

THE VOTE,
JULY 28, 1922.
ONE PENNY.

A WORLD AGAINST WAR.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, JULY 28, 1922

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

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THE CRY OF THE WORLD

"NO MORE WAR!"

SATURDAY, JULY 29th.

Join our Contingent and walk under the Women's Freedom League banners, form up at York Gate, Regent's Park, at 2.45 p.m. and march in the Procession down Baker Street and Edgware Road to the great meeting in Hyde Park at 4.30 p.m.

There will be 5 Processions and 12 Platforms.

At Platform 1 Mrs. M. W. Nevinson, J.P. will speak on behalf of the League; she will also speak for us at the Cambridge Meeting on Parkers Piece next Sunday.

Simultaneous demonstrations will be seen in over 100 towns in England, Scotland and Wales, in most countries of Europe, and in India and America; in all lands, millions of men and women will come together determined upon No-More-War, and their one common Resolution will encircle the Globe:—

"This mass meeting sends fraternal greetings to the similar gatherings now being held throughout Europe and America, joins with them in declaring its hatred of war, and pledges itself to co-operate with them in working for conditions which will guarantee that there shall be No More War, (a) by perfecting international organisation for the removal of the causes of war, the settlement of disputes, and the promotion of international co-operation, and (b) by developing an international sense of solidarity which will make war impossible."

OCCUPATION CENTRES FOR DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

By ANNE A. ANDERSON (*Case Secretary, Central Association for Mental Welfare*).

(Extracts from a Paper read at this week's Conference on Mental Deficiency, at Caxton Hall, Westminster.)

Seven years ago I was teaching in a Special School in the North of England, and one of the days the teachers dreaded most was the day when the School Medical Officer "excluded" certain children from school. These children had been in the school, some of them for three and some for a six months' trial, and at the end of that time it had been decided that they were incapable of deriving any benefit from education in a Special School. The teachers often begged for a further trial, and much time and energy was expended on the children to try and bring them up to the standard.

When the parents were told that the children could no longer attend the school, the cry invariably was, "What am I to do with him at home?" If the home was a good one, and the mother was able to look after the material wants of the defective, the problem of occupation was there. If it was a poorer class home, from which the mother had perhaps to go to work, or there were other and younger children to be cared for, the prospect was even worse, as there was nothing for the child to do but run the streets. Left to his own resources in this way, the inevitable result was obvious deterioration in mental and very often moral condition. Institutional accommodation was even more difficult to obtain than it has been within the last few years, and many instances could be recorded where quite young boys fell into the hands of the police because they had nothing to do but hang about the streets.

There were, and are still now, a great number of children between the ages of seven and sixteen who have either been tried at a Special School and been "excluded," or in areas where there are no Special Schools, who have been turned out of the Elementary Schools because they could not be taught there. One might naturally say, why not send them to Institutions? But those who have had anything to do with the work of caring for the mentally defective know how difficult it is to secure suitable accommodation for low-grade children. Again, in many instances the homes from which they come are good ones, the care quite adequate, and the parents have been unwilling to send them away altogether. Whatever their status or condition, however, occupation and training are a necessity for all, and the question of providing this occupation and training has been a serious anxiety to those interested in the welfare of the mentally defective.

During the last two years, experiments in the shape of "Occupation Centres" have been tried. Some twelve or fourteen Centres have been started in different areas and on various scales, and this voluntary effort has proved so far to be enormously successful.

It must be very clearly emphasised at the outset that such Occupation Centres can never be in any way either an adjunct to, or instead of, the Special School. The type of child for which they are intended is the child who will never be able to take its part in a wage-earning community. A good many of these children will eventually have to go into Institutions, or if home conditions are good and institutional treatment is not wanted by the parents, the most that can be expected from them is that they can be made useful at home.

The training given should be such as would make the child more acceptable in an Institution, or less of a burden at home, as the case may be. This sort of individual training would be quite impossible in the Special School, and a waste of time for a highly certificated teacher to undertake.

It is quite a well-known fact that very low-grade defectives can be taught to do housework very well, and that they are happy in doing it. They cannot compete

with wage-earners outside their own homes, but at home and in institutions they can be made very useful.

It is well nigh impossible to give a defective child the right sort of training and occupation in the normal and, to the defective, complex surroundings of an ordinary home. Another point to take into consideration is that there is difficulty in getting children with solitary and anti-social tendencies to join in the games or play of normal children. At an Occupation Centre, with other children of more or less the same mentality, they take their part in the games, and play without fear of ridicule or defeat, and, by-and-by, realising that they are individuals and are treated with respect, their small efforts are praised, and their failures never blamed, habits of such self-control are established as to give them a surprising amount of confidence in normal surroundings. Lastly, the Occupation Centre is an enormous help to the often overworked and nerve-racked mother. She knows that the child is happy, that there is no fear of the teasing and tormenting that takes place if he were playing in the streets, and one would only have to be in charge of the Centre for a time to realise how enormously the parents value the help given.

The key-note of the Centre is happiness, and it must be borne in mind that neither "Education" nor "Production" is the chief object. From the moment the children arrive, until the time for dismissal, there is not an idle moment. The children are free, treated like normal beings and with all the respect that one would pay to a perfectly intelligent child, and they are allowed a perfectly free hand in choosing their own occupations and games.

A marked feature of the lessons learned unconsciously is a desire the children have to help each other, getting chairs for the girls, hanging up coats and hats for the more helpless ones, and there is always a little altercation at the end of the afternoon as to who shall carry teacher's case or umbrella downstairs.

Plans for a model Occupation Centre, and one which would serve as a training ground for anyone anxious to start in other areas, are in hand. It is proposed to hire a large room in a more thickly populated place. A Mission or Club Room would be most suitable, if possible with the use of a piano and a yard. Such premises, to accommodate a maximum of twenty children, are seldom used in the morning or afternoon, and could, I think, be hired for about a pound a week, including heating, lighting, and cleaning. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that a love of the child is the first essential towards success in training.

In conclusion, I wish I could convey some of the enthusiasm that one feels about the value of the work after one has tried and tested it. It is not easy work, and anyone who takes it up must learn self-abnegation; the mind must be at leisure from itself, "to soothe and sympathise." The teacher must never forget that the children are dependent upon her for everything, and that, according as she is grave or gay, so the moods of the children vary. Defective children have (though many would deny it) a great deal of character, and, without being able to express themselves, they are very conscious as to the right and wrong atmosphere. Once let them realise that the first object is to make them happy, and that they may express themselves according to their own way without fear of criticism or ridicule, that they can always count on the love and sympathy of their teachers, their unfolding can only be compared to that of a flower—very slow but very sure. The earnest and devoted worker has a tremendous recompense in watching this unfolding, and in the love and affection which these unfortunate little ones are so eager to give her.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Women's Franchise.

MR. C. WHITE asked the Prime Minister whether the Government intended during the present Session, or during the lifetime of the present Parliament, to pass a Bill granting the franchise to women on equal terms with men? The PRIME MINISTER'S reply was: "No, Sir. As I have stated in reply to similar questions, I do not think it would be wise to reopen, after so short an interval, franchise questions which were settled by general agreement in the last Parliament." MR. WHITE then asked if the right hon. Gentleman intended to carry out the pledge made prior to the Election of 1918, or was this to be another of the broken pledges of the Government? *No reply was given.*

School Playgrounds (Infants).

MAJOR KELLEY asked the President of the Board of Education whether, when the education of children between five and six years of age was no longer compulsory, he would advise the local Education authorities in congested areas to allow those children reasonable access to school playgrounds? MR. HERBERT LEWIS replied that the use of school playgrounds during school hours by children not attending school was open to obvious objections. Their use out of school hours would not be desirable without supervision, and, so far as extra expenditure by the local Education authorities was involved on that account, his right hon. Friend did not think he would be justified in asking them to incur it.

Domestic Service.

SIR WILLIAM DAVISON asked the Minister of Labour how many officials, and at what cost to the State, were employed by the Ministry of Labour in connection with the placing of women in private domestic service, and for the inspection of private houses where girls under 18 had been placed? DR. MACNAMARA replied that the placing of women in private domestic service was part of the work of women's departments of the Exchanges. No special staff was employed for that purpose. No officials were now, or ever had been, employed by the Ministry for the inspection of private houses. His hon. Friend might be interested to know that during the last 18 months the Employment Exchange officials had filled 284,000 vacancies for women, 190,000 of them being in domestic service, day and residential. SIR W. DAVISON further inquired if it was not the case that there were inspectors who visited girls under 18 who were in domestic service in private houses? DR. MACNAMARA replied: "Not from the Ministry of Labour. They have no right to do so. Besides, there are no such officials." SIR M. DOCKRELL inquired how the right hon. Gentleman proved that he had found places for those women? DR. MACNAMARA said that a woman registered at the exchange that she wanted work; if there was a vacancy also registered, her attention was called to it. If she took the place, it was filled—that was all. SIR M. DOCKRELL asked: "Thus you have proof that you have filled a vacancy?" "Certainly!" replied DR. MACNAMARA.

Juveniles.

MR. GILBERT asked the Minister of Labour whether, in view of the closing of the continuation schools in London, he had made any arrangements for the officers of the Employment Exchanges who now attended those schools in order to provide employment for girls and boys leaving school, to continue their work for juvenile employment elsewhere; and could he make any statement on the subject? DR. MACNAMARA replied that those officers had been withdrawn from the schools at which the day continuation classes were held, and were now employed at the exchanges, except in certain cases in which their employment had been terminated. The boys and girls concerned were invited to register at the exchanges, and many of them had done so.

Nursing Sisters.

MR. KENNEDY asked the Minister of Pensions whether he was aware of the dissatisfaction amongst nursing

sisters, who had been invalided owing to their war service, with the treatment they were receiving from his Department; that some who were afflicted with incurable diseases had been refused treatment unless they submitted to two-monthly examinations by Ministry of Pension medical officers, in spite of the fact that they had sent in medical certificates from eminent specialists to say that, in their opinion, those examinations were unnecessary and harmful; that many of those nursing sisters refused treatment rather than submit to the examinations; and that, owing to the fact that during the war their salary was in many cases only £40 and £50 per annum, they could not afford to pay for treatment themselves; and whether he would have this matter investigated? MAJOR TRYON replied that the information in the possession of the Minister of Pensions did not at all support the suggestions made. Examinations in connection with medical treatment were not made oftener than, in the opinion of the medical advisers to the Ministry, the circumstances required. It was obviously the duty of his right hon. Friend, in the direct interests of the patient, no less than of the State, to secure effective supervision over treatment provided by his Department, and, for that purpose, he did not consider that an examination once in two months was unreasonable or excessive. F. A. U.

WOMEN ACCOUNTANTS.

The two women who entered for the Final Examination of the Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors have both passed. They are Miss Ayres and Miss M. M. Homersham, an Oxford graduate.

Accountancy, like the law, has for years been a closed profession to women. After a 30 years' fight, women secured their victory in 1919, and were admitted to the Incorporated Society on the same terms as men. It was Miss Harris Smith who was the pioneer of the work. In 1891 she qualified (sex excepted) for membership of the Incorporated Society and the Institute of Chartered Accountants. In 1881 her application for membership of the Incorporated Society had been received with laughter, but she went on with her work, which included almost every kind of accountancy. She was elected an honorary member of the Incorporated Society in 1919, and in 1920 she became a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. Other women are now qualifying.

Women must first matriculate, or pass some equivalent examination. Capital is necessary, for it may cost anything from 50 to 500 guineas for articles, and five years must be served. After 2½ years of office experience the student may take the intermediate, and after five years the final examination.

THE CLYDE CAMPAIGN

ROTHESAY.

Our Clyde Campaign started on July 24 Miss Alix Clark (Hon: Organiser), and Dr. Lillias Hamilton (Speaker), both busy people with their own work, will be giving up their summer holidays and working very hard to spread the ideas of the Women's Freedom League among the thousands of men and women who disport themselves at Rothesay during the summer. The expense is very large, so please remember to send me your contribution to help while you are enjoying your own rest and recreation.

E. KNIGHT,

144, High Holborn,
London, W.C. 1.

Hon. Treas.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, JULY 28th, 1922.

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

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

EDITORIAL.

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

WOMEN AND WORLD PEACE.

On the eve of the eighth anniversary of the outbreak of the most devastating war in the history of mankind, women's organisations in every country are uniting with men in a demonstration against all future wars. Every nation, and the majority of homes among the belligerents, are immeasurably the poorer for the losses sustained in that world catastrophe, and women, who are the home-makers, the guardians of the race, and by instinct and practice the true economists of every country, are determined to do all in their power to prevent a repetition of the ghastly horrors, the cruel sufferings, and the wanton waste of life and resources of the years 1914 to 1918. Women are not content to say, however fervently, that there shall be no more war; they demand that they shall have equal power with men to prevent it. Women want equal electoral rights with men—the Parliamentary vote for young women between the ages of twenty-one and thirty—so that they can exercise their votes on behalf of the men and women who will work for the Peace of the World in and through Parliament. Women want to see an increasing number of members of their own sex in both Houses of Parliament, believing, as they do, that women of all parties and all classes will work steadily for the Peace of the World. As more women secure Parliamentary honours, they will expect places to be reserved for them in the Government and in the Cabinet itself; and when women are in the Cabinets of all countries, a permanent Peace will find a surer foundation. They will also secure entry into the Diplomatic Service, and will insist upon more and more opportunities in the League of Nations itself, the greatest of all safeguards against future wars. So far, the British Government has persistently refused to include women among its representatives in the Assembly, or on any of the Commissions of the League of Nations; indeed, our Government is among the most reactionary in this respect. British women must insist that this Government shall alter its attitude towards women. The world has suffered too long under the masculine theory that Might is Right, and that Peace can only be preserved by gigantic preparations for War. Countries have been in danger of being crushed by the ever-increasing burden of armaments. The resulting waste has been colossal. Women realise that it is only by the cordial co-operation of the men and women of all nations that the present poverty and helplessness of so many millions of men, women, and children can be relieved. Women have a firm belief in the future Peace of the World, and in their own power to work for it. They must, however, be allowed to work unfettered, as the equals and comrades of men in the great structure of the World's future Peace, and not merely as the hewers of wood and the drawers of water under the instruction of men. A real partnership of men and women in all countries, and a genuine co-operation of the peoples of all nations to prevent future wars cannot fail to secure the permanence of an International Peace.

MORE SEX DIFFERENTIATION.

In spite of Resolutions in the House of Commons, and promises and pretences on the part of the Government, it has been quite evident during the life of this Parliament that the authorities have not the slightest intention of conceding to women equal opportunities and equal remuneration with men in the Civil Service without a prolonged struggle on the part of women. Apparently, no effort is spared to grade the work of men and women Civil Servants differently, the object being always to give the women a lower status, and, of course, less payment. A flagrant case was brought to the notice of Members last week by Lt.-Col. Hurst, who asked the Minister of Health whether he had recently advertised for a woman Poor Law Inspector to perform responsible duties over a large area at a salary of £200 per annum, rising by annual increments of £10 to £350; whether the salaries of male Poor Law Inspectors were about £1,000; and on what grounds he had decided that a woman with the qualifications specified in the advertisement, and the same responsible duties, should be paid so much less than a man, in view of the pledges given by the Government in the women's Civil Service Debate of last year? Sir Alfred Mond's reply was characteristic. He admitted the accuracy of the first part of the question, and stated that the salaries of the male inspectors were £600, rising to £900, and in three cases only to £1,000; but he asserted that the responsibilities and duties of the women inspectors and the male general inspectors were in no way comparable. We ourselves should not mind hazarding that the duties of the women inspectors were more onerous than those of the male inspectors! Our claim is, however, that all these inspectorships should be thrown open equally to men and women competitors, and that the posts should be given to the best candidates, irrespective of the sex of the candidate, and that the posts should carry the same salary, whether won by men or women. What women demand is equality of opportunities with men, not differentiation in their work and remuneration.

EQUAL RIGHTS FOR BOTH PARENTS.

The Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament recently appointed to consider the "Guardianship of Infants' Bill," met last week at the House of Lords, under the chairmanship of the Earl of Wemyss, and heard evidence both for and against its provisions. The object of this Bill is to make the mother joint guardian with the father in regard to the child in every case, and for the first time the mother is made liable with the father for the maintenance and education of the child according to their means, the liability to operate whether the parents are living together or separately. Sir Chartres Biron, magistrate at Bow Street, gave evidence against the Bill on the ground that it was revolutionary, and would upset the whole status of domestic life. In his opinion the husband was the right person to be at the head of the household because of his greater experience of the world, to say nothing of the fact that in nine cases out of ten he provided the money to keep the home going. Mrs. Hubback and Miss Chrystal Macmillan, on the other hand, maintained that the effect of the present laws was to produce indignation among married women, whose main occupation was the bringing up of the children although they had no legal right to determine the manner of their upbringing. They protested against the derogatory position of the married woman as compared with the unmarried woman in this respect. We also protest, and urge our readers to do all in their power to persuade their Member of Parliament to press for the passing of the Guardianship of Infants' Bill into law at the earliest possible date.

NO MORE WAR.

By MARGARET WYNNE NEVINSON, J.P., L.L.A.

This coming week, on Saturday and Sunday, July 29th and 30th, the peoples of Europe and America will simultaneously express their determination that there shall be no more war.

We are a war-worn and war-wearied generation, exhausted by a struggle unparalleled in the history of the world. We have seen the slaughter of ten millions of young men in the pride of youth and strength, and of perhaps another couple of millions of civilians, women and children, these violent deaths followed by millions slain by the war-pestilence euphuistically called influenza. We have been familiar with death and madness, with wounds and mutilations, with blindness and paralysis, with pestilence and famine. We have seen the best brains of the greatest scientists of our day concentrated on the business of destruction and slaughter, on the making of diabolic instruments of torture and death, torpedoes, poison gases, liquid fire and aerial bombs planned to scatter abroad germs of cholera and typhus. Go to the Crystal Palace, where the young painters of Britain have put on canvas the sufferings of their brothers in the dirty mess of modern warfare; study the scientific developments for the destruction and mutilation of the children of men (or rather of women) on one side, and the surgical improvements for amputation and healing on the other; and few will come away without feeling they have been at an exhibition only fit for lunatics. The very devils in Hell would blush for the stupidity that lets such things be.

So, because we are not at present all lunatics (we will put devils at least on a higher intellectual plane!), let us all go to Hyde Park next Saturday afternoon to affirm our determination that these things shall not be again,

that the promised time has come when war shall be no more, that the nations of the world shall seek arbitration in their quarrels.

The aftermath of the war is still with us. Peace did not come even on that glad Armistice Day—at one time there was said to be fighting on about twenty fronts; civil war still rages in Ireland; the sound of guns has roared ceaselessly now for eight years. We have got into bad habits. Then we have the dislocation of trade and industry, the sickening unemployment, the hunger and want, the strikes and class hatred. Crime has increased, murders and suicides are of daily occurrence; our record of divorce will soon beat America; bigamy and dishonesty are common; there is a loosening of all standards of honour and decent behaviour, of law and order.

As H. G. Wells wrote from Washington: "I do not think of war as a tragic necessity, but as a blood-stained mess. When I think of my Europe now, I do not feel like a weakling whose world has been invaded by stupendous and cruel Powers; I feel like a man whose promising garden has been invaded by hogs."

We are tidying up our hog-messed gardens with hope and good courage, and in sure confidence that peace must come, that never again shall mankind suffer as we of this generation have suffered.

When we remember our young men who eight years ago went forth so gaily to agony and death, firm in their faith of their righteous cause, fighting that wars might cease, let us resolve that they shall not have died in vain, and we who are left will not betray them in their hope and in their sacrifice.

"NO MORE WAR" IN OTHER LANDS.

DEMONSTRATIONS IN FIFTEEN COUNTRIES.

No More War Demonstrations were first held in 1920 in Germany, when Berlin and other large cities organised great mass meetings on the anniversary of the outbreak of war. Last year the Movement spread to France and Holland, and this year fifteen countries and the United States are joining in the greatest manifestations of peace sentiment the world has ever seen. Meetings will be held in thousands of cities, towns, and villages, speeches made, and resolutions passed. Sermons will be preached to thousands of congregations, whilst telegraph and telephone wires, and the post, will carry millions of messages, from the people of the fifteen countries participating in the demonstrations, to the heads of their respective Governments, demanding the abolition of war.

In Great Britain, demonstrations will be held in over 100 towns—Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Gateshead, Swansea, Cardiff, Bradford, Leicester, Nottingham, Lincoln, Hull, Dundee, Colchester, Gravesend, Letchworth, Reading, Guildford, Southampton, Middlesbrough, South Shields, Cambridge, Barnet, Bournemouth, Brighton, Hastings, Margate, Folkestone, Broadstairs, Southend, etc.

In France the demonstrations are being organised by the League of Men's Rights, which has 100,000 members, and the League of Women Against War. Among those who are taking a leading part are Deputy Ferdinand Buisson, ex-Minister of Education, M. Pierre Renaudel (ex-Socialist deputy), and M. Victor Basch and M. Bougle, of the Paris University.

In Germany fifteen national organisations, including the League of Nations Union, the League of Youth, and the Trades Unions, have formed a representative committee for the purpose of organising the demonstrations. Demonstrations will be held in Berlin, Ham-

burg, Cologne, Stuttgart, Nurnberg, Mainz, Karlsruhe, Duisburg. The gatherings are to be made an occasion for protesting not only against international war, but against any attempt of the German militarists to re-establish the monarchy.

In Austria the League of Nations Union, the International Catholic Peace and Reconciliation Movement, the Union of Peace Societies, and the Women's International League are collaborating. The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Vienna has ordered that sermons on the subject of No More War shall be preached in all the churches on Sunday, July 30th. There is to be a demonstration in the largest theatre in Vienna in the afternoon, special Peace plays are to be performed in the evening, and lectures are to be given by prominent literary men. Demonstrations are being arranged in the principal provincial centres.

In America the National Council for Reduction of Armaments, to which all the churches and influential bodies of all kinds are affiliated, is taking the lead. The arrangements include a "bombardment for peace," the missiles being letters, and their destination President Harding. In many towns the letters will be posted "collectively" in the public square. Processions and demonstrations, at which massed singing is to be a feature, are being arranged throughout the States, and 100,000 posters containing the words "No More War" are to be displayed.

Demonstrations are being organised on a similarly wide scale in Sweden, Denmark, Holland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Switzerland, Japan, Spain, and Portugal. The Indian Y.M.C.A. is arranging meetings in some of the largest centres of India. The proposal to hold a demonstration in Phoenix Park, Dublin, has had to be given up, but it is still hoped to hold a gathering in Belfast.

WOMEN'S PRISONS.

"One of the medical officers at Holloway Prison is now a woman. We see no reason why this prison should not be exclusively staffed by women, from the Governor downwards," say the authors of "English Prisons of To-day." We entirely agree with this statement, and with that of Sir Evelyn Ruggles-Brise, ex-Chairman of the Prison Commissioners, when referring to Borstal Institutions:—"It is the personal influence of the Superintending Staff, from the Governor downwards, which is the thing that matters." Not only do we think that Holloway Prison should have a Woman Governor and an entire staff of women, but that Walton Prison, Liverpool, where all women convicts are now confined, as well as the women's sections of all prisons, should be under the control of Women Governors and a staff of women. It is scandalous that at present the male governor, male deputy-governor, male doctors, male chaplains, male visiting magistrates, male inspectors, have all apparently the right to plunge into a woman prisoner's cell-bedroom without the slightest warning, or even knocking, or even asking permission. The wardress certainly unlocks the cell for these men, but she does it with lightning speed, and the prisoner cannot hear her approach. We can imagine that if suitable women had the supreme authority in women's prisons, most of the present structural abominations in these prisons would be scrapped, and, ultimately, the whole system under which women prisoners are punished to-day. Recently a Hospital Lady Superintendent has been appointed at Holloway Prison, but she is not a trained nurse; and in consideration of the fact that it is not the normal healthy woman who finds her way to prison, but most frequently women diseased in body and mind, we do not think that a Woman Governor who realised her responsibilities would be content with this lady superintendent's lack of qualifications for the Hospital, nor would a Woman Governor think that a month's training at the training school in simple hospital duties was sufficient for all female officers in prison. We are convinced that a Woman Governor and a woman medical staff would not approve of the present sanitary arrangements for women prisoners, of their meagre diet, and of the interval of over 14 hours (from 4.30 p.m. to 6.45 a.m.) between the last meal at night and the first in the morning, nor of the régime which men have imposed on women prisoners. To women who read "English Prisons of To-day," it is altogether inexplicable that men should for so long have been content to spend so many millions of pounds on the education and training of children to become decent citizens with a full measure of self-respect, and then, when this education and training have proved ineffective, and the ex-pupils themselves are in prison, to spend more millions of money on degrading and humiliating them, and on crushing the last vestige of respect out of them. Women consider this is criminal waste of the nation's resources, and as both women and men have to pay for education in this country, and also for the upkeep of its prisons, women have a right to demand that at least the control of all women's prisons should be entirely in the hands of women—from the Governor downwards.

DEPUTATION TO MISS E. PICTON-TURBERVILL, O.B.E.

Arranged by the London Society for Women's Service, a combined deputation from some 20 non-party Women's Societies was received by our member, Miss Picton-Turbervill; the prospective Labour Party Candidate for North Islington, on July 13, at North Library Hall, Holloway.

Dr. Patch, Miss H. Grant, and Mrs. Alice Burton, all residents in the neighbourhood, represented the Women's Freedom League. The deputation asked innumerable questions, and were well satisfied with their Candidate.

BOOK REVIEW.

Daughters of Hecuba. By CLARA VIEBIG. Translated by Anna Barwell. (Allen and Unwin.) 7/6. (Can be obtained at this office.)

This book revives recollections of a still more famous Peace novel, the late Baroness Von Suttner's "Lay Down Your Arms," a thinly veiled autobiography which provoked universal interest in the Pacifist Movement some half a century ago, not only in Austria, the land of its birth, but in all civilized countries. The institution of the Hague Conferences and the founding of the Nobel prize were each directly due to the influence of this novel.

Daughters of Hecuba, admirably Englished by Miss Anna Barwell, the well-known translator of Miss Selma Lagerlöf's Swedish novels, might easily have been written by an Englishwoman as descriptive of the state of her own country during the war, but for a few trifling changes of place and people. Food queues, food riots, war weddings, evanescent excitement, victories, anguish, and long drawn suspense—each and all are graphically depicted by this German author, herself in the van of leadership of the new Germany of to-day. Here, too, are the same types of characters with whom we were all so familiar during the war period. Frau Bertholdi has a million counterparts in many proud mothers of sons, lent, but not willingly, to the service of their country. Fraulein Hieselhahn and Emily, the maid in the Bertholdi household, are by no means exceptions in the serried ranks of "unmarried mothers." Frau Dombrovski, is not the only example of unfaithful wives, phenomena bred of war fever, long weeks of monotony, and lack of backbone, and which have had their counterpart in husbands as well. There is tragedy in the swift disillusionment of Stanislaus Dombrovski, when he returns home unexpectedly and becomes a horrified witness of his wife's infidelity, realising later his sudden old age and infinite weariness, as he creeps back to the trenches. And a silent pathos in the old widow Kruger who digs, and plants, and hoes potatoes day in and day out, not so much because the Fatherland stands in need of her exertions, but because hard manual labour is the only palliative for the pain at her heart, the pain of having parted in anger from an only son who will never return to her.

Characterisation is the chief feature of this book, and the means by which the author brings home to her readers the misery and utter futility of war. We miss, however, those intellectual arguments which give point and material to so much in Baroness Von Suttner's book. Readers of "Lay Down Your Arms," will perhaps recollect the militarist obsession of General Althaus, the father of the heroine, and a thin disguise of the Baroness' own father, whom "purely intellectual matters had long ceased to interest;" the famous conversation in the bookshop, when the heroine realizes for the first time the direful effect of war upon the intellectual and industrial life of a nation; and her subsequent perusal of Buckle's *History of Civilization in England*, which reveals an absolutely new conception of history as compared with the "Concatenation" of military events which were presented to her in childhood. *Daughters of Hecuba*, though also a novel with a purpose, is apparently directed more exclusively to women, the chief sufferers in all wars. The author, a well-known German Feminist, realises, as only Feminists can, that the welfare of nations in the future rests primarily with women. D.M.N.

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General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Saturday, July 29, at 2.45 p.m.—Women's Freedom League Contingent in No More War Demonstration forms up at York Gate, Regent's Park, to march down Baker Street and Edgware Road to the Mass Meeting in Hyde Park at 4.30 p.m. Mrs. M. W. Nevinson, J.P., will speak at Platform 1.

Sunday, July 30, at 3 p.m.—Speaker: Mrs. M. W. Nevinson, J.P., at Parker's Piece, Cambridge.

DARE TO BE FREE.

Monday, September 4, at 3 p.m.—"Fair" Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday, September 8th, at 6.30 p.m.—Mid-London Branch Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday, September 22nd, at 3.30 p.m.—Mid-London Branch "Pound Tea" at 25, Wimpole Street, W. (by kind permission of Dr. Lewin). Full particulars later.

Saturday, September 23rd, at 10 a.m.—National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday and Saturday, November 10th and 11th.—"Green, White and Gold Fair," Central Hall, Westminster.

BRANCH NOTES.

HASTINGS.

Our warmest thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Prelooker for one of the most delightful meetings ever held by the Women's Freedom League at Hastings. In spite of the fact that we had to take a long tram journey to Pine Avenue, a good many people were present at 3.30 to hear Dr. Octavia Lewin speak on "The Need for Training Children in Nasal Hygiene." Miss F. M. Commin, Headmistress of the Secondary School, Hastings, presided. Dr. Lewin quickly secured the interest of her hearers by explaining how diseases come about in children through neglect of proper attention to the nose. She said that a child should use its handkerchief to completely clear the nasal passages on waking in the morning, before sleeping at night, and before taking a meal, and parents should be particular to have the handkerchief buttoned to the pocket so that it could not be lost, or absorb any dirt from lying about. Dr. Lewin answered a number of interesting questions at the close of her speech, and showed a child who had nasal trouble how to bend the head when using the handkerchief. A delightful tea provided by Mrs. Prelooker, Mrs. Barlow, Mrs. Harman, and Madame Osterveen followed the lecture.

Miss Isabel Blackman, dressed as a gypsy, considerably added to the interest of the meeting by "telling fortunes," and was well patronised. She also provided a fruit and vegetable stall, which was another feature, and brought in a nice little sum for the League.

A delightful item in the programme was an entertainment by children. Little Margery Dunhill, aged 7, gave a display of dancing that was wonderful. Her party of children all did well. Special thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Dunhill, who arranged the entertainment. Mrs. Strickland presided at the Evening Meeting, when Miss Elsie Morton, M.B.E., gave a very interesting Address on "Women in Parliament." The speaker said that Bills like the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill would have been passed long ago if there were more women in Parliament, and it was up to women to see that at the next election women were returned to Parliament in large numbers.

HULL.

The garden party held, under the auspices of the Hull Branch of the Women's Freedom League, in the grounds of the Holderness House (by kind permission of the Rt. Hon. T. R. Ferens, J.P.), was marred by unpleasant weather, which affected both the arrangements and the attendance. A less courageous organisation might have abandoned the event in face of the continuous rain, but our undaunted band of workers, with an interesting programme, carried everything through. Mrs. Raney presided, in the absence of Mrs. E. C. Stowman, owing to professional duties. Proceedings opened with a violin solo, and the Crosby girls gave a very charming programme. Mr. Jackson and Miss Harrington did well at the Fruit Stall, Miss Walmsley and Mrs. Searly at the Bran Tub, and Mr. Stowman and Mr. Searly at the Ice-Cream Stall. Mrs. Lamb, Mrs. Fox, and Mrs. Green were in charge of the refreshments. Councillor H. Walmsley caused much amusement with games, and Madam Brown made an excellent palmer.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Ferens for his hospitality, moved by Mrs. Raney, and seconded by Mr. Overton, and supported by Councillor Walmsley, and the singing of the National Anthem, closed an evening, which was very much enjoyed.

OUR TREASURY.

NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged, December, 1921, £37,191 12s. 10d.	October, 1907, to £ s. d.	1907, to £ s. d.
Amount previously acknowledged.....		217 3 9
Special Emergency War Fund:—		
"A Friend".....		3 15 0
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Mrs. M. Kemp.....	1 0	
Mme. Kubler.....	1 0	
Miss E. M. Ruffe.....	1 0	
Sundries.....	3 10 6	
Sundries, per Literature Dept.....	1 17 6	
Sundries, per Minerva Café.....	26 8 11	
Office Sales.....	1 14 11	
Branches, Delegates' Expenses:—		
Kensington.....	10 0	
Mid-London.....	9 11	
		266 5 11

Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League, and crossed "Barclay's Bank, Ltd."

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Milk Supply.

The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Bill secured a second reading in the House of Commons last week. The object of this measure is to get milk which is free from tuberculosis bacteria, and to prevent the introduction of colouring matter, water, and other things into milk.

Distribution of Honours.

The Government have agreed to the appointment of a Royal Commission to consider and advise on the procedure to be adopted in future to assist the Prime Minister in making recommendations of the names of persons deserving of special honour. Throughout the debates in both Houses of Parliament, no mention was made of assumed that Honours for public service were the monopoly of men, women's claim to appear in the Honours List.

Criminal Law Amendment Bill.

The Standing Committee have completed consideration of the measure. At the final meeting of the Committee an agreement was reached on the "reason to believe" clause, by which the Government undertook to support an amendment on the Report stage to the effect:—"Provided that in the case of a man of 23 years of age or under, the presence of reasonable cause to believe that the girl was over the age of 16 years shall be a valid defence on the first occasion on which he is charged with an offence under this section." Mr. Macquisten's new clause concerning penalties for girls of 16 or under who did not wear their hair loose or plaited down their back was ruled out of order and frivolous by the chairman Mr. J. W. Wilson.

CROSBY and WATERLOO.

In spite of the inclemency of the weather quite a successful little Sale of Cake, Candy, and other delectables was held on July 1st, at "Belmont," De Villiers Avenue, Crosby, through the kindness of Miss Reader. Our members were disappointed not to have the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Stewart-Brown (Prospective Liberal Candidate for this Division), who had hoped to be present, but had been urgently asked to speak at a meeting at Liverpool. Miss Brimson (Organiser) was present, and, in a little speech, pointed out to those who were not members of the Women's Freedom League the why and wherefore of our Society.

(Hon. Sec.) Miss Dora Garnoll.

FRIDAY,
JULY 28,
1922.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, July 30th, 3.15. Music, Poetry, Lecture: Dr. Dearmer, 6.30. "Misrepresentations of Christ," Dr. Dearmer.

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