

THE VOTE,
APRIL 18, 1919.
ONE PENNY.

**Our Call to the Teachers' Conference:
"Equal Pay for Equal Work."**

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. XVIII. No. 495. (Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper and transmissible through the post in the United Kingdom at the newspaper rate of postage, but to Canada and Newfoundland at the Magazine rate.) FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 1919.

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

WHAT WE EXPECT OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

"It will be the duty of the New Government to remove all existing inequalities of the law as between men and women."

NO SHIRKING !

ELECTION MANIFESTO signed by
MR. LLOYD GEORGE, Prime Minister. **MR. BONAR LAW**, Chancellor of the Exchequer

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Naval Architects.

The Institution of Naval Architects decided unanimously on April 10 to admit women to the profession on equal terms with men. Sir William Smith, who proposed the change, paid personal tribute to the work of women in connection with naval architecture, and declared that "without the work done by women the war could not have been won." Sir Alfred Yarrow, in seconding, mentioned the case of women joiners who were employed a short time ago on a destroyer. They made a magnificent job of it, and the boat was accepted by the Admiralty without demur. A recent boat attained a speed of 38.6 knots. "That," said Sir Alfred, "is the best speed obtained. The lines of that ship were determined partly by a young lady named Keary."

Miss Normanton Wins.

On April 9, in the Old Hall of Lincoln's Inn, the Union Society of London, the oldest debating society in the Temple, held the first ladies' night debate since 1914.

"Putting her head into the lion's mouth," says

The Evening News, "Miss Helena Normanton, the lady who has been refused admission to the Bar, ventured into the chamber to move that all branches of the legal profession should be open to women. In advocating her cause she showed considerable forensic ability, powers of persuasion, grasp of historical facts, and, what was perhaps more important, great charm of manner. At the end of the debate she had a majority supporting her motion.

"It was, she said, the Benchers of Lincoln's Inn, at the close of the Civil War, who showed themselves capable of making innovations by introducing the first actress to the stage—in Lincoln's Inn Hall.

"Miss Normanton's opposer was Mr. J. A. Symons, the Metropolitan police magistrate, who is one of the wittiest of our present-day legal administrators. He did not disappoint his auditors last night. In a speech that was given in a spirit of gentle raillery, he said:—

"The present age regards every change as an improvement, and every alteration as progress."

"I would sooner that an old woman were a judge than a judge an old woman."

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

Join the Women's Freedom League.

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

Name _____

Address _____

Woman Wins the Military Medal.

The award of the Military Medal is announced in a recent *Gazette* to Asst.-Admins. Geneste Penrose, Q.M.A.A.C., attd. Camouflage Service, for gallantry at Aire during the period February to July, 1918, when in charge of a large number of Frenchwomen engaged on important camouflage services. Although the town was frequently shelled and bombed, her gallant example resulted in most of the workers remaining at their posts.

Women to See Ruin of War.

The Government have invited representative women to visit, under their auspices, the devastated regions of France. There will be three parties of a score or more, and the first party will leave London on the 23rd inst., going to Lille and the surrounding district, Armentieres, Neuve Chapelle, Lens, and Arras.

Women on the Watch.

When the Nurses registration Bill came, last week, before a Grand Committee of the House of Commons the room was packed with women, who were there in greater numbers than the Committee itself.

Progress in South Africa.

The South African House of Assembly has adopted by 44 votes to 42 a resolution in favour of women's franchise.

A Thirty-Hour Week.

The annual conference of the Women's Section of the Labour Party at Melbourne has decided to advocate a 30-hour week for women in factories, and that girls under 16 years of age should not be employed.

Women Doctors' Success.

The number of women who are taking up medicine as a profession is growing steadily. In the pass list of the second examination for medical degrees in the University of London, issued a few days ago, 90 of the 184 candidates mentioned are women.

Pressing on in the U.S.A.

The State Senate of Missouri has passed a limited Suffrage Bill which permits women to vote in Presidential elections.

W.A.A.C.S to Remain.

The Army Council have decided to maintain Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps as a part of the after-war Army organisation, and steps are being taken to ascertain the names of officials and members who are desirous of continuing their service in the corps.

Belgium to Honour Edith Cavell.

A plaque to the memory of Edith Cavell has been placed in the Ecole des Infirmiers, of which she was a directress. It shows her face in profile. By the side of this plaque there has been placed a medallion of Mme. Marie Depage, the wife of the great Belgian surgeon, who was among the *Lusitania* victims.

A group of well-known Belgians is engaged at present in discussing the best way of preserving in Brussels the memory of Edith Cavell, and favours the idea of building a large model hospital which would bear her name. The plan is stated to have received the approval of various distinguished Englishmen.

First Woman Alderman in North Wales.

A woman has been elected for the first time in North Wales to a place on the aldermanic bench. The County Council of Anglesey chose Miss Davies, of Treborth, to succeed Lord Sheffield, who has retired. Miss Davies has been constantly and effectively engaged in philanthropic and public work, especially connected with the welfare of women and girls.

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.1.
Telegrams—"DESPARD, MUSEUM 1429, LONDON."
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.**LONDON AND SUBURBS.**

Wednesday, April 30.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Whish. Admission free. Tea can be obtained in the Café.

Wednesday, May 7.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3 p.m.

Thursday, May 8.—Golder's Green Branch Meeting, at 13, Temple Fortune-court, at 8.15 p.m.

Saturday, May 10.—National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 10 a.m.

Women's Freedom League Easter Campaign at Cheltenham, during the Conference of the National Union of Teachers.

Tuesday, April 22.—Public Meeting, Rodney Hall, Rodney-street, 8 p.m. Chair: Dr. W. G. Earengy. Speakers: Miss Helena Norman-on, B.A., and others, on "Equal Pay for Equal Work."

PROVINCES.

Monday, May 12.—Westcliff Branch Meeting, at the Labour Hall, 6, Broadway Market, Southend, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Dorothy Evans. Subject: "The House Famine and Land Hunger."

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, April 30.—East Boldon B.W.T.A. Public lectures afternoon and evening. Speaker: Mrs. Schofield Coates.

Easter Conference of the National Union of Teachers at Cheltenham.**WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE CAMPAIGN.**

Hon. Organiser: Miss Alix M. Clark, Exmouth House, Hewlett Street, Cheltenham.

"Equal Pay for Equal Work" will be the cry of the Women's Freedom League campaign at Cheltenham during the Easter Conference of the National Union of Teachers. A public meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 22, at the Rodney Hall, Rodney-street. Doors open at 7.30, to begin at 8 p.m. Dr. W. G. Earengy will preside. Speakers: Miss Helena Norman-on, B.A., and others. Will all friends who can give personal and financial help communicate at once with Miss Clark at the above address, who will welcome assistance of every kind?

Mr. & Mrs. "N.K."

The Office of Works has, we think, arrived at a wise decision in handing over the catering arrangements in the Royal Parks to the National Kitchens Division of the Ministry of Food. It is proposed to open the refreshment rooms at Kensington Gardens, Hyde Park, Regent's Park, and Kew Gardens on the Monday before Easter. Before the war caterers are said to have paid large sums for the privilege of catering in the parks, and they reimbursed themselves by the prices which they charged the public for inferior fare. On more than one occasion a question was asked in the House of Commons respecting the tea and food supplied at Kew Gardens. We know that "N.K." are not entirely feminine initials, and we suggest to Mr. and Mrs. "N.K." as family people, that it would confer a boon on many hard-worked mothers if a cheap and suitable children's dinner could be supplied on Saturdays during the summer. Saturday is cleaning day, shopping day, and the children's holiday, and the claims of these are frequently in opposition.

SEX PREJUDICE AND WOMEN'S DISABILITIES.

By W. G. EARENGEY, B.A., LL.D.

It is remarkable that since the victory of February, 1918, when a limited parliamentary vote for women was won, many former supporters of the women's Cause have slackened in their efforts and enthusiasm, and equal in apathy those former enemies of the Cause who (now the vote has been won) declare that they always sympathised with the movement and gave it their support. Very little thought will show that the vote is only one step towards the goal of sex equality not merely in our legal system, but in all the activities of public and private life. We have only captured the first trench system; more difficult country lies behind, defended by an enormous force of antiquated shibboleths and conscious and unconscious prejudice. And our task necessitates the conversion of a large number of our enemies so as to secure their votes and assistance.

To have achieved the vote on the present basis is a great gain, but, as in the case of all compromises, it was not based on logical grounds or definite principles. A woman's qualifying age is nine years more than a man's, and still more than that of the youth who has served in the Forces. Yet many women have served their country in essential public work, both here and overseas. Then, too, the wife of the occupier does not get a vote as an independent person, but in virtue of her husband's qualification; she is, in fact, a kind of glorified shadow—scarcely a generous recognition of women's work and patriotism during the war!

The fact is that there is very little conception of real sex equality. Many an ardent male woman-suffragist still thinks he should control the purse, and thereby his wife's economic dependence, and that it is unthinkable that he is not by reason of his sex the head of the household and the superior creature. The heaven must still work; the lump unchanged is still of ponderous proportions.

It is well known that long obsolete feudal principles have shaped our law and institutions, but it is difficult to understand why we still tolerate them, and indeed accept them almost without question. Yet under no principle of natural justice does the eldest son, on the death intestate of the owner of real estate, still take to the exclusion of the daughters and the younger sons. Nor is being the first-born the only reason, for if there are no sons or issue of sons the eldest daughter shares equally with the other daughters. One wonders also why the old feudal differences of intestate succession between husband and wife are still sacrosanct. If a wife dies intestate her husband takes all her personal estate absolutely, and under certain conditions the rents of her whole real estate for his life; but in the converse case the wife (who in most cases has been economically dependent on him, and may not be fitted to earn her living, and therefore needs greater consideration) takes only one-third of his real estate for her life, and, if there are children, only one-third of his personalty. If there are no children or issue one would have thought that the wife's claim to the whole estate should outweigh all others, but, subject to the £500 granted to her by the Intestates Estates Act, 1890, she takes only the same interest in the real estate as before and half the personalty.

How can the old fiction that husband and wife are one still be logically relied on to justify the present Income-tax Law? Why is there still a legal presumption that if a wife commits certain crimes in the presence of her husband she acts under his compulsion and not of her own free will?

Instances from almost all the other departments of our legal system might be given, showing that our conceptions (and they are ours if we do not trouble to alter our legal and conventional system)

are based on antiquated and obsolete principles which in innumerable instances lead to injustice and often to tragedy. We are so steeped in the old atmosphere that we regard these anomalies as the natural order of things. What a need of divine discontent and the stimulus to the necessary action! Efforts to secure sex equality are necessarily up against opposition based not on argument or reason, but at bottom either on the old sex prejudice, coupled with specious arguments tending to cloud the issues, or on economic advantage.

In our Divorce Law different moral codes apply to the two sexes. Here the logical conclusion is that woman is higher than man, as the standard expected of her is the higher. In the labour market she is lower, and the habit of regarding woman as man's inferior has had an enormous effect. Very few employers expect to pay a woman the full wages of the man whose work she is doing, even though she does it as efficiently. And the result of competition (for women are bound to earn a living) has often been to lower men's wages, or cause unemployment. This is at last partially recognised, and there is an increasing demand for equal pay for equal work, and an admission of women on equal terms into trade unions. It is curious that this should not have been recognised before, and that the demand should not have been seriously put forward until this twentieth century.

And what limited spheres have been assigned to our women; the almost insuperable difficulty of gaining an entry into the medical profession sixty years ago is well known, and it is only now that the legal profession is being forced to open its doors. Will women barristers, solicitors, architects, and accountants be expected to receive a half or two-thirds of the salaries or emoluments of their male colleagues, or will they receive the real value of their work, apart altogether from the question of sex? In no case is the difference more strongly marked than in the scales of salaries fixed by the local education authorities for the teaching profession. The experience of those members of Education Committees who have striven to equalise them is a convincing proof of the need of concerted action, and it is to be hoped that the National Union of Teachers will recognise the injustice of the present position and make it a real live issue forthwith.

There is no specific law against the admission of women into professions, but it will require a law to gain them admission. The Bill now before Parliament to make women eligible for civil and judicial office was introduced by a Labour member, and is backed by the Labour Party, yet many of the party's supporters have refused to admit women to membership of their unions. The Government will apparently accept it in all but the franchise clause (which would give women the same voting rights as men). But even if the Bill becomes law, women will still have an uphill fight against the Powers of Darkness, and it behoves all who see the Light to give of their best to attain to it.

Votes for Indian Women.

His Highness the Aga Khan, interviewed recently in London, expressed strong support—as he has done in his latest book, "India in Transition"—of votes for Indian women. He said:—

"I am all in favour of the vote being given to women if only they are qualified by their economic position, and its proper use by them would be one of the strongest safeguards India could have. Although the women of India are secluded, to an extent to which Englishwomen are strangers, they are in close touch with the real conditions of the country, as represented by its home life, and can speak of its needs and aspirations better, perhaps, than men who are often away from their native towns and villages."

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, April 18th, 1919.

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

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.
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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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EQUALITY.

The crystallisation of the spirit of the French Revolution into the phrase, "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity," was a happy one—in nothing more happy than in the logical order of the words. You do not get equality until you have attained liberty. Neither is it possible to feel fraternally disposed towards your fellows until you are both as free as they, and completely equal with them in all the spiritual values of life.

The women of this country have now partially achieved their liberty. They have taken most if not all of Labour for their province. Some eight and a-half millions of them are now voters. This first instalment of liberty is an earnest of the whole, if rightly used. Equality is the next step. It would be but a poor conception of equality which had as its connotation only equality of payment, necessary and just as that is. Equality of soul, of mind, of personality, of equipment, of ideals of service are the bases upon which women workers desire to build. And the standard towards which they strive is that of the supremest achievements of the race. We can candidly recognise an upward thrust in modern manhood, and can welcome it wholeheartedly. Not only in the magnificent valour of the battlefield, but in the hospital ward, in the social settlement, in all schemes for the betterment of the race, we know that there are men as well as women striving for the true and the good in a spirit impossible to conceive of in connection with men of past generations. The equality which women desire is an equality with such men as these and an equality with what the finest women have attained or are attaining.

Equality grows out of liberty; it is a product of self-determination. For this reason, then, women demand that all vocations be thrown open to them, and all grades of work within each calling. It is a sorry spectacle to behold a great profession like teaching drifting towards that condition wherein men organise, administer, and initiate, whilst women do the bulk of the spade work. It is equally sad when one sees women of proved capacity and industry wasting the best years of their life outside other callings because of artificial barriers which prevent their entry. To the extent that Liberty is curbed and that Equality is denied, Fraternity must be an unrealised dream.

The past four years have been a time of fiery testing for women, and to none more than to the woman teacher. Harassed by the double shift system because of the commandeering of schools by the military authorities; saddened by the increased demand for child labour and the outburst of juvenile and adolescent criminality; pecuniarily hampered by rises in salaries inadequate to cope with the general rise of prices; constantly as ever criticised by igno-

rant faddists and captious members of the general public; overworked because of the departure of male colleagues for military service—under many burdens has the woman teacher managed to carry on. It is she who has held for civilisation the frontiers of youth. One of the gravest of responsibilities possible in a modern State has fallen upon her. By its faithful and honourable discharge the woman teacher has proved the case for her equality with her male colleague. Equal remuneration and equal opportunity within the profession may be claimed as being beyond further argument. Only ancient prejudices remain.

The recent Women's Emancipation Bill ought to have a most important effect upon women teachers. It should open to them many of the higher administrative positions hitherto quietly preserved for men. If passed it will make women eligible for the higher branches of the Civil Service, and even for the Ministry of Education itself. It will also open up new possibilities for those women who may desire to give their more youthful years to the children of the country, but not their whole lives.

The one deadening and dispiriting thing about our educational service used to be its monotonous inelasticity. Think of an assistant mistress—a real case—who did exactly the same work for eight years in succession. She had by that time reached a condition of mental torpor in which she not only acquiesced, but dreaded the thought of any change. Such things ought not to be possible. They have the unfortunate advantage of being extremely convenient for the bureaucracy.

Let us imagine an ideal educational service from the point of view of the teacher. A happy teacher makes a happy class, and that is sufficient justification. She would be very free to alternate between different schools and different types of schools under her local authority—with occasional journeys into the service of other authorities. The schools would be airy, cheery places of beautiful external and internal architecture. As well as a general teachers' room there would be a little separate study for each member of the staff. All the assistants would take it in turn to act as chief assistant. Marriage would be no bar to the continuation of service, the individual being free to choose her path. There would be plenty of half-time or part-time posts for women who wished to have ample leisure for study, home life, or social service. Intercourse between parents, doctors, employers of labour, and teachers would be much freer than it is now. There would also be much more opportunity for post-certificate and post-graduate study and self-development, and less inspection and red tape. Higher salaries would make the profession less anæmic and devitalising, and conduce to a different social position for the teacher. At present she is often a very isolated being, her social intercourse of an evening being more with exercises to be marked than with anything else.

All these things will come as soon as women teachers reach out for them. Let them look up Macaulay's description of the down-trodden chaplain of a century ago—or Thackeray's apothecary—and realise the difference to-day in the status of these callings.

The happiness of the child was the justification of the happiness of the teacher. It is not the only or the final justification. If the French Revolution gave to the world the magic formula of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity, the American Revolution completed the thought by adding that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness was the inalienable right of each one of us. And happiness is best achieved in that fellowship of equality which is Fraternity.

HELENA NORMANTON.

REVOLUTION OR REFORMATION?

By MARGARET HODGE.

After the social upheaval of the French Revolution Pestalozzi wisely maintained that the educational coach ought to be turned round and driven in the opposite direction. Its old route was quite unsuitable to the new conditions. Have not we to-day experienced a like cataclysm in this great world war, and should not we also realise that we are endeavouring to adapt old and outworn prejudices to new ideals?

Just as we want Christianity to be in reality the teaching of Christ instead of a dogmatic Church, from which "our life looks through and spits at our creed," so we want education to be carried back to those first principles which all the great teachers from Socrates to Thring have tried to impress upon us as essential for the real evolution of the human race.

Our elementary Education Act of 1870 heralded to many of our finest teachers and noblest thinkers the dawn of a new era, a real renaissance. Edward Thring believed in all sincerity that the treasure-house of the literatures of all the ages was to be opened up for the pothouse hero, and his ideals were to be lifted from what was ignoble, material, and base to what was glorious, inspiring, and immortal. Before his death his hopes were utterly dashed to the ground, for education had become a sordid and self-seeking bargainer, instead of a winged messenger from the Empyrean. Religious controversy, a pettifogging spirit of economy, a contemptible assumption of authority and infallibility, and a deep-seated desire to limit as far as possible the delightful sense of power that real knowledge gives, were at the root of the deplorable failure of the Act to accomplish that for which its champions yearned. How many great teachers, as enthusiastic and as inspiring as Thring, wore their hearts out in the attempt to make aspiration achievement, we shall never know. This, however, we do know—and we can aid in preventing—that thousands of our noblest teachers to-day are working in chains. We can strive with all our might to break their shackles and set them free. Thring said he had lived to see the day when teachers were enslaved, and they laughed as they rattled their chains. If so, it was the laughter of despair, more pitiful than any tears.

In 1911 I visited the schools of Germany for the first time after twenty years, and I saw the process of enslaving a people in active operation. Our victory in this war was due to the fact that we were fighting a nation in which the initiative had been killed, or perhaps it would be more correct to say atrophied, by the overwhelming force of infallible authority. That the same result had not been attained in this country is due, not to the Education Board nor to any red-taped system such as Dickens wisely dubbed "The Circumlocution Office," but to the indomitable spirit of our teachers.

Long before Kindergarten became a household word the tender motherly hearts of the teachers in the infant schools had led them to adopt much of the practice if they had not formulated the principles of the great philosopher and teacher. There

is no profession in the world that has members so ready for self-sacrifice and so eager for self-improvement as those engaged in the work of teaching. Men and women teachers alike would walk miles to lectures on new methods of "laying the foundations" of any subject in the minds of their little pupils, when we were in Sydney in 1897 and brought Fröbelian principles as a new gospel to those who were hungering for a more nourishing diet for their little ones than the repetition of spelling or the learning of the multiplication table. The same fervour was shown in 1913 over the principles and teaching of Mme. Montessori.

It is always the teacher who knows what the child needs, and is indefatigable in her search for it. Why is it, then, that teachers have so little to do with the legislation for, and the administration of, education. Every Education Committee of every Council ought to have a large number of teachers co-opted upon it, as well as those retired teachers who may be appointed from the Council itself. If such were the case, teachers knowing the special needs of their own district would be able to voice them in an authoritative body, and would gain easy access to the central authority. That authority should be composed of expert educationists, and the Minister for Education should be such a man as the present one, only he should be unhampered by the ignorance and prejudice of the ordinary Member of Parliament. Mr. Fisher proposed great and drastic reforms, which amounted almost to a revolution, in our educational system, but the drag on the wheels of the educational coach, the average M.P., would not allow him to progress as he wished. We should rouse people to remember that each district has its special educational needs, and that textbooks for our schools should be chosen to suit these needs in each locality. A headmistress or master should have a grant for school books, and not be obliged to accept any books that the central authority may choose to consider educative in every circumstance for the children of every district in this island.

A great responsibility, too, lies upon the rate-payers who refuse to accept the ½d. or even the 1d. rate for a library. Education is the affair of a lifetime, and if books are not readily accessible for reference during and after school days, much that should be common knowledge must remain a mystery; curiosity must be frequently baffled, and the common process of turning our intelligent and frolicsome lambs into silly sheep must be facilitated. "If the teacher does not know how to teach nobody else does," says Mr. Thring. Let him be supreme in his domain. "O teachers of England, strive for liberty, liberty to teach!" This was his last spoken appeal to the members of the profession that he so loved and honoured, and in which he was such a striking figure.

Let us feel with him a source of joy in the fact that "the living things have so much life," and let us care only for these things of the spirit, leaving the dead codes, formulæ, and dogmas to look after themselves.

A BOOK FOR ENFRANCHISED WOMEN.

THE FEMINE IN FICTION.

(Allen and Unwin. 3s. 6d. net.) By L. A. M. PRIESTLEY (Mrs. GEO. McCracken), with a Foreword by Mrs. Despard. "The work could not have been more effectively done . . . the book forms a real tribute to the generally advanced and friendly tone of English Novelists."—In *Daily News* review. "A series of clever little studies."—*The Scotsman*. On Sale at Women's Freedom League Literature Dept. 144, High Holborn, W.C.

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

By Holford Knight (Barrister-at-Law).

The present moment is heavy with the fate of the world. Unless the foundations of States and the new comity of nations are grounded in democratic principles fearlessly applied to current needs, our hopes are vain. The duty lies upon each of us, within the range of our effort, to aid those statesmen who are working to make the world safe for democracy.

An integral part of democratic government is equality of opportunity. Hence, as a democrat who desired to see his profession conform to sound principles, the present writer has found in equality of opportunity the inspiring idea of his campaign to open the legal profession to women. That campaign, after an amazingly short course (for what is five years in the jolting story of legal reform!), is about to close with full success. At long last the Bar of England will stand before the world exhibiting a great democratic plan in its arrangements of equality of opportunity.

Permit me to say to women who may be dismayed by circumstances which threaten to defeat their hopes that this story of the campaign for opening the legal profession to women should bring fresh encouragement in their efforts. As Emerson said, the world at any moment is the merest appearance, and since history (in his words) "is the story of a few stout and earnest persons," we must persevere in our several tasks, determined that the collapse of the old wretched order in the late war shall not be succeeded by its resurrection under the old influences which failed to stay the catastrophe.

Therefore, press forward stoutly in your campaign for equality of opportunity. Our country needs every ounce of disciplined energy we can discover and use. Give to every citizen, irrespective of sex or social condition, full and equal opportunity of equipment, and then apply this trained effort wherever the individual desires to play his or her part in the life of the State and (perchance) of the world.

Allow me to send greetings to those women of THE VOTE who, in season and out of season, have struggled nobly for equality of opportunity. Without it, the world will sink back again; but with it, no bound (to use old words) can or should be set to the onward march of women.

Shakespeare Birthday Festival at the "Old Vic."

During the Shakespeare Birthday Festival at the Old Vic (nearly opposite Waterloo Station), which lasts from April 19 to May 9, eight plays, specially chosen by the audiences, will be given as follows:—

April: Saturday, 19, at 7.30, and Easter Monday, 21, at 7.30, *The Taming of the Shrew*; Tuesday, 22, at 7.30 (eve of birthday), *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The birthday and St. George's Day, Wednesday, April 23: Performance at 2, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; 7.30, *Shakespeare Revel*, in which some past members and old friends of the "Vic" Company, including Hutin Britton (Mrs. Matheson Lang), Estelle Stead, Sybil Thorndike, Mark Stanley, and Gordon Douglas will make a welcome reappearance. Thursday, 24, at 2, *The Merchant of Venice*; Friday, 25, at 7.30, and Saturday, 26, at 2.30, *Julius Caesar*; Monday, 28, at 7.30, *Hamlet* (abridged version); Tuesday, 29, at 8, lecture by Mr. John Booth on "Shakespeare's Town, Stratford-on-Avon," illustrated by many beautiful slides; Wednesday, 30, at 2, *Twelfth Night*; 7.30, *Hamlet* (abridged version). May: Thursday, 1, at 2, and Friday, 2, at 7.30, *The Tempest*; Saturday, 3, at 1, *Hamlet* (in its entirety); Monday, 5, at 7.30, *Twelfth Night*; Tuesday, 6, at 2, *Henry IV., Part 1*; 8, lecture by Mr. Cecil J. Sharp on "English Folk Dances," illustrated by dances by the English Folk Dance Society; Wednesday, 7, at 2, *As You Like It*; 7.30, *The Merchant of Venice*; Thursday, 8, at 2, *As You Like It*; last performance of season, Friday, 9, at 7.30, *As You Like It*.

WOMEN'S EMANCIPATION BILL.

Hot Heads and Cold Feet.

A vigorous speech in support of the Women's Emancipation Bill was made by Captain Elliot, a young Army medical M.P. He was wholly and absolutely in favour of the Bill because it would enfranchise the young women. The young people of 20 to 30 had suffered most from the blindness, incompetence, and arrogance of their elders. The men had suffered and bled and the young women had suffered in tears because the white-headed and hoary antediluvians who governed in the trade unions and in Parliament could not see what lay as clear before them as their noses. They were afraid to take decisions. They had hot heads and cold feet. They led the young up to the War with Germany, and then said, "Go on." Lack of clear thinking in their elders had decimated the young men, but the tragedy of the War was not the young men who fell in their youth and glory; it was the young women whose lives were wasted because of the men who died. These young women would defend us from Bolshevism. There was a ridiculous error in Clause 1, which left out the word "military." Nothing struck the R.A.M.C. and the people who had been at the war more clearly than the denying by our Army of commissions to nurses which were granted by Canada, Australia, and the whole British Empire.

Still more, women doctors were not entitled to hold His Majesty's Commission. Equal pay for equal work was good, but we must have equal honour for equal work in future. He was ashamed of his own decorations when they realised that nurses in bombed hospitals only got non-commissioned ranks and medals, only the Military Medal or the Distinguished Conduct Medal, never the Military Cross. The privileges of officers, quarters, travelling, etc., were not theirs. Women doctors and nurses on the Western Front were entitled to all the honours they could possibly give them. The medical profession was one of the first to grant equal rights to women and equal pay, because otherwise the women would have undersold the men. The hardships of women were no less than men's. The storm of coughing in the tuberculosis dispensary was more dangerous and more daunting than the enemy's barrage, but a nurse took it as her ordinary work. Syphilis, too, was often contracted through nursing. In the women of this country was the hope of our race.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING BILL.

The Second Reading of the above Bill was taken last week. Dr. Addison (President of the Local Government Board) stated, what most of us knew, that everywhere, in the outskirts of every town and in many of our villages, there was an urgent demand for new houses. Not only was there a shortage of houses throughout the country, but there was an enormous proportion of existing houses which were unfit for human habitation. More than 3,000,000 people lived more than two in a room, and 750,000 of these inhabited the area covered by the London County Council. The Government proposes to work through local authorities for making proper provision for the housing of the people, and will intervene when these authorities prove obstinate or sluggish in their duties.

Guernsey women are now eligible for all municipal offices and to sit as members of the local Parliament.

LEGAL PROFESSION (ADMISSION OF WOMEN).

Last year the Solicitors (Qualification of Women) Bill passed through all its stages in the House of Lords, but the Government, in spite of pressure in the House of Commons, refused to find time for its discussion in the Lower House. This year Lord Buckmaster's Barristers and Solicitors (Qualification of Women) Bill has passed through all its stages in the House of Lords, but no facilities have been promised for it in the House of Commons. Delay has wrecked many women's Bills, and it looks as though delay might once more wreck the chances of this one.

On April 7 the following dialogue took place in the House of Commons:—

MAJOR HILLS: Will the Government grant time for the discussion of the Bills for admitting women to the legal profession which have now passed the Upper House?

MR. BONAR LAW: I hope to find time for this purpose.

MAJOR HILLS: Can the right hon. gentleman say when?

MR. BONAR LAW: No; I cannot name the time now, but, of course, it cannot be before Easter.

Yet on more than one occasion lately the House of Commons has risen before eight o'clock in the evening; and, as we have often pointed out, it does not meet until a quarter to three any afternoon, not at all on Saturdays, and not always on Fridays.

MARRIED WOMEN'S INCOME-TAX.

On April 1, Colonel ROUNDELL secured a reply from the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the House of Commons to the effect that if the income of husbands and wives were not taxed jointly, but separately, the immediate annual loss to the Exchequer would be £20,000,000. Mr. Chamberlain further warned Members that the loss would be an increasing one, and might easily reach in a short time to £50,000,000 per annum.

MR. G. LOCKER-LAMPSON inquired if that very large sum was the measure of the present injustice to married persons, and whether his right hon. friend would consider the possibility of meeting the cost of the reform out of a tax on bachelors.

The following day, in reply to a question put by Lieut.-Colonel POWNALL, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said that although he thought it was undesirable that he should be asked to receive a deputation in regard to this question, in view of the fact that there was to be a Royal Commission of Inquiry into Income-tax Law, yet he would be glad to confer with Members of the House, if they so desired it. Sir JOHN BUTCHER asked if women would be allowed to accompany this deputation, to which the Chancellor replied that if his hon. and learned friend would feel more encouraged in facing the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and strengthened by the presence of ladies, he certainly would not refuse to receive the ladies.

The Women's Freedom League and six other women's societies have been asked by Mr. G. Locker-Lampson to send a representative with this deputation, and readers of THE VOTE will be glad to know that Mrs. Ayres Purdie has kindly consented to represent us.

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WOMEN AND SWEATED LABOUR.

We have heard a good deal lately in regard to women preferring unemployment donations to their pre-war occupations. The following paragraphs from *The Daily News* of last week put another side of this question which it would be well for the public to consider.

Here are a few typical instances which have been noted recently by the officials of the Women's Trade Union League at various courts of referees in London:—

A woman was offered through a Labour Exchange brass cleaning and general charring at an hotel. Hours 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week. Wages 16s., without food. She refused the work. Donation disallowed.

A skilled shirt ironer accepted work in a laundry on piece terms. At the end of two days, working from 8.30 a.m. until 7 p.m., she found she had earned a total of 4s. 6d. and 9d. bonus. As her fare was 2d. a day, and she had to pay 1s. 6d. a day to get her children cared for, she threw up the job. Unemployment donation refused by a Camberwell Court.

A woman was offered 15s. a week, with dinner and tea, for cleaning in a prosperous City restaurant. As her fares would have cost 3s. a week she declined. Donation stopped.

Three girls, anxious for work, accepted on trial an offer from a boot polish factory. They found that in addition to filling tins and fastening on lids they were expected to chop beeswax and scrub tables for 15s. a week. They gave up the work at the end of a week. Donation stopped.

Women have little chance against these conditions. The Courts of Referees sit in secret, and we are told that frequently there is no woman member, that not sufficient care is taken to choose members who are likely to be impartial.

WOMEN ON JURIES.

We are glad to note that the question of allowing women to serve on juries was discussed last Monday at a meeting of the Nottingham City Council, the members of which propose to send a memorial to the Prime Minister on this matter. We want to see every jury composed of an equal number of men and women. Women and children who have to give evidence before juries of men only are often at a great disadvantage. In our view, justice will have a better chance of being carried out in our courts when women as well as men serve on juries.

A Case in Point.

We ask the special attention of our readers to the following extract from the *Bournemouth Daily Echo* of Tuesday, April 8. We learn that the Women's Freedom League Branch is joining with other local women's organisations to protest against this disgraceful acquittal. We hope that they will urge the Bournemouth Town Council to petition the Prime Minister at once to introduce legislation which will make it possible for women to serve on

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THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

juries. The Bournemouth paper reports the case as follows:—

At yesterday's Bournemouth Quarter Sessions, before Mr. Ernest Bruce Charles, K.C. (Recorder), Humphrey Barrow Williams, 27, a soldier, was indicted for having indecently assaulted a girl aged 12 years, between October 1 and 8, 1918, to which he pleaded not guilty. Mr. Lloyd, outlining the case, said prisoner met the girl in Queen's Park Drive in the summer of 1917, and afterwards slept at the house of the girl's mother, who had since died. Prisoner and the girl stayed at an hotel at Basingstoke. He took her about as his daughter. The girl gave evidence in support of counsel's statement.

Prisoner said he joined the R.A.M.C. in November, 1914, was transferred to the R.F.C. in December, 1915, and to the R.G.A. in January, 1917. He had served two years in France. He met the girl whilst at Bournemouth attending the cadet training centre. He denied the allegations of indecency, and said he proposed speaking to his mother about adopting the girl so that she might not have to go to a home. He suggested that the girl was disappointed because she had to go to a home; hence her story. He said it had been agreed that he should adopt the girl.

The Recorder, in summing up, said the case was one of the most difficult in which he had ever been engaged, whether on the Bench or at the bar. The girl's evidence was given with clearness, and with extraordinary self-possession, more than was usual in a girl of her years. He reminded the jury that no medical evidence had been called as to an actual assault having been committed. The stories of the girl and the accused were diametrically opposed.

The jury found accused not guilty—a verdict in which the Recorder concurred.

Women Learn Police Work.

A number of women recruits for the Metropolitan Police Force have attended the Marylebone Police-court for the first time for the purpose of learning the procedure of the courts and the methods of giving evidence.

Marylebone's Women Councillors.

Women secured a notable triumph in a series of contests for seats on the Marylebone Council. A woman was elected at the top of the poll in each ward, as follows:—Mrs. Sanger (wife of the London County Councillor), Mrs. M. B. Pardoe, Miss Ashford, Mrs. Liddell Simpson. The only men returned were Mr. T. Emery and Mr. J. H. Herbert.

French Women and the Vote.

Women's societies in France are up in arms against the Committee of the Senate which, by 8 votes to 5, decided against giving the vote to women. They are not satisfied with the compliments which Senator Berard in his report passed upon them, and they dissent from the view that women do not want the vote.

The League of Women's Rights met recently under the presidency of Maître Maria Vérone, a woman barrister, and passed a resolution protesting against the Senate Committee's decision without first having heard delegates from the women's societies. Maître Maria Vérone argues that at a moment when the country needs every help women should be permitted to work with men to realise the great social reforms on which the future of France depends—to fight alcohol, protect mothers, save thousands of children from death, and to assist old people. Other women's societies have decided to join with the League of Women's Rights and send a letter of protest to the President of the Senatorial Committee demanding that women be heard on the subject of the vote.

The League of Nations.

The Covenant of the League of Nations provides for three distinct bodies: (1) The Executive Council, (2) the Delegation, (3) the Permanent Secretariat. By recent amendments women have been declared eligible for all these bodies.

Grateful Thanks.

My grateful thanks to Mrs. Clark and all who have helped her in bringing out THE VOTE during my eight weeks' absence owing to illness.
A. A. SMITH.

EASTER HOLIDAYS.

The offices of the Women's Freedom League and "THE VOTE," also the Minerva Cafe and Madame Minerva, will be closed from Thursday, April 17, 5.30 p.m., until Tuesday, April 22, 9.30 a.m.

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