

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

XIX
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FRIDAY, JAN. 2, 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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NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM FRIENDS.

Mrs. How Martyn.

"The year 1919 was marked all over the world by notable victories for Women's Enfranchisement. Let us accept them as a call to greater efforts. Clear thinking, hard work and personal sacrifices will win even more splendid victories during 1920."

Lady Parsons.

"To the Freedom League and all readers of THE VOTE I wish a Happy and Hopeful New Year. Happy because we must not cloud the entry of the young year with sorrowing recollections of the past, and Hopeful because we, in our great Empire, are still able to lift, a little higher, the banner of Freedom; still to our Empire the world looks for high ideals of a free people. Let us women carry on with stout hearts, meeting difficulties with courage, and disappointments with valour."

Dr. Octavia Lewin.

"Greetings to the Women's Freedom League. May the New Year bring with it more than ever before a keen realisation that tyranny and repression are synonymous with the processes of destruction and death; and may the long-sown seeds of freedom which are beginning to send forth shoots from long-tilled soil grow till they spread their branches into the hearts and minds of all those in whose hands lie the destiny of others."

Mrs. Sarojini Naidu.

"I send my cordial greetings for the New Year to the Women's Freedom League, and wish it continued courage, faith, and unity in its noble efforts to establish full and equal citizenship for women."

Mr. Laurence Housman.

"Let your light shine, and may your shadow never grow less."

Lady Buckmaster.

"I wish all your readers a very happy New Year. I trust, not only that 1920 may still further widen woman's sphere of work and influence, but that her larger power may be manifested as a lever, lifting the world to higher planes of Justice, Magnanimity, Culture, Efficiency and Self-restraint."

Mr. W. L. George.

"I have no hesitation in greeting THE VOTE, and wishing it all prosperity in 1920, for it has always stood for the causes with which I have been associated for fourteen years. I hope that the coming year will see a further drift on the part of women towards the Labour Party, that has always been on their side, whether as to enfranchisement, or as to the administration of justice, or as to access to all positions in the State."

[Yet readers of THE VOTE must not forget that the Pre-War Practices (Restoration) Bill, which has so largely increased the present disabilities of women in the industrial world, was initiated and supported by the Labour Party.—Ed.]

Mr. Cameron Grant.

"Along with every good wish for the New Year goes the hope that the Freedom League, which has accomplished so much for women in times gone by, will not only hold fast all that it has gained, but go forward bravely, facing the future with its wonted high courage, to win for womanhood much that remains to be won, viz., not only the theoretical admission of rights, but a practical share in the material benefits involved in that recognition, not always granted in this yet imperfect world—of industry."

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WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Women and Sport.

Women's hockey seems to have taken a fresh lease of life, and just before the war there was a danger of it being ousted by golf and lacrosse. Clubs are continually reviving. It is expanding quickly in the Colonies, and women in Denmark have now begun to evince a keen interest in the game. Moreover, the American women are now taking it up. An international in the early future between British and American women is a great possibility. One of the cleverest of women hockey players is Miss K. Lidderdale, who plays for Gloucestershire. She excels as a centre-forward, and made a big reputation for England in the internationals in pre-war days.

Women's lacrosse, too, is catching on. The various physical training colleges and schools comprise the major portion of the clubs and of the association itself. What is very encouraging is the number of affiliated clubs which are well distributed about the country, not only in England but in Scotland. The biggest London women's lacrosse club is the Putney L.L.C., and this was the only Metropolitan club to play through the war. Women's lacrosse has for several years been steadily gaining in popularity, and in 1913 and 1914 international fixtures were played at Richmond between England, Scotland and Wales.

The Milk Problem.

A solution of the milk problem is being approached from two angles. The Food Controller and the Ministry of Health have jointly issued an order empowering local authorities to arrange for the supply of milk free or at less than cost price for expectant and nursing mothers and for children under five years of age. The second possible road to a cheap milk supply is opened up by the Prime Minister's promise of a Bill authorising the institution of municipal distribution schemes.

Folk Dancing Record.

The remarkable success of the national revival of English Folk Dancing proceeds apace. In 1911, when the first session was held, there were only 40 students. Just before the war the total reached 200. At the vacation school, opened last Monday at the South-Western Polytechnic, Chelsea, 400 students from all parts of England are taking part.

The instruction, which includes Morris dances, folk songs, country dances, sword dances and singing games, continues until next Saturday, and at the end of the course folk dance and country dance certificates will be awarded. Friday evening is to be given up to a country dance ball.

The Forum Club's Reception.

The Forum Club, the new women's club in Grosvenor Place, has been open to members for some weeks, but its first official reception is to be held on the evening of January 1st.

A masque specially written for the occasion by one of its members, Mrs. Alexander Goss, will be the feature of the opening on New Year's evening. Figures symbolical of the various activities of the club will take part in the pageant, the rôles being filled by well-known professional women. The production has been arranged by the Drama Board, which includes among its members Miss Lillah M'Carthy and other prominent actresses and dramatists.

Open to Both Sexes.

We recently read in the Press that the Scandinavian Insurance Co. had given the London Chamber of Commerce £1,000 to be expended over a period of ten years in prizes for those who showed their proficiency in Scandinavian languages at the examinations held by the Chamber of Commerce. An enquiry sent by us to the Secretary elicited the fact that these prizes are open to both ladies and gentlemen who enter for the examinations, provided they are not of foreign nationality.

"Antis" in Office.

It is a curious coincidence that Mrs. Humphry Ward, now eligible as a woman magistrate, and Miss Violet Markham (Mrs. James Carruthers), one of the two women members of the new Industrial Court, were both prominent "Antis" in the old suffrage days, and resolutely opposed to the entry of women into official positions hitherto occupied by men.

Women and Billiards.

The coming spring will see a great boom in billiards for women. At the new women's club, the Forum, a special feature is to be made of the game. Early next month a match is to be arranged between the five best players in the club and five first-class men club players, each to play under his or her handicap. Other mixed matches will follow. A Forum Club billiards championship is to be arranged annually, for which the members, who include some of the best women players in the country, will compete. A qualified professional will shortly be engaged to give lessons to beginners at the club.

A Hint to Mrs. Fawcett.

The bookshops this Christmas have reported an exceptional demand for biographical books and reminiscences. The *Manchester Guardian* wants to know why we have heard nothing of any book of memoirs by Mrs. Fawcett, who, above all others, is fitted to give an informed, consecutive, considered account of the women's movement during the last fifty years. We understand, on the authority of Messrs. Sidgwick and Jackson, that Mrs. Fawcett is to revise her earlier book on the "History of Women's Suffrage" this coming spring, but, much as we should like to hear of it, there is so far no mention of any accompanying autobiography.

Spanish Suffragists.

The women of four Spanish nations have now applied for affiliation with the International Women's Suffrage Alliance—Spain, the Argentine, Uruguay, and Cuba. There are many women in Spain holding good educational positions, and working as journalists on leading newspapers but so far there are very few women doctors. The bar to Spanish women entering on a legal career has just recently been removed. A committee of Spanish women in Madrid is now busily occupied in making local arrangements for the International Women's Suffrage Conference to be held there from May 2nd—8th.

Russian Women Voters.

We regret that in the list of countries enumerated in our issue of December 19th, 1919, as having gained votes for women since 1913, Russia was omitted. Russian women became enfranchised in 1917, after the Revolution.

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IN PARLIAMENT.

The first Session of the present Parliament, which was opened February 4th, 1919, came to an end December 23rd, and Members will not meet again at the House until February 10th. On the last day of the Session the Speaker informed the House that the Royal Assent had been given to forty-five Bills, among these being the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, the Nurses' Registration Acts for England, Scotland and Ireland, and the Old-Age Pensions Act. Lady Astor's presence in the House of Commons was responsible for a slight alteration in the form of the King's Speech in proroguing Parliament, which began "My Lords and Members of the House of Commons," instead of the customary "My Lords and Gentlemen of the House of Commons."

Women's War Services (Disablement).

On December 22nd, Captain Loseby, asked the Leader of the House if he could now make a statement with regard to the position of women who served His Majesty's Armies during the recent war, and who became disabled owing to, and in the course of, such service?

A statement upon this subject had previously been promised before the end of the Session, but Mr. Bonar Law, in reply, said:

"I am very sorry. I really did not have time to look into this matter."

It is interesting to note, however, that the King's Prorogation speech stated:

"The lot of the men who have served in My Forces during the war, and especially of those who are disabled, has been the subject of anxious consideration. It is a course of great satisfaction to Me that it has been possible to increase the scales of pension paid to war veterans."

We only wish that a great deal more could be done for the men who have been disabled in the war, but we claim that the women who have been hurt and wounded while gallantly serving with His Majesty's Forces have an equal claim with the men to their country's gratitude, and that the future of these women should also be the subject of the Government's consideration.

Asylums Visiting Committees (Women).

Sir Robert Newman asked the Home Secretary whether County Councils which have no women members on their body can co-opt women to serve on the Committee of their County Asylums; and, if this power does not exist, whether, in view of the fact that at least half the patients in these institutions are women and so many County Councils have no women members, steps will be taken to give County Councils the power to co-opt women on their Asylum Committee?

Mr. Shortt: "There is no power to add co-opted members, whether men or women, to the Visiting Committee of an asylum. I agree that in the event of any Amendment of the Lunacy Acts it may be well to provide for the appointment of co-opted members, as in the case of the Committees under the Mental Deficiency Act."

Milk.

Viscountess Astor asked the Food Controller whether the prices fixed by the Government have had the effect of restricting the consumption of milk; whether a substantial quantity of the milk produced fails for this reason to reach the small consumer; whether, in view of the need of having adequate supplies available for infants, he will state the number of local authorities who have availed themselves of the powers given under the Maternity and Child Welfare Act to provide milk under cost price; and if he will make a full statement on the whole subject to the House before the House rises?

Mr. Parker: "The present prices of milk do not appear to have restricted its consumption to any appreciable extent except in the exporting areas. In London there is a decrease of 1.2 per cent., but in the North of Eng-

land the consumption has risen. Three hundred and five local authorities in England and Wales are providing milk under cost price, including practically all the Metropolitan and County Borough Councils, a considerable portion of the County Councils, and the Councils of the larger urban areas. With the approval of the Minister of Health, the Food Controller has issued the Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919, under which local authorities in England and Wales are empowered to provide milk at reduced prices, or free of charge, in respect of children under five years of age, and expectant and nursing mothers, without restricting the cheap supply to necessitous cases. He proposes to issue a similar Order for Scotland."

In reply to a further question by Lord Robert Cecil, Mr. Parker stated that he knew the Food Controller was doing all he possibly could to see that the milk was evenly distributed among all classes of the community; but Mr. Atkey, who is the Member for Central Nottingham, asked Mr. Parker to convey to the Food Controller the fact that in Nottingham and district the prices fixed by the latter had reduced the quantity supplied to the poorer people by 50 to 60 per cent.; and that the milk was now being returned to the farmers in order to be made into cheese. Further, would Mr. Parker ask the Food Controller if he could not see his way, where the local farmers and the local Committee were agreed that a lower price was just, to allow the Committee to come to terms with the local farmers?

Lord Robert Cecil complained of the absence of the Food Controller, who should have been present to answer these questions with which his department had to deal. It should be noted that Mr. Parker does not belong to the Food Department, his office being that of a Lord Commissioner of the Treasury. F. A. U.

AN HEROIC ENGLISHWOMAN.

The war is still claiming its victims, and among the last is Miss Gertrude M. Powicke, M.A., who died of typhus at Warsaw on December 20th, the day after her 31st birthday. The *Manchester Guardian* writes that she was the third daughter of the Rev. Dr. F. J. Powicke, of Heaton Moor, formerly of Hatherlow, and the sister of Mr. F. M. Powicke, Professor of Mediæval History in Manchester University. Miss Powicke was educated at Milton Mount School, and at Manchester University, where she graduated with second-class honours in modern languages in 1911. She was then for several years an assistant mistress in the Manchester High School. After the outbreak of the war she gave up her post and took service with the War Victims' Relief Expedition of the Society of Friends, and remained attached to that organisation until the end. For a long time she was stationed at Bar-le-Duc, a town within a few miles of the fighting line, and incessantly exposed to aerial bombardment. There she shared all the discomforts and dangers of the refugee population, among whom she ministered with the greatest devotion, in particular by organising workshops for women so as to give them employment and some relief for their national needs.

At times Miss Powicke motored through the distressed districts, and ultimately took a notable part in removing large contingents of war victims to safer refuges in Central France. When the Armistice brought this work to an end she embarked almost at once on a still more hazardous mission in Central Europe. For many months she travelled through the most distressed regions of what was till recently Russian Poland. It was a continuous struggle against poverty, famine, cold, and disease, a struggle carried out with rare cheerfulness and wisdom. At last, on one of her tours through the worst districts, she contracted the malady to which she succumbed. In all her work she showed a marvellous power of self-control and remarkable capacity for carrying things through. She knew that she might meet death any day, and she faced the risk with open eyes.

THE VOTE.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2nd, 1920.

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

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.
Telegrams: "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.

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OUR WORK IN 1920.

We notice that one of our contemporaries suggests that the national motto for 1920 should be one word, "Work," with a capital W, and we are convinced that it ought also to serve as an extra motto for members of the Women's Freedom League who, one and all, desire the complete emancipation of women. We started the year 1919 full of hope. In the Election manifesto signed by the Prime Minister and Mr. Bonar Law the previous December, we read: "It will be the duty of the New Government to remove all existing inequalities of the law as between men and women."

For twelve months both these gentlemen have been the most prominent members of this New Government, which at the beginning of its first Session had a majority of over four hundred. With such a majority this Government surely had the power to remove a great number of glaring inequalities of the law as between the sexes. Yet what is its record? Before this Government attempted to deal with these inequalities Lord Buckmaster and Lord Beauchamp (neither of whom claimed to be supporters of the Government) had secured the passage of their respective Bills through the House of Lords, which would have enabled women to become members of the legal profession and to be appointed as Justices of the Peace. The Government, however, gave no facilities for these Bills in the House of Commons. The Labour Party brought in a Women's Emancipation Bill which, in spite of the opposition of the Government, secured a triumphant passage through the Commons; but the Lords, following the advice of the Lord Chancellor, conveniently threw it out. Eventually the Government passed into law the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill, the chief provisions of which are that women may now enter and practise in both branches of the legal profession; they may be appointed as Justices of the Peace; and they may serve on juries.

We agree that this Act will certainly remove some inequalities of the law as between men and women; but we urge most strongly that these are a very small number of the inequalities which exist, and which must be removed in the near future. We do not forget that this Government passed a Pre-War Practices (Restoration) Act which imposes fresh and serious disabilities upon working women, and that it excluded Indian women from a share in the measure of self-government which Indian men will enjoy. On another page of our paper appears a list of important matters for which the Women's Freedom League is working. To mention only two of them—votes for women on the same terms as men, and a full representation in Parliament of women by women—these objects can only be gained by the grim determination and the unremitting work of every member of our League. No less energy will have to be expended on securing the recognition of an equal moral standard for both sexes, and an alteration in the law so that the father, as well as the mother, shall be held responsible for their children, whether these children are born in or out of wedlock. So our message to every member is—"Work as you have never worked before for the full emancipation of women throughout the year 1920!"

WOMEN MAGISTRATES.

The demand of the Women's Freedom League has been, and still is, that there shall be at least one woman on every Magistrates' Bench. Every weekday, in all parts of the country, women and girls appear in our Police Courts, where they are charged, tried, and sentenced by men only. The total number of women and girl prisoners in England and Wales for the year 1917-1918 amounted to 21,699, of whom 1,329 were under twenty-one years of age. Again, from December, 1915, to February, 1916, 3,596 children were charged with punishable offences. Surely women are specially qualified to deal with children's delinquencies! During the debate on the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill in the House of Lords, the Lord Chancellor stated that the Bench throughout the country was fully up to strength, and that if the Bill became law it was not his intention to make new magistrates in districts in which there were no vacancies simply in order that women might be appointed to the Bench. It is well known, of course, that vacancies on the local Benches are constantly occurring, and we sincerely hope that the discredited method of appointing party hacks, no matter how unsuitable, will cease; and that suitable women will now be given a fair chance to fill the vacancies as they occur. In the meantime, the Lord Chancellor has appointed a Women's Central Advisory Committee to assist him in the selection of women to be placed on the Commission of the Peace, and in the method of selection for making appointments. The members of this Advisory Committee, who have themselves been made Commissioners of the Peace, are as follows: The Marchioness of Crewe (Chairman), the Marchioness of Londonderry, Mrs. Lloyd George, Miss Elizabeth Haldane, Miss Gertrude Tuckwell, Mrs. Humphry Ward, Mrs. Sidney Webb.

We quite agree that this list consists of exemplary women; but we cannot refrain from pointing out that we have members in the branches of the Women's Freedom League who would be at least equal in usefulness to any of these ladies on their own local Bench; and we would urge our readers, when they know a thoroughly suitable woman for this work in their district, to send her name and address, together with her qualifications, to this office, when we shall be only too glad to forward her recommendation to the proper quarters.

ANOTHER BARRIER DOWN!

Within twenty-four hours of the King's Assent to the passing of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill, which enables women to become barristers and solicitors, Miss Helena Normanton, B.A., was admitted as a law student to the Middle Temple, and Mrs. Gwyneth Marjory Thomson to Lincoln's Inn. Miss Normanton took the B.A. degree of London University with first-class honours in history, and she has also an arts degree of a French University. She has fought the battle against the legal barrier for many years, and has had much to do with its final victory. Mrs. Thomson took a first-class in Law at Oxford, and during the war, did much useful work for the Ministry of Food in the Midlands, where she conducted prosecutions on their behalf. She was formerly Miss Bebb, and plaintiff in the case of *Bebb v. the Law Society* in 1913, when it was decided that women could not become solicitors. Of the other three plaintiffs, Miss Costello has since married, and is studying medicine. Miss Nettlefold worked in the Food Ministry during the war, but now intends continuing her legal studies, and Miss Ingram, who recently spoke so ably and convincingly on "Why Women Need Women Lawyers," at our Wednesday afternoon meeting, is about to be articled to a leading firm of City solicitors, in whose offices she has been working for the past two months. Miss Ingram took the Law tripos at Cambridge, and while at Girton was President of the College Debating Society.

WOMEN'S WORK OR MEN'S?

THE DOMESTIC SERVICE PROBLEM.

Is the work of the home women's work or men's? Surely it is time that women of all classes and of all ways of thinking asked themselves this question; for to-day girls and women in their thousands are crowding into shops and factories and into insurance and law offices, while men walk the streets, vainly seeking for work, and in thousands of homes throughout the land the housewife and mother is overburdened with work and worry, trying to make one brain and one pair of hands do the work of several.

The old saying,

"Woman's place is the home,"

must still have some truth in it, seeing that most girls look forward to marrying and to having a home of their own. If all their working life previous to marriage has been spent in factory or workshop, how much can they know about cooking and housework and the smooth running of a home, all skilled processes requiring months and even years of training? Is the time coming when men are to supersede women in the home, and women to supersede men in the workshop? In either case, it is a blind-alley occupation for the majority of men and women, unless women go on with their trade or profession after marriage, and leave men to run the home. Unfortunately for such an arrangement to succeed Nature has decreed that women shall be the mothers of the race, and therefore home-makers.

Cannot the brains of women, or of men and women together, devise some way out of the present *impasse*? One reads that there are

thousands of women out of work

at the present time, and yet every day, in every newspaper in the land, there are long columns of advertisements for all kinds of domestic workers. It is, therefore, greatly to be regretted that there are many feminists to-day, especially among Labour women, who will not give a moment's consideration to the question of domestic service as a suitable employment for women. They simply turn it down, and girls who have the home-making instincts highly developed, are advised to become shop assistants, clerkesses, factory workers—anything but domestic helps. Surely this is the wrong attitude of mind to take up towards the question. There may have been great abuses in the past—the name "slavery" tells its own tale—but, seeing that women are primarily home-makers, is it not better to try and improve conditions rather than ban domestic work altogether? To do this means that the home must go; for it is impossible to imagine that any number of labour-saving devices will ever make the work of women in the home superfluous.

The duties of the hospital nurse are more arduous than those of the domestic helper; her hours are longer or as long, her pay inferior, and she, too, has to wear the hated cap and apron—and yet girls flock to be nurses! What is needed is for

a woman of vision,

with a genius for organising, to arise and do for domestic work as a career what Florence Nightingale did for nursing; that is, put domestic work on a different plane altogether, and raise the status of the domestic helper to that of the nurse and the teacher. This can only be done by the home worker being given as thorough a training as the nurse and the teacher, and by her passing a practical examination in her work and receiving a certificate of proficiency. It may be that a few years hence domestic workers will be agitating for their registration by the State as nurses have agitated in the years that are past, and if they do no doubt their efforts will be equally crowned with success.

But before that day comes much spade work will have to be done, and meanwhile the present shortage of domestic labour, with all its attendant discomfort and waste—waste of the lives of women of intellect who are better fitted for other work—is calling for immediate action. Would it not be possible in every town for the women who are dependent on outside help to meet together and attempt to standardise the conditions of service, giving those in their employment reasonable hours of leisure and recreation, until the time comes when an eight-hour day is the common right of everybody? If girls saw that their mistresses were anxious to be just, and that there was no question of superior and inferior, but only a mutual conferring of benefits, would not the suspicion and distrust that they nowadays so often entertain towards their employers pass away, and might not a new era of happier relationships dawn, based upon mutual respect and goodwill? To hope this and to work for this is surely not to make the mistake of pouring new wine into old bottles.

AIMÉE GIBBS.

APPEAL FOR HELP.

Dear Readers,

This is my first appearance in 1920. I am a sturdy little plant and I have survived the war, but I know that I can grow far bigger and stronger. Spring is coming and

I NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

How am I ever to grow to my full height and put forth my flower and fruit unless you lend me a hand? I am bursting with new ideas and plans, but I cannot carry these out single handed. If I am to go forward in the New Year

YOU MUST RALLY TO MY ASSISTANCE!

Some of you write: send me live Stories and Articles on burning questions of the day. Others read: I am always grateful for Reviews of new books of feminist interest. Others are in the arena, fighting shoulder to shoulder in the age-long struggle for women's freedom. Every time you meet success send me the latest record of any particular achievement, and I shall be proud to give it a prominent place. Some of you live abroad, and come across very varying phases of the Women's Movement. Send me special news of any interesting happening in your particular part.

DO SOMETHING, HOWEVER SMALL!

Make suggestions! Make objections! My back is broad! I do not mind how you pull me to pieces provided you have something better to build in its place. Enter for the Prize Competitions I hope to publish each month. Write me letters for "Our Open Column." Improve my circulation by talking about me to your friends. Advertise with me and support my Advertisers. Be ambitious on my behalf. Remember

I GO FORWARD OR STAND STILL

according to the way in which you help me in the coming year.

Your faithful servant,

THE VOTE.

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 3932.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

WHAT WE ARE WORKING FOR.

Full Equality in every direction of Women with Men.

- 1.—Votes for women on equal terms with men.
- 2.—Women Members of Parliament.
- 3.—Women Judges, Barristers and Solicitors.
- 4.—Women Justices of the Peace and Women Magistrates throughout the country.
- 5.—Women Commissioners of Prisons.
- 6.—Women on all Juries.
- 7.—Women on all Local Government bodies and an equal number of women with men on all Reconstruction and Housing Committees, on Trades Boards, Education and Health Committees. Women in adequate numbers on all public bodies which regulate the lives and surroundings of the people, and especially on all the Watch Committees of local Councils.
- 8.—The opening of all trades and professions to women, with equal opportunities and equal responsibilities.
- 9.—Equal pay for equal work in all trades and professions and Government Departments, with an equal chance to fill the higher posts.
- 10.—The immediate restoration to British-born women of full control of their own nationality.
- 11.—The recognition of an equal moral standard for men and women and an even-handed justice in the administration of the law in sex offences, no laws to be passed which will in practice operate unfairly as between men and women, and all inequalities already existing to be removed.
- 12.—That no woman charged with soliciting or similar offence to be convicted on police evidence only.

Black's *Writer's and Artist's Year Book*, 1920 (3s. 6d.), which can be obtained at this office, is just out, and, since in 1919, owing to the great demand, there had to be a re-printing, all who need this handy little guide in their workaday life should procure a copy quickly. This year there are some notable new features. The leading journals of India, Australia and New Zealand have been added to the existing British, American and Canadian ones. A much larger section than last year is devoted to British and American Film Production and Cinema Journals and Agents. Attention is directed to the new Diploma in Journalism established by the University of London. The book is much increased in size, which is not to be wondered at when some 800 periodicals are this year set forth, with the various Editor's requirements, the length and style of matter they prefer, and where it can possibly be extracted from them, the price they are prepared to pay.

A NEW YEAR GIFT

will be very welcome!

WOMEN'S RIGHT TO LIVE

is the foundation stone of our League and the thousands of women who lose their jobs with the new year appeal to you for the success of our big public meeting at Essex Hall on January 19th.

Everything is expensive to-day so contributions are particularly needed.

E. KNIGHT.

BOOK REVIEW.

Impressions That Remained. By Ethel Smyth. (Longman's.) 2 vols. 28s. net. (Can be obtained at this office.)

The impression that remains on the reviewer's mind after reading these delightful volumes of Dr. Ethel Smyth's memoirs is of a woman who left an abiding impression on all with whom she came in contact, of one who drank deeply of the draught of life, and who, on the whole, had reason to be satisfied with her share of its good things. She herself holds the contrary opinion: unhappiness predominated, a view that might be due to the strain of the Great War and its disconcerting aftermath. In any case, Dr. Smyth was a pioneer woman, a lover of sports and of feminine liberty when such lovers were few, a woman demanding recognition for talent independent of sex, a keen observer with a noteworthy gift for portraiture. Above all things, she is truthful, relates her stories even when they tell against herself, e.g., her degree of Mus. Bac., conferred by Durham University, which was given by one of its celibate potentates because she played tennis so remarkably well with his nephew! "Oh, my country!" as she herself has reason to ejaculate oftener than once.

Our author's great gifts for music were shown early in life; from the age of twelve it was evident that her life's work lay here. Musical friends affectionately called her the contrapuntist. She tells us that the devil within her could only be put to sleep at Leipsic. Those of us who used to quote Germany as the great exemplar of thoroughness, perhaps at her own bidding, are astonished to learn that of three famous teachers at the Conservatorium only one was worth his salt. Our author, on arrival at Leipsic, immediately wanted to "assist" at an open-air concert where Hoffmann's Serenade in D was to be performed. It was impossible for the landlady to accompany her, or for a young girl to go alone in 1877. But the author, disguised with grey corkscrew curls and horn spectacles hired for the occasion, and a figure padded out to consort with age, with wrinkles painted in, went to that concert and enjoyed the Germany of her dreams.

At Leipsic and in visits to other towns our author made the acquaintance of Reinecke, Brahms, Clara Schumann, Herschel, Joachim, the Röntgens, Rubinstein, Grieg, and at a later stage in England that of Rhoda and Agnes Garrett, Mrs. Fawcett, the Empress Eugénie, Archbishop Benson and his gifted family. The Engländerin's musical proclivities did not silence her critical faculty, even in exalted Leipsic circles. Brahms thought little of women's capacity, and Dr. Smyth composed a sarcastic poem in German, of which the last verse runs:—

"As the great Brahms recently proclaimed,
A clever woman is a thing of naught,
 So let us diligently cultivate stupidity,
 That being the only quality demanded
 Of a female Brahms admirer!"

Dr. Smyth's bitterest disappointment in life was that her masterpiece, "The Wreckers," was to have been produced at Munich under ideal conditions, but war prevented the fulfilment of the plan, just as it broke up German friendships begun in her teens.

The keen disappointment to suffragists and suffragettes is that since the Impressions call a halt at 1890 there are only a few words about the Great Movement in which Dr. Smyth played so conspicuous a part; her courage and devotion are known to many. We can but hope that some more impressions remain and that they may see the light of day ere very long. The story might even be told as opera, of course in addition to the printed word. To the enemy the suffragettes were "the Wreckers"; to ourselves, if not the master-builders, we have at least helped to pull down that bad old régime in which Liberty, Justice and Fraternity were mere words to charm with, not corner-stones of the social edifice.

C. S. BREMNER.

Women's Freedom League.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.
LONDON AND SUBURBS.DARE TO
BE FREE

Wednesday, January 14.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Mrs. Nevinson, L.L.A. Subject: "Our Young Women Poets." Chair: Mrs. E. M. Moore. 3 p.m.

Wednesday, January 14.—Mortimer Hall, Mortimer Street, W.1. 6.30. New Year's Party.

Thursday, January 15.—Political Sub-Committee, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 12 o'clock.

Saturday, January 17.—National Executive Committee, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 10 a.m.

Monday, January 19th.—Public Meeting, Large Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand. "Women's Right to Live." 7.30 p.m. Particulars later.

Wednesday, January 21.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Subject: "Mothers' Pensions." Chair: Mrs. Tanner. 3 p.m.

Wednesday, January 28.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Miss Raleigh. Subject: "The Rights of Animals in Ancient and Modern Times." 3 p.m.

Wednesday, January 28.—Golder's Green: Dance. Tickets 3s. Particulars from Hon. Sec., 59, Ashbourne Avenue, N.W. 4.

Friday, January 30.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Debate: "Does Dr. Montessori Preach a New Gospel in Matters Educational?" Speakers to be announced later. 7 p.m.

Wednesday, February 4.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Councillor Norah March, B.Sc. Subject: "Child Welfare." Chair: Miss F. A. Underwood. 3 p.m.

Thursday, February 5.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Mr. W. Clarke Hall. Subject: "The Naughty Child." 6 p.m. Chair: Mrs. J. E. Cliffe.

Wednesday, February 11.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Mrs. Zangwill. Subject: "The Reading Public." 3 p.m.

Monday, February 16.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Miss Rebecca West. Subject: "Women and Crime." Chairman: Miss Munro. 7 p.m.

Wednesday, February 18.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Miss Edith Neville. Subject: "The Work of the Penal Reform League." 3 p.m.

Monday, March 1.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Major A. C. Morrison-Bell, M.P. Subject: "Proportional Representation." 7 p.m.

Monday, March 8.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Mr. W. L. George. Subject: "Women Under Socialism." Chair: Miss Pierotti. 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 10.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Miss Jessie March. Subject: "The Unmarried Mother." Chair: Dr. Patch. 3 p.m.

Saturday, March 27.—Women's Freedom League Annual Conference, Council Chamber, Caxton Hall, Westminster, 10 a.m.

PROVINCES.

Monday, January 5.—Middlesbrough. Branch Meeting, The Suffrage Rooms, Linthorpe Road, 8 p.m.

Monday, January 26.—Westcliff. Social at "Ensburry," Eastwood Lane, Westcliff (by kind permission of Mrs. Newberry). 7.15 p.m. Tickets 1s. Each member may bring a friend.

Monday, February 2.—Ashford. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Subject: "Mothers' Pensions."

Monday, February 9.—Wes'c iff. Labour Hall, 6, Broadway Market, 7.30. Speaker: Mrs. Alexander. Subject: "Proportional Representation."

Monday, February 23.—Westcliff. Labour Hall, 6, Broadway Market, 7.30. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood. Subject: "The Political Work of the Women's Freedom League."

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Thursday, January 22.—S.W. London Women's Question Group, 72, Thurleigh Road, Clapham (by kind permission of Miss Fryer). Speaker: Mrs. Nevinson, L.L.A. Subject: "Woman—the Spoilt Child of the Law." 8 p.m.

Sunday, February 1.—Ashford P.S.A. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

A.

We offer a prize of a *Redbreast Fountain Pen* for the best Review of Miss Margaret Macmillan's new book, "The Nursery School" (Dent). The winning Review will be published in THE VOTE.

RULES.

- 1.—Reviews must not exceed 500 words, and should be typed or written clearly on one side only of the paper.
- 2.—The coupon on the back page, giving the name and address of the sender, must be affixed to each Review.
- 3.—Replies should be addressed to the Editor, THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, W.C., and must reach the office on or before January 30th, 1920.

B.

We offer a prize of a book to any reader who obtains during January six new subscribers to THE VOTE for one year. The names and addresses of new subscribers thus obtained, together with their annual subscriptions, should be forwarded to the Editor, THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Names of successful competitors will be published in THE VOTE the first week in February, 1920. These will be offered a choice of three books from which to select their prize.

BRANCH NOTES.

MIDDLESBROUGH.

A very successful Branch Meeting was held in the Suffrage Rooms, December 22nd. New and old members were present, and arrangements for future work was discussed. Reports were given of our recent Social Evening and Jumble Sale, both of which were a great success.

MISS D. BARRS (Hon. Sec.), Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough.

SWANSEA.

A Social in connection with the W.F.L. will be held on Saturday, January 31st, at 7 p.m., at the Oxford Street Schools. Admission 1s. 6d. each. The programme includes Competitions, Musical Programme and Sketch, Refreshments, Speech, Dancing or Games. You are cordially invited to attend and bring your friends.

MRS. JELLEY (Hon. Sec.), 14, Carlton Terrace.

The Women's Freedom League Settlement,

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

Christmas is over, and with it our Christmas Party, to which no less than 360 self-bidden guests betook themselves early on the morning of Monday last, to be in time to greet Father Christmas and receive, according to ancient usage, a present from that much overworked person, in addition to the Christmas puddings, mince-pies, oranges, apples and sweetmeats, doles and crackers and other good things which had been keeping the minds (and hands) of many of our workers full a number of weeks beforehand. Miss Kathleen Holmes and Mrs. Miller had purchased dolls, which were dressed by the members of a ladies' club, meeting at Moyleen, Marlow. Miss Pamela and Master Peter Nathan had supplied oranges and crackers, as well as a number of other friends (so numerous that this little corner will not hold them this week, and they must wait to be thanked until next). Later in the day a little procession, headed by Father Christmas, took its way to Mrs. Despard's Clubroom, where the hoary-headed one gave much amusement and a little cheer to the members of the Catholic Mothers' Meeting, who, like ourselves, celebrated its Christmas before December 25th and not after! Our very best thanks, in the name of the children, to all those who helped us give them such a good time!

A Woman Councillor's Busy Life.

Mrs. Schofield Coates, who, our readers will recollect, was recently elected to the Middlesbrough Borough Council, writes the Women's Freedom League that she is serving on the following Committees—Streets, Finance and Stores, Plans, Public Libraries and Museum, General Purposes and Parliamentary, Housing (and special sub-committees), Tramways, Small Holdings and allotments, Old-Age Pensions, Maternity and Child Welfare, Education (Elementary and Secondary), and adds: "All the rest I may attend (including the Watch Committee) and do if I can. This month I note in the minutes a woman applied for licence for taxi-driving—the first one—and it was granted."

Municipal Successes

Miss Agnes Husband (Dundee) writes: "Scotch Parish Council Elections (which are just like your Boards of Guardians, with somewhat different methods of administration, and are also in the Burghs District Board of Control) take place in November, but the members do not take office till 10 days after the first Tuesday in December. Six women stood on the last occasion, and were all elected, one topping the poll in her ward. Four of the members are old Freedom Leaguers, and we were able to obtain three of the most important convenerships at the first meeting of the new authority last week. The Relief Committee fell to me. Mrs. Butcher, a one-time secretary of the W.F.L. Branch, is Vice-Chairman of the House Committee, and Miss Scotland, who was so successful as Convener of the Checking of Accounts Committee, was returned again unanimously. We are all quite proud of the result, as there are 32 members on the Council."

FRIDAY,
JAN. 2,
1920.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

BRANCH NOTES.

BEXHILL.

We had an excellent meeting at the Kahveh Room last Monday week, when Mrs. H. W. Nevinson gave an inspiring address on "Why We Need Women Magistrates." Mrs. Williams, Vice-President of the Bexhill Branch, presided. New members were made, and it is very gratifying to know that our membership is increasing every week. Everyone will be very interested to hear that Mrs. Sarojini Naidu has kindly consented to speak at Bexhill early in the New Year.

RYE.

Many thanks to all our members who helped to make Mrs. Despard's meeting such a big success. She gave an excellent address on "The New Internationalism," which was listened to with close attention. Mrs. Strickland warmly congratulated Rye

on its new branch of the W.F.L., and wished the work all success. The Rev. S. H. Wing presided. Six new members were made, which brings our membership up to 30. On Tuesday, January 27th, a public tea and lecture will be held. Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck has very kindly consented to speak. Further details as to time and place will be announced later. A Mock Election is another interesting event likely to take place at no distant date. Candidates for this will probably be drawn from other branches.

ASHFORD.

Women's Club.—Remember the New Year Party at the Co-operative Hall on New Year's Day. Tickets, 6d. each, will be gladly sold by the Secretary, Mrs. Ware, 3, Sturges Place, Beaver.—The Women's Club will combine with the Women's Adult School (by request) on Tuesday, January 27th. This meeting will be held at the South Ashford Adult School at 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck.

Organiser—Miss WHITE, Magazine House, Winchelsea.

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