

THE VOTE.
April 8, 1914.
ONE PENNY.

BUILDING A NATION. BY C. DESPARD

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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Edited by C. DESPARD.

OBJECTS: 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.

WOMEN TEACHERS and VOTES FOR WOMEN

Special Teachers' Conference Number.

Articles by Experts.

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OUR POINT OF VIEW.

The Premier's Promenade.

With an elaborate organisation which is to have all the effect of spontaneity, the Liberal agents arranged to have demonstrations of joyous Liberals to greet Mr. Asquith at every stopping-place on the road to Cupar. It was extremely well stage-managed, and even Mr. Schnadhorst might lie easy in his grave. One could not help being reminded by this careful enthusiasm of the "spontaneous thuggeries of the incorruptible whatshisnames" described by the immortal Lady Toppens as returning Mr. Venering for the borough of Pocket-Breeches. What concerns us more nearly than these party dodges, discreditable though they are, however, is what the Premier is reported to have said to the assembled joy-mongers at Berwick. "If," said the most prominent anti-suffragist of the day, speaking of Ulster, and all-careless of the application his words might have in another direction, "they showed full sympathy for those whose susceptibilities they might not share, and a determination to pursue a wise and just policy, they would reach a satisfactory solution of grave problems." The wise and just policy, in regard to Home Rulers who for fifty years and more have demanded Home Rule by both constitutional and militant methods, is to give them what they ask. The wise and just policy, in regard to women who for fifty years and more have asked for enfranchisement by both constitutional and militant methods, is to deny their request and clap them into prison with sneers. Truly, one must not look for justice or for wisdom from our present statesmen. The "full sympathy" which Mr. Asquith is now ready to accord to "those whose susceptibilities we do not share" is of very late growth. It was not perceptible during the Committee stages of the Home Rule Bill, and seems, indeed, to have grown in exact proportion to the militant preparations in Ulster. The moral of this, for Suffragists, is, not that they have been too militant, but not militant enough.

Masculine Hysterics.

Once more we have our attention called to the hysterical affections of the male sex. During a recent critical debate in Parliament, *The Daily Mail* informed us:—

Anxiety is fast making its mark on leaders. They are growing ill under the strain. Mr. Asquith is very unwell, and Sir Edward Carson left his bed only an hour before coming to the House. His suffering was said by his friends to account for the extreme bitterness of his words. A near observer on the Liberal benches declares "Mr. Churchill grew haggard with passion" at Sir Edward's words.

If this had been written of women legislators, what should we not have heard of their physical unfitness to bear the strain of political work! Fancy Sir Edward Carson's inability to bear the strain imparting bitterness to his speech! A little while back such a state of things would have seemed purely feminine; now we know it to be masculine. And we have been specially interested in *Reynolds's* account of the wreck of the barge on Boat-race Day, which we now quote:—

Mr. Waldron [an eye-witness] said all the men seemed to lose their heads. They were all pressing forward to get out, and did not seem to care what happened to anyone else so long as they were all right. There was really no danger at all, and his son who was with him shouted to the others that if they only kept order they would all get out safely, but they took no notice. The men, said Mr. Waldron, were worse than the women. "I had hold of two girls, one about thirteen years, and tried to extricate them from the hold in which they were jammed, but it was a difficult task in the struggle of everyone for himself."

Mr. Waldron's son said there was a frightful panic among both the men and the women. One woman became hysterical and screamed, "Save my little boy."

The one hysterical woman, it appears, was concerned for her son, not for herself!

The Cruel Sex.

We have heard many diatribes lately about the callous cruelty of women, who wear plumage procured

by men under circumstances of horrid barbarity. We never heard one word about the wickedness of the men trappers and traders who made the plumage trade and take the profits; only of the women who, all unknowing, buy what is offered them. Now we have heard something of another trade, the trade in worn-out horses—pet hunters, sold by their callous owners to any fate so long as the discarded pet can still be made to squeeze out a sovereign or two when it can no longer carry its ungrateful owner with distinction or safety—which was discussed Friday of last week by the House of Commons. Regardless of the fact that almost every officer in the Army, many of the members of the House, their fathers, uncles, brothers, and cousins, have had a hand in this brutal traffic by callously discarding even the most favourite horses so soon as they are past their prime—for that is the common practice among so-called "horse-lovers"—M.P.s worked off a lot of emotion over the new Bill. One wretched pony, treading the dreary path to the shambles, was distinguished by a bit of ribbon round the leg, so that the loving owner who had made a few last shillings out of his worn-out carcass might have a hoof sent him to treasure as a souvenir! We did not hear any of the denunciations of the innate cruelty of the sex that is responsible for all this wickedness; but had these things been laid at the door of women, it would have been otherwise. We can only hope that the beam sticking out of our brother's eye is going to occupy his attention wholesomely, so that our own mote may not be alluded to with such unnecessary frequency and emphasis.

AN ARGUMENT.

Said the stranger to the poet, "How do you make it out That the franchise is extended now to every drunken lout, And women who are working while their lords are loafing round For all the influence they have, might well be shot or drowned?"

Said the poet to the stranger, "It is indeed a crime To daub the woman's lofty claim with unprogressive slime. The future of the race depends on how the sexes grow. What use if man progresses fast while woman lingers slow?"

Said the stranger, "In the slums I hear toy-makers may be found Who, working day and night for a month, earn but a pound. These sweated women-labourers, are they to be denied A vote against the tyranny to which their souls are tied?"

Said the poet, "Our grandmothers thought all women might be good.

The privilege of man to sin was widely understood. This privilege I have not learned that woman claims to-day! She now desires a means to sweep the heresy away."

Said the stranger, "How can woman keep her virtue free from stains,

Till an adequate protection in the nation's laws she gains? The privilege of man to sin may well be more remote When he ceases to monopolise the privilege to vote."

EDWARD URWICK.

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"WHAT IS WRONG WITH EDUCATION?"

By S. A. MUSTARD.

Women have sometimes been called the "illogical sex," but if we take a survey of the educational field we shall surely be inclined to think that the term more fittingly describes the opposite sex. How frequently have we been told that woman's place is the home and her work the care of the child! Even Mr. Harold Owen, of the National League for Opposing Woman Suffrage, admits that the education of the child is peculiarly woman's sphere, and we are inclined to agree with him. Perhaps it is because the education of the children is such a very womanly occupation we find the Minister of Education in this country is always a man, the Board of Education is composed of men and is controlled by a Parliament where only the views of the men of the country are represented.

What is the aim of education? Is it not the development of a sane mind in a healthy body? The man's method of accomplishing this has been to enforce school attendance since 1870, but only recently to attempt the feeding of necessitous children. We still have the provision of meals permissive and left in the hands of local bodies who, when they give holidays from brain-work, usually refuse to give meals during those holidays to the starving children.

We believe that fresh air and plenty of exercise in the open are as essential for the proper growth of the young as food; yet we find that in the past children of tender years have been crowded in ill-ventilated class-rooms, and that many town schools have hardly any ground attached for recreation.

The idea seems general that all English children attend school until the age of fourteen and are taught by qualified teachers, but there are still many areas where the statutory leaving age is 13 and some where it is 12. Then, even in this twentieth century, we still have in some districts that infamous system of half-time which allows a child to work long hours in factory or mill and compels him to attend school the other half-day. In some schools children may be nearly half of their school life in the care of "supplementary" teachers. These are persons whose only qualifications are that they are (1) over 18, (2) re-vaccinated, and (3) approved by His Majesty's Inspector.

13,473 such teachers (!) were in employment in 1912-13, having the care of about one-twelfth of the elementary school population, and a recent order permits local authorities to continue their services till 1919.

Education on the cheap is evidently what the present Government want; for Parliament, through the Board of Education, settles what shall be taught in the State schools, appoints the inspectorate, controls the size of the classes and the dimensions of the class-rooms; dominates the whole professional life of the teacher, fixing the retiring age and the amount of pensions.

It is therefore of vital importance that mothers should have the Parliamentary vote to safeguard the health and training of their children, and it is essential that the woman teacher should also have the vote in order to protect her professional interests. All other bodies of educated and organised women workers, such as the medical women and the secondary school mis-

tresses, have passed resolutions in favour of Women's Suffrage; only the great bodies of elementary teachers remain outside the long list.

This week the Conference of the National Union of Teachers is being held, and it is interesting to note that amongst the "objects" for which this society exists is:—"To secure the effective representation of educational interests in Parliament." Both men and women teachers are members of this Union, and yet only the smaller section—the men—are able to bring direct pressure to bear upon Parliament, and the nearly 40,000 women members are *permanently* voteless. Educational interests cannot be effectively represented so long as this condition exists, and we therefore call upon the Union to do their share in fighting for this reform.

The chief argument of the opposition in the past has been the cry of "No politics," yet the Union has a Parliamentary Fund to which women subscribe *directly* the sum of 2s. per head, the same as the men; and a few years ago £10,000 was spent in one year on Parliamentary elections, and £6,000 is the average annual expenditure in this way. The National Union of Teachers has already fought and *won* the Parliamentary vote for village schoolmasters living in school-houses, the rents of which were regarded as part of their salaries. A famous case was taken before the High Court in 1903, and was heard before the Lord Chief Justice and Justices Kennedy and Darling. Messrs. Lynn and Organ appeared on behalf of the member of the National Union of Teachers. After a full argument the judges allowed the appeal, with costs, thus *Union money* has been spent to get *Votes for Men*.

Men voters *only* cannot, much as they may desire, express the woman's point of view on such matters as school clinics, domestic subjects, the feeding of school children and the "after-care of girls."

Let the National Union of Teachers forward real progress in the educational world by helping to see that woman is allowed some say in her own sphere; let them demand, not only equal political power for their members, but equal economic power, too. The Medical Association has seen to it that qualified medical men and women under the London County Council are paid the same fees; let teachers of full qualifications see to it that they receive the same salaries, and in so doing safeguard the interests of the men and the women.

WHEN MORNING DAWNS.

"It is good to be alive when morning dawns."

—CICELY HAMILTON.

Tune: "John Brown's Body."

It is good to be awake to greet the coming of the light,
It is good to see the passing of the shadows and the night,
It is good to know that right at last shall triumph over might,
It is good to be alive when morning dawns!

CHORUS:

"Votes for Women" is the chorus,
Freedom is the goal we've set before us,
Green and white and gold our banners o'er us—
The Cause is marching on!

Green—the joyous green of spring-time, ever new from year to year,

White—the purity of perfect love that knoweth nought of fear,
Gold—the sunrise of the purer age that slowly draweth near—

It is good to be alive when morning dawns!

"Votes for Women" is the chorus,
Freedom is the goal we've set before us,
Green and white and gold our banners o'er us—
The Cause is marching on!

Green and white and gold for Freedom that shall surely come ere long—

Sisters! rally 'neath our banners! battle with us 'gainst the wrong!

Help us swell the mighty chorus of the glad triumphal song—
It is good to be alive when morning dawns!

"Votes for Women" is the chorus,
Freedom is the goal we've set before us,
Green and white and gold our banners o'er us—
The Cause is marching on!

HELEN MCLACHLAN.

THE POLITICAL STATUS OF WOMEN TEACHERS.

By ANNIE E. BYETT, L.L.A.

In England there are about 100,000 Certificated Teachers. A large number of these are householders and taxpayers, a large number are also qualified to vote as lodgers. They are all educated, and, generally speaking, sober, thoughtful adults, the type which all politicians desire to predominate in the electorate. Yet about two-thirds of them are debarred, in the words of Mr. Lloyd George, "from the elementary right of citizenship," because they are women, and for no other reason.

These women are certified by Government as fit to educate the coming generation in the duties of citizenship; but are compelled at the same time to acknowledge that they themselves are not considered equal to the performance of these duties.

Children in school learn that they are divinely commanded: "Honour thy father and thy mother." They also learn that the State, which they are instructed to obey, follows the first part of this injunction, with regard to the father; but classes the mother with criminals, lunatics, paupers and minors, outside the political pale.

Is it to be wondered at that the slur thus cast upon women tinges the whole thought and attitude of the masculine portion of the population? Boys consider themselves superior to girls in spite of repeated proof of the superiority of some girls in all school tasks and exercises. Young men consider themselves superior to young women, though the latter now frequently surpass them, not only mentally and morally, but even physically, where the male creature might be supposed to maintain the advantage which centuries of better training have given him. Grown men regard women as their inferiors in a world which contains—well, perhaps it is better not to mention names, each woman can supply them for herself. It is against this unwarrantable slur upon womanhood that women are in revolt to-day. They do not admit that men as a sex possess any inherent superiority in morals, wisdom or skill, which could justify them in keeping women permanently in a state of political serfdom. They are, moreover, convinced that the low economic, legal and industrial status of women depends upon their low political status, and that the recognition of women as citizens would be followed by a general improvement in their status and pay. Hence every organised body of women workers, including teachers, is demanding the concession of this "elementary right" to-day.

It is difficult to understand the state of mind of those among our men colleagues who desire to keep women teachers—their professional equals—on a lower level of citizenship than any drunken loafer at a street corner. There must be some lack of clear thinking, or is it just blind prejudice? They remind me of

A Good Story

told by Sir Forbes Robertson. In a northern city a lady was canvassing for signatures to a political petition. She visited, among others, a wealthy and influential burgess who was, however, somewhat

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"slow in the uptake." After carefully going over each point at length, explaining difficulties, answering objections, giving illustrative examples and illuminating instances, she finally asked him to sign. He was still dubious, and went over point after point again until nearly an hour had elapsed in this manner. Then said he,

"Tell me now? This is for men only? There's no wimmen in it?"

"Oh no," was the reply. "Only men are asked to sign."

"Well, then," he replied, cautiously, "if there is no wimmen in it I'll poot me name. I see *wimmen* doesn't understand these things."

In muddle-headedness this good Scot resembles not only the present Parliament, whose members have never been slow in soliciting the help of women as speakers and canvassers at election times, but refuse them the vote afterwards—"wimmen doesn't understand these things"—but also the "Teachers' Parliament," the Annual Conference of the N.U.T. In fact, the latter is even more illogical, for it gives women equal votes in union affairs, admits them to all offices, even the highest in the Union, but decides that Women's Suffrage is not a suitable measure to receive even its sympathy.

There is a song in "Patience," where the pairing couples leave out one disconsolate male, who is told

"You will have to be contented
With our hearty sympathy."

Women members of the N.U.T. have, so far, been denied even this cold substitute for the generous support and assistance given to men colleagues who desired a vote.

Paying the Piper.

Every woman teacher who is a member of the Union pays two shillings per annum to the Parliamentary Fund. Being in a large majority, they thus supply considerably more than half the money spent on the Parliamentary business of the Union. In accordance with the time-honoured adage that those who pay the piper should call the tune, they might at least claim a voice in the chorus. But no! Not even the minor notes of a vote of sympathy are permitted them. It is true the Government sets the bad example of extorting taxes from women to whom it denies representation; but one would have thought a union of teachers would possess a sense of justice keen enough to cause them to refrain from following so evil an example.

Many women, disgusted by the attitude of Conference, have counselled withdrawal from the Union; but this is a counsel of weakness and despair. The Union is the battlefield. To withdraw is to desert the fighting comrades and render them weaker.

The true policy of Women Teachers is to

Organise! Organise! Organise!

The National Federation of Women Teachers offers the opportunity. These women can freely discuss their own questions, frame their policy, train their speakers, plan a definite campaign, and by voting solidly together, carry *any measure they desire* in the Union. They can elect women Secretaries, Presidents, and other officers, majorities on committees, representative to Executive and to Conference.

In every place where there is a Branch of the Union there should be a Branch of the Women's Federation. In this way, and in this way only, will Women Teachers take the place in the Union to which not only their numbers, but also their professional skill, entitle them.

MADAME CURIE.—Readers will hear with pleasure that a monograph on Madame Curie, written by Mrs. Cunningham, member of the Women's Freedom League, is in the press, and will shortly be published. Mrs. Cunningham is authorised by Madame Curie to lecture on her life and work, and the article which Mrs. Cunningham kindly contributes to our issue this week will arouse interest in the fuller information to be given in the monograph.

IS WOMAN SUFFRAGE N.U.T. BUSINESS?

By MARY SIMS.

A delegate at the W.F.L. Conference, held recently at Caxton Hall, remarked "Teachers, as a body, are against Women's Suffrage," and on being asked her reason for such an extraordinary statement, she answered that no resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage had yet been passed at any of their Conferences.

Members of the Freedom League who belong to the teaching profession know that we have many honoured names among our colleagues, women who have kept the flag flying, sometimes when it meant loss of promotion or risk of position. Teachers are among the stalwarts in all the Suffrage Societies, giving of their best to the greatest of all Causes—the Enfranchisement of Women.

The Suffrage Resolution has not yet been passed at the Conferences of the National Union of Teachers—not because teachers are against Women's Suffrage, but chiefly because so many of the men members of the Union think it is not a subject to be discussed in the Union.

I will try to show that the Woman Suffrage Resolution is perfectly legitimate business for discussion in every Association of the Union, as well as at the Annual Conference.

The cry of "No politics within the Union," which we so often have heard in the past, must assuredly be the cry of those who have not seriously considered the objects of this great union.

No. 5 of its objects reads, "To secure the effective representation of Educational interests in Parliament."

Surely the greater the number of members who possess the Parliamentary Franchise, the greater the strength of the Union, and considering that two-thirds of its members are voteless "because they are women," the enfranchisement of women must mean additional strength to the Union.

The annual subscription to the Union is the same for men and women members, and 2s. of the women's money (equally with the men's) is earmarked for Parliamentary expenses, £6,000 being spent annually for that purpose.

Who can belong to the teaching profession without knowing that the whole of her career is dominated by Government? Government (through the Board of Education)

1. Decides the length and nature of the training.
2. Issues codes by which she works.
3. Appoints inspectors to examine her work.
4. Issues and cancels her certificate.
5. Fixes retiring age and amount of pension.
6. Controls the output of teachers.
7. Is a factor in determining the security of tenure.

Men voters, with the very best intentions, cannot truly express the woman's view on matters of such paramount importance as the domestic subjects, school clinics, the feeding of the children, and the evils of the White Slave Traffic.

To secure the effective representation of its men members, the National Union of Teachers has—

1. Fought and won for village schoolmasters, living in school houses, the rents of which were regarded as part of their salary, the Parliamentary Franchise.
2. It also fought and won the right for schoolmasters to read lessons in churches.

In these cases Union money was used; the women, asking for sympathy only, are denied.

Again,

Messages of sympathy were sent to the railwaymen during their agitation when they were holding a Conference at Middlesbrough in 1907 by our Executive. Surely they will extend this sympathy to their own members!

Women in our schools are training citizens. Citizenship can be most effectively taught by those who possess the citizen's rights. Many of the youths who would be enfranchised if the age limit were twenty-one would

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only have left the Mentally Defective Schools (which are entirely in the hands of women teachers) five years. These would be enabled to say whether their women teachers should be politically free or no. Is this a healthy state of things to allow?

The only people debarred from the Franchise in this country are lunatics, criminals, infants, paupers and women. If women had been enfranchised, should we have seen the position of married teachers imperilled, and the value of their teaching certificate cancelled by many education authorities, and no challenge forthcoming from the Education Department?

Once again, if the Union is not the place for politics, why did a Cabinet Minister take the trouble to go to Weston-super-Mare last year and address the delegates; and why did the Executive invite him?

The Enfranchisement of Women is surely a matter of vital importance to teachers. It will one day be a historical fact to be explained to the children.

How will you feel if the children ask what part you took in the agitation, and you have to reply that you did not support it?

Join in now, with those women teachers who see into the future, with the well-being of the child at heart. See to it that your Union is not left out of the list of those bodies of organised workers, including 142 Town Councils, who have passed resolutions in favour of Woman Suffrage. Do not be afraid that the Suffrage Societies are trying to seize the National Union of Teachers to turn it into a Suffrage body. The other bodies have not been so used, and your Union is practically the only great body of teachers which has refused sympathy with this great Cause. Surely the place for teachers is in the van of progress, and some of us are jealous for the honour of the Union that has done so much in the past for education and progress.

THE ROBBERY OF WOMEN TEACHERS.

By HELENA NORMANTON, B.A.

The President then announced the result of the division on the amendment for "equal pay" as follows:—

For the amendment	9,184
Against	42,972

He declared the amendment lost.

The discussion was then resumed on the salaries resolution. . . . So one reads in last year's National Union of Teachers' Conference number of that august periodical, *The Schoolmaster*. At first sight it might be thought that the principle of equal pay for equal work then and there received its death-blow, but this year's Conference is going to prove that the corpse is lively. True, it is that a large section of the N.U.T. would be delighted if the discontented women would copy the example of that Spanish University, which once greeted a reactionary Bourbon by presenting an address beginning: "Far be from us the dangerous novelty of thinking." A condition of mental somnolence would prevent them from recalling the fact that, although the vote was more than four to one against the women, the delegates, according to the official list, were in the proportion of seven men to one woman. Obviously, then, some of the men must already be believers, too staunch to be led away by the inaccurate nonsense put forward as argument by the other side. "That ridiculous argument of the dependents. I know of no law in this country that can compel a woman to look after dependents," said one believer in lower pay for women. Now, gaps in information are often interesting, may even have their psychological value to the mental expert, but they fail to be impressive as evidence. It is time that it is realised that women are *legally* responsible for the maintenance of indigent parents, husbands, and, if widowed, for children. Grandmothers are responsible for grandchildren, and in 1908 married women with separate estate were made responsible for parents. Boards of Guardians enforce payments for relatives from girls of fifteen and old ladies of fifty whenever they think they can get the money. Reference to the proceedings of any Poor Law Authority proves this.

But, we are informed, women teachers so seldom have any dependents! The fact is that a recent inquiry by the Fabian Society proved that nearly 39 per cent. of women teachers support one or more dependents, and that nearly 50 per cent. of all professional women do so; inconvenient results to those who base a bad case on mere reckless assertions!

However, that is by no means the only terminological inexactitude on the subject. Our old friend the New York teacher will probably make his celebrated annual bow—at least, what there is left of him may, for in the New York training schools for teachers there are now 14 men as against 1,918 women. Conference will be solemnly assured that this dire result (and had it certainly is without any dispute) is due to equal pay. However, let us keep calm and remember that, according to the well-known American educationist Earl Barnes, the disparity is much worse in districts of unequal pay, for while New York City's teachers are 89 per cent. women, Chicago's are 93.3 per cent., and Charleston's 99.3 per cent. Worse still, in 46 towns of 4,000 to 8,000 inhabitants there is no man on the staff at all. So, evidently, if the principle of equal pay for equal work militates against men teachers' employment, the principle of less pay for equal work makes matters worse. In fact, readers of *The Schoolmaster*, who appreciate a good joke (albeit unconscious), should examine, carefully, the arguments of the economist from Manchester in the issue of March 29, 1913, by which he tried to prove that equal pay in New York City was economically wrong, because it drove practically all the men out of the teaching profession, and would be economically wrong in England, because it would drive all the women out of the Civil Service! It seems to be necessary to the exhibitors of this New York hardy annual to realise that the true cause of the deplorably low proportion of men teachers is to be found in the much better

prospects obtainable by American men in every other walk of life and the practical limitation of women to fewer callings.

An illustration on a smaller scale, we may note, is to be seen in Scotland, where the average salary for men is £160, and for women £83, as compared with England's £121 against £90. As any sensible person might expect, the proportion of women employed in Scotland is very high, viz., 72.5 per cent. Employers prefer cheap labour, and the wider the salary differentiation the more women will be employed. Therefore, men who desire to see any profession "swamped" by cheap labour need only help to maintain low salaries for women in order effectually to blackleg themselves, and in the long run drive themselves out of that profession. If, in the long run, levelling of salaries comes when the number of men left is negligible, in that case the men may get the levelling they dread down to the women's level. And, logically, they will have themselves to blame for it. They have before their eyes the example of the doctors—no mean adepts at bargaining, be it noted—who have refused to allow women doctors to undercut; and printers, cotton operatives, and railway workers, men among the cream of the industrial classes, who have refused to countenance lower priced female work. At any rate, the alleged iniquitous example of New York City has not been the awful warning to New York Senate that the alarmists would have predicted, for an American paper of March 21, 1914, states:—

"The New York Senate has passed, unanimously, the Foley-Lockwood Bill, which provides for the equalisation of teachers' salaries in the seventh and eighth grades in New York City grammar schools by raising the women's pay (\$1,800) to that of the men who do like work (\$2,400)."

Strange that New York should so continue to rejoice in its evil ways! It may be that over there women have succeeded in impressing on the public the idea that, after all, there is such a thing as justice. Even if the National Union of Teachers prefers to act by what it considers expediency and retain one of its perpetual running sores, in the long run women will inevitably obtain economic justice. Once open the eyes of the woman teacher to the fact that her Union penalises her nearly £2,000 for her life's work in the supposed interests of men teachers, and she will begin to reflect on the subject. Her reflections will lead her to study the economic arguments (*sic*) of the exponents of unequal pay for equal work, particularly perhaps those which profess such a touching solicitude for her welfare. She will scan, carefully, the executive of her Union, and compare the proportion of women on it to the number in the Union, and the likelihood of such an overwhelming majority of men justly representing her interests. She will begin to wonder what right employing bodies have to question how salaries are spent instead of considering only the services rendered. And, finally, she will resolve that for the purpose of obtaining economic equality and for defending it when won, there are no weapons better than careful organisation and—the Parliamentary Vote.

Easter Holidays.—Will readers kindly note that the Women's Freedom League Offices, at 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, will be closed from Thursday afternoon, April 9, until Wednesday morning, April 15? Also, that no letters will be opened during that time? All communications for THE VOTE must be addressed to The Editor (Room 28), 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, London. The Offices of the Minerva Publishing Co. will be closed from Thursday, April 9, at 1 p.m., until Tuesday, April 14, at 10 a.m.

COLLOA'S COATS.—Sports coats are useful at any time during the year, but at holiday time they are indispensable. Lose no time in inspecting Colloa's stock, which gives a wide range of colours for choice from 13s. 11d. to 35s. He will also make to order for 21s. 11d. a good coat in black cloth, suitable for sport or other occasions. His two-guinea coats and skirts and one-guinea raincoats are excellent value. Note the address: 5 and 6, Paternoster-row, E.C.

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MARIE CURIE, SCIENTIST AND TEACHER.

BY MARION CUNNINGHAM.

Madame Marie Sklodowska Curie, born November 7, 1867, daughter of Professor Sklodowska, of the Warsaw College, is the most eminent scientist living. She is the great example of the result of special training given where special talent demanded it. As a child, she showed much aptitude for chemistry, and after years spent at the Warsaw Lyceum, studying under her father, she left Poland, her native land, and settled in France.

In 1900 she was appointed Professor of Physics and Chemistry at the Normal School for Girls at Sèvres, a post she occupied for six years. She had previously met Professor Curie at the Sorbonne, Paris, where she was at first a student, and is now its brightest jewel. They were married in 1895. The children of this union are two daughters, Irene and Eve. The health of the latter, unfortunately, causes Madame Curie considerable anxiety, as she is a most devoted and self-sacrificing mother.

The statement that Madame Curie did not discover radium, but only "helped" her husband, is a hardy annual appearing in the Press and elsewhere with distressing regularity. Lies die hard! The picture of Madame Curie, in a squaw-like attitude, holding a retort or his pocket-handkerchief for her husband while he "discovers radium" is the one that English scientific men favour, and which they impress upon the public in and out of season; its only fault is that it is not true! The statement in the Encyclopædia of twenty years hence that radium was discovered by a British syndicate must be guarded against!

In 1897 Madame Curie was working on the magnetic properties of metals in solution; she was working, too, for a Society for the Encouragement of National Industry in France, and published a work for this Society in 1898. About this time Monsieur Becquerel, of Paris, was, to put it popularly, "on the same track." But he, after millions of fruitless efforts to solve a certain problem, and find the cause of certain effects, gave it up, but consulted the brightest brains in the Sorbonne, Paris—namely, Marie and Pierre Curie. The men tired; Madame Curie persevered and—discovered radium. The Nobel Prize was awarded to Professor and Madame Curie and M. Becquerel in 1903. A point deserving of notice is that, radium having been discovered, every scientific man worthy the name was then all agog to experiment in it.

Still, the crowning glory in radium history was for Madame Curie. It was she, not any great male being of sour milk or other gummy fame, who, nine years after its discovery, succeeded in isolating the pure salts of radium, and in determining its correct atomic weight. For this, and for the discovery of polonium, our dauntless suffragist was once more awarded the Nobel Prize—this time alone. As Professor Curie died many years before this brilliant feat was accomplished by his widow, the assertion that he helped her is hardly tenable!

Our scientist leads a most strenuous life. In addition to being the absolute Court of Appeal on all questions the world over anent radium, I noticed, when last at the Sorbonne, that a new publication (monthly) had appeared dealing with such questions, which means more work for her. Then there are pamphlets to be written, experiments, &c., to be made, and last, but not least, Madame's *cours* at the Science College, Paris, where the very fact of having been admitted as her pupil is a hall-mark of fame not to be despised.

Madame Curie is a great teacher.

She has had long experience, to which she adds her

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A perusal of the illustrated catalogue of the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Company, Ltd.—which can be obtained post free from 112, Regent-street, London, W.—convinces me that purchasers of gem jewellery and gold and silver plate may obtain the utmost value for their money.

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splendid attainments and all the dazzling qualifications of her trained and ordered mind. Her classes are for higher mathematics, astronomy, physical science, chemistry, &c.; she now occupies the Professor's "chair" created for her husband years ago.

Huge blackboards fill her classrooms, and there she pounds her problems with such perfect clarity of expression, absolute lucidity, and economy of method, that—so a pupil of hers told me—they are like a string of pearls. Needless to say her pupils adore her and appreciate the honour of studying under her. Many stories are rife as to her phenomenal powers of lightning calculation.

She was a great friend of Professor Poincaré, the President's brother, and a most marvellous mathematician, whose works are, even now, somewhat before their time, and whose death is so widely lamented. Anatole France lately named two persons of genius in France: Madame Curie and Rodin the sculptor.

No one is faultless, but Madame Curie's personality is built on heroic lines. Intellectually great and large-souled, her outlook on life is big and broad. Those who know her cannot imagine her petty. Her delicate health is a heavy cross to bear, and to be compelled to rest, leaving her work to others, frets her immeasurably; yet in her face is the beauty of suffering—the firm, sad mouth, the lovely patient eyes.

In this country, where banging the drum, and banging it loudly, usually precedes success, to shun publicity and love work for its own sake is strange hearing. But work and votes for women are what Madame Curie believes in, and not the autograph-hunter nor Society dinners.

All the nations of Europe have laid laurels at her feet. The distinction she most values is a Swedish one. The Royal Society of Great Britain has been the most sparing of recognition, but last autumn she was "capped" at Birmingham, along with male worthies, by the British Association. The wonders of radium, as yet in its infancy, will ever shine forth to illuminate the record of its great discoverer, Marie Curie

THE VOTE.

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Secretary—Miss H. HOLMAN.

WEDNESDAY, April 8, 1914.

NOTICE.—Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and SECRETARY respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.
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EDITORIAL.

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

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BUILDING A NATION.

Two important Conferences are being held this Easter week—that of the Independent Labour Party and that of the National Union of Teachers. The one deals with the many and tangled problems—political, social and economic—that perplex and embarrass men and women in their daily toil. The other, no less important, has to do with the duty, the aspirations, the demands of those who in the elementary and secondary schools are preparing young citizens for their future work.

Rightly considered, both teachers and workers are constructive in their aims. They are builders. Those who work truly in any capacity are changing the present and moulding the future. Those—parents and teachers—whose business it is to train and educate the young are making the material out of which new worlds are to grow.

And here woman looms large. Science in its superb flights; labour becoming conscious of its power; arbiters of the destinies of Empires may profess to ignore her; but in spite of them all she holds her own. Hers is the primal industry: she makes the men and women who are to make and mould nations.

At this critical time when, it would seem, through lack of certain moral and intellectual gifts in our rulers, the country is passing from crisis to crisis, when some fear wreckage and others would welcome anything rather than continuance of the thing that now is, it may be as well to consider a little closely what a nation means and how it is built up. We may have splendour for a chosen few; we may have the latest and most terrible thing in destructive machines; we may have hosts upon hosts of slavish workers, boasting freedom, without the most distant idea of what freedom is. But that does not constitute a nation. It is simply a society organised by certain people for certain purposes.

What is a nation? In order to get at the real meaning of the word we should have to look back to the old Saxon communities—to the ancient and really glorious days of Rome, to Greece with her noble ideals of citizenship. To all her children the nation should be mother. Every unit should realise with pride, as did the Saxon, the Roman, the Greek, that he belongs to her—that her glory is his; that her dishonour, unthinkable to the true patriot, is his shame. Some may say that is how we feel about our country. How many of us? To the man and woman, living in a slum area, or atrociously housed in some rural district, working up to the limit of their powers—often beyond—and not able to bring up their children decently; to the outcast, left to die in misery and shame; and to the crippled and aged, deprived of personal liberty in a workhouse, what does the word Nation mean?

You may say they have failed. But what a vast number of failures! Then, why do they fail? Trace back their life-history, and you will find that, in many cases, they have had little or no chance of success. They lack the primal necessity—health.

Let it be clearly understood! If we would build up a lusty nation; if we would see a strong and happy

people in our streets, we must create health. That should be the first, the most vital concern of every true patriot.

In this issue various forms of teacher's work will be considered. That is good and interesting; but before mental teaching begins, and while it is in progress, attention should be given to the children's bodies. Like plants and flowers, and every other thing that has life, they require right conditions in order to thrive. Air, space, light, suitable clothing, pure water, unadulterated food, sufficient in quantity, agreeable to the naturally pure taste of a child and adapted to its needs—these should be available for all young citizens. Feed a delicate machine with coarse oil and its wheels become clogged, it refuses to act. Feed a child improperly, deprive it of its true medium, air and sunshine, and it dwindles.

Who considers these things? With women shut out from the national councils, men deliberate and scheme not the best that can be done, but the least that will be accepted as a palliative. Palliative! How one loathes the word! Nothing of the kind ought to be needed in a righteously organised State. The planning works out as insurance, children's meals, Juvenile Offenders' Acts. Outraged and injured children are put into remand-homes, pending their removal to institutions, from which they emerge demure, docile, all of one pattern; and meanwhile our statesmen seem unable to realise that most of the miseries with which, piece-meal and perfunctorily, they are dealing are the fruit of their own failure in patriotism. They cannot build a nation. On the way along which they are going, they never will.

Take, for instance, the Children's Meals Act. Destitute children are fed—but how? The only answer, in London at least, must be—Anyhow. The dining-rooms, chosen at haphazard for cheapness, are often insanitary, sometimes dangerous. The food is haphazard also. To save trouble to the authorities, we presume, the business of supplying the dinners has been given on contract to one big firm. There is no science, no properly arranged scheme, no regularity in the cooking or serving of these meals.

If we really cared for our children; if we saw in them the citizens of the future, we could surely do better for them. It would be comparatively easy to convene a committee of medical experts and experienced mothers, and to set them to work to frame a dietary scheme according to the age and peculiar necessities of the children; easy, also, to build dining-halls for groups of schools, and to furnish them with all the necessary apparatus for cooking and serving the meals. In a short time the effect of such treatment would be apparent in the children's health and manners.

But, in our conception of nation-building, we should go further back. We should consider the mothers of our infants and provide for their pressing needs. How soon is this to be done? It is being talked about. We are glad to know that women's societies and, in particular, the Women's Co-operative Guild have taken up this question seriously. The Insurance Act has been a search-light as regards the health of women, especially of married women. Many abuses that had been suspected have been brought into the light of day, and it is now known that the loss of infant-life during pregnancy is no less appalling than that which occurs during the child's first year. A writer in *The Times* has made a discovery that might have been made before even the Insurance Act was framed, had experienced women been consulted.

"Approved societies are utterly unfitted for dealing with maternity. They have not the requisite knowledge; it is absurd for young clerks to make decisions after consulting medical dictionaries."

Recently a deputation of the Women's Co-operative Guild waited on Mr. Herbert Samuel to urge the provision of maternity centres by the municipal authori-

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To the Wise—A Bargain.

Said the Slum child to the Wise

"Give me the good ye know,
That I, the Child may grow."

But the Wise made answer cold,
"Goods must be bought and sold."

And the Rulers turned away.
But the Child cried to them, "Stay!
Wait! I will pay!"

For the foulness where I live,
Filth in return I give.

For my lack in home and school,
Ignorance comes to rule;
From where I sicken and die,
Disease in your homes shall lie.

Degenerate—crippled—base—
I degrade the human race;
And the people you have made—
These shall make you afraid!
I ask no more. I take
The terms you make;
And steadily, day by day,
I will pay.

—C. PERKINS GILMAN.

CONCERNING WOMEN TEACHERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

Switzerland.

At Chaud de Fonds the General Council has voted equal increase of salaries to male and female teachers. It is a pity they did not seize the opportunity to equalise the initial salary of men and women.—*Jus Suffragii*.

Russia.

An inspector at Tchernysk issued an order to all the married women teachers forbidding them to have more than two children, and threatening with immediate dismissal any of them who should transgress in this respect!—*Woman's Journal*.

Holland.

For the first time a Dutch woman has passed her examination as Doctor of Theology. Naturally, she wishes to preach in a Church. But the authorities refuse the necessary permission, and give as their reason that a clergyman's duties are too fatiguing for a woman! We could easily mention innumerable women's occupations infinitely more exhausting, but then they are badly paid, and have no prestige attached to them.—*Jus Suffragii*.

America.

In all the equal Suffrage States women teachers and women in public service get equal pay for equal work.—*New York Evening Post*.

KENTUCKY.

In two years the woman superintendent of education in Rowan County has reduced the number of illiterates in that county from 1,152 to 23. Of the illiterates four are too stubborn to learn, six are confirmed invalids, six have very defective eyesight, five are idiots, and two have only recently moved into the county.—*Woman's Journal*.

PHILADELPHIA.

The Board of Education has abolished the dual eligible lists for the promotion of men and women teachers, and will substitute a single list for both sexes. Out of 5,052 teachers employed in the local public schools, 4,482 are women.

COLORADO.

In Colorado, where a woman is directing the department of public instruction, 2,500 teachers are receiving more salary this year than they did last. A school financially unable to meet the requirement—that no teacher shall be paid less than 50 dollars a month—may receive State aid. In some parts of America a school teacher works for a wage as meagre as a sweat-shop pays. There are cities where the woman who is conducting the classroom receives less than the janitor who does the sweeping.

CINCINNATI.

Men and women teachers in the public schools were put on an equal plane last January, and the ban against marriage swept away when, at an executive session, the school board gave approval to important changes—complete recognition of equal rights, pay and privileges for men and women teachers.

NEW YORK.

The Senate has passed unanimously the Foley-Lockwood Bill, which provides for the equalisation of teachers' salaries in the seventh and eighth grades in New York City Grammar Schools, by raising the women's pay to that of the men who do like work.—*Woman's Journal*.

South Africa.

Last year two women were appointed to the staff of the South

ties, a Treasury grant for the purpose, the appointment of municipal mid-wives—in fine, the transference of maternity benefit administration from under the Insurance Act to the local authorities.

Sir Herbert Samuel, we hear, was sympathetic. We are getting tired of sympathy. When will the powers that be translate their sympathy into action? When will they recognise the wisdom of consulting those who know before, instead of after, the event?

Meanwhile, we would have them understand that we—the women of the country, patriotic to the fingertips—are out to build not a society revolving round rich and powerful men and existing for their convenience, but a nation—men, women, vigorous children to succeed them—ready all for useful industry, ready for necessary defence, having each one at heart the health and well-being of the community. C. DESPARD.

CAXTON HALL "WEDNESDAY."

Miss Eunice Murray presided at an enthusiastic meeting of The Women's Freedom League last Wednesday afternoon at Caxton Hall. She said that ten of our members were at present in prison, because they had protested against men in authority refusing to do their duty to the citizens of the country and turn out of the police force men who had stated on oath that they had knowledge of the guilt of another member of that force, and did not report it. Miss Murray also expressed great indignation at the fact that the prison authorities were taking by force the finger-prints of the women who were now in Holloway for picketing outside the office of the Director of Prosecutions. Five wardresses and a doctor had attempted to take the finger-prints of our member, Miss Vincent. They had succeeded in taking a piece of flesh out of her knuckles, had thrown her down on her bed and left her in a state of complete exhaustion after their cowardly efforts. If the Home Office thought it would deter members of The Women's Freedom League from going to prison by such exhibitions of physical force, the Home Office was never more mistaken in its calculations. This mean persecution by the Government of its political opponents made women more determined than ever to win the Vote, and The Women's Freedom League intended that the cry "Keep the Liberal Out!" should echo up and down the country.

Miss Vincent followed with a graphic description of the proceedings in the Police-court when she was sentenced to seven days' imprisonment for picketing, and the attempt to take her finger-prints. In Holloway, she had been deprived of "privileges"—Chapel, exercise and a bath—because she had decorated the walls of her cells with information about woman suffrage and the Wetherall case; and declared that the parrot cry of the Governor, the Chaplain, and every other official in Holloway when faced with a complaint, was "Oh, petition the Home Secretary!"

Mrs. E. M. Moore, who gave an inspiring address on "Women and Freedom," said that woman had never possessed freedom. Dean Swift had defined slavery as government without the consent of the governed; women were not asked for their consent to the Government under which they lived. They had been forced to accept the ideals of life, and a system of morals and manners made by men. The laws of the land were not in accordance with the will of women; in our Courts of Justice, the bodies of women and girls were considered of less value than property, and in the streets of London, no woman was safe from insult. Women had many critics. Some thought that women should be vegetables, if they were not then, they were a bad lot; but if women pretended they were vegetables then they were deceitful; if they did not so pretend, they were immodest. A medical man had recently said that he knew, "as a lecturer," that "women did not glory in their womanhood." Mrs. Moore considered that this was rather a peculiar observation for a "lecturer" to make, but pertinently asked the men present whether they would glory in their manhood if they were always being classed with criminals, lunatics and children? Women, she said, did not want to shake off the influence of man, but to free themselves from his tyranny, and to bring about the possibility of an honourable comradeship between men and women. The double standard of morals for men and women was a wrong to women; it was a root cause of suspicion between the sexes, and had poisoned the source of our social life. Mrs. Moore complained that men asked too little of women, they wanted women to look smart, to amuse them, to keep their house in order, or to join the army of dolls; and declared that the great benefit to the community of freedom for women would be a re-creating of sincerity of purpose, for women had a passionate sincerity, and were against the spirit of compromise which was so deadening in its effect upon society to-day.

Mrs. Despard brought the meeting to a close by thanking Mrs. Moore for her delightful address, and expressing her high appreciation of the women who were now serving sentences in Holloway.

African College as lecturers. The first, who holds a lectureship in Botany, graduated at the Cape University, and took the first place on the Botany Honours List and won the Queen Victoria Scholarship. The second, who is assistant in Mathematics, held the first place in that subject in the B.A. Honours examination, and carried off the Porter Scholarship. She has taken her M.A. degree and her Mathematical Tripos.—*The Woman's Outlook*.

India.

Miss Krishnabai Bhau Thakur is the first Hindu woman in Western India to pass the M.A. examination of the Bombay University.—*Indian Opinion*.

"Our Spare Rib."

It was on the occasion of one of the most picturesque and beautiful Suffrage processions. Women doctors and graduates, and some of the most noted women in England, were passing. Two drunken loafers were looking on, one of them turned to the other and said: "A nice thing our spare rib has come to!" —*Woman's Journal*.

HELEN KELLER TALKS TO MARIA MONTESSORI.

The famous educationist, Dr. Maria Montessori, whose system with regard to the teaching of children is now of world-wide fame, paid a visit to the United States last winter, and was in Washington during the National Woman Suffrage Convention. She was naturally the centre of very much attention and was continually asked her views on the dominant topic of Woman Suffrage. Her reply was straight and to the point. "I am a Suffragist," she said. "Until women have votes they are practically outlaws."

The following interesting interview between Dr. Montessori and Miss Helen Keller, the deaf, blind and dumb American, whose education is so remarkable, appeared in *The Boston Herald*, and was reproduced in *The Woman's Journal*, from which we quote it, with acknowledgments:—

"A noteworthy interview took place in New York

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recently. Dr. Maria Montessori met for the first time Helen Keller and her teacher, Mrs. John Macy (Anne Sullivan). They had heard of each other for years, and both the Italian educator and the deaf, dumb and blind American girl were much moved when they first came face to face. *The Boston Herald* says:—

"Miss Keller stood with her hands on Dr. Montessori's shoulders. Then she said distinctly: 'Blessed are the feet of her who comes across the sea with a message of liberty to the children of America.'

"Tell her," said Dr. Montessori, 'that my children understand her, they know the triumph of the soul over difficulties. But the children of the future, the men of the future, will understand her even better than men do now, for they will be liberated, and will know how the spirit can prevail over the senses.'

"You are fighting for the freedom of children," said Miss Keller. 'We are fighting for the freedom of the parents, for the industrial revolution.'

"But it is all one," said the Dottressa. 'The complete revolution is external and internal, too. I began as a sympathiser with political revolutionists of all kinds. Then I came to feel that it is the liberation of what we have in our hearts that is the beginning and end of revolution.'

"But, surely," said Miss Keller, 'we never can have the Montessori system or any other good system of education so long as the conditions of the home, of the parents, of the workers, are so intolerable.'

"Certainly, that is true. But we must educate children so that they will know how to free themselves and others from bondage. And the first thing is to bring our children under the care of worthy teachers. You and Mrs. Macy symbolise such education, the education of the future, the development of a soul by the union of an inspiring teacher and the child whose soul has grown freely with such stimuli as it needs, and without the stimuli that debase and hinder growth.'

"When you think of the appalling conditions under which people live," said Miss Keller, 'it sometimes seems a miracle that the children grow up at all to intelligence and decency.'

"Dr. Montessori was studying Miss Keller's face. In spite of all you say, Mrs. Macy, all your explanations of how she was taught, I do not see how her spirit has such vision. She seems like a special revelation of God.'

"Every child," said Miss Keller, 'can be a special revelation of God, if he is taught properly, and is allowed to live under right conditions.'

"Helen was a revolutionist before I was," said Mrs. Macy. 'Two or three years before I cared for them she had all these ideas. You see, I could have moulded her in my own likeness, I could have made her a copy of myself. But I left her free to think.'

"That is it. Liberty to think."
"Did it ever occur to you, Dr. Montessori," asked Mrs. Macy, 'that the same ideas spring up in many parts of the world at about the same time? I did not know of your work, nor you of mine. What is it? Is it the spirit of the age manifest here and there in one and another individual?'

"It is all in what we want," said Miss Keller. 'We ought to want more, for what we want we get, if we want it hard enough. For example, women want the vote, men want better conditions of labour and children want more freedom. And remember, what we really want we get.'

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO MEMBERS AND READERS OF "THE VOTE."

WE MAKE A SPECIAL APPEAL to all who support our Advertisers to send receipts or amounts spent with these firms to the Advertisement Manager before April 30.

The Sign-Post.

MOTHERHOOD IN A MAN'S WORLD.

Our friends across the Channel give us occasional food for thought, and the difference between Saxon and Latin is interesting.

A little while ago we noted that it had been proposed to give to a certain Madame Amet the coveted red ribbon of the Legion of Honour. She was the mother of twenty-two children—all living. It was thought to be only fitting that one who had so

amply fulfilled the noblest of woman's duties—motherhood—

should be thus honoured.

From Germany comes a different point of view—as we might expect. A certain tailor, who married at twenty, has at the age of fifty-three, had twenty-four children by his first wife and eleven by his second. When six sons out of the twenty-six children living, were serving simultaneously in the German Army, the Kaiser sent for the tailor, entertained and tipped him, and told him

"to keep up the good work."

In this case fatherhood is honoured—the mother is ignored.

In England we call ourselves practical. We are not bothering about honours—not for women, anyway—but about the birth-rate! Church and State lecture the women of England on the subject.

"More children, more and more,

do your duty, perform the noblest duty of motherhood! And when the babies are there, you shall have no right to them, you shall

not even be a parent in the just eyes of the law."

The birth-rate is the great thing—not so much is talked about the death-rate. Having registered that baby, the interest in it seems to die—like the Kaiser, they say, "Keep up the good work."

Is motherhood confined to the mere producing of babies?

Can a mother with twenty-two or twenty-four children really be so good a mother as one who, with care and forethought, guards her small family from the overcrowding, want, dirt, misery, that are the invariable attendants on these enormous families among the poor? They seldom happen among the well-to-do—they can't afford them!

"I've buried five—I've 'ad eleven, that I 'ave."

We all know that pitiful mother's plaint—the waste of life appals us. The dilapidated mother, and the wizened, stunted little ones, cry out to us far more than any decreasing birth-rate. The small sop of 30s. "maternity benefit for fathers" scarcely smooths the difficulties out of the "glorious mother's" path.

If there were only this one fact staring us in the face—

the utter misunderstanding of the real work of motherhood

and its vast importance—we women ought to be claiming our share of citizenship. If in all this muddled world there were only this muddle on the part of the fathers, the mothers ought to be crying out for the power to help straighten it out.

Legion of Honour for the mother with twenty-two children!

Kaiser's pat on the back for the father with thirty-five! (food for powder).

We women take another point of view. We look at the death-rate, at the long list of the feeble-minded and diseased—consumption, rickets and fits—we think of the

conditions given to the women who are performing this "noblest work"

—the slums, the sweating, the drinking; and we say that our conception of that duty, and the joy and pride it should bring with it, is so far ahead of man's—as he legislates for it—that until a child can be born in fitting surroundings, and to a reasonable chance of health and happiness,

that child should not be born at all.

MARY MAUD.

ROUND AND ABOUT PEACH BLOOM.*

"Experience teaches," says a familiar maxim. It does, but often with such an unsparing and apparently indiscriminating use of the rod, that many people agree with the ragamuffin in "Anyhow Stories": "Experience is excellent, but it's best when another fellow buys it."

To hinder any from passing unnecessarily through the toll gate of experience with its heavy dues knowledge of life is now sown broadcast. And it might be for the healing of the nations if people were not too indolent, too timid, or too much under the influence of tradition to work out life's problems for themselves.

You can take a person to a problem, but you can't make him think. Possibly the recoil from thinking grows out of a consciousness that thinking might reveal the fallacy of cherished ideals. We have Ibsen's authority for saying: "If you deprive a man of his life-life, you deprive him of his happiness." Whatever the reason, the problem-shirker turns, in his dilemma, to the nearest pillars of Church or State for support. Thus, most of the thinking is left to a kind of middleman, who is assured of a large and faithful following if he issues his directions from a pulpit or through the Press. But, strange to say, few of the followers trouble themselves about the nature of the guide. The concern is for the rostrum he speaks from. Take for instance a newspaper: it makes its first appeal as the best advocate of certain political preferences. That is to say, it makes its appeal from a platform of party. Those who use this platform for any sort of propaganda work are trusted, and the morality preached is, for the most part, accepted without a thought. In consequence, people often fail to distinguish between a mere Jack-a-Lantern asterisk and a star of heavenly light and leading.

After the Fall, did Adam, we wonder, make the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil into pulpits, platforms and rods, so that he and his sons might the better admonish, chasten and chastise the daughters of Eve? Anyway, when ignorance has not been enforced, it has been extolled in women. "Peach Bloom" shows the danger of knowing too little, thinking too little, and believing too much in the inherent wisdom and beneficence of everything claiming to be authority.

By means of his play, Mr. Northrop Morse works out, with knowledge and skill, the answer to one of the burning questions of the hour: "Should girls be told?" Mr. Morse makes it clear that ignorance of physiological facts does not form a guard of honour, is not a way, the surest, of keeping female virtue undefiled; that "peach bloom," so far from proving a defence, attracts the evil it is supposed to avert. The story should help those parents to come to a decision who are still wondering whether the ignorance that is "peach bloom" or the knowledge that is power will better fit girls for the battle of life. These words of George Meredith's are to the point:—

Earlier or later they [women] see they have been victims of the Singular Egoist, have worn a mask of ignorance to be named innocent, have turned themselves into market produce for his delight, and have abandoned the commodity in ministering to the lust for it . . . when it should have been their task to set the soul above the fairest fortune and the gift of strength in women beyond ornamental whiteness.

"Peach Bloom" is strong in its action and feeling, and weak in its delineation of character. We find Eric Hamilton particularly unconvincing. But then, to make out of one and the same person a credible hero and a

* "Peach Bloom." By Northrop Morse. Published by Sociological Fund, *Medical Review of Reviews*, New York.

creditable semi-villain requires no little deftness of handling, especially for the purposes of a play admittedly written in the interests of morality. Upon occasions, Eric gets drunk. Through this weakness he becomes the client of a house of ill-fame and, incidentally, the saviour of one of its trapped inmates. This girl, Hildegard Morris, is the beloved of Eric and the heroine of the story. By confiding to Hildegard, later, that it was his first visit to the place, a dubious episode, savouring of villainy, is rounded off to meet the demands of heroship. Nevertheless an uncomfortable feeling remains that the visit was peculiarly blameworthy because of the hero's love for: "This one little girl sprite who has kept any other love away."

People often say that such horrors as those so forcibly presented by Mr. Morse do not happen in England. They give as proof of the assertion the want of positive and direct evidence in confirmation of the stories in circulation, and their general resemblance to one another.

It is hard to see how the stories can differ much when the same factors must occur in all: the male demand; a procurer; an unprotected girl. In the case of shipwrecks where there are also certain definite factors; the hungry sea; a storm; passengers exposed to danger; the survivors also tell their tales with little variation, but here the points of resemblance are not brought up as proofs of there being no such things as shipwrecks.

As Mr. Morse clearly shows, almost insurmountable is the difficulty of bringing to light such evidence as will be in effect incontrovertible. For no stone is left unturned to crush the inconvenient fact; to be a tombstone for truth. The Press, with its powerful machinery for the suppression and misrepresentation of facts, has things pretty much its own way—at present. John Bull is now too bewildered to think. He has had too many hard lessons to learn in too short a time. He is too bewildered to do anything but butt with his head in the direction indicated by his party rag. Soon he will realise the situation, and then woe to the false guides!

Parents and guardians, seeing how little is to be gained and how much is to be lost by an appeal to justice, bend all their efforts to shield the family from disgrace and the victim of foul play from the added humiliation and further terror of a public examination. Those who wish to learn more about the evil dramatised in "Peach Bloom" would do well to study Miss Nina Boyle's excellent pamphlet: "The Traffic in Women." Unobscured by detail, her "unchallenged facts and figures" stand out bare and grim as the skeleton they reveal in the nation's cupboard.

A. W. LANCE.

CONGRATULATIONS to Dr. and Mrs. Appleyard (*née* Tizard) on the birth of a daughter on March 14, 1914. At the wedding of Dr. and Mrs. Appleyard the decorations were in the colours of the Women's Freedom League.

FOR YEARS NOW I HAVE BEEN WRITING in favour of Women's Suffrage, and the extension of women's influence in every department of life. In especial the public policy of England, it seems to me, suffers usually from a hard and selfish materialism; it is at once provocative and obstinate, and a large infusion of feminine sympathy is needed to soften and humanise it. I should like to see women in the House of Commons and in the Cabinet. A woman as Chancellor would keep some check on the mad extravagance of the great spending departments. In all this I am probably slightly in advance of even educated public opinion; but surely no man who reads and thinks for himself can question the fact that the Women Suffragists in England have enlarged our conception of woman's resolution and courage.—FRANK HARRIS, the well-known journalist.

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AT HEADQUARTERS.

London Meetings begin the Monday evening after Easter, April 20, at 1, Robert-street, when Miss H. Newcombe, who has recently returned from a trip to Australia and New Zealand, will open a discussion on "The Awakening of Women: British Dominions Overseas." Admission is free, and the chair will be taken at eight o'clock.

Wednesday Afternoon, April 22, at Caxton Hall, the speakers will be Miss Nina Boyle and Mr. J. Malcolm Mitchell, who has chosen as his subject, "Chivalry and the Wage-earning Woman: Fact and Fiction." The chair will be taken by Mrs. Tanner at 3.30.

Prisoners' Reception.—We shall hold a reception to our twelve members now in Holloway for picketing outside the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, *Friday evening, April 24*. Further particulars will be given later, but we ask our readers kindly to bear mind this date.

I.L.P. Conference.—Miss E. J. Read is running a Women's Freedom League campaign at Bradford at Easter. Will those willing to help communicate with her at 29, Wilmer-drive, Bradford?

F. A. U.

POLITICAL AND MILITANT.

At Friday night's meeting, the chairman, Miss Murray, called pointed attention to a case of brutal assault on a blind wife by a man whose conduct was severely denounced by the Bench and punished with a sentence of 20s. fine—the same as that inflicted on our picketers for distributing leaflets to the annoyance of Sir Charles Mathews. This is the kind of thing that stiffens our backs and makes the movement grow.

Miss Murray has returned to Scotland, and may take part in the East Fife election campaign. As the Unionists will not contest the seat for fear of giving the Prime Minister an opportunity for making effective speeches, the Suffragists will have the field to themselves; and our Scottish Branches may be counted on to give the very best account possible of the Freedom League in the division. Mr. Larkin has also retired from the contest; it seems as if the women were the only people with courage enough to face the Prime Minister on his own ground.

The deputations from the Conference, to various Cabinet Ministers, will shortly engage the attention of the Political and Militant Department. It will be remembered that after the Trades Union Congress at Glasgow, Cabinet Ministers received deputations from the unions over a period extending from February 9 to February 17, in spite of the pressing claims of the opening of Parliament and arranging the business of the Session. It remains to be seen whether the Freedom League will obtain the same consideration.

SUFFRAGE IN SUFFOLK.

After Dr. Knight's protest had been so successfully carried through at Ipswich, Mrs. Tippett arranged meetings in the neighbouring villages. At Wetherden, on Wednesday afternoon, all Mrs. Tippett's invited guests arrived at her house for a Suffrage tea and talk. Much sympathy was expressed and thanks to Mrs.

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Tippett for her speech, as also Miss Anna Munro for her address on the vote as it affects the working home woman.

In the evening a meeting was held in the schoolroom at Elmswell. A portion of the audience was either too shy or afraid to venture past the door. We met the situation by having it open, so probably as many stood outside as were inside listening quietly and with attention to the speakers. Mrs. Foster, of the Woolpit Group, sold THE VOTE and other Suffrage literature.

Thursday afternoon found the flag flying at Stowmarket. For a considerable time we waited until the auctioneers who frequent country towns on market days desisted owing to heavy rain. Whenever Mrs. Tippett started to speak the auctioneers began again. A very large crowd listened to Mrs. Tippett and Miss Munro. Many remarks were made as to the pluck of the women in advocating their cause in such inclement weather and against such odds. Questions were asked and answered, one old gentleman expressing his complete approval of the Women's Freedom League policy above all others.

We hope next week to continue the education of the Suffolk folk when they have finished their Fair.

The series of meetings closed with a very pleasant meeting in the schoolroom at Wetherden, questions being sent up by women who had heard the speakers the previous day and wanted more information.

THE "PROTECTED" SEX.

Murderous Assault.

Mary Moore, attacked by Thomas Wilson in a 'bus at St. Paneras. Throat cut. Sentenced at the Old Bailey for "unlawfully wounding." **Six months' hard labour.** (Compare Julia Decies, seven years.)

Mrs. Boyce, shot at by her husband. Had quarrelled, and she went to live with her aunt. Boyce came there, put his arm round the kitchen door and fired several shots at her. **Fifteen months.** (Compare Julia Decies.) The jury in both cases found that there had been "great provocation." The "provocation" endured by Julia Decies was infinitely more terrible than that of Boyce; yet in the one case the judge gives fifteen months; in the other seven years. In sentencing Boyce, the judge said it was the "merest accident" he did not kill his wife; in sentencing Julia Decies the same point was made. The results all can judge of.

Threats.

Nora West, threatened by her husband, who loaded a revolver with the declared intention of killing her. Excuse, that he only meant to frighten her! Had had to get a separation from him on account of his cruelty a fortnight after her marriage last September. He found her at the Corner House Restaurant having supper.

A wife at Tottenham complained of her husband's threats and stated that he ran at her with a knife, but being naked, was stopped by a dog which flew at him.

Another wife, who had got a separation from her husband, was trapped by him and locked up with her baby for the week-end without food. She only escaped through attracting the attention of the neighbours.

Immorality.

Otto Tiritisoni, charged before Mr. Denman at Marlborough-street with living on the immoral earnings of two girls, **six months' hard labour and deportation.**

Comparative Sentences.

1. Joseph Miles, who had been in forty situations in four years, summoned at Devizes for brutal assault on his mother. **Bound over.**

2. Kirkpatrick, charged with cruelly thrashing his little son, sentenced at Belfast to **four months.**—*Daily Mail.*

3. A man assaulted a domestic servant twice. He was brought up for trial. The magistrates found him guilty and **fined him £10**, and said their reason for doing so was that they had considered the man's wife and family, and the injury to business which would follow imprisonment.

4. Another man was charged at the Sussex Assizes with theft and forgery and found guilty, and sentenced to **three years' penal servitude.** The judge, when appealed to for mercy in consideration of the man's wife, said: "I am very sorry for your wife, but people should take such things into consideration before committing such offences."—*Daily Herald.*

Man and wife charged at Poplar with neglecting their children. The father, legal parent, **fourteen days.** The mother, not the legal parent, **two months.**—*Daily Herald.*

William Cargill, Arbroath, charged at Dundee with neglecting his children. Had been a constant offender, and had only worked a week on the expiry of his last sentence. Had then stripped his home of furniture and pawned it. **Six months.**

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POLITICAL MEETING AT THE, CAXTON HALL.

Last Friday evening the Women's Freedom League held its first political meeting after the Conference. The proceedings were marked by great enthusiasm, the appeal for money being especially successful. From the chair Miss Eunice Murray said that the Liberal party were now paying the penalty for their former dishonest dealings with men and women, and they had to face, not only the possibility of armed men in Ireland, but the certainty of rebellious women in England. The Government were responsible for a double standard in politics, and a double standard in the administration of the laws as between men and women. Ten members of the Women's Freedom League were at present in prison because, by peaceful means, they called attention to the fact that the Government's servants were openly protecting criminals in the police force, but those who were publicly fomenting civil war in Ireland were publicly informed by the head of the Government that there was no likelihood of their arrest! Women had ceased to plead their Cause; they were demanding equal political rights with men and equal treatment under the law of the land.

MR. JOHN SCURR declared that all three parties had thrown their own principles to the winds, and were busy advocating each other's policies with ridiculous confusion. Social reform was being blocked because the women's question stood in the way, and until women as well as men were consulted through the ballot-box we could never hope to build up a better social structure. Mr. Scurr urged men, if they did not like militancy, to make militancy unnecessary by insisting that every candidate that they supported should put woman suffrage first on their programmes, and be prepared to treat it as the most important political question.

MRS. DESPARD, who received great applause, said she was anxious that women's struggle for political freedom should be speedily terminated, because there were so many problems in our national life which needed women's help for their solution. But until women had the Parliamentary vote they must go on working for it and devise new methods to make their work effective. Our President said that the Women's Freedom League was always in her heart and soul, and she pleaded earnestly for new recruits, for personal service to the League, and for greater financial support from every member and sympathiser.

MISS NINA BOYLE outlined the policy of the League which was decided upon at our last Conference—it was uncompromising opposition to the present Government. The Women's Freedom League were defying the authorities in regard to the regulations of the Insurance Act, and challenged the Government to take action in the matter instead of talking about it. She referred

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Sun., April 12.—REGENT'S PARK, Noon. Miss Nina Boyle and Mrs. Hyde.
Sun., April 19.—REGENT'S PARK, Noon.
Mon., April 20.—W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, Discussion Meeting, 8 p.m. Subject: "The Awakening of Women: British Dominions Overseas." Opener: Miss H. Newcombe. Admission free. Discussion and questions invited. CLAPHAM, St. Luke's-road, Open-air Meeting, 8 p.m.
Wed., April 22.—CAXTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. Mr. J. Malcolm Mitchell, "Chivalry and the Wage-Earning Woman: Fact and Fiction," and Miss Nina Boyle. Chair: Mrs. Tanner. Admission free.

Fri., April 24.—CROYDON, 32A, The Arcade, High-street, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Ackroyd. Chair: Miss Bennett.
Sat., April 25.—TOTTENHAM, The Institute, Jumble Sale, 3 p.m.
Sun., April 26.—REGENT'S PARK, Noon. Mr. Kennedy.
Mon., April 27.—CLAPHAM, St. Luke's-road, Open-air Meeting, 8 p.m. Mrs. Tanner.

Wed., April 29.—CAXTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. The Rev. C. Baumgarten, "Justice and the Franchise from the Church Point of View," and others. KENSINGTON TOWN HALL, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. Speakers: Miss Boyle and others. Chair: Mrs. Mustard.
Mon., May 4.—W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, Discussion Meeting, 8 p.m. Miss Ashdown on "Madame Curie." Admission free.
Wed., May 6.—CAXTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30. Mr. Lansbury and others. Admission free.
Thurs., May 7.—W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Mid-London Branch Meeting, 7.30 p.m.
Wed., May 13.—CAXTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30. Mr. Laurence Housman and others. Admission free.

Fri., May 15.—AT HOME, Lady Barclay, 60, Nevinn-square, Earl's Court. Mrs. Despard. 4.30 p.m.

PROVINCES.
Wed., April 8.—Thurs., April 16.—N.U.T. Conference at Lowestoft. Open-air Meetings daily. Speakers: Miss Anna Munro and others. Organiser: Miss Alix M. Clark.
Tues., April 14.—Lowestoft, St. Aubyn's Hall, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. Speakers: Miss Anna Munro, Mr. John Scurr, and others.
Mon., April 20.—Middlesbrough, Hinton's Café, Miss A. Mahony. Subject: "Why Women Teachers Demand the Franchise."
Thurs., April 23.—Ipswich, Suffrage Shop. Miss Harrison on "Prison Reform."
Sat., April 25.—Chester, The People's Hall, Jumble Sale, 3 p.m. Admission 2d.

Mon., April 27.—Middlesbrough, Hinton's Café, Business Meeting, April 29 and 30.—Middlesbrough, Victoria Hall, 7.45 p.m. Two Plays by Winifred M. Jones, *Noblesse Oblige* and *William the Conqueror*. Tickets, 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d.
Mon., May 4.—Middlesbrough, President's Birthday Party.
Thurs., April 23.—Winchester, Sale of Work and Jumble Sale at The Lodge, Benweeke-road (by permission of Mrs. Carey), 3-6 p.m.
April 20.—Hexham, Congregational Schoolroom. Miss Hare, "The Life of Josephine Butler."

SCOTLAND.
Tues., April 14.—Lochgelly, Co-operative Hall, "At Home." Speaker: Mrs. W. Watson, 8 o'clock.
April 14, Glasgow.—Mrs. Despard's meeting postponed.
Thurs., April 16.—Cowdenbeath, Co-operative Hall, Public Meeting, 7.30 p.m.
Fri., April 17.—Rothsay, Good Templars' Hall, 8 p.m. Chair: Rev. J. M. Dickie, B.D.
May 2.—Jumble Sale.

OTHER SOCIETIES.
Sun., April 12.—KINGSTON-ON-THAMES HUMANITARIAN SOCIETY, Meeting, Fife Hall, Fife-road, 7 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Tanner. Subject: "Women's Fight Against Prejudice and Ignorance."

to the Prime Minister's Joy Ride, and declared that politicians on both sides of the House were at present engaged in a desperate struggle over perquisites. Miss Boyle ridiculed Lord Cromer's pronouncements at a recent Anti-suffrage meeting, and criticised Mrs. Humphry Ward's latest fetich—a Woman's Committee by the grace of Members of Parliament. "We don't want freak legislation," said Miss Boyle. "We intend to come into the Constitution on the same terms as men!"

W.F.L. POSTER PARADE.

The Women's Freedom League was determined that the Women's Cause should be in evidence last Saturday afternoon all along the route of the procession of the sympathisers with Ulster's Cause, and before 2.30 Mrs. Huntsman led a contingent of thirty women on to the Embankment, carrying banners in the colours of the League and sandwich-boards with the following mottoes:—*Man Rule means Mis Rule; Joint Rule Means Progress; Give Women a Chance.* This contingent walked up and down by the side of the various men's sections, entirely oblivious of their approval or disapproval. When the procession started, the women poster-paraders formed into line at the rear, steadfastly refusing to accept any of the men's colours or favours offered them, their own colours which they carried high making a light and happy contrast to the batches of heavy colour which fell about at every possible angle in the ranks of the men. Near Charing-cross occurred an exciting scuffle caused by the cowardly attempts of a person on horseback dressed like a gentleman to



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Chair: **MRS. TANNER.**

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break up the women's contingent. He was aided in this exhibition of masculine chivalry by a gang of young roughs, but the women held their ground and again formed into line when they had the satisfaction of seeing the gallant horseman, who apparently experienced as much difficulty in managing his horse as his temper, brought near the ground by the animal's evident annoyance. Later the dissatisfied loyalists succeeded in placing the Protestant Kensitite van between the women and the rest of the procession; but it would take more than a mere Kensitite van to deter Mrs. Huntsman from her course, and she successfully led her followers the whole of the way from the Embankment to Hyde-park. Not once did their colours droop near the ground, although those of the men were often carelessly trampled in the mud; and the Women's Freedom League received many cheers and but a few groans from the spectators. One enthusiastic admirer cried after our members, "Real Queens of England, I call 'em!" "Go it, ladies; we're proud of yer!" called out another. "You can't make a worse mess of it than the men!" surlily confessed a third. By the time Marble Arch was reached the women marchers were proud of themselves, for they felt they had given the Women's Freedom League a well-deserved advertisement. F. A. U.

WOMEN AND MONEY: FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HOUSEKEEPERS.

At the last of our Discussion Meetings before Easter, Miss Lucy H. Yates, a well-known writer and adviser on financial questions, gave a most interesting and thought-provoking lecture on "The Spending Sex." She dealt first with woman as the spender of the family income, then with her rights and responsibilities in spending the municipal and national income. She spoke of the success of the working woman in spending very limited means to the best advantage, because she has full control of what is put into her hands; in this way she learned administration; trouble began when the middle classes were reached, because of the dual control, and the fact that so few husbands take their wives into their confidence as to their income; among landed proprietors the control was completely in masculine hands. She urged that the wife should have entire control of the income allotted for household expenditure, including dress and education; and that she should be provided with a banking account; the system of payment by cheque was practical and orderly; a woman with a cheque-book would be a more scientific spender than if she had loose coins which could be cajoled out of her pocket by tempting bargains. The man who did not trust his wife deserved all he got, and a woman was justified in her resentment of such treatment; financial disagreements were often at the root of troubles in the Law Courts. In corporate spending, Miss Yates insisted, woman must have control with man if poverty and destitution are to be banished. Referring to the London County Council classes for little housewives, she said it was grievous that the women of the future should have to be taught to make pitiful economies in a so-called rich country where, if the resources were rightly developed, there would be enough for everyone, not simply for the favoured few. Woman's influence was also emphatically needed in the national expenditure. Miss Yates's lecture aroused much interest among her hearers, and has been widely noticed in the Press.

POLITICAL NEWS.

The United States Senate and Suffrage.

The reports that reached England as to the defeat, by one vote, of the Woman Suffrage amendment to the Constitution were incorrect; the amendment passed by a majority of one vote, 35 to 34; but a two-thirds majority is required. The following day Senator Shapoth introduced a new amendment to the Federal Constitution which, if passed, will facilitate Woman Suffrage in several States.

The National Liberal Federation Supports Woman Suffrage.

At the meeting of the General Committee of the National Liberal Federation at Northampton on April 4, there were eight resolutions in favour of votes for women. The proposers consented to concentrate on the one brought forward by Mr. Joseph Bliss, of North Lonsdale, which was passed by a large majority. Telling speeches in favour were made by Mrs. F. D. Acland and Lady Cowdray.

The Women Liberals of Lancashire and Cheshire, at the Spring Conference at Waterloo, Liverpool, on March 30, supported Woman Suffrage, but thought the first duty of Liberal women was to stand by the Government in the present crisis.

CHARMING FROCKS FOR CHILDREN.—The children's department at the Jaeger West End Depot, 126, Regent-street, contains an excellent choice of underwear, and the useful but dainty frocks will make a strong appeal to mothers anxious for the comfort of their girls and boys; the knitted suits, jersey, knickers, and cap, are irresistible. Mother herself will find her own wants can be well supplied, and the new summer dressing-gowns are most artistic in design. Father, too, will find what he needs, even to sleeping-bags for travellers, and blankets for stay-at-homes.

EASTER "VOTE" SALES.

Every Member of the League is asked to buy additional copies of the paper and distribute them during the holidays. This will be a means, not only of keeping up THE VOTE sales, but also of propaganda. Now that the weather shows signs of improving, a very special appeal is made for more regular sellers. We hope that everybody with any spare time will send in their names. We have already had a good response to the appeal for volunteers to take the places of those sellers now in Holloway, but we want more permanent members of THE VOTE Brigade. P. LEAHY.

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