

THE VOTE,
DECEMBER 27, 1918.
ONE PENNY.

Women at the Peace Conference

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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

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WE GREET THE UNKNOWN WITH A CHEER!

In reviewing the events of the past year, the Women's Freedom League and the Woman's Movement generally have much cause for gratification. The year 1918 has seen two great victories for democratic principles: the granting of political enfranchisement to six million British women and the securing of the legal right of women to a seat and a vote in the House of Commons. In certain sections of industry women have obtained equal pay for equal work with men, and many of their men fellow workers, recognising the expediency as well as the justice of this claim, have struggled with women for its establishment. For work under Government and in other sections of industry women are still fighting the battle of equal pay for equal work, but though victory is yet to come they are wearing down the opposition of their foes and are gaining ground everywhere. The attempts on the part of the War Cabinet in the earlier part of the year to reintroduce the Contagious Diseases Acts in this country and its acquiescence in the establishment of disorderly houses in France and their use

by British soldiers have met with the uncompromising opposition of the Women's Freedom League and other organised women, and on both these points the War Cabinet has been obliged to capitulate to the storm of indignation among women.

In the recent election women's votes and the women candidates have brought fresh vigour and enthusiasm into our political life. The results of the election are beyond our control, but, no matter who gets in or who is left out, or what the *personnel* of the new Government may be, the course of the Women's Freedom League is clear—we must see that women are everywhere in our national life, sharing control and responsibilities equally with men, and securing equal rewards and opportunities.

The future is full of hope for women, not only in this country, but in all countries where women are pressing for political liberty. Victory in one country brings encouragement and help to others. So, looking backward and looking forward, the Women's Freedom League confidently greets the Unknown with a cheer!

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 to the Secretary, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1.

Name _____

Address _____

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, December 27th, 1918.

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"THE BEST IS YET TO BE!"

A new and better order of things has ever been the aim of the reformer. The domination of one class had to be superseded by the representation of all classes in the government of our country; the domination of one sex has recently had to give way to the inclusion of both sexes in the counsels of the nation. Neither of these battles for equality is fully won. They are part of the struggle which Mazzini called the "War of New Principles," a war in which no progressive man or woman can find any safeguard in neutrality. Whatever Government may be in power, we have still to work for equal opportunities, equal rewards, and equal political rights for all classes and both sexes.

At the present time women are summoned with men to make plans for the future upon the wreckage left by a four years' war. We are confident that women will not shirk that task, and that many of them are fully prepared to consider a reconstruction based upon new ideas and divested of old prejudices. Women are the new power in politics, and are determined to play their part in building up the new era. They are not hampered by ancient tradition or modern red tape. The dead hand of the past must give place to the vitalising energy of the present if the future is to be worthy of the recent sacrifices of men and women.

Neither women nor the men who return from the battle fronts will be satisfied with an order of society which leaves 12,000,000 people in this country on the verge of starvation, as in pre-war days; nor will they tolerate a stupid social order which refuses the necessities of life to vast numbers of our fellow-citizens and their children. They intend to see Housing conditions improved in the near future. Men and women, boys and girls, cannot be expected to lead decent lives if they cannot live in decent dwellings. Local authorities must have greater power in this matter, and must be in a position to deal drastically with landlords who refuse to let their houses to men and women with children; they must also see that sanitary inspectors condemn all houses in their district unfit for human habitation, and that landlords are responsible for safeguarding the health of their tenants by the conditions of their property.

The child is the greatest asset of the State not only in war-time, but in time of peace, and if children are to become healthy, efficient citizens, pure food, adequate clothing, and healthy surroundings are essential. The great discovery of the war has

been that motherhood is the key industry of any nation. For this industry women want to see the best possible conditions, for it is of the highest national importance. A poor woman with young and sickly children cannot fulfil her trust properly if she has to pay 10d. a quart for what is called "guaranteed" milk—that is, milk from which the cream has been extracted, and which is also well watered. The last House of Commons subsidised farmers for their produce. Cannot the State subsidise poor mothers for the care of their children? The safeguarding of the interests of mothers and children must be registered as one of our chief aims in reconstruction.

In regard to sex legislation women will fight to a finish any attempt to establish in this country the State regulation of vice. Until now they have had no direct power in the legislative machinery to deal with criminal law. The indignant opposition aroused by the attempted sex legislation of the now defunct Parliament and Regulation 40D, has shown those in authority something of the power of the woman voter, and candidates all over the country have realised by means of insistent questioning that women are alert to the danger of any step backwards towards State regulation of vice. They insist on a higher and an equal moral standard for men and women. Public opinion must be aroused against the War Office theory that immorality does not matter, but disease does, and must resist to the utmost any further effort on the part of the authorities to protect immoral men from the results of their immorality by the persecution of helpless women. There can be no sure foundation for any nation in which vice is protected. In this connection women will continue to press for women magistrates and for women on juries; men can no longer hold a monopoly in the legal profession and in the administration of justice.

During the last four years of war hundreds of thousands of young men between the ages of 18 and 25 have been killed, and the young women they would in the ordinary course of things have married will probably remain unmarried and become permanent workers in the labour market. If these women are not to undercut men and bring down the whole standard of living the State must see that they are paid at equal rates with men for the same work. All trade unions must be thrown open to women on equal terms with men. The prejudice against women's work and competition must be broken down in the economic world just as it is being broken down in the political world.

Women, equally with men, are directly concerned in securing the lasting peace of the world. They want no "next war." The majority of the statesmen of all countries are agreed that a League of Nations is the only possible preventative; women desire it to be a reality, containing no seeds of future wars. Their desire is that science and the brains and skill of the men and women of all nations shall be used in the construction of society and not in its destruction. They want no further devastation of lands and lives and ideals, but a united effort on the part of the nations of the earth to build together a new civilisation and pursue the paths of peace. The only alternative to a League of Nations is that each country must be armed to the teeth to withstand the advance of an aggressor, that taxation must be piled up for armaments, with the wealth of the world expressed in instruments of destruction, conscription for men and women, young and old, and an ever-increasing restriction of our liberties—a world, in fact, organised for war. Nothing that is good and lasting can be built on this insecurity. The hope of the world lies in a League of Nations based on justice and understanding, and

women must be included in its counsels. For months past the Women's Freedom League has been pressing that women, as women's representatives, should be at the Peace Conference. This is the most important, the most immediate task of reconstruction, because on the decisions arrived at during the Peace Conference depends the future of the whole world. Women, as guardians of the race, must be present, to give the whole-hearted support of women to a world peace which will lay for ever the ghastly spectre of future wars.

F. A. U.

DOUGLAS MACNAIR, M.A. A Question of Value.

"Well, the L.C.C. is doing us handsomely in the matter of salary. Have you seen the new scale, mother?"

"Yes, and I am glad to see it. But it seems hard that the men should have so much more than the women. I don't see the reason for that. The poor lassies go to college and do just the same work."

"Women are cheaper animals," replied Douglas, tritely.

"So you would scoff at the old mother, would you?"

"Don't I always scoff at her?" was the return query, and there was so much love in the tone that Mrs. MacNair laughed, well pleased to be scoffed at by her adored only bairn.

"You should try for a headship now, Douglas," she began. "It is just the time, for we need the money, and you have your M.A. To think I should live to see you an M.A.! When you are head you will wear your cap and gown in school. A brave master you will make!"

The Master of Arts laughed.

The Pentland Park School had secured the services of Douglas MacNair, M.A., and it soon discovered its good fortune. He was brisk, exact, and punctual, and he kept everyone up to the mark. Then his manners were kind, he was courteous in spite of his Scotch reserve, and there was a dignity about him which gained respect from the rowdiest boy in the school. The staff was sorry that he wore black glasses, they detracted from his looks, otherwise no adverse criticism was offered. "He is a gentleman," was the verdict. "A gentleman right through, though, from his tiny feet and smooth complexion you might almost as well say he was a lady."

After six months of his beneficent rule, the school was flourishing, and, thanks to the increased salary, his mother was flourishing too. Douglas shirked nothing and was afraid of nothing; he was bold enough to look forward with interest, rather than fear, to the coming visit of James Brent, Esq., one of his Majesty's most respected and revered inspectors.

The day of inspection duly arrived, and with it came James Brent, Esq. Privately, I believe the said J. B., Esq., was a little taken aback at our friend Douglas' calm, collected deportment, and extraordinary self-possession. When one is desperately nervous one can force an excellent imitation of self-confidence. However, J. B. kept his feelings to himself, and behaved with his usual discretion and judgment. He looked at every book, or seemed to do so; he examined every classroom, he listened to one of the head's lessons from end to end, and he took in the state of the whole school in a very few minutes, and he was pleased, thoroughly pleased with all he saw and heard.

When he had written up and signed the minute book he had a few words with Douglas in the latter's private sanctum.

"I am delighted, Mr. MacNair," he said cordially. "Quite delighted. The school is in excellent condition, and you have done wonders."

Douglas' heart began to thump excitedly. "Thank you, sir."

"It is you we have to thank," returned the inspector, urbanely. "The L.C.C. is to be congratulated on obtaining your services. There—you may read the report if you like." He signed his name with a flourish and handed the book to Douglas, who glanced at it with burning cheeks. The word excellent occurred twice—from Mr. Brent, that most critical of persons.

"I am very—very much obliged—." The self-possession was beginning to give way.

Mr. Brent felt sorry for him; he had quite taken a fancy to this slim, effeminate young fellow, with the black glasses; he was a trifle absurd in appearance, but his work was capital.

"You are Scotch, of course?" he remarked, kindly.

"Yes, MacNair—Douglas MacNair."

"After the Black Douglas?"

"No, called after Katherine Douglas—Kate Barlas, you know, the woman who tried to save James I. by putting her arm in the staple of the door."

"Oh, yes."

"With us Douglas is a girl's name as well as a boy's, so I—Oh!"

"What's the matter? Why! Hello!" for Douglas MacNair's face had grown as white as chalk, and he collapsed into a chair as suddenly as if he had been shot.

"A girl's name!" repeated the inspector, a sudden suspicion seizing upon him. "A girl's name! What the dickens do you mean! I thought you looked a little effeminate! Take off those black glasses."

Douglas obeyed, with a little gasp, and for a moment there was a silence which could be felt. The eyes which those glasses had hidden were swimming in tears, the long, dark lashes which fringed them were "dew-pearled," too.

"A little effeminate indeed!" thundered the inspector. "How are you going to account for this disgraceful masquerade?"

The violence of the attack roused all the fire in Douglas' heart; it was a toss up between tears and temper; desperately she chose the latter.

"I will account!" she retorted, beginning to thunder, too. "I will account! It's the meanness of the L.C.C. They will pay the men so much more than the women, and you know it is not fair. I keep my mother, just as many men keep their wives, and she needs the money, bless her! I am Douglas MacNair, and I am an M.A. You yourself have said that I can do the work; you have called it 'excellent' and signed it, too!" There was a note of malicious triumph in the girl's voice at this point.

"If I can do the man's work, why can't I have the man's pay? The L.C.C. put the idea into my head by addressing a letter 'Esq.' It struck me then that Douglas is not a girl's name in England, as it is with us, so I made up my mind to do it. Anyhow, my name and my qualifications are genuine, though my wig isn't!" and, with a defiant gesture, she flung that article on to the floor.

James Brent surveyed the semi-comic, semi-tragic figure before him in dumbfounded amazement for a moment, then he murmured helplessly, "Well, I am blessed!"

Douglas MacNair is teaching no longer, but Mr. Brent still visits the Pentland Park School. He often

brings his wife with him; she has large blue eyes and a slightly Scotch accent. She seems to know a great deal about the Pentland Park School.

We understand, also, that Mr. Brent is now one of the warmest advocates of that much-needed reform, "Equal pay for equal work—no differentiation because of sex."

Manners makey th ye man, but the Hood makes not the monk!
ENID LEALE.

ON OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

"In Defence of Women." By H. L. Mencken. Philip Goodman, New York. 1 dol. 35 c.

"Review that for THE VOTE," said my friend. I caught sight of the title and snorted contempt. Over four years of androcentric war, and still a book in DEFENCE, and of WOMEN!!!! But one must do something for irresistible friends, and I turned to the task. The first of the essayettes, entitled "The Maternal Instinct" and "Woman's Intelligence," contained such gems as:—

She may envy him his masculine liberties, his invulnerable complacency, his talent for paltry vices, his soothing romanticism. But she never envies him his puerile ego; she never envies him his shoddy and preposterous soul.

Women, in point of fact, are not only intelligent; they have almost a monopoly in certain of the subtler and more utile forms of intelligence.

Reading thus far it seemed as if the writer had been eavesdropping whilst evolved women chatted unchastened by the necessity of adapting their intelligence to the exigencies of charming or bamboozling, or the writer may have drawn conclusions per medium of the process called masculine logic—that set of intricate mental gymnastics by which the male of the human species, to his own gratification and obfuscation, and not infrequently to the derision or amused tolerance of women, proves that which does not exist, and which, if it did, would not affect the fundamentals of existence. Says the writer:

They (women) see at a glance what most men could not see with searchlights and telescopes; they are at grips with the essentials of a problem before men have finished debating its mere externals. They are the supreme realists of the race. Apparently illogical, they are the possessors of a rare and subtle super-logic.

Progressing to other observations on "The Duel of Sex," "Beauty," "The Charm of Mystery," etc., the writer's ears have played him false or his logic has deserted him, for he falls into a quagmire of platitudes, some of which are of the vintage of the mother-in-law pleasantries. He has distilled from Weininger, Ellis, Freud, Bergson, Shaw, and Alroth Wright, with an ineradicable natural bias towards Wright. Abandoning his first lead, he drops from the Shavian stratum of feminism, betrays hysterical fear of the advance of women from male dominance and a fretful jealousy of a female fellow student. His alarm in realising the advantages enjoyed by American women leads one to suspect that the writer would be more comfortable spiritually did he emigrate to one of the European countries, preferably Macedonia, where Mrs. Macedonia may be seen trudging barefoot on the stony passes while Mr. Macedonia (not at all a specimen that evolved women would choose in a polygamous State) rides on a bruised and dominated donkey.

In the Weininger and Wright key Mr. Mencken mentions prostitution as one of the easiest and most agreeable ways of living for mediocre young women, though he states at the same time:—

If the work of the average man required half the mental agility and readiness of resource of the work of the average prostitute, the average man would be constantly on the verge of starvation.

As a study in contradiction, perhaps, Mr. Mencken first depicts men as getting much the worst of the bargain in marriage, it being their life business

to escape it; then, not to make up to women for the shortage owing to the slaughter of males, but for the diversion of the males, he discusses concubinage as a relief from that matrimony which is a burden too heavy for them. He also advocates that the wife should choose the concubines because the husband has not sufficient sense to do it successfully himself. But if such a booby as Mr. Mencken depicts the members of his sex to be has one woman to minister to him in any capacity, by what right should he dare expect two or three? For Mr. Mencken maintains that the male of the human species has neither the art nor the plain horse sense to be anything but something to be bravely endured as a lover, and suggests that many more women than are brought to book, murder their spouses. The title and trade paragraph on the cover paper of the book are as ineffably stupid as the what-smart-little-Willies-we-are kind of headline which precedes them.

Oh the things that an evolved woman could say but for realising the cheap easiness of being smart per medium of destructive criticism! We have had enough of the brilliance of destructiveness; it is for us to search out the seeds of unalluring intellectual constructiveness and reconstruction in all things; and thus in these essays, ill-proportioned though they are and flippant, with a meretricious straining after brightness, there is amusement and truth. One must hold out a hand to a fellow being who has unmasked conscience as:—

the accumulated sediment of ancestral faintheartedness in countless generations, with vague religious fears and superstitions to leaven and mellow it.

and sigh at the inescapable truth in—
Here, as elsewhere in the universe, the best effects are obtained by a mixture of elements. The wholly manly man lacks the wit necessary to give objective form to his soaring and secret dreams, and the wholly womanly woman is apt to be too cynical a creature to dream at all.

M. F.

CATHERINE BRESCHKOVSKY.

Once again rumours of the death by violence of Catherine Breschkovsky have reached this country. Confirmation is still lacking, but the following facts of the life of this remarkable and daring Russian woman are of special interest, whether she be alive or dead.

Catherine Breschkovsky, the grandmother of the Russian Revolutionary Movement, as she was affectionately called, was born in 1848, and was the daughter of a wealthy landowner of Central Russia. In the early seventies she joined the revolutionary party, and became a very active member of the Kiev Commune settlement. This settlement was run by students, who devoted their energies to propaganda among peasants and workmen. Madame Breschkovsky, at that time a very handsome and popular woman, was an extremely direct and simple speaker: she knew how to appeal to the peasants, and attracted crowds whenever she addressed them. In 1874 she was arrested, tried with fellow-revolutionaries, imprisoned, and afterwards sent to Siberia. In 1881 she escaped, but lost her way in the Tunga, a district of almost endless forests and marshes. She was captured, tried again, and then sentenced to five years' penal servitude in Siberia. In 1890 she returned to European Russia, and afterwards went to America, where she made a successful tour and gained great fame as a speaker. She subsequently took part in the Terrorist movement, because she believed it to be the only means of combating Tsarism, in the absence of free institutions and of any freedom of combination.

Madame Breschkovsky was a wonderful organiser, and possessed to a marvellous degree the power of inspiring her countrymen and countrywomen with

the ideals of a Free Russia. In 1908 she was again arrested, being betrayed by Azef, an agent of the Russian Police, and was once more sent to Siberia, where she remained until recalled by the order of Kerensky. She then worked with him in the Winter Palace, and presided over the great National Conference, to which all parts of Russia sent delegates. A few weeks ago Russians in London held a commemoration meeting in her honour. Messrs. Shklovsky and Kerensky made magnificent speeches to a crowded assembly, giving their reminiscences and a record of the work of this great woman patriot. Her memory evoked wonderful enthusiasm and emotion; women in Britain who have struggled for their political freedom were filled with joy at the well-deserved tribute paid to a fellow worker for liberty in a distant country.

BUMBLEDOM'S LEAKING BUCKET.

Mary Pendlebury, in the *Nineteenth Century*, drew attention to the wasteful system of the Poor Law Infirmary lock wards.

In these inhospitable apartments are incarcerated destitute persons suffering from infectious venereal diseases. With damp walls often streaming with moisture, with stone floors, and in many cases absolutely no attention and no treatment, it is not to be wondered at that patients escape the moment they can crawl away. Some lock wards are less vile, but the rule is "no visitors, no flowers, no pictures," nothing to redeem the desolation.

What is to be done to keep the patients in these wards until they are free from infection? We discussed this question with the President of the Local Government Board at the joint deputation of Organised Women's Societies arranged by the Women's Freedom League last year upon the treatment of venereal diseases.

There are two alternatives.

(1) Compulsory detention until cured. This seems an easy way out of the difficulty, and is hailed with joy by Charity-Organisation-Society type of mind, but it is abhorrent to every free born Briton to shut up sick persons for months or years against their will.

(2) To scrap all penalisation of lock ward patients. To make the wards at least as attractive as the other wards in a modern infirmary, with the same flowers and bright surroundings, congenial occupation and hobbies, and to appoint special visitors who could arouse the interest of the women and offer them an attractive new life: "In some cases where this has been tried such visitors have worked wonders, but everything depends on the personality of the visitor in question."

A further development is the provision of farm colonies to which girls from the lock wards could go for one or two years' training. Their objects would be to provide a wholesome atmosphere, with varied occupations and organised recreation, chiefly in the open air, to develop the sense of order and responsibility so conspicuously not developed in many "Homes," with their alternating laundry work, needlework, and prayers.

Here herb growing, poultry, bees, flower and vegetable growing would be lucrative employments. The staff would include a nurse, a domestic science teacher, and a woman gardener, in some cases a crèche would be a necessary adjunct. "The superintendents must be well chosen, educated women, with broad sympathies, cheerful dispositions, and administrative capacity." After a two years' course most of the girls, healthy in mind and body, would become responsible citizens.

"By this means an attractive alternative to a life

of vice would be offered to all who chose to take advantage of it. Many are investing brains, energy, and large sums of money to make vice attractive, and yet so much is done by carelessness and lack of understanding to make virtue unattractive." Acts of Parliament will not make people moral, but persuasive powers are often greater levers than laws.

The leaking-bucket theory is both inhuman and exceedingly expensive in money, in health, and in the lives of innocent victims.

"Women of education, rejoicing in homes where they reign supreme as wives and mothers, have not understood the full scope of their duties until they see that morality consists in the realisation of our duties towards a community, and in this community the women of the lock wards must be included. If one such farm colony were started experimentally the chances are that, with judicious working, the success would be so great that it would justify each county in having a colony of its own.

Every citizen must take up the crusade against venereal diseases, the foe within our shores that is striking at the foundations of our Empire by attacking the virility of our race. The work does not consist merely in dealing with pathological details, but also in restoring to the nation a lost ideal, in reconstructing the Vision Splendid of life, in all its beauty and strength and purity. We need Race Builders, especially among the leaders of thought and labour, and among all who have care of the young, for a nation's strength lies in its thinkers, its workers, and its mothers."

Christmas Holidays.

Shakespeare Festival at the Old Vic.

In addition to the very interesting "Coventry Nativity Play," a special feature of the holiday programme at the Old Vic on December 31 at 2.30, and December 31 and January 7 at 7.30 p.m., there will be a Shakespeare Festival lasting till January 6 for the girls and boys on holiday as follows:—*Afternoons, at 2.30 p.m.*—"The Tempest," Boxing Day, Thursday, December 26; "The Merchant of Venice," Friday, December 27. *Wednesdays and Thursdays afternoons, at 2 p.m.*—"As You Like It," Wednesday, January 1, 1919; "Macbeth," Thursday, January 2; "Twelfth Night," Saturday, January 4. *Evenings, at 7.30 p.m.*—"The Tempest," Friday, December 27; "Love's Labour's Lost," Monday, December 30; "Much Ado About Nothing," Wednesday, January 1, 1919; "Measure for Measure," Friday, January 3; "Twelfth Night," Monday, January 6. Tickets 3d. to 3s., plus war tax. Write at once, and enclose money for tickets, to the Box Office, "Old Vic," Waterloo-road, S.E. 1 (nearly opposite Waterloo Station.)

"OUT OF CHAOS."

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FRIDAY,
DEC. 27,
1918.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

War and Women.

In view of our demand for the restoration of women deported from territory occupied by the enemy, we remind our readers that some time ago Mme. de Witt Schlumberger, President of L'Union Francaise pour le Suffrage des Femmes, sent to Mrs. Fawcett, President of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, a narrative of the horrors attending the deportations of women and girls in parts of Northern France. Mme. Schlumberger wrote that similar atrocities were perpetrated at Roubaix, Toucoing, and other places, and that the facts had been registered with the object of demanding a legal inquiry after the war. With a revolver at their heads women and girls were made to sign an agreement that they went voluntarily; machine guns in the streets were a further menace. They thought they were being taken for work in the fields, but were handed over to the German soldiery. Only those shattered in mind and body were sent back.

The Value of the Vote.

An instance has come to hand which will show the value of the newly acquired Parliamentary power. No medical inspection of schools exists in Ireland. Women's organisations and such authorities as the Medical Officer of Health, of the Local Government Board, have long urged the necessity for this reform, and it is included in the programme of the Women's Political League. Recently the Treasury has made a grant in aid of such medical inspection, but is clogged by the condition that half the money must be raised from voluntary sources, as local bodies have no power to use the rates for the purpose. It is obvious that no scheme can be worked

satisfactorily on this basis. Legislative action is necessary before the local bodies can do anything, and women can now exert actual pressure in this direction.

Criticising Themselves.

With the reform of the House of Commons in view, we give the criticism of a member, Mr. Herbert Samuel. Efficiency of procedure he considered was the weakest point of the House of Commons before the war. Unlimited debate had certainly been stopped by the closure and the work of standing committees had proved successful. Yet the House could not get through its business; it had no time to deal with questions ripe for settlement and urgently needing attention. The effect of war conditions had been to place more and more power in the hands of the executive; in two or three sittings and almost without discussion the Defence of the Realm Act had been passed.

Branch Note.

Southend-on-Sea.

A meeting was held on December 16, at the house of Mr. and Mrs. Elvin, 30, Satanita-road, Westcliff. Mrs. Elvin presided over a gathering of women which filled the room almost to overflowing. Miss F. A. Underwood, Secretary of the League, was the speaker for the evening. Her address, entitled "Women's Part in Reconstruction," was followed with earnest attention and appreciation. It covered the wide field of equality between men and women in politics, professions, industry, service of the State, public administration, education, and everything connected with building up on a sure foundation the new national and international life of the future. The next meeting of the Southend branch of the League will be held on December 30 at 30, Satanita-road, Westcliff. All women will be welcome, whether they are members or not.

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

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BRIGHTON.—The place for busy women requiring rest; comfortable board-residence, early dinner.—"Sea View," Victoria-road. Tel.: 1702. Hostess: Miss Turner.

WILLESDEN, HARLESDEN and NEASDEN.—Health Food Stores, 445, High-road, Willesden (halfway between Pound-lane and "White Hart"). Price-list on appli-

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