cobb, Miss W. N. Cocks, Miss Theodora Llewellyn Davis, Miss Lilian Maud Dawes, Miss A. Doherty, Miss A. Horsman, Miss Helena Florence Normanton, B.A., and Miss C. M. Young.

FAMILY ENDOWMENT.

The second meeting of the series of discussion classes which are being held at the office of the Family Endowment Committee, 62, Oxford Street, W.1, took place on June 15th, when Mrs. F. W. Hubback put forward suggestions for schemes of children's allowances among those employed in the various industries of the country and under public authorities. Mrs. Hubback gave a brief account of schemes which were already successfully at work in other European countries—France, Germany, Belgium, Holland, and Austria, and described the proposals which had been for some time before the Federal Parliament of Australia, by which the minimum wage should be fixed for a man and wife, and an allowance given to the mother for each dependent child, paid out of a wages pool, towards which each employer of industry would contribute. She advocated a system for industrial workers resembling the Australian scheme, but on more general lines. Her view was that the money for allowances should be raised partly from a wages pool and partly from a State fund. Under such a system the independent workers would benefit as well as those employed in factories, etc. She also suggested that an effort should be made for having children's allowances paid in the Civil Service, and to employees of local authorities, and stated that allowances were already being paid in these services in Belgium and Australia, etc., with very satisfactory results.

WOMEN'S SUCCESSES AT CAMBRIDGE

Mathematical Tripos.—Part I.—24 women passed, B. Swirles (Girton) in the First Class, and ten in the Second.

Part II.—Eight women passed, including five senior optimes and one wrangler, Alice May Coote (Newnham), who is the first Elementary School girl to win this distinction. In 1913 she won a scholarship at the Walthamstow County Council School, which took her to the Walthamstow High School for Girls, and in 1917, the Essex County Council Scholarship for the first girl in the county in the Cambridge Local Exam. In 1919, she won a Mathematical Scholarship at Newnham. At the College she ran a Girl Guides troop, and worked hard at tennis and swimming.

Classical Tripos.—Part I.—Eleven women passed, L. P. Mair (Newnham) securing a First Class, and five others Second Classes.

Part II.—D. H. Newman won a First Class, and there were three Second Classes. Eight women passed.

Law Tripos.—Part I.—J. B. M. B. Bird was successful.

Historical Tripos.—Part I.—K. S. Leaf (Newnham) and L. M. Petric (Girton) secured each a First Class. There were fifteen Second classes. Twenty women passed.

Part II.—M. M. Green (Newnham) and E. C. E. V. Nottingham (Newnham) secured First Classes. There were fourteen Seconds, and seventeen women passed.

Economics Tripos.—Part I.—Five women passed, one in the Second Class.

Part II.—One woman passed.

Mechanical Science Tripos.—O. M. H. Foxwell, who won a First Class, is determined to be a "big engineer." Her ambition is to build a bridge, but the trade union forbids her to drive a rivet. Two other women also passed.

Natural Sciences Tripos.—Part I.—D. R. Adams (Girton), V. J. Alcock (Girton), F. K. Herbert (Girton), and M. D. Vernon (Newnham) won First Classes, with twelve Seconds and 25 successes.

Part II.—M. E. Robinson (Girton) took a First Class, with four Seconds and seven successes.

English Tripos.—C. H. Wedgwood (Newnham), First Class, with 16 Seconds and 30 successes.

MRS. SMITH'S PROTESTS.

We cordially congratulate Mrs. Smith, of Brighton, on her courage and persistency in protesting from the Magistrates' Bench, on every possible occasion, against the inequality of the law in regard to men and women accused of sex offences. Why should women found in disorderly houses alone be prosecuted, when the men who are also found there are allowed to go scot free? The whole law concerning sex offences seems to recognise a double standard of morality, and presses with unfair hardness on women offenders. We submit that the investigation of the inequalities of the law in this connection would have been better worth while the attentions of the Committee of legal luminaries appointed recently by the Lord Chancellor, than the absurdities relating to the coercion of wives. We should welcome a Committee of women experts who would make an exhaustive inquiry as to the inequalities of the law so far as men and women are concerned in the matter of sex offences, and in the meantime we shall rejoice every time that Mrs. Smith, as a Justice of the Peace in Brighton, focuses public attention on these inequalities.

THE BIRTHDAY FUND.

Our first list of contributions will appear next week. Please send all outstanding donations in, if possible, at once.

E. KNIGHT, *Hon. Treas.*

144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Coercion of Wives.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR, replying to a question by LORD ULLSWATER in the House of Lords, said the report of the Committee which he appointed to consider the responsibility of the wife for crimes committed under the coercion of the husband had been published. As to whether it was proposed to take any steps on the report, the document had only recently been at the disposal of the members of the Government, and it had not been considered by the Government as a Government. He had applied his mind with some care to the matter, and he was of opinion that the case recommended by the Committee had been established. His own advice to the Government would undoubtedly be that they should legislate on the lines of the proposals contained in the report of the Committee. He was hopeful that the Government might take that view.

Unemployed Men and Women.

SIR MONTAGUE BARLOW, replying to a question by MR. TREVELYAN THOMSON, said that on May 29th there were on the live registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain 1,204,300 men and 188,200 women, compared with 1,293,575 men and 231,724 women on May 1st. Some part of this decrease, though probably not a large part, arose from the temporary exhaustion of benefit. The total amount paid in unemployment benefit during the week ended May 27th was about £690,000.

Unemployment Benefit (Women).

SIR MONTAGUE BARLOW, replying to a question by CAPT. TERRELL, said that the number of women in Great Britain in receipt of unemployment benefit on May 29th, the latest date for which figures were available, was about 85,000; the number of women placed by Employment Exchanges in domestic service during the month ended May 8th was 8,868. No separate record was kept of the number of cases in which women refused to accept suitable employment in domestic service; but in all such cases unemployment benefit was at once disallowed. He added that during the month of May the chief insurance officer disallowed benefit to 1,315 women for refusal to accept suitable employment offered to them.

DR. MACNAMARA, replying to a question by MAJOR KELLEY, said that, according to the Census of 1911, the number of women aged 18 and upwards, employed in domestic indoor service in Great Britain at the date of the Census, was about 1,200,000. On June 6th, 1922, the total number of women wholly unemployed, and in receipt of unemployment benefit, was under 57,500, all of whom had paid a considerable number of unemployment insurance contributions, or had otherwise shown that they were normally employed in some insured trade among which domestic service was not included.

Unemployment (Boys and Girls).

MR. MILLS asked the Minister of Labour the present policy of the Government on the question of unemployment; whether he was aware that 90,000 children over 16 were idle; and what steps were contemplated to deal with this continual deterioration of character during the critical period of adolescence? SIR MONTAGUE BARLOW replied that the policy of the Government on the question of unemployment had been fully stated on several occasions during the present Session. The number of boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 18 registered as unemployed on May 22nd was 83,807. A number of those over 16 were drawing unemployment benefit, but in the main they must look to a revival of trade for a solution of the problem.

Teachers' Superannuation Bill.

THE PRIME MINISTER, replying to a question by MR. FOOT, said that, after considering the Report of the Select Committee, the Government had decided to pro-

ceed with the School Teachers' (Superannuation) Bill, and the Debate on the Second Reading of that Bill would be resumed shortly.

MAJOR KELLEY asked the President of the Board of Education whether he would consider the calling of a conference between representatives of the teachers and of the Education Authorities, to search for an agreed settlement of the controversy over teachers' pensions? MR. FISHER replied that the local Education Authorities did not contribute to the pensions of teachers, and he did not think that a conference between them and the teachers would assist the Government in dealing with the matter.

Government Departments (Women).

LORD ROBERT CECIL asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury whether any women establishment officers had yet been appointed; and, if not, when it was intended to make such appointments; in which Department they would be made; and what would be the rank of the officers appointed? SIR JOHN BAIRD replied that one or two permanent appointments had been made, but the majority (including such posts as were filled temporarily) had been held up pending the results of the competition for the appointment of women to the junior grades of the administrative class, and to other grades superior to the clerical class. It was contemplated that there would be women establishment officers in the Treasury and all Departments employing a considerable number of men, namely, the Ministry of Pensions, General Post Office, Inland Revenue, Board of Education, Ministry of Labour, Admiralty, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, Scottish Board of Health, and Public Trustee. The rank would vary according to the extent and responsibility of the duties to be discharged.

SIR A. STEEL MAITLAND asked what grades hitherto closed to women in the Civil Service had been thrown open as a result of Clause 2 of the Resolution of the House of August 5th, 1921? SIR J. BAIRD replied that all grades of the general administrative executive and clerical classes set up by the Report of the Reorganisation Committee of the Civil Service National Whitley Council of February 17th, 1920, which was adopted by the Government, were now open to women. The superseded general classes (First Division, Intermediate, Second Division, and Assistant Clerks) had been closed to women.

Women Police Patrols.

SIR A. STEEL MAITLAND asked what grades hitherto applied for posts with the Metropolitan Police; and whether they, or any of them, had been informed since the end of April that the Commissioner of Police had no knowledge of such appointments? MR. SHORTT replied that the Commissioner of Police told him that one application had been received, and that the writer was informed that it would be considered if there should be a suitable opportunity of utilising her services.

Voters' List (Women).

SIR WALTER DE FREECE asked the Home Secretary whether, in view of the fact that on the death of a voter his wife was disqualified as a householder, and was left off the register until she had requalified as occupier, he would consider the desirability of providing in the Representation of the People Act a new clause removing such disqualification? MR. SHORTT replied that the question whether or not the widow in the circumstances described was disqualified from remaining on the register had not been authoritatively decided. He believed there was some difference of opinion as to the interpretation of the Statute, but the question was one to be determined by the Courts in the first instance, and, as at present advised, he did not propose to introduce legislation on the subject.

F. A. U.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.
 Offices: 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.
 FRIDAY, JUNE 23rd, 1922.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
 To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.
 To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders,
 printing, and merchandise, etc.

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."
 Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

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.

A SAVAGE SENTENCE.

Last week Dr. Murray secured the Adjournment of the House to discuss the question of a sentence of four years' detention in a reformatory passed by the Sheriff-Substitute on a boy of 15 years of age, in Skye, for giving way to the temptation in a shop to take a pocket-book which turned out to contain money. Dr. Murray stated that a Judge had told him that he never knew of a boy being sent to a reformatory for a first offence, and he himself had never heard of such a case before. This boy bore an excellent character. The schoolmistress said that he was one of the best boys in the school, and the neighbours had passed a resolution protesting against the severity of the sentence. His parents were respectable and honourable people, and the boy's life would be ruined because of this sentence. Sir Murdoch Macdonald and Sir Donald Maclean added their pleas to those of Dr. Murray that the Secretary for Scotland should review this case and mitigate the sentence, Sir Donald Maclean stating that he was certain, from his own knowledge, which was very wide and extensive, of the sentencing of young persons, that that kind of sentence stood almost alone in the practice of the last few years. Mr. Munro (the Secretary for Scotland) refused to give any assistance in the matter. He said that the sentence might at first sight appear to be a hard one, but one always had to remember that there were two ingredients in every sentence pronounced in a Criminal Court. The first was that due punishment of the offender should be meted out. The second was that the sentence should be a deterrent to other persons in the same position as the offender. As the Sheriff-Substitute had decided to send the boy to a reformatory, he himself could not place the boy under the First Offenders Act; he could not diminish the punishment which had been appointed to him in the reformatory; and he could not possibly suspend the sentence. In our view, this four years' detention in a reformatory of a schoolboy of fifteen for a first offence is an entirely savage one, and the country would be well rid of the services of any Judge who would inflict it. Is there no higher authority than the Secretary of State for Scotland to whom an appeal can be made? Not long ago a well-known man of sixty-two years of age, with a life full of experience behind him, was given seven years for appropriating £150,000, and he has the advantage of preparing, through his solicitor, an elaborate appeal against that sentence. This schoolboy of fifteen, with no experience at all, is given four years' detention in a reformatory for taking a pocket-book containing £14, the contents of which were returned to the owner, and he has no opportunity of appealing against that sentence. What chance of a decent life will he have when he comes out in four years' time? Should there not be a third ingredient in every sentence pronounced in a Court of Justice—the reform of a prisoner and the implanting in him or her the desire to redeem the fault, and to become a good citizen? This would be much less wasteful than Mr. Munro's method, and would spell true economy for the State.

CAMBRIDGE WOMEN'S DEGREES.

Last Tuesday some thousands of young men graduates received their degrees in the Cambridge Senate House with due ceremonial, but all the women mentioned in the long list of women's successes on page 194 have to go without this recognition of their similar three years of study and examination results. Learning, for the women, has to be its own reward, though the material advantages in many walks of life of a University degree are very real and obvious, and the handicap of its absence is heading off promising girls from the glories of the Cam, and driving them to the more generous Oxford, and our newer Universities. University residents in Cambridge, and the younger graduates, recognise this, and are anxious to receive their women colleagues in equal comradeship; but the way to progress is barred by a solid phalanx, which finds life's elixir in the prevention of all change.

On June 15th, a deputation of past and present Cambridge Women Students, and representatives of Women's Societies, went to Mr. Fisher to urge the claim of women to full membership of the University. Mr. William Graham, M.P., who supported the women's claim for full equality in the Royal Commission on Oxford and Cambridge, introduced the deputation, and explained its object: that any grant to Cambridge University, collected from British taxpayers, men and women alike, shall depend upon complete equality of women with men at the University. The Government has given a grant of £30,000 to Cambridge, and the Royal Commission recommended its increase to £100,000. The Treasury estimates are due, so this is the moment for action.

Miss Clough, Principal of Newnham, and Miss Jex Blake, Mistress of Girton, stressed the injustice of present conditions. Mr. Fisher sympathised, but could not promise satisfaction. **It would be very difficult for Parliament to pass a measure providing for an increase of grants to a University which was not open to women in full membership.** We urge Mr. Fisher to push through Parliament this much needed Bill, so vital to the highest education, and not to waste valuable time in dealing with retrograde Amendments to destroy the Day Continuation Schools, the only chance for eager students at the opposite end of the scale.

WOMEN AND THE LORDS.

Those two unrepentant anti-suffragists, the Lord Chancellor and Mr. Chamberlain, have no intention of making it easy for women to get into the House of Lords, even if they have to acquiesce in their presence in the House of Commons. Last week Mrs. Wintringham inquired whether the Government would introduce at an early date, and pass through all its stages, a Bill amending the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, which would enable peeresses in their own right to sit and vote in the House of Lords? Mr. Chamberlain replied that the question whether peeresses in their own right should sit and vote in the House of Lords was fully debated during the passage through Parliament of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919, and the House of Lords on more than one occasion declined to accept proposals that the Bill should enable them to sit. He also said that he had every reason to suppose that the House of Lords would, if a Bill were presented to them, adhere to the opinion which they then held, and he would not think himself justified, in the present state of Parliamentary business, in introducing legislation which, in his opinion, would have no chance of passing into law. Mr. Foot asked the Leader of the House if he would see that the admission of women into the House of Lords was included in the proposals for the reform of the House of Lords, which were shortly to be laid before the House? Mr. Chamberlain refused to give any such pledge, but said that, obviously, any proposals for the reform of the House of Lords would raise the question whether women would be eligible or not. There are two things essential before women have equal political rights with men—that women should have the Parliamentary vote on the same terms as men, and that peeresses in their own right should have a seat and a vote in the House of Lords.

MRS. DESPARD'S BIRTHDAY PARTY.

THE ELEVENTH YEAR.

On Thursday evening of last week, a great concourse of members and friends of the Women's Freedom League met together in Caxton Hall, Westminster, to celebrate for the eleventh year in succession the Birthday of our beloved Mrs. Despard. Mrs. Despard made a special journey over from Ireland to spend her birthday amongst her English comrades, June 15th, the date of the Birthday Party, being the actual as well as the official anniversary of her birth.

A short musical programme was the first item on the agenda. Miss N. Jacob delighted the audience with some humorous Irish stories, of which she seemed to have an exhaustive repertoire. Songs were kindly contributed by Mrs. Cunningham, Miss Elias, Miss Nelson, and Miss Thomas, who also accompanied some of the artistes on the piano. Miss Beryl Brown gave some much appreciated recitations.

After the music came short speeches from the platform. Miss Alix Clark, who presided, offered Mrs. Despard a hearty welcome in the name of all present that evening, and spoke of the inspiration which her presence always brought.

Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, who was received with much applause, said she thought her days on the platform had long been over, but she was glad to be there that night to do homage to Mrs. Despard, for whom she had always held the very greatest affection and reverence. She recalled the time, many years ago, when she and Mrs. Despard went together to the House of Commons, and made a speech in the outer lobby, and when both eventually suffered imprisonment for the cause. These Birthdays, one of which they were now celebrating, came and went, but Mrs. Despard herself remained ever the same stalwart figure in our midst. Women were yet very far from equality with men. Economic equality, especially, was still to get. Women were just as well qualified as men to win their way in the world, and their full economic status could not much longer be withheld. The House of Lords had declared with no uncertain voice that it did not want women, but they could not bar their way for ever, and before very long, women would be not only Law Lords, but on the Woolsack, and everywhere. Mrs. Despard was now devoting herself to the service of her native land. In her love of freedom, and strong sense of duty, she resembled no one so much as Joseph Mazzini.

Dr. Octavia Lewin said that before Mrs. Despard's next Birthday came round, the question of the Women Police must be put on a proper footing. It was an extraordinary thing that the Government should have reconciled themselves to women lawyers, women magistrates, women on juries, and women members of Parliament, and yet could not see the value and necessity of women police. The Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act had been passed by men, and equally ignored by them, in the recent dismissal of married women workers. This Act must not be allowed to become a dead letter.

Miss Pierotti, speaking on behalf of the younger women members of the League, said they looked forward to each anniversary of the Birthday Party as a means of inspiration. The younger members only regretted that they had missed the chance of working with Mrs. Despard in the early years of the League, but they had caught her spirit, and were fired by her enthusiasm. When next year's Anniversary came round, she hoped a better understanding would have dawned between Ireland and this country.

Dr. Knight then read out the list of contributors to the Birthday Fund, and made a special appeal for more money to help the Women's Freedom League to carry out its many schemes. The Day Continuation Schools must not be allowed to go, and funds were also badly needed to help forward the cause of Women Members of Parliament, the quickest and cheapest way to get upon the Statute Book those reforms of which women

and children were so badly in need. Dr. Knight then presented the Birthday Lady with the Birthday gift.

Mrs. Despard received a tremendous ovation when she rose to speak, the audience rising *en masse* to receive her, greeting her with the strains of "She's a jolly good fellow," and rounds of cheers. After handing back the Birthday gift to Dr. Knight for the use of the League, she said the more one looked out into the world of to-day, the more necessary one found it that women should be working in such bodies as the Women's Freedom League. She had always been perfectly certain that until men and women stood shoulder to shoulder—not one sex overtopping the other—the world would never get straightened out. She valued especially the work that was being done by the little organ of the League—THE VOTE. The League had the best officials that any Society could have. Dr. Knight, though she effaced herself so much, was like a strong, steady, silent rock, and an equally strenuous worker was Miss Underwood, our charming and efficient Secretary,—unfortunately prevented by illness from joining them that evening—who had steered the League so successfully in the past over very stormy waters. To her, they would all like to send a very special message of appreciation and regret, love and good wishes. She, Mrs. Despard, felt she was not one bit worthy of all the gratitude and affection which had been given her that evening. The love she had always received from the League was one of the things she most prized in her life, and the love she bore it in return would remain until her latest day. Referring to recent events in Ireland, Mrs. Despard said she had great hopes that in the South of Ireland there would soon be some sort of a settlement. The Treaty would eventually become the basis of a better understanding. The war in Ireland was not a religious war, but a political and economic struggle.

Short speeches from Miss Janet Gibson and Mrs. Mustard then brought a delightful evening to a close.

The Women's Freedom League offers its cordial thanks to all the artistes who so kindly helped to make the musical part of the programme a success, to Miss E. Berry, who arranged the entertainment, to Miss Vibert, Mrs. Lloyd, Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Letts, Mrs. Standon, Miss Morton, Miss Sara Benett, and Mrs. Mockford, who kindly contributed flowers; to Miss Alix Clark and our Montgomery Boroughs Branch, for the excellent Welsh Produce Stall, brought up by Miss Alix Clark, and to her energetic helpers, Mrs. and Miss Elias, the Misses Codd, and others; and to Mr. Elias, for the delicious ice cream. Also to Mrs. J. R. Knight, Mrs. Harverson, Miss Mary Elizabeth Knight, Miss Joan Elias, and Miss Margaret and Miss Barbara Aaron, who dispensed the ever-welcome strawberries and cream; to the Minerva Café for its constant loyalty and much-appreciated refreshments, which are an important factor in the success of our League; and to all who worked to realise our ambition of a record festivity.

BILLS IN PARLIAMENT.

The British Nationality (Married Women) Bill.—This Bill has been read a second time in the Commons, and committed to a Select Committee.

The Guardianship of Infants Bill.—This Bill has been referred to a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament.

The Law of Property Bill.—This Bill, which has already passed through the Lords, has now passed its Third Reading in the House of Commons.

Burma Electoral Rules.—The Draft Rules constituting Burma a Governor's Province under the Government of India Act were agreed to by the House of Commons last week. Under these Rules, men and women will have equal enfranchisement at eighteen years of age.

THE SPIRIT OF DESPARD HOUSE.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT.

The withdrawal of the main personality from the work he or she has created and carried on for many years is always a great loss, even though the very best of helpers may be left behind to carry on. The work and the leader have usually become so inseparable in cases of the kind, that it is difficult to think of the one without the other.

These were the thoughts which passed through my mind as I took part, on Saturday afternoon, June 17th, in the unveiling of a Tablet at Despard House, Nine Elms, S.W., to commemorate the work carried on there for so long by Mrs. Despard, and to inaugurate an additional scheme of work for the Settlement, which is run under the auspices of the Women's Freedom League.

A large company, composed of the people of the neighbourhood and friends from different parts of London, representatives of the Women's Freedom League, and of local branches of Men's and Women's Societies, had assembled outside the famous Number 2, Currie Street, when, soon after three o'clock, the Mayor of Battersea, Councillor Kiloh, mounted a chair and opened the proceedings. He paid a glowing tribute to the noble personality, and to the worth of the social work which Mrs. Despard had done in the district during her long residence there, and declared that "this very great lady and the effects of the work she did at Despard House would be remembered and honoured when all the rest of us were forgotten."

Mrs. Despard and the Mayoress then unloosed the little green, gold, and white election flag covering the Tablet, which bears the following inscription:—

"DESPARD HOUSE: FOR MANY YEARS THE RESIDENCE OF MRS. CHARLOTTE DESPARD AND PRESENTED BY HER TO THE BATTERSEA BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE IN WHICH SHE WAS SO KEENLY INTERESTED."

In acknowledging the cheers and greetings of the crowd, many of them bareheaded mothers with babies in their arms, Mrs. Despard said that it had been a very real joy to her to live amongst them, and to try and help them to live a healthier and a happier life. She could never forget them. (Here a burly voice called out, "You remember me, mother?" "Ah, yes, Jack, my boy, I remember you well," she replied, although it must have been probably thirty years since "Jack" was a boy and received her guidance and advice.) Then, instinctively raising her hands as if by way of blessing the children who surged all around her, and speaking under deep emotion, she said, "I leave my love with you, friends, and I know I also take your love away with me back to Ireland."

As many as could then assembled inside the Settlement, where further speeches were delivered, and refreshments partaken of.

The Mayor, Mrs. Councillor Ganley, J.P., Dr. Quinn Lenane, M.O.H. for Battersea, Miss Bradish, Dr. Knight, Hon. Treasurer of the Women's Freedom League, Dr. Octavia Lewin, and Miss Alix Clark all spoke, eulogising the work Mrs. Despard had done, not only for Child Welfare in the district, but also for the Rights of Women Movement, for oppressed nationalities, and for a humaner civilisation all over the world. The service of Mrs. Henry Tippett and Miss K. Holmes was not forgotten.

Space prevents any lengthy note of these, but the words of Dr. Lenane must be recorded. It was, he stated, a great privilege for him to be present that afternoon, and to share in the honour which they were paying to Mrs. Despard, who had been a pioneer in Child Welfare work. One of the chief features of her work at Nine Elms had been the supreme importance which she had laid upon good plain food in maternity cases, and in the rearing of children. Unfortunately, the Ministry of Health refused, at the

moment and on the ground of "economy" (!), to allow the Borough Council to contribute towards the support of the Settlement. He hoped, however, that they might yet be able to induce the Ministry to allow them to support it. But till that time came it must continue to be, as hitherto, supported by the gifts and aid of friends. "The work," he concluded, "is not only most valuable, it is absolutely necessary, and an act of simple justice to the people of the district."

Now that Mrs. Despard has removed to Ireland to live, and the dynamic of her personality has been thus withdrawn from active participation in the work of the Settlement, it is all the more necessary that those who are going to try and hold the fort should be increasingly supported by the friends of the League.

The district is a very poor, busy, and congested one. On three sides are gasometers, a brewery, and a railway depot, whilst the fourth side fronts to the coal-yards and stores which abut on the Thames. Altogether, as dreary and dismal a place as one can imagine, and utterly unfit for any human being to live in. And yet Mrs. Despard has made her home here, and gone in and out among this people for over thirty years.

The main work of the Settlement now is twofold: (1) to serve as a Guest House where young children can be cared for whilst their mothers are ill, and (2) to provide plain, but nutritious and cheap, mid-day meals for the children round about. At least a hundred meals are served daily, costing a halfpenny and a penny a portion, when the parents can pay this, and provided free when they cannot. Flesh-meats are not used, not only because they are more expensive and less nutritious, but also because they involve cruelty to the animals, and the degradation of one's fellow men in doing the slaughtering.

Help is urgently needed to maintain the work, and will be warmly welcomed by Miss Cole, the able and enthusiastic Superintendent, and would be a fitting way to perpetuate the self-sacrificing work which Mrs. Despard has done against such terrible odds and opposition in this river-bank slum of London. The words of William Morris, hung in the Guest House, should be an inspiration to us, as they have been to her and to all who have read them:—

"GO ON LIVING WHILE YOU MAY, STRIVING WITH WHATEVER PAIN AND LABOUR—FOR LABOUR THERE MUST BE—TO BUILD UP, LITTLE BY LITTLE, THE NEW DAY, AND FELLOWSHIP, AND REST AND HAPPINESS."

HENRY B. AMOS.

On the evening of the same day there was another item in Mrs. Despard's triumphal progress of the week—a Festival Dinner, held in her honour by the Battersea Trades Council and Labour Party, at the Crichton Restaurant, Battersea. Representatives of the Women's Freedom League were very kindly invited. About 100 men and women were present. Amid great enthusiasm, Councillor Mrs. C. S. Ganley, J.P., proposed the toast of "The Guest," and Mrs. Despard touchingly responded. The Mayor then presented to the guest of the evening a beautiful illuminated address bordered with the green, white, and gold of the League, and a sum of money for whatever object she preferred, contained in a charming little Treasury note case made by a small pupil in the Battersea School for Mentally Deficient Children. Needless to say, it was the last-mentioned gift that will be treasured most of all by the recipient. Songs and music were ably given, and speeches were also made by Councillor Harling, Chairman of the Battersea Trades Council, and by Mr. Saklatvala and Councillor Winfield, prospective Parliamentary Candidates for North and South Battersea respectively; after which, all hands were joined for "Auld Lang Syne," and musical honours and ringing cheers rounded off an enthusiastic gathering.

Sunday afternoon found Mrs. Despard in Trafalgar Square, where she was the chief attraction at the great Irish meeting, and spoke with fire and vibrant enthusiasm from three sides of the plinth, in earnest appeal to English men and women.

Women's Freedom League.

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

Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.

Telegrams—"DESPARD, MUSEUM 1429 LONDON."

Telephone—MUSEUM 1429.

Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT.

Literature Department—Hon. Heads: Mrs. PIEROTTI and Miss MARGARET HODGE.

Hon. Organising Secretary—

COUNCILLOR MRS. SCHOFIELD COATES, J.P.

VOTE Sales Department—Hon. Head: Miss ALIX M. CLARK.

General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Wednesday, July 5th, at 7 p.m.—Hampstead Branch Garden Meeting (by kind permission of Dr. Knight), at 7 Gainsborough Gardens, N.W.3. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. If wet or cold the Meeting will be held indoors.

Friday, July 7th, at 6 p.m.—Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting at 144 High Holborn.

Saturday, July 8th, at 10 a.m.—National Executive Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn.

Friday and Saturday, November 24th and 25th.—Caxton Hall, Green, White, and Gold Fair.

PROVINCES.

Monday, June 26th, at 3.30 p.m.—Bexhill. Councillor Anna Munro will speak on "The Woman of To-day: is she better or worse?" at an Open-air Meeting on the Deck, outside Pavilion, Marine Parade. Chair: Councillor Mrs. Meads. Tea will be provided at a small charge. Admission free. Collection.

Monday, June 26th, at 7.30 p.m.—Bexhill. Bexhill Sisterhood in Victoria Hall. Miss Anna Munro on "The Woman of To-day: is she better or worse?" Chair: Miss Thornton.

Tuesday, June 27th, at 3 p.m.—Ashford. Adult School, S. Ashford. Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin, on "Training Children in Personal Hygiene." Chair: Mrs. Banks.

Saturday, July 1st, 3 to 6 p.m.—Crosby and Waterloo. Cake and Candy Sale at Belmont, De Villiers' Avenue, Crosby, to raise funds for the winter's work. Afternoon tea, 1/-.

Thursday, July 6th, at 8 p.m.—Edinburgh. Branch Meeting, 44, George IV. Bridge. Former members are requested to renew their subscriptions.

Friday, July 21st, at 3 p.m.—Bexhill. "National Baby Week." A Fête will be held at Ancaster House (by kind permission of Mrs. Burrows). Dr. Octavia Lewin will speak on "The Importance of Training Children in Nasal Hygiene."

Saturday, July 22nd, at 3 p.m.—Hastings. A Garden Party will be held at Rossiana, Pine Avenue, Ore, nr. Hastings (by kind permission of Mrs. Prelooker). Display of Dancing by Miss Dorothy Cannon's child dancers. Two stalls, fruit and vegetable, strawberries and cream, competitions, etc., will be some of the chief attractions. Dr. Octavia Lewin will be among the speakers. Tickets, 1/-.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, June 28th, at 8 p.m.—Women's League of Union, Oak Room, Kingsway Hall, W.C. Speaker: Councillor E. Bright Ashford, B.A. Subject: "The growth of London."

BRANCH NOTES.

PORTSMOUTH.

The Social Evening on June 13th was well attended and was greatly enjoyed. Mrs. Purchase gave a fine address on "Prohibition," with up-to-date facts from America. Several members expressed great appreciation of her eloquent and lucid speech. After coffee had been served Mrs. Gibbs and Mrs. Elliott gave a very amusing dialogue. Madames Challoner, Knight and Short were enthusiastically enored for their songs, and Mr. Williams received great applause for his recitations.

The Treasurer gratefully acknowledges the following subscriptions for the Birthday Fund, Mrs. Abbott £1, Mrs. Speck £1, Mrs. Whetton 10/-. Tea per Mrs. Whetton 10/-. Mrs. Poole 1/-. Mrs. Dober 1/-. Miss Smith Rossie 1/-. Mrs. Sharpe 1/-. Mrs. Watkins 1/-. Mrs. Bilney 1/-. Mrs. Elliott 2/-. Mrs. Holdaway 1/-. Mrs. Slatter 1/-. Mrs. Tremain 1/-. Mrs. Challoner 2/-. Mrs. Jago 1/-. Mrs. Sawyer 2/-. Mrs. Owen 1/-. Mrs. Ware 10/-. Mrs. Ball 5/-. Miss Peacock 5/-.

(Hon. Sec.) MRS. WHETTON, 89 Festing Grove, Southsea.

EDINBURGH.

On Thursday, June 8th, a very pleasant "At Home" was held at Studios, 45, Frederick Street, kindly lent by artist friends. After the whist drive, a programme of several interesting items was greatly enjoyed. Miss Jonathy charmed everyone with her very humorous contributions, and Miss Lily McDougall's gypsy and spook dances were much appreciated. Mr. Edgar's card tricks and conjuring mystified all present. The surplus, after paying expenses, will be sent to Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund. (Hon. Sec.) W. SPRIGGS.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Irish Free State.

Universal Suffrage for all men and women over 21 is provided under the Constitution of the Irish Free State; payment of Members; and that elections will be in accordance with the principles of Proportional Representation.

Royal College of Surgeons.

At an ordinary Meeting of Council held June 8th, Sir Anthony Bowlby, President, in the Chair, diplomas of Fellow were conferred on twenty-four candidates, including one woman, Alice Bloomfield, M.D., Ch.B. Edin., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Edin. and St. Mary's.

Workless Women.

Unemployed women, for whom the only constructive schemes are those of home crafts and the home makers' schemes of the Central Committee for Women's Training, are shortly to lose even this, unless more funds are forthcoming. Funds available for the training centres are almost exhausted. The Women's Group of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress has been urging the Government to contribute a substantial grant to enable this training to be continued and extended. A resolution has been passed by the General Council, protesting against the Government's inaction in the matter, and, in view of the possibility of existing training centres having to close, are asking the Prime Minister to receive a deputation on the question of a further grant.

Teachers' Salaries.

A permanent and reliable scale of salaries for teachers was advocated by Lord Burnham at the Conference of Technical Teachers in London. In two or three years, he said, the salaries of teachers would come up for readjustment by local authorities, and it was quite likely that there might be reductions. If that were so, woe to education! When the Burnham standard of salaries was set up, it was intended that it should be permanent, and he earnestly hoped that the local authorities would abide by it.

"Sex War."

Referring, at the Conference of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives, to a leaflet issued by the Leicester Women's Branch, the President said, "I hope the sex war will never exist in our Union." Whatever there may be of "sex war" in any trade union or profession, it would entirely disappear if men would only be fair to women, and concede to women the same opportunities and chances of remuneration as they afford to their fellow men.

Milk.

Mr. Kennedy asked the Minister of Health recently whether legislation was proposed to secure clean milk; if so, whether such legislation would involve any important change in the machinery and plant at present in use in large numbers of dairies; and, if so, would he arrange for adequate notice to be given of such change, and for a reasonable period to be provided after the date of the proposed legislation to enable owners of dairies to make suitable arrangements without being involved in heavy losses? Sir Alfred Mond replied in the affirmative, adding that he hoped it would be possible to introduce a Bill on the subject at an early date, and that he would certainly bear in mind the point raised in the question.

Lunacy Laws.

At a meeting arranged by the National Council for Lunacy Reform, and presided over by Lord Henry Cavendish Bentinck, a resolution was adopted in favour of a Royal Commission. We, too, would press for a Royal Commission on this subject, but urge that it be composed of an equal number of men and women.

Prohibition and Crime.

The Home Secretary has appointed an Advisory Committee to assist in the development of the probation system in England and Wales, and to advise him in the administration of the Probation of Offenders Act, 1907. The Committee consists of twelve men, among whom we are heartily glad to see Mr. W. Clarke Hall, and two women, Mrs. G. S. Cadbury, J.P. (Birmingham), and Miss Crosland, Probation Officer, Bow Street Police Court. We protest against the appointment of only two women to this Committee, and consider that its usefulness would be immeasurably increased if ten more really suitable women were added to it.

OUR POLICE COURTS.

The Head of the Family.

The husband of a South Shields woman charged with persistent cruelty pleaded piteously that he "only chastised her as he would a child, and as her husband he claimed the right to do so." This points the moral of the Bow wife of a prisoner, who remarked, "We do have peace in the house now, that's one good job."

The Order of the Family.

Mr. W. B. Luke, the Willesden magistrate, to a wife and mother whose husband expected impossible achievements: "The order of the family should be: the baby first, then you, and last of all the husband. Feed the baby first, then look after yourself, and if there is anything left over, let the husband have it. If there is not, let him look out for himself."

FRIDAY,
JUNE 23,
1922.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

MISCELLANEOUS.

BUSY Women requiring Rest will find comfortable Board Residence at Miss TURNER'S, "Sea View," Victoria Rd., Brighton. Early Dinner. Tel. Brighton 1702

MISS NICHOLAS, Ex-transport Driver. R.A.F. Landulette Car for hire. Tel. Hampstead 8341. Private address: 3, Christchurch Road, Hampstead.

WORK undertaken; mending; plain needlework; machining; washing blouses and fine goods; terms moderate. Enquiries at MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

TO LET.—Lady has part of comfortably furnished, newly Decorated Flat to let in W.C. district. 25/- weekly. Suit Professional or Business Woman.—Write A.A.B., c/o Minerva Publishing Co., Ltd., 144 High Holborn.

STUDLEY AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, WARWICKSHIRE. Holiday guests received; systematic occupation in farm and garden. Outdoor sports. Terms: Boys or girls under 16, 2 guineas per week; adults from 2½ guineas. Apply the Warden.

EDUCATIONAL.

CLYDE CAMPAIGN.—Speaker Wanted. Apply at once to Miss CLARK, 144 High Holborn, W.C.1.

THE PIONEER CLUB has re-opened at 12, Cavendish Place. Entrance fee in abeyance *pro tem*. Town Members £5 5s.; Country and Professional £4 4s.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, June 25th, 3.15. Music, Poetry, Lecture by Dr. Percy Dearmer; 6.30, Miss Maude Royden, "The Fear of Freedom."

Prepaid Classified Advertisements.

Number of Words.	Once.	Three Times.	Six Times.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
20	1 6	4 0	7 6
30	2 3	6 3	12 0
40	3 0	8 6	16 0

Displayed Advertisements,
8/- per Inch.

MISCELLANEOUS.

64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS AND HOW TO USE THEM 2d. Send for one.—TRIMNELL, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond Road, Cardiff. Established 1879.

MOTOR CARS.—Lady (ex-motor transport officer in French Army) undertakes motor repairs, coachwork, painting. Personal Supervision. Tyres stocked. Cars for hire.—Miss LEWIS, 23, Mount Avenue, W. 5. Tel. Ealing 158.

WANTED.—Costumes, coats, furs, underwear, gentlemen's and children's clothing. House furnishings. Specially good price given for high-class goods.—HÉLÈNE, 361, New King's Road, Fulham, S.W. 6.

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE,
55 GOWER STREET, W.C. 1.

A Social and Educational Centre for Men and Women of international sympathies.

CAFÉTARIA—on the American "Help Yourself" System Open 12-7.45 p.m. daily, Saturdays excepted. Subscription 1/-.
READING ROOM with foreign journals, subscription 5/-.

Just facing the W.F.L. is the

CAMEO CORNER,

With its wonderful selection of Barbaric Beads, lovely Pebbles, Engraved Gems, and all sorts of things for the most refined Tastes.



Selections sent on approval to all parts of the country. Please mention "THE VOTE."

GOOD'S CAMEO CORNER,

1, New Oxford Street, W.C. 1.

"USEFUL WOMEN"

DO EVERYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE.

A band of efficient Gentlewomen ready for any emergency, for instance:

Househunting, furnishing, and decorating.
Old furniture renovated and treated for worm, also polished and cared for weekly, or as required.
Lady servants of all kinds provided.
Conversation lessons in all European and some Oriental languages.
Mending of all kinds.
Decorations.

Apply to Miss KERR,
48, Dover Street, W.1.

Telephone: Regent 2566.

Send your Printing to us

We will do it cheaply, quickly and well

We know we shall please you, and you will be helping the "VOTE."

THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.
144 HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

We also undertake Typewriting Author's MSS. etc.

Suffrage Health Food Stores,

231-233, THE ARCADE, LINTHORPE ROAD,
MIDDLESBROUGH.

ALL VEGETARIAN SPECIALITIES STOCKED

Food Reformers experiencing any difficulty in obtaining Health Foods in their districts are invited to send for Price List. Orders over £1 carriage paid.

Manageress: Mrs. E. A. WALLACE.

IF you Believe in Equal Rights and Opportunities and an Equal Moral Standard for Women and Men,

Join the Women's Freedom League.

Fill in your name and address and send it, with subscription (minimum 1s.) to the Secretary, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1.

Name

Address