

THE VOTE.
SEPT. 16, 1927.

"UNPLEASANT" FOR MAGISTRATES.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.
NON-PARTY.

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1927

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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XXXIII.—WHEN I AM M.P.

MRS. TOWNSEND, Prospective Labour Candidate for the High Wycombe Division.

Although this is the first time that Mrs. Townsend has stood in the Labour interest, she has been a keen and active Socialist since her girlhood, and imbibed Socialist doctrines in the Fabian Society under such giants as Shaw and Wells. She is also a member of the Independent Labour Party.

Mrs. Townsend is a journalist by profession, and, as such, belongs to the National Union of Journalists, but also belongs to the National Union of General Workers in order to have membership of a body affiliated to the Trade Union Congress. She is particularly interested in foreign affairs, holding that a genuine pacific foreign policy on the part of this country is of vital interest to the cause of world peace, and that no radical social reforms can be carried out until our vast expenditure on armaments has been drastically curtailed. She believes that women have a definite contribution to make to the cause of world peace; that they should not be debarred from the conduct of our foreign affairs by having our Diplomatic and Consular Services closed to them on account of their sex.

Before the war, Mrs. Townsend was an active suffragist, but now gives all her time to the Labour Movement, believing that with the coming of Labour into power many of the wishes of suffragists will be accomplished. She finds her Party in no direction opposed to votes for women at 21 and on the same terms as men, in all directions sympathetic to that demand, and in some directions

actively in support. She feels that, for the younger women who enter the industrial world as early as 14, the right to a vote at 21 is an urgent and necessary concession.

On the question of the employment of married women, and of the Government and Municipal practice of dismissing women on marriage, Mrs. Townsend spoke very strongly, holding the view that such a practice was disgraceful; that a woman could spend years preparing herself to be a useful worker, of value to the community, and should not be penalised, herself by loss of remunerative employment, while the community loses her trained skill, on the wholly irrelevant reason that she has married.

On the subject of protective legislation Mrs. Townsend expressed herself in favour of industrial protection for all workers, whether men or women, but held that where the thin end of the wedge could be driven in by obtaining protective legislation for women first, it should be taken advantage of in order to prepare the way for general protection later on. Challenged on the Labour Party's 1924 Factories Bill and the similarity of certain clauses applying protection to women workers not applicable

to men workers, to clauses in the Conservative Party's 1926 Factories Bill, Mrs. Townsend said that she would certainly have supported the 1924 Bill, but would have endeavoured, where possible, to amend the differentiating Clauses so that they were operative for all workers.



MRS. TOWNSEND.

Asked what her attitude would have been if she had been a Member of the House during the passage of the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Bill, Mrs. Townsend expressed entire disapproval with such methods of protecting women. She declared that, in that case, women did not obtain protection as workers, but were turned out into unemployment, and she holds that the only way of protecting men and women together from the dangers of lead in paint is to prohibit absolutely its use in any process. Mrs. Townsend could not find that this Bill came at all into the arguments for and against differential protective legislation; protective legislation should be directed towards the protection of the worker within the trade, and not to exclusion.

Mrs. Townsend's constituency is the High Wycombe Division, containing about 52,000 voters, agricultural, but with a large industrial section of wood workers at High Wycombe and mechanical workers at Slough. She has been working in the constituency for just a year, and looks for a General Election in the late autumn of 1928, when she has high hopes for the chances of Labour being returned to power. She also believes that many more women will be able to stand and that many more will be elected, the record of the few women M.P.s already being so fine. Mrs. Townsend has the highest opinion of the present women members, including other than her own Party. She finds, also, that the opposition to women being appointed to official positions and to their being accepted in the councils of her Party is steadily weakening and disappearing.

IRISH FREE STATE GENERAL ELECTION.

Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington writes:—Three women candidates are standing in this election: Mrs. T. Clarke (North Dublin City) for the Fianna Fail Party, Mrs. Collins O'Driscoll (also for North Dublin City) for the Government Party, and Miss K. McCarry (Tirconail) as an Independent Sinn Fein. The two first mentioned were elected at previous elections. Last June there were 10 women candidates, and of these three were elected. This time the official Sinn Fein Party is running no candidates; it ran three women in the last election. Labour, Farmers, and National League are putting up no women.

DR. ANITA AUGSPURG.

GERMANY'S FIRST WOMAN LAWYER.

On September 22nd this year, the German Women's Societies are celebrating the seventieth birthday of Doctor Anita Augspurg, Editress of the newspaper, *Women in Public Life (Die Frau im Staat)*. Doctor Augspurg studied at the Universities of Berlin and Zurich, and then studied dramatic art in Berlin, acting for four years in Altenburg, Meiningen, and Amsterdam. In 1886, she joined the women's movement in Munich, studied law, and in 1897 gained her Doctorate in Jurisprudence. Since that date, she has been a leader in all movements for the emancipation of women, in contributing to the feminist publications, and in helping to found the Women's Union for Peace and Freedom. She is leader of the German branch of the Women's International League, and has lately worked most zealously in the "Pan-Europa" movement.

All readers of THE VOTE will give most hearty good wishes and congratulations to Germany's first woman lawyer, and wish her every success in her great work for peace and women's freedom.

Other issues of the series, "When I am M.P.":—Mrs. MASSINGHAM, August 19, 1927; Miss RUBY PART, June 3, 1927; Miss ELEANOR STEWART, May 13, 1927; Mrs. BEATRICE A. BAYFIELD, April 29, 1927; Mrs. PANKHURST, February 25, 1927; Miss MONICA WHATELEY, January 21, 1927; Miss ELISABETH EDWARDES, January 7, 1927; Miss MARY RICHARDSON, September 24, 1926; The Lady RATHCREEDAN, August 27, 1926; Mrs. CECILIA STREETEN, April 2, 1926; Dr. STELLA CHURCHILL, March 12, 1926; Mrs. MURIEL MATTERS PORTER, September 12, 1924; Mrs. ANNE CORNER, August 20, 1924; Mrs. LOUIE SIMPSON, J.P., August 15, 1924; Councillor ELLEN C. WILKINSON, M.A., July 4, 1924; Miss MINNIE PALLISTER, July 6, 1923; Miss C. PICTON-TURBERVILL, September 8, 1922; Mrs. HAMILTON MORE-NESBITT, August 18, 1922; Mrs. BURNETT SMITH, June 30, 1922; Lady CURRIE, April 7, 1922; Mrs. STEWART BROWN, March 31, 1922; Miss HELEN FRASER, March 24, 1922; Lady COOPER, March 17, 1922; Commandant MARY S. ALLEN, O.B.E., February 17, 1922; Miss MARY P. GRANT, January 6, 1922; Mrs. MARJORIE PEASE, J.P., October 28, 1921; Mrs. AYRTON GOULD, October 21, 1921; Dr. ETHEL BENTHAM, October 7, 1921; Mrs. WINTRINGHAM, M.P., September 23, 1921; Mrs. ELEANOR BARTON, August 26, 1921; Mrs. SCOTT GATTY, August 12, 1921; Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY, July 16, 1921.

WOMEN SCIENTISTS.

The British Association for the Advancement of Science is reputed to have been formed in order to popularise science—that is, to give the public some opportunity of knowing what science was discovering without having to buy expensive books which they could not understand, and to allow them to share some of the secrets, not published in book form, which scientists might divulge from a platform. For nearly forty years the Association has met annually in the large towns of Britain. This year lectures have been reported at considerable length, the papers giving prominence to heavier and lighter according to their estimate of the preferences of their subscribers. Some have pronounced the whole thing as flat, dull, not worth the trouble involved; others have pronounced it as thrilling, and beyond computation valuable. A feature which has supplied all papers with considerable space-filling material has been the number of women lecturing and taking part in discussions. Apart from the women lecturers, who numbered twenty, it was estimated that a full half of the attending scientists were women. Some of the papers of the women received publicity and were reported at considerable length. The Duchess of Atholl, President of the Education Section, had her Presidential Address reported almost verbatim, the subject being "The Broadening of the Outlook in Education."

One finds most of the papers read by women occurred in the more human sections—sections dealing with human beings rather than with more materially technical matters. For instance, in Section H (Anthropology), three women read papers on various aspects of this science and one took part in a demonstration. In Section I (Physiology) two women gave papers and one shared in a demonstration. In Section J (Psychology), four women read papers, one of which, by Miss McTaggart, on "Some Causes of Backwardness," received special notice, and three of these four were responsible for a discussion with the Education Section upon "The Psychology of Special Scholastic Disabilities." In Section L (Education), which is distinguished by having the Duchess of Atholl, Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education, as its president, there was also Miss Burstall, former and famous headmistress of the Manchester High School for Girls, who took part in a discussion on "Education in Tropical Africa," and also read a paper on "The Education of the African Woman," who, she said, most needed education in the "four H's"—Hygiene, Housecraft, Handworking, and Horticulture.

In addition to these sections, women were also to be found in Section C (Geology); in Section D (Zoology) in which two women read papers; Section E (Geography) had also two papers read by women; Section F (Economic Science and Statistics) had one; and, finally, Section K (Botany) had no fewer than eight, including Professor Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan, of London University. In the Special Section for Textiles, Miss Hadfield dealt, in conjunction with Dr. Barr, with "The Nature of the Action of Sunlight on Cotton."

The whole list makes a deep impression as to the reality of women's advance. In so short a time to have come from total exclusion, even from listening to the proceedings, to such a firm position on so wide a range of scientific study might cause grandfathers to turn in their graves, but, more practically, must encourage the young woman student not to hesitate to give herself to science.

MRS. SUN YAT SEN.

(We reprint the following account of an interview with Mrs. Sun Yat Sen, which appeared in the "Modern Review," Calcutta, in July.)

"Our grandmothers were 500 years behind the women of America, but our daughters will be 50 years ahead of them," declared Mrs. Sun Yat Sen, the widow of the famous Dr. Sun Yat Sen, founder of the Kuo-Min-Tang (the National Peoples' Party of China) and thereby of the revolutionary movement in progress in China to-day. Mrs. Sun Yat Sen spoke these words while giving a recent interview about the woman's movement in China in general, and especially about the Political School for Women which she has founded in Hankau, and in which women are being trained for leadership in the woman's movement. A small group of about one hundred young women have been carefully selected, and are being intensively trained in this school in the problems of China, the revolution, and the rôle the Chinese woman must play in the social and political rejuvenation of the Chinese people. In her interview, Mrs. Sun Yat Sen continued:—

"These leaders of the woman's movement whom we are training to-day have as their ideal a free Chinese womanhood, who shall be a living part of the struggle for freedom. This was also the ideal of Dr. Sun Yat Sen, who continuously repeated in his writings that not only men of our nation, but also women, must be free. He was not only a political, but also a social revolutionary, and particularly in so far as women were concerned. Wherever he went and worked, he fought for the freedom of all classes and of both sexes. Women always sat at the same conference tables with him, and his co-workers and women continue to sit at the conference tables to-day, where the fate of China is being decided. In revolutionary ranks to-day, in the ranks of the Kuo-Min-Tang, women have, without demanding them, been given the same rights as men."

Mrs. Sun Yat Sen also spoke about the great changes in China during the past 20 years. "Considered historically," she said, "it is but an hour ago that China recognised her slavery and decided to free herself. But in this one hour great changes have taken place. China is absolutely illiterate, the men as well as the women. The mothers of China to-day find their daughters strange, and the grandmothers look upon them as if they were creatures from another world. But we younger women feel that perhaps in the hearts of the older women there exists a faint envy and a timid approval of our life to-day."

Mrs. Sun Yat Sen does not speak of her countrywomen without broad experience. She also knows foreign women's movements intimately, for she travelled extensively with Dr. Sun Yat Sen when he visited foreign countries to organise his countrymen for the revolution. She knows America especially well, for she studied four years there in the State University of Macon, Georgia. She admires the responsibility, the seriousness, and courage of the American woman.

"But I doubt," she said, "if the American woman can conceive of the dimensions of the woman's movement in China to-day. During the four years that I studied in America, I came into intimate contact with many women, and came to know their political and social activities. I saw their desperate struggle for the franchise and their continuous agitation for equality before the law. Their determination and seriousness made a tremendous impression upon me, but I recognised that the chains that they were trying to free themselves from were not half as strong as the chains the Chinese women suffered from. I watched their struggle and then gazed into the many, many decades which I thought we Chinese women would have to pass through before we gained the same measure of freedom that the American woman already had. At such moments I was very sad. The complete freedom of

American women, in any case, is near at hand, but for the Chinese woman this freedom then appeared to be so far, far away, that it seemed a dream of Utopia.

"But I was wrong. Strong as the chains have been on our women, they are to-day being broken, and with gigantic blows of the revolution. Our grandmothers were five centuries behind the American women, but our daughters will be half a century in advance of them. The mighty activities of the Kuo-Min-Tang are wiping out centuries of subjection of Chinese women, and we are being spared generations and generations of useless and bitter suffering. As I said, this work of freedom is the work of the Kuo-Min-Tang. The mighty, all-inclusive foundations of freedom being laid by Chinese nationalism are tearing all social evils and all enslavement out by the roots. Everyone finds himself in the midst of this great stream—the highest and the lowest, men and women, the intellectuals and the working class. Old and young, under the leadership of the Kuo-Min-Tang, we are day by day abolishing the merciless and barbarous methods and conditions of feudalism. We once thought our goal lay in the great distance, but we know that to-day, in the twentieth century, it is not necessary to go slowly at a snail's pace. Much pain and suffering will be spared us because of this. The national Constitution drawn up by the Kuo-Min-Tang insures women the same rights as men. Under new China we women do not have to fight for the franchise, the right of guardianship and education of our own children, nor for equal and just marriage laws. Marriage and divorce are the same for men as for women in new China. Equal citizenship, the franchise, the same property and social rights for men and women is the fundamental basis of our revolutionary programme, just as much as the absolute sovereignty of China in relationship with other Powers of the world is a fundamental part of our programme. Our revolution is not merely political, but is also social—which means, in its broadest sense, ethical."

Mrs. Sun Yat Sen then discussed her plans for the new Political School for Women in Hankau. At first, she says, the school has been started on a small scale. Only 100 young women can be accommodated at first, but soon there will be opportunities for 100 more, and later still for another 100, and so on. In this way, and with the help of the new laws that have sprung from the national movement, "we will help win freedom in all walks of life for Chinese women. In China we will not have any need to struggle against worn-out, old, traditional laws made by men for the special privileges of men. The Kuo-Min-Tang's laws and decrees recognise no difference between the sexes. The task of the woman of new China is to go to her sisters and to open their eyes to a new and beautiful world."

**Caxton Hall,
Westminster.**

Wednesday,
November
23rd.

3-9
P.M.

Green, White & Gold

Thursday,
November
24th.

3-9 P.M.

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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 stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

WOMEN AT THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

The Trades Union Congress, held at Edinburgh, has come and gone and the papers have reported the proceedings at greater or less length. In little paragraphs in some, and in little over half a column in one, the *Daily Herald*, we find mention of the Women's Trade Union Congress. This Congress within a Congress was only formed two years ago, as an outcome of a feeling of lack of interest in the Trade Unions generally upon the affairs of women and a lack of power and authority among women Trade Unionists. So this sex separation followed the prevalent tendency and the Women's Trade Union Congress was formed. This year, at its second Annual Conference, 79 delegates from 30 unions, representing 337,620 women Trade Unionists, attended; according to the *Daily Herald*. Miss Margaret Bondfield addressed the delegates as President, and after explaining the origin of the Congress, urged the women themselves to strengthen their own position, to make it possible to have real co-operation between men and women Trade Unionists available for the discussion of all problems. We hope that Miss Bondfield will take the occasion to address remarks to the same end to the recalcitrant men Trade Unionists.

Miss Bondfield then went on to say that "women trade unionists are called upon to meet the attacks of outside bodies of women." She named, in particular, the "Open Door Society," which correctly is the "Open Door Council," and whom we can safely trust to reply effectively for itself. As supporters of equality, in this case more particularly equality of opportunity, that is admission to Trade Unions, accession to office, participation in council, we would assert that surely the facts answer for themselves. Whether "outside bodies" attack or do not attack, whether they rightly or wrongly claim equality, no one can dispute the fact that Trade Unions of trades in which women are employed do not admit women on equal terms, that Trade Unions refuse to admit women to their particular trade, that Trade Unions raised no protest, indeed approved, the turning-off of women from painting where lead is used, themselves ready to fill the subsequent vacancies, that unequal opportunity as well as unequal pay are rampant all through industry.

Membership of a Trade Union, membership of the Labour Party, or membership of any of its ancillary groups, such as the various women's sections, gives no monopoly of the duty to right wrongs. Miss Smith has just as much that duty as Miss Brown, whatever her daily occupation, and we regret that anyone with Miss Bondfield's own opportunities should waste so much time in abusing "outside bodies of women." One may believe wholeheartedly that Labour principles and Labour methods are absolutely right without believing that other folk are abandoned and heartless villains. Miss Bondfield is, of course, at liberty to think what she likes about women belonging to any Political Party, but we can assure her a closer knowledge of the non-Party woman's movement would relieve her mind of a great deal of quite unnecessary distress. We regret that she declines all invitations from the "outside bodies of women" to public debate on our points of disagreement.

"UNPLEASANT" FOR MAGISTRATES.

From *The Star* we learn that after a woman police-constable had given evidence in a Hyde Park case at Marlborough Street one day last week, Mr. Mead, the magistrate, said:—"It is most unpleasant for a magistrate, or for those in court, to hear from one of the other sex such unpleasant details. I don't know whether this officer was acting fully within the sphere of her duty in taking action when this disgusting matter was going on. It does seem to me an incongruous duty for a woman to have to perform, and to give all the details of what was taking place. I should have thought that such matters should be left to male constables entirely. It seems that the remedy is worse than the disease. I don't know what instructions are given to these women constables, but I suggest that they should be told to have nothing to do with cases of such a nature."

We protest strongly against Mr. Mead's remarks on this occasion. Hyde Park is not reserved to men only and, presumably, women as well as men might have witnessed this unpleasant case. It is the duty of men and women constables to bring offenders against decency into Court and to prefer a charge against them, and it is the plain duty of a magistrate to weigh the evidence and to judge the case impersonally. It is certainly not his business to consider the sex of the person who gives evidence or to analyse his own feelings on hearing the evidence. Moreover, he should remember that the magisterial Bench is no longer the monopoly of men, and that, at some future date, it is quite possible that a woman may be in his place at Marlborough Street Police Court; then, surely, she would not object to a woman constable giving evidence! To restrict the present duties of women constables and to lessen their opportunities for service would be a direct blow to the appointment of women police, whose use to the community depends on their having equal powers with men constables. Such unpleasant cases as the one recently heard at Marlborough Street show the need for more women police, and there is no doubt that their appointment tends to lessen the number of such cases. If men magistrates of a former generation cannot accommodate themselves to modern conditions and modern needs and are unable to overcome their own sex prejudice in the administration of justice, they should surely give place to more up-to-date men and women magistrates who can do so.

WOMEN AND THE UNIONIST CONFERENCE.

About two thousand delegates are expected to take part in the Annual Conference of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations which will open at Cardiff on October 5th. Two subjects of special interest to women are to be discussed—the Reform of the House of Lords, and Equal Franchise. It is to be hoped that women belonging to the Conservative and Unionist Party will make it clear that, in whatever measures are proposed for the reform of the Upper House, provision must be made for the inclusion of women in its membership. In a country which has two Houses of Parliament, which deal with all legislation, women are as necessary in the Upper as they are in the Lower House. With regard to Equal Franchise, we rely upon the women members of his party to give the Prime Minister every support in his fulfilment of his promise to place an Equal Franchise measure on the Statute Book in time to enable women to vote on the same terms as men from the age of twenty-one at the next General Election. Mr. Baldwin is the first British Prime Minister who has definitely pledged his Government to remedy the present political injustice under which women live. Equal Franchise is the logical sequel to the acceptance of the principle of "Votes for Women," and we all long to see this matter settled.

WOMEN AS DRAMATISTS.

By KATE O'BRIEN.

"Write about women as dramatists," said the Editor, and, of course, what the Editor says always goes. But while it is my intention to be as obedient as in me lies—and that's not very obedient—I must begin by saying that I do not like the title. Information about "Women as" anything always annoys me, although I realise that it is only natural and inevitable that we should be given a great deal of it still in these infant days, when we are new to most of the decent work of the world. But surely we might now begin to insist on being taken for granted as this, that, and the other—tinker, tailor, no matter what—without allowing critical outsiders to classify us any longer as women at the job. If we are, for instance, dramatists, then we are dramatists, that's all. Never mind our sex.

But, taking my Editor's title as it was given to me, and having done with protesting, let me try to say some, at least, of the many things that there are to be said under it. There are nowadays a goodish number of women writing for the English stage, but it is a matter of surprise to me that there are not more. Compared with the number of our sex who are succeeding in novel writing, we are a very small company. I am, unfortunately, a very ignorant person and know nothing of what women are doing in the drama in Germany, France, or Russia, or, indeed, anywhere in Europe, and the only American woman dramatist with whose work I have a bowing acquaintance is Susan Glaspell. She is, of course, a most interesting and powerful writer, but I am sure that in her country, a place of such prolific effort in all fields, there must be many other women dramatists well worthy of our study. In England, Clemence Dane has so far shown the most widely varied and the most steadily competent work. Then there are Elizabeth Baker and Cicely Hamilton, and among the younger people, Gwen John, Joan

Temple, Shirland Quin, and others, all very serious and ambitious workers, whose beginnings bear the genuine hall-mark. If only we were given more opportunity by London managers of seeing and appraising their work, it might be easier to guess into the future value of these dramatists; but it is clear that they have all got the root, and more than the root, of the matter in them, which, given a modicum of luck, should flower exceedingly.

Women should, of course, make fairly good playwrights. Plays arise mainly from a concentrated interest in people, from an appreciation of men in their habit as they live. A play which is built up to propagate an idea, however praiseworthy, and for the elucidation of which the characters are invented, will almost certainly, unless the writer is a genius, be a bad play. Drama rises out of human life as it is, and as it is felt, not nearly so easily or so truly out of what it ought to be. Women have always, perforce, been very close to life as it is, and to the feelings that mostly govern life. And our interest in people is often more direct and sincere than a man's interest, I think. Again, we are definitely, I think, more interested in people than in things. It is people, not things, that make plays. The conflict of the reality with the ideal is something which we have always understood. It also happens to be the most dramatic thing in the world, the root and flower of all drama. It follows therefore, I suppose, that women ought to make good dramatists. But to generalise is foolish. There is no golden rule and no golden road. For man or woman the road to masterly and valuable work is long and difficult. No one who sets out on it can have any real confidence that he or she will reach the end. We only trudge on because its beckoning lights fascinate us so much that we simply cannot turn back.

WOMEN AND NURSING.

By ADA BLAND REES, one of Florence Nightingale's own Nurses.

In the days of girlhood I became impressed with the interest and importance of the Nursing Profession as my ideal of a useful life. One's imagination was already influenced by the thrilling story of "The Lady with the Lamp," and her glorious adventure on being refused admittance to the stores which held the medical and surgical appliances required for her sick and wounded soldiers at the Crimea; there can be no doubt that Florence Nightingale's gallant action in breaking open that barred door earned for her a title to enduring fame.

At the conclusion of her magnificent services to the British Army during wartime the nation presented £50,000 to Miss Nightingale, who forthwith dedicated that sum to the endowment of "The Nightingale School for Training Nurses," at St. Thomas's Hospital, London.

This fired my zeal, and strengthened my resolve to enter upon my chosen course of education for nursing at that great centre. Women were at that time coming from every part of the country, most of them profoundly impressed by the solemnity and extreme importance of what was—comparatively speaking—the *new calling!* Miss Nightingale being the Pioneer of "a superior order of Nurses."

Our curriculum was doubtless remarkable for its exacting thoroughness in every detail, no probationer being retained who failed to fulfil every requirement; And under the influence of such a chief no kind of shirking or deficiency could be tolerated.

Every hour of the day was carefully planned out. Punctuality, meticulous accuracy and perfection were required of us. Neither Probationers nor Sisters knew what it meant unduly to hurry or slur over any detail of work or fail to complete with accuracy every process essential to our professional studies. No sort of frivolling was allowed, nor any intimacy whatsoever between us and the male students. The nurses were carefully selected

from the highly cultivated class; Miss Nightingale never departed from that rule.

There was a certain accomplished Home-Sister who ably conducted a series of lectures for us on Anatomy, Physiology, Medicine, etc. At the close of each course we were subjected to a close examination, both oral and written, in order to win the highly prized Certificate at the close of each term of training. All our duties had to be undertaken as a solemn charge on behalf of God and Humanity. And in every department there could be seen upon the walls the inspiring motto: "*Be not Weary in Well Doing.*"

It goes without saying that the last consideration to be entertained in becoming one of Miss Nightingale's nurses was the question of money-making. For although it was necessary for many of us to earn a living, the outstanding aim of all our ambitions was in keeping with our Founder's ideal, that we should unselfishly seek to enhance the lustre of the Grand Profession of Nursing, just as the Red Cross and other inheritors of a like-minded aim are earnestly doing to-day.

Perhaps one of the severest demands made upon our loyalty was the discovery that our splendid chief could not be prevailed upon to admit any justification—beyond that of ill-health or family disaster—for giving up our training, after we had once entered upon it. Some of us proved it to our cost that Miss Nightingale considered it to be nothing less than sacrilege for any of her nurses to deviate from her own example, and to venture on the Contemplation of Marriage!

This attitude on her part was liable to bring about many a sad and tearful episode among us nurses during our otherwise wonderful days of Victorian discipline. Splendid as that discipline proved to be, it involved the fullest surrender of one's entire powers and being to the *Cause*—an ideal unflinchingly maintained by our illustrious leader.

Any nurse who became engaged to be married, or otherwise occupied, was taught to feel that she was an utter failure, and a bitter disappointment to our Chief!—a fact which it may be difficult to believe in these present days of latitude.

Nevertheless, at a period of grievous bereavement, Miss Nightingale wrote me a most beautiful letter of sympathy and condolence, and that, too, in spite of my engagement!

Upon the conclusion of my training, I repaired to the Charing Cross Hospital to take charge of the Victoria Ward, remaining there as Ward-Sister until I proceeded to further public work at the South Coast; eventually taking my place in Queen Charlotte's Hospital, thus qualifying for Midwifery; which later enabled me to practise for many years in the Metropolis and other centres.

Finally, I found it my privilege to undertake the thorough Maternity training of Women Missionaries bound for the foreign field in every part of the world.

It would appear to me, that there can be no wider nor more glorious field for women's service than that of devoting our time and talents to the alleviation of suffering, and to the uplift and healing of fellow-creatures.

May our dear young women voters everywhere realize this need, and respond to the cry that is echoing over land and sea: "Come over and Help Us!"

BOOK REVIEW.

Saints in Sussex. By Sheila Kaye-Smith. (Cassell.) 7s. 6d. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

Miss Sheila Kaye-Smith has published a charming little volume of poems and plays entitled "Saints in Sussex." The latter consist of two mystical plays: the one a setting of the Nativity in Sussex surroundings—the Holy Child being born at the Plough Inn and surrounded by gypsies and shepherds, the three wise men coming from Oxford and Cambridge, Herod being the wicked squire. The second play, called "The Shepherd of Lattenden," is for Good Friday, and takes place at Rye—Pontius Pilate being Mayor, and Caiaphas, Archdeacon, of that place. Little carols and songs are scattered throughout both plays.

The poems are in the form of a calendar, which begins with S. Andrew and finishes with "Lady Day in Harvest," and includes one on a S. Mary Magdalene, who dwells in Horeham Road, and is converted by a young preacher, "the strange young man from the western town." S. Philip and S. James are singing across the year—"the May Day Saints to the Grey Day Saints" of October, SS. Simon and Jude, and a charming little nature poem results. On Ascension Day the poem begins:—

"So Thou hast left us and our meadows,
Lord, who hast blest us and our meadows,"
and asks in plaintive question:—

"Dost Thou think of us and our meadows,
In shining pastures of the sky?"
concluding with:

"And, Lord, we have Thy promise plain
That Thou wilt walk in them again."

For:—

"Thou dreamest of our meadows still."

The last poem I would quote is that on Corpus Christi: "Now Thou hast come to the end of Thy pilgrimage, Lord," which goes on to speak to the "Lord of the journey's end," praying:

"... If I, too, should stumble
At last to the long lane's turning, there may I see
The beckon and gleam of the lamp that is hung
in Thy cottage,
Calling me home to my supper, my friends, and
sleep.

At the end of the day let me find my Lord at
supper,
And forget my toils with Him in the breaking
of bread."

Only one more little quotation, this time from Anna's song, when she cries:

"Lord God of our fathers, if Thou send me a son
He shall be bred in Thy fear,
But if Thou send me a daughter
She shall be bred in Thy love.
Lord, I pray Thee, send me a girl."

These short extracts will show the mystical charm with which one of our foremost novelists can turn her verses, and we may hope that this little book will be a prelude to other volumes of poetry, though, at the same time, we can ill spare her from prose work. J. M. T.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Mrs. Hubback's Appointment.

Mrs. Hubback, Parliamentary and General Secretary of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, has been appointed Principal of Morley College for Working Men and Women in succession to Mrs. Barbara Wootton. This College is an evening school for men and women, devoted to cultural, as distinct from utilitarian education. It has 2,000 students, including factory girls, typists and clerks, and men in good positions.

Architects Marry Architects.

Mr. Murray Easton and Mr. Howard Robertson, partners in the firm of Messrs. Easton & Robertson, Architects, of Bedford Square, London, have each married a fully qualified woman architect, and all carry on work together. Another firm of architects in which husband and wife are business partners is that of Messrs. W. R. and B. Fisher, also of Bedford Square. Mr. W. R. Fisher is the son of our member and colleague, Mrs. Fisher. Mrs. B. Fisher is not only a fully qualified architect, but carried off the £50 Travelling Studentship awarded by the Architects' Association School.

A DERISIVE HOOT.

A flood of silly season letters is being printed throughout the Press just now as to the crimes and the virtues of women drivers of motors. Every crime attributed to women drivers could as justifiably be attributed to men; every virtue attributed to women drivers could as justifiably be attributed to men. The silliness is in the minds of those who, seeing a woman driver doing something criminally careless, give rein to their ancient prejudices and damn the whole of womanhood: it is also to be found in the minds of those, similarly burdened with ancient prejudice, who see a woman do a skilled bit of driving and nearly fall out of their own cars at the sight, to them incomprehensible, of a woman behaving intelligently. The following is from a letter appearing in the *Autocar*:—

"About a week ago, driving a Morris-Oxford, I was descending a very steep and narrow road, but a fairly straight one. At high speed approaching me was a big Delage saloon, and also approaching, at about one mile an hour, a badly blown horse in a cart. Now, I fully expected the big car to cut in, with some justice, since I was prepared to stop or slacken speed, and the hill took some climbing. To my astonishment and admiration, the Delage let me descend, signalling me on, and drawing up behind the cart.

"As I passed I shouted 'Thank you!' and noticed the driver was an 'Eton crop' lady, hatless and amazingly youthful, and I am sure it will be agreed that to restart a heavy car on an unpleasantly stiff gradient is no mean task for a woman. I glanced back and saw the lady make a most beautiful start, without a sign of wheel slip or any 'running back.' She was entirely alone, and I have no qualms in saying that I would trust myself with her in any situation."

Could fatuity further go? The last sentence of a sublime condescension will cause all women drivers' horns to hoot derisively.

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.1.

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General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Thursday, September 22nd, at 7.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting at Highbury Corner, arranged by the Women's Freedom League. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard.

Saturday, September 24th, at 3.45 p.m.

Minerva Club and Mid-London Branches. "At Home" at the Minerva Club. Tea, 4 o'clock. Members and Friends invited. Songs, Recitations and Games. Further details later.

Thursday, September 29th, at 7.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting at Highbury Corner, arranged by the Women's Freedom League. Speaker: Miss B. M. Pearson.

Friday, October 7th, at 5 p.m.

Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday, October 7th, at 8.30 p.m.

Vote-Sellers' Supper and Autumn Rally. Dr. Knight, Miss Rodgers.

Saturday, October 8th, at 10 a.m.

National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Wednesday, October 12th, at 3 p.m.

"Fair" Sub-Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Wednesday, November 2nd, at 4 p.m.

Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Tea and Politics-up-to-date.

Wednesday and Thursday, November 23rd and 24th, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Green, White and Gold Fair at Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W.

PROVINCES.

Friday, September 23rd, at 7 p.m.

Middlesbrough Branch. Whist Drive at the Grey House, Linthorpe. Tickets, 2/- each.

Friday, October 7th, at 3 p.m.

Ashford. Public Meeting in Hempsted Street Hall. Speaker: Miss M. I. Neal. Chairman: Mrs. Miles.

Friday, October 7th, at 8 p.m.

Rye. Public Meeting at Old Hope Anchor Inn. Speaker: Miss M. I. Neal. Chairman: Miss Bellhouse.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Friday, September 16th, at 8 p.m.

The Women's Engineering Society. Dinner at the Lyceum Club, Piccadilly, to "Women Aviators and Motorists."

Saturday, September 17th, at 2.15 p.m.

The Women's Engineering Society, at Crosby Hall. Miss Iris Cummin, B.E., B.Sc., on "Water Power and the Electrification of the Irish Free State."

Sunday, September 18th, at 6.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. "Jack Straw's Castle," Hampstead Heath. Meeting arranged by St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Speakers: Miss Fedden and others.

Friday, September 23rd, at 6.30 p.m.

Minerva Club. Public Speaking Class, Course A. Miss Lucy D. Bell.

Saturday, October 1st, at 3 p.m.

Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Miss Lucy D. Bell on "House of Commons Oratory—Past and Present."

October 11th—14th.

National Council of Women. Annual Meeting at the Town Hall, Bournemouth.

Monday, October 31st, at 8 p.m.

Bexley Heath Congregational Guild Lecture Hall. Debate on "Equal Franchise." Proposer: Miss Marian Reeves. Opposer: Miss Carthew.

Thursday, November 3rd.

Council for Representation of Women in the League of Nations. Annual Meeting at Women's Service House, 35, Marsham Street, S.W.1.

Saturday, December 17th, at 3 p.m.

Speech Club. Debate between Dr. Marion Phillips and Miss Marian Reeves on "Protective Legislation for Women," at the Mine va Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

W.F.L. PAMPHLETS, ETC.

"British Women M.P.s" (brought up to date), by D. M. Northcroft 4d.

"The Need for Women Members of Parliament," (Second Edition), by Mrs. How Martyn, M.Sc. 3d.

"Women's Right to Work," by Miss Lindal-Hageby 3d.

"Women at Work in the League of Nations," by D. M. Northcroft (Fourth Edition) 6d.

"What we have and what we want," by Muriel Pierotti 3d.

"Ecce Mater," by M. A. R. Toker 3/6

WOMEN'S MUNICIPAL VOTES.

The *Yorkshire Post* reports that the respective positions of married and single women in respect of the municipal vote were argued on Tuesday before the Bradford Registration Officer (Mr. N. L. Fleming). Alderman A. T. Sutton (Socialist), pointed out that a single woman at the age of 21, providing she had the necessary qualifications, was entitled to the vote. He desired the Registration Officer's ruling on a case in which a married woman, aged 23, who was joint owner of a house with her husband, now claimed the municipal vote. Mr. Fleming ruled that the woman must be 30 years of age before such a claim could be allowed, but pointed out that the claimant had a right of appeal within five days.

WOMEN IN BANKS.

On the Women's Page of last month's *Bank Officer* there appeared a brief article saying that it was customary to elevate employment in Banks into superiority because of the stability of the whole institution of Banking, not swayed up and down by any depression to which most other similar employments are necessarily subject. It would seem that the women employed in Banks frequently have this stability impressed upon them, and are told how much luckier they are than their fellow clerks in other employments. The writer of the article thinks it would be fairer if comparison was made rather between the rates of pay of men and women both employed in Banks rather than of women inside and out, and counters the argument that men do higher grade work and therefore receive higher grade pay, by demanding for women equal opportunities as a step on the road to equal pay. One must rejoice that women in Banks are beginning to see through some of the trappings and are facing facts.

WOMEN'S INTUITION.

The following letter, which appeared in the *Daily News* of September 9th, seems to be so much more sensible than many of the scientific and pseudo-scientific outpourings of late upon woman's intuition, that we have pleasure in reprinting it: "Sir,—Your report of Professor Valentine's experiments with regard to women's 'intuition' is very interesting. Personally, I have always treated the subject as one on a par with palmistry and crystal-gazing. I would suggest that woman's 'intuition' is entirely a fabrication on the part of man, for use as a kind of sop for him to throw to woman in her indignation when told she has no intelligence. I believe the truth to lie in the fact that women watch other people's faces and expressions much more closely than do men. We have been subjected to an extraordinarily stringent criticism from our earliest years, which has led in some cases to supersensitiveness, and a close, though often subconscious, watching of people's expressions, and a quick process of reasoning as to what they are thinking rather than what they are saying. Consequently, we often arrive at the truth with a celerity which to blundering man must seem miraculous.—JESSIE WALKER, The Hill, Hollingbourne, Kent."

WOMAN'S PART IN THE PRIMITIVE AGES.

According to the *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, Mrs. C. Loving, in an interesting address to members of the Attercliffe Women's Conservative and Unionist Club, on "Women's Share in Primitive Culture," said that the part woman played in the primitive ages was more important than most people realised. She was food bringer, she was the potter, she invented the mortar and the materials which were used in the present day. She was the leather dresser, the beast of burden before rails and ships came into use; she was jack of all trades, the artist, the linguist, the founder of society, and the patron of religion. Woman still plays a great part in affairs, not only of the household, but of the Government. Civilisation was the composite result of progress. Wonderful had been the transformation which had been wrought, not by magic, but by woman's hand and heart and ingenuity. The first article one needed on entering a modern kitchen was a knife, and most of these articles were stamped "Sheffield," but who were the first cutlers? The real founder of Sheffield was woman. She was the first cutter; she was, in fact, the inventor of all things connected with the household.

FACTS FOR SPEAKERS.

The *Daily Telegraph* says that the estimated increase in Great Britain by extending the franchise to include votes for women at 21 years of age is as follows:—

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Additional voters under 25 years of age | 1,500,000 |
| Additional voters over 25 and under 30 | 1,700,000 |
| Additional voters over 30 not at present on the Register | 1,950,000 |

Total 5,240,000

It is estimated that of women admitted to the Register between 21 and 25 years of age:—

| |
|--|
| 415,000 would be over 21 and under 22. |
| 405,000 would be over 22 and under 23. |
| 390,000 would be over 23 and under 24. |
| 380,000 would be over 24 and under 25. |

1,590,000

FRIDAY,
SEPT. 16,
1927.

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FRENCH ALPS.—Furnished Chalet to let. View Mt. Blanc, Seven beds, bath, inside sanitation.—"E.C.F.," 31, Meadhurst Road, Leicester.

DORSET COAST.—March to Sept. Two sitting-rooms; kitchen; three bedrooms, beds—four single, one double; bathroom (h. & c.); garage. Bridport Station, 2½ miles. Golf links and sea, 10 minutes.—Miss F. RENDALL, 6, West-cliff Road, Shipley, Yorks.

YORKSHIRE MOORS.—Apartments. Sitting and 1 or 2 bedrooms; inside sanitation; bath; garden.—ROBINSON, 6, South View, Eldwick, Bingley, Yorks.

NEAR FOLKESTONE.—Three friends offer a charming holiday home; large garden; tennis; garage.—MISS HASLAM, The Grey House, Lyminge, Kent.

BATH.—Member desires holiday guests. Good centre; music; bridge; own car; bath h. and c. Terms reasonable.—Apply 2, Lower Oldfield Park, Bath.

SARK, CHANNEL ISLANDS.—Cottage to let, furnished. 2 reception; 4 bedrooms; oil-cooking; farm produce. June, July, 4 gns. per week; August, September, 5 gns.—STEWART, Dixcart, Sark.

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TO THE OWLS AND OTHERS.—Large, beautifully furnished house given up to workers, ladies, 5 minutes from Hyde Park. Hot and cold water in bedrooms; 25/- bed and breakfast (liberal), 2 in room, lounges.—Box 123, "THE VOTE" Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1

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SURREY.—Rest Cure or Residence. Two (only) guests or semi-invalids wanted, in comfortable, artistic, modern cottage. Delicious Reform Food. Delightfully sheltered and sunny in winter. Garage, but no car.—"Woodhaven," top o' Box Hill (London 20 miles).

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RYE, SUSSEX.—Very comfortable winter quarters at specially reduced terms offered to one or two ladies or gentlemen. Modern equipment; quiet and sunny; would suit literary or artistic people. Between November and March.—B, THE VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

CLUBS.

HAMPSTEAD.—Lansdowne House. Rooms, unfurnished, for Ladies only, with Club advantages. Rent 15/- to 30/- per week.—Apply SECRETARY, Lansdowne House, Lindhurst Gardens, Hampstead, N.W.

MINERVA CLUB, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Open to non-residents. Restaurant. Smoking Room. Papers. Library. Bedrooms available at holiday times. Membership, £1 1s. Entrance Fee suspended during present year. All particulars from the SECRETARY. Telephone: Museum 4791.

NOTICES.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED.—Consult Miss H. M. BAKER, 275, High Holborn, W.C.1. Income Tax Returns, Repayment Claims of all Descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 0377.

PUBLIC SPEAKING.—Lectures, classes, and private lessons. Saturday Speech Club.—MISS LUCY BELL, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Tel.: Museum 4791.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, September 18th, 1927. 6.30. Maude Royden: "Lord Cecil, the League and Ourselves."

FOR SALE.

NEW Brick Bungalow, double fronted, square bays; verandah; six rooms, bath (h. & c.); inside sanitation; Co.'s water; good bus service; pretty piece woodland; ¼ acre. Price freehold, £650. £500 mortgage obtainable.—MOCKFORD, Eastcote, Kingsnorth, Ashford, Kent.

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