

THE VOTE,
DEC. 10, 1920
ONE PENNY.

THE POLITICAL PUDDING!

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

VOL. XXI. No. 581.

(Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper and transmissible through the post in the United Kingdom at the newspaper rate of postage, but to Canada and Newfoundland at the Magazine rate).

FRIDAY, DEC. 10, 1920.

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

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WOMEN OF THE NETHERLANDS.

Interview with Miss Rose Manus.

Amongst the foreign delegates who came to London last week to attend the Board meetings of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance is an enterprising Dutch lady, who has had no small share in the recent enfranchisement, both municipal and parliamentary, of the women of Holland.

"Our fight for the Suffrage," Miss Manus told our representative, "extended over some twenty-five years, a short time compared with the Suffrage campaigns in England and America. Dutch people dislike anything in the shape of sensational methods, and we attribute our successes of last year to the fact that during the quarter of a century which preceded our enfranchisement we put in an enormous amount of steady, quiet work, tactfully sandwiching Suffrage items with other subjects at every opportunity into all departments of the national life.

"We have one woman M.P. in Holland to-day, Miss Suze Groeneweg, who is a member of the Labour Party. She works hard, and has already introduced some necessary reforms connected with child welfare. Outside Parliament our most indefatigable Suffrage worker is Dr. Aletta Jacobs, who was the first woman doctor in the Netherlands. It was through her that the Dutch universities were opened for women students in 1871. In 1883 she tried to be enrolled on the list of constituents in Amsterdam, but was refused. She brought her case before the court, and the answer was that she was right according to the letter of the law, but the spirit of the law excluded women from the vote. Dr. Jacobs has practised medicine in Amsterdam for 32 years. She also acts as Honorary President of the Netherlands Society of Women Citizens.



"This Society is really the old Suffrage Society under a new name. We changed its original title in September of last year, when we celebrated the twenty-fifth year of its existence, together with the victory of our cause. The Society has a membership of about 17,000, and now works for the following objects: To further the legal, social, and economic equality of men and women; to promote the interests of women as workers, wives and mothers; to enlighten women politically; and to proclaim women's insight into social and political questions, and make it known in representative bodies.

"We are also trying now to help the women of the more backward countries to obtain enfranchisement. This kind of work comes easily to Dutch women, for the majority are excellent linguists, and eager to take a share in international affairs. English, French and German are all taught in our schools, and by the aid of these languages Dutch women make a habit of attending International Conferences all over the world.

"The Independence Celebrations in Holland in 1913 gave the Woman's Movement a great stimulus, and indirectly interested Her Majesty the Queen in our Cause. Until then she had been more or less hostile. Committees composed only of men were appointed up and down the country to prepare various Exhibitions of the resources of the Netherlands. Women asked to be admitted to these Committees, so as to take their share, but so many obstacles were put in their way that at last they decided to run an Exhibition of their own. They were fortunate in obtaining several acres of land outside Amsterdam, and immediately this was secured twenty sub-Committees were

formed, with myself as Secretary, representing every phase of women's activity—hygiene, gardening, child welfare, architecture, needlework, etc.

"Within a few months our Exhibition was complete down to the smallest detail. Ours was the only building out of all the Exhibition buildings dotted over Holland that opened punctually to the day, and not a single item was missing from our entire equipment on the opening day. The Mayor of Amsterdam, who performed the ceremony, said ours was the only building where he had not kicked his shins against the packing cases which usually lined the route on these occasions. Her Majesty came once, and was astounded at the progress made by women in all the exhibited departments. She came a second time, quite informally, when I had the pleasure of taking her round and instructing her on Suffrage subjects. In that same year in the Speech from the Throne the Queen made her first sympathetic reference to our struggle, and wished it success!"

THE LEAGUE'S TEA PARTY.

Welcome to Mrs Chapman Catt.

On Monday afternoon members and friends of the Women's Freedom League turned up in full force at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, to do honour to Mrs. Chapman Catt, America's great suffragist leader, at an "informal hour," kindly spared by her from her busy week. The pleasant club dining-room was prettily decorated for the occasion with Christmas greenery and Japanese lanterns, banners and the green, white and gold, whilst the Stars and Stripes of our great sister nation shone beside the Union Jack, and waved from the balcony.

A sumptuous tea was provided by the Minerva Club under Mrs. Fisher's direction, and speeches from the guest of the occasion and members of the Women's Freedom League completed a most enjoyable afternoon.

Dr. Knight said they were met to do honour to a great leader in the Woman's Movement. This Movement was gradually permeating the world, and sometimes people asked what was women's special contribution to be in future politics. Politics to-day resembled a great pudding where the ingredients were not properly balanced, and certainly very badly mixed. Women would proportion the ingredients more accurately, and see that they were judiciously mixed with the skill of true statesmanship.

Mrs. Chapman Catt thanked all present for their kindly reception of her, and the generous tribute that had been paid to her suffrage work in the States. She said it was impossible to foretell what would be the final result of the influence of American women in politics, but there was no doubt that women all over the world were making themselves felt to significant purpose. Women who were enfranchised must now help to liberate their less fortunate sisters in the more retrograde countries which still refused women enfranchisement. This would no doubt be an uphill fight, for in many of these countries the women themselves were unconscious of the need of liberty. But the women who were going to help them must not lose heart, but bear in mind that God's way, the way of Evolution, the true and sure way, was always a slow one.

Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson, Mrs. Nevinson, J.P., Dr. Vickery, and Mr. Kennedy also spoke, referring to past Suffrage days, and the glorious successes of to-day, and encouraging all present to help forward the Woman's Movement not only in the unenfranchised countries, but also by developing it in their own sphere of action.

CROSS-ATLANTIC ENTENTE.—Lady Isabelle Margerson has been appointed head of a Woman's Committee for the English-speaking Union. She is very anxious that English and American women in their friendliness and understanding should play a large part in the entente between the two nations.

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

Prize Competition Dialogue.

SCENE: MANAGER'S OFFICE.

(A Friend of the Manager's has just called to see him, and looks on while the Manager pays the wages to his workpeople.)

FRIEND: I notice you have just paid the men £5 and the women only £2 10s. Why is that? Do the men do higher grade work than the women?

MANAGER: Oh, no; they both work the same machines.

F.: Then why not pay the women the same money?

M.: Well, it has never been the custom to pay women the same price as men.

F.: But leaving out customs, do these women turn out as much work as the men?

M.: Oh, yes; in fact that girl who went out last turns out more than any man in the works.

F.: Then she earns more money than any man in the works, but you only pay her half rates.

M.: I pay the union rates.

F.: But if you could fill your works with this type of girl you would be in a very flourishing condition.

M.: Yes, certainly.

F.: Well, I think you are neither kind nor just.

M.: Women don't have the same liabilities as men.

F.: That is all bosh! What about the widows with children to support? The women who live alone?

M.: Those who support a family, as in the case of Florence Battersbee, who stole the soap at John Knight & Sons?

F.: Fortunately for the girl the magistrate was a humane man who deserves the good wishes of all fair-minded people. If I did not know you I should fancy you kept these poor women in a state of subjection for some other purpose.

M.: Good heavens, man, your suggestions shock me.

F.: Well, there is certainly a reason somewhere.

M.: These women, producing for you at the same rate as the men, are paid only half of what you have agreed with their union is a fair living wage, and you make no reduction in the case of a bachelor. It costs the women exactly the same sum to live, but as they only receive half, they must make up the other half by doing work at home after they finish here, by stealing, or something worse.

M.: For goodness sake cut that out.

F.: Do you think that women are as reliable, punctual, and conscientious, and in all ways as good workers as men?

M.: Yes. Women are certainly happier at their work than men. They are always singing at their machines, whereas the men stand about a lot in groups, discussing football, horse racing, and Trade Union matters, making it necessary to keep a watchful eye on them.

F.: Now you have practically admitted that your women workers are as valuable to you as the men, and at that rate you have been robbing them of £2 10s. every week. Your treatment of them has probably resulted in at least one of them committing a crime to make life possible. When I have heard you at a meeting appealing for funds for the relief of distress amongst the poor, and for missionary work abroad, I have admired your noble spirit and have loved you for it. Now I find you at the root cause of poverty and misery which we are looking upon to-day. Your own admissions prove you to be a thief, stealing the women's wages and indirectly undermining the nation's health, by starving your women workers and lowering the vitality of the mothers of the nation. Forcing them to steal or do worse to make life possible while you fatten on their wages you have stolen. I have called you my friend, but that is ended. Good-bye.

M.: Wait, my friend! Give me your hand. You have opened my eyes. Be here next pay day. Till then Au revoir!

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GEORGE W. GILL.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD. CONFERENCE OF WOMEN MAGISTRATES.

More Women Police for Ireland.

Since the authorities in Ireland decided to take more active steps against suspected women, the headquarters of the Women Police Service in London have again been approached by the Royal Irish Constabulary, and a further and much larger contingent of policewomen has now been sent to Ireland to undertake the task of searching women prisoners. This is work to which the women police became accustomed when they were on duty at munition factories and had to make sure that no hairpin, metal ornament, or metal fastening was taken by women into the danger zones.

Women Doctors in London Hospitals.

In London to-day there are a good many hospitals with women on their staffs. The South London Hospital for Women and the Garrett-Anderson Hospital are staffed entirely by women doctors, and so is the Women's Hospital for Children in Harrow Road. There is also a woman on the staff of three other children's hospitals, the Queen's Hospital for Children, Hackney, the East London Children's Hospital at Shadwell, and the Victoria Hospital, Tite Street. The Royal Free Hospital, which formerly had a woman obstetrician and a woman gynaecologist only, since the war has appointed women as well as men on its medical and surgical staffs.

Women and Medicine.

Although no definite appeal for funds was made at the successful luncheon given recently by one hundred representative women to an equal number of men of distinction to draw attention to the approaching jubilee of the London School of Medicine for Women, the interest aroused by that event has resulted already in promises amounting to £27,000. A contribution of £1,000 in this connection has been given by Sir Dorabji Tata, of Bombay, specially for increasing the clinical facilities for women at the Royal Free Hospital. Here it is hoped to carry out its new policy of providing for patients who can afford to pay for their maintenance by opening twenty-three beds early in the New Year.

French Airwoman's Tour.

Mlle. Adrienne Bolland, the leading "ace" French airwoman, has left Paris for South America on a tour as aerial missionary. Mlle. Bolland already has to her credit the feminine "record" of looping the loop, and she was the first woman to fly across the Channel. She is taking with her four G.3 Caudron machines, with which she intends to make many journeys throughout South America, giving exhibitions at various stopping places.

Oxford's Lady Deputy Professor.

The Oxford University Visitation Board has appointed Miss Mildred K. Pope, M.A. (Somerville College), to be Deputy during Hilary term, 1921, for Mr. Paul Studer, M.A. (Exeter College), Taylorian Professor of the Romance Languages, to whom leave of absence and dispensation from statutory duties for the term has been granted by decree of convocation.

Woman Deputy Appointed.

Mrs. Edward Franklin White has been appointed to a deputyship in the office of the Attorney-General of Indiana by U. S. Lesh, who becomes Attorney-General in the new Republican State administration. The deputyships have heretofore been held by men. Mrs. White is a lawyer, and has been an ardent worker in the cause of woman suffrage.

More Women J.P.'s.

Mrs. S. J. Sanders, of Fore Street, Edmonton, wife of an estate agent, has been appointed the first woman Justice of the Peace for the Edmonton Petty Sessional Division of Middlesex. Miss Rebecca Halley Cheetham, Mrs. Ellen Crow, and Miss Annie St. Hill have been appointed magistrates for West Ham.

Convened by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, the women magistrates of Great Britain met in the Mansion House last week, by kind permission of the Lord Mayor, who himself welcomed them from the chair at the commencement of the Conference. About eight hundred women were present, of all ages and all classes—white-haired old ladies from the provinces, sturdily indifferent to the fashions, and society ladies in smart costumes.

Papers were read by Sir Edgar Sanders of Liverpool, General Procedure and Powers; Dr. Hamblin Smith, Birmingham Scheme Examination of Prisoners; Mr. Cecil Leeson, Probation Work; Dr. Norris, M.C., Juvenile Delinquency; Mr. W. Clarke Hall, J.P., Maintenance Orders; Miss Margery Fry, J.P., Punishment in Theory and Practice.

Some of the newspapers headed their accounts with "Women Justices at School," and certainly the diligent use of notebook and pencil took one back to college days, but the zeal to learn and understand was very laudable, particularly in a body of responsible women hitherto cut off by their sex from the study and practice of Law. Other critics have mocked at the subjects chosen as "crank lectures," and certainly those of us who know the rough and tumble of the average Court where the prisoners appear and disappear with startling rapidity, with sentences passed in strange indifference to the well marked "stigmata of Degenerates" in head and ears and features, it is a far cry to the Birmingham Methods and the fashionable craze for psycho-analysis. Our big provincial towns, we all know, are far ahead of us, but we are not all at present whole-hearted converts to Freud and Jung, and whether the new Confessional may do more harm than good is a moot question.

All the papers were full of fresh interest and information to the audience, though some of us would have liked more discussion, and regretted that the time allotted for five minutes speeches from the members of the Conference was cut down to about a quarter of an hour. We learned most, I think, from each other in the whispered remarks that all students can interpolate in class, at the lunch hours, and at the tea on Wednesday afternoon provided by the Lord Mayor. All country and provincial Justices were horrified to learn that owing to the Stipendiary system in the county of London, there is only the Hampstead Bench where women Justices can sit, and only two women with that right. The work of Justices in London (both men and women) is confined to licensing, weights and measures, school attendance, signing of documents and lunacy certificates (if on the rota). In Scotland, according to Miss Haldane, they have still fewer duties. We also learned that the counties of Caermarthen, Cornwall, Cumberland and Westmorland have each only one woman J.P.

Resolutions were carried against a new clause in the Bill now in Committee of the House by which women J.P.'s will not be allowed to sit in Children's Courts, and another asking that the maximum allowance of £2 for a wife's maintenance under a separation order shall be increased.

Miss Eleanor Rathbone and Miss Gertrude Tuckwell were elected on the Provisional Committee of the Association of Magistrates. M. W. NEVINSON, J.P.

WHAT OUR ADVERTISERS TELL US.

"Our Advertisement in *The Vote* brought us many replies."

"We were so pleased with result of our advertisement in *The Vote*."

"My Lecture was well attended owing to your giving it such prominence in *The Vote*."

THE VOTE.

Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.
 Offices: 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.
 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10th, 1920.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
 To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.
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 Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

EDITORIAL.

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

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At Home and Abroad ... Post free, 6/6 per annum.
 (Postage on 3 copies the same as for 1).

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONALISM.

Internationalism has been the dream of the poet and the thinker for many generations. The Brotherhood of Man has appealed to men of all countries. What was not realised until recent years is that this ideal must include the sisterhood of women. The International Woman Suffrage Alliance has appealed and is now making a stronger appeal than ever before to the women of every country to unite for the purpose of securing equal rights and opportunities for women with men throughout all branches of their national life. The idea is that the women who have obtained some measure of equality with the men of their own country shall give practical aid by speaking, writing, and assistance in organisation to the women in other lands who can make no claim to such equality; and that the efforts of the Alliance shall not cease until the women of every country stand on a level with their countrymen so far as opportunities, rights, remuneration, and an equal moral standard are concerned. In our view, this is the best kind of internationalism, because it is founded upon nationalism. Women of all classes, of all creeds, of all countries, and of every race have in the past had one common grievance—their subjection to men. Women's aspirations, their efforts to express themselves and their activities have for too long been suppressed or narrowed; but when some of them secured, through their own dogged persistence, a few facilities in education, their horizon became widened, and other women began to help them to break down the barriers which impeded their progress. One by one these barriers have fallen; but in no country at the present time can it be maintained that prejudice does not exist. In most countries, although the obstacles to women's advancement cannot be described as insuperable, many of them are very serious ones, and it will take women a great deal of time, patience, and energy to get them removed. It is here that the International Woman Suffrage Alliance will come to their assistance. The experience of those who have gained successes for women in their own countries will be at the service of the women of other lands who have a less favoured position. All women will feel that their struggle is not a solitary one; but that it is shared and supported by the women in every other country; and that success in any one land will help forward women's success everywhere. In their struggle for self-expression women are forming new ideals; they are becoming critical of men's views, men's plans, men's ways of doing things, and men's leadership, so that they are not prepared to accept them as the last words of civilisation. All this is to the good. When men come to realise women's new power, they may at first want to underrate it; but they will eventually come to value it at its true worth and seek to consult the women of their own country in regard to all national affairs on equal terms. This is no idle dream; it is part of the work and organisation of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

MARRIAGE WITH DECEASED HUSBAND'S BROTHER.

A Bill is being drafted, and already some measure of support has been secured for it among Members of Parliament, the object of which is "to remove the anomaly in the present Law which prohibits marriage with a deceased brother's wife although marriage with a deceased wife's sister is legal." On more than one occasion Lady Astor has, in the House of Commons, advocated some such amendment to the Deceased Wife's Sister's Marriage Act. She has received between four and five hundred letters urging this reform. Mr. Waterson, M.P., has stated that he is "inundated" with letters from both men and women who desire that this change should be made. Those who advocate it naturally point out that while it is legal for a man to marry his deceased wife's sister and illegal for a woman to marry her deceased husband's brother, the law is illogical and absurd. They also state that owing to the War a great many soldiers' widows are receiving substantial financial assistance from their late husband's brother. We all know that the pensions allowed by the Government to such widows cannot in these days of high prices effect very much in the way of maintenance and education of these children; and the financial burden by these brothers-in-law is frequently not a light one. Indeed it is claimed that in many cases this voluntary financial responsibility prevents them from being in a position to marry. There is abundance of evidence that many women, for the sake of their children, would willingly marry their deceased husband's brother, and there is also evidence that many of these brothers-in-law would willingly marry their deceased brother's wife, and that such a union would be beneficial to the family. Women's opinions on this matter have now a political value, and this is an opportunity for them to make them known to their local M.P.

"WEIGHT."

Last week the Establishment Committee of the Middlesex County Council submitted a report dealing with the grading of salaries of the Council's clerical staff. The disparity between the salaries paid to men and women led Mrs. How Martyn to urge equality of pay for similar work irrespective of the sex of the worker. She herself had no doubt whatever that woman, so far as brain capacity was concerned, was man's equal. Dr. J. R. Leeson disputed this statement. After discussing microbes and snails, and taking the whole of biology and evolution as his province, the learned gentleman solemnly averred that woman had 8.03 less brain than man. We could trust Mrs. How Martyn to point out that quantity was not exactly the same thing as quality, and that women as a rule made more use of their brains than men. The men councillors, however, recorded their votes on the side of this exploded fetish of weight, and Mrs. How Martyn's amendment for equal pay was lost by 27 votes to 11. "Weight" is a man's fetish. It was man's heavy-weight championship which kept all women for so long outside political and professional life; it still keeps women under 30 years of age from exercising a vote, and has hypnotised the Cambridge undergraduates at a Union debate to vote by a majority against the admission of women to membership of the University. It is masculine weight, presumably, which is responsible for the political ineptitude of all partisans in Ireland at the present time. Women are tired of the prevailing political stodginess; and, as Dr. Knight said last Monday at the Women's Freedom League Reception to Mrs. Chapman Catt, women are determined to make some alterations in the mixing of our political pudding. Its present indigestibility is ruining the stamina of the nation. A little more of the salt of honesty and the leaven of sincerity are what is wanted to improve the heavy mass, and woman, with her lighter hand, must be called in to assist in the Political Kitchen, to abolish heaviness and prevent its results.

The Future Policy of the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance.

WORK IN TWO DIRECTIONS.

The Executive of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, which met last week in London, has now decided upon its future policy, which purposes to be a new and wider programme than anything hitherto attempted in the Woman's Movement either at home or abroad.

The future work of the Alliance will be in two directions. It will help the women in unenfranchised countries, and it will set enfranchised women to work. To obtain the first it will employ the second. As a preliminary step the Alliance Executive will send a memorial to the Governments of all the civilised countries where women are not yet voters. In addition, every country where women are already enfranchised will have special mandates assigned to it to help the women who are not yet voters. The women of Great Britain will be asked to further the suffrage propaganda in South Africa and India, to help Egyptian women, and to give especial care to the women of Palestine, where the Jewish women are themselves beginning to organise the Arab women in the hope of securing political rights for them. Canada will be asked to help Newfoundland, and the United States will organise women in their own dependencies and in Jamaica, Cuba, and South America. Suffrage speakers will be sent to Italy, Belgium, France, Spain, Portugal, and Greece, and a special campaign is to be inaugurated in South America.

At the headquarters of the Alliance in London an information bureau is to be formed and kept up-to-date with regard not only to suffrage, but to other matters concerning women. Four separate Committees are to be set up to collect from all nations information about:

(1) The question of the nationality of married women, a question that became urgent during the war.

(2) Women's right to work and to equal pay, and the extent to which women are being discriminated against in different occupations and different countries.

(3) The care of married and unmarried mothers and of children, whether legitimate or illegitimate.

(4) Moral standards, the restraint of prostitution, and the campaign to combat venereal disease.

The Committees will hold a conference immediately before the next International Congress which meets in Paris in 1922, when they will discuss the information and draw up recommendations for Congress to consider.

The Executive has sent a cable to the League of Nations Council asking it to appoint women on the Mandates Commissions. Some women are already members of the Assembly, and the Executive is especially recommending one of its colleagues, Miss Anna Wicksell, of Sweden, a very able woman, who is a member of the Assembly.

Women's Enfranchisement in the Larger Countries*

AUSTRIA.

Women have votes on the same terms as men. Two million women voted in January, 1919. There are eight women M.P.s, twenty-two city councillors, one deputy mayor, and one hundred and twenty-six municipal councillors.

CANADA.

Women have votes on equal terms, but the Federal Amendment is not yet ratified. They have not yet voted in Federal Elections, but only in State Elections, where three women members of State Parliaments have been elected.

DENMARK.

Municipal vote in 1908 and Parliamentary vote on equal terms in 1915. Women voted in 1918 and 1920, and they have now four women Members in each House. They have passed a law for equal pay, equal admission to all posts, and equal status in marriage.

GERMANY.

Women got votes on equal terms in 1918, eight weeks before the elections. Twenty million women are enfranchised, and 70 to 90 per cent. voted. They had thirty-nine M.P.s in last National Assembly, 155 in State Parliaments, and 4,000 city and municipal councillors. In the new elections thirty women have been elected to the Reichstag.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Women got votes on different terms and at a different age in 1918. They voted in 1918, and have one woman M.P., and many city and municipal councillors.

HUNGARY.

Women got votes in November, 1918. All men have it at twenty-one; women, if they can read and write, have it at twenty-four. Having no Constitution they fear they may lose it again. One woman was elected at a by-election. They have not yet got the municipal suffrage, as no municipal government at present exists, for men or women.

[*Reprinted by courtesy of the "International Woman Suffrage News" (July, 1920).]

NETHERLANDS.

Bill giving women votes on same terms (at twenty-five) passed in May, 1919, and received Royal Assent in September, 1919. One and a half million women are enfranchised. They have not voted yet, but will in 1922. They have, however, been eligible for some years, and both in 1916 and 1918 two women M.P.s were elected, one in each Chamber. They have eighty-eight women on city councils and some aldermen (elected by men only).

POLAND.

Women have votes on equal terms with men, and eligibility.

RUSSIA.

Women got votes on equal terms during the first revolution, and several women served in Parliament and in the Cabinet.

SWEDEN.

Women got votes on same terms in 1918, but it will not be ratified till after the Autumn elections. It will be through by February, 1921, and they will vote in the following Autumn. There will be about 1,600,000 women voters. At present there are about 400 city and municipal councillors.

UNITED STATES.

Women got votes on the same terms as men in September, 1920. One woman has been elected to Congress. In addition to these National Suffrage victories, several other advances are reported:—

Italy has granted Municipal Suffrage to women.
 Serbia has granted Municipal Suffrage to women.
 Belgium has granted Municipal Suffrage to women.
 Roumania has granted Municipal Suffrage to women.
 Zionists of Palestine have full equal suffrage and eligibility.

The Commune of Fiume has granted full equal suffrage and eligibility.

AMERICA AND PROHIBITION.

Speaking at the Ethical Church, Bayswater, on November 28th, Mrs. Chapman Catt described the effect of Prohibition in the States as the most remarkable development in the history of that country. From the time of George Washington onwards drink and politics had never been separated until a year ago. In 1851 the first Prohibition Law was enacted in the State of Maine, and in 1884 Maine became a Constitutional Prohibition State. In 1869 a Prohibition Party became organised, and from time to time elected men to Congress. It was significant that in this year also the women of Wyoming won the vote. In 1873 the Women's Christian Temperance Union was formed, and bands of women made campaigns against the saloons. Militancy also broke out, and saloon windows became smashed by the reformers. The Women's Temperance Union worked amongst the various legislatures to get the subject of alcohol scientifically taught in the schools, and many States framed laws to this end. It took women twenty years, however, before New York would enact such a law. As the cause of Women's Suffrage grew in the States, advocates of women as voters worked side by side with the Temperance Party against the organised opposition of the Brewers and Distillers. The enemies of the Suffrage preached openly: "If women get the vote, Prohibition will come to stay." For fifty years a tremendous struggle went on between these two parties in the States. Now that Prohibition had been obtained, the Women's Temperance Union declared the victory was really won in the schools, by converting the children. When America entered the war 36 States had already enacted some sort of Prohibition law. This had usually been arrived at by local option in the country districts which gradually spread to the towns. The order to save food in the war drew attention to the enormous amount of corn, wheat and barley which were consumed in the manufacture of beer and spirits. A Prohibition war measure was then passed for the entire country, and every soldier's camp was made absolutely dry. Later the Prohibition Amendment to the National Constitution was submitted to the various Legislatures, and ratified by 45 out of the 48 States. An attack to try to prove this measure was unconstitutional was attempted by the remaining three States which had not ratified, but was defeated by the Supreme Court. Prohibition was now part of the Constitution of the United States, and could not be annulled.

The results of Prohibition were as follows: (1) An enormous increase in the deposits in savings banks. (2) A decrease in divorce, and in family troubles generally. (3) All institutions for the care of dependants greatly decreased. (4) Penitentiaries closed for want of inmates. (5) Increase in school attendances, especially in high school attendances. (6) Increased Sunday school and church attendance. (7) Better quality of food and clothing purchased by general public at shops. (8) Decided decrease in industrial accidents. (9) General decrease in crime, insanity, arrests and general lawlessness. In one State the arrests for drunkenness dropped from 65,000 to 26,000 after Prohibition enacted. In another (Baltimore) arrests dropped from 35,000 to 14,000. Kansas, which had been a Prohibition State for 40 years, had the highest wealth per capita of any other of the American States, and the smallest number of illiterate citizens. New York was the real test of Prohibition. Before Prohibition came it possessed a population of 5 1/2 millions, and 9,000 saloons. The municipal lodging-houses usually housed 1,000-1,500 men. During the cold snap last February the number of men housed was only 36. Taxation was less in every State. Eventually, Mrs. Catt concluded, there could not fail to come a dry England and a dry world, and she quoted the story of the fastidious prisoner and his prison fare, which was brought him by a Chinaman. "You no likee now," said the Chinaman, "but bime bye you likee."

A BABY SHOW IN THE PUNJAB.

The Indian Section of the B.W.C.U. held a meeting at the Minerva Café on Wednesday, November 25th, at 3.30 p.m. There was a very large attendance of Eastern and Western visitors. Mrs. P. Villiers-Stuart, from the Chair, introduced Mrs. Mary Caleb of Lahore, who has done so much work for women and girls in the Punjab. Her address was a delightful record of personal experiences of a long residence in India, interspersed by a series of wise, philosophic reflections. Mrs. Caleb showed how it was only possible for English women to penetrate into the home life of Indian women, and urged all her Anglo-Indian sisters to avail themselves of the opportunity to get into close touch with the inner life of a great people. Women missionaries have only access to Christian homes, and these are not always typical of the highest culture. The lecturer especially delighted her audience by a thrilling, dramatic description of the first Baby Show she organised in Lahore, to increase the interest in Infant and Maternity welfare work which she has inaugurated in the Eastern Peninsula, with its terribly high infant mortality, due chiefly to insanitary conditions, the result of complete ignorance of the laws of hygiene. She had been warned prior to the opening of her Baby Show that she must not expect a large number of competitors, but in order to be prepared for every contingency, and because she knew something of human nature, she arranged for the show to take place in a very large Hall, and the vast concourse of mothers and babies that came thronging in fully justified her foresight. Those parents whose babies won prizes were in ecstasies of delight, while those who were less fortunate, although at first puzzled and indignant that their infants were rejected candidates, when they understood the reason, determined to compete again after they had learned something of and conformed more strictly to the laws of hygiene. MARGARET HODGE.

RELIGION AND POLITICS.

Speaking last Wednesday at the Minerva Café, Miss E. Picton-Turbervill, O.B.E., said that although it was impossible to define religion, its vitality could always be tested by its rate of progression. True religion was never static. Our laws were almost always behind the thinking world of the day. So with religion. If it was really progressive, it nearly always got ahead of the Churches. With regard to the relationship between Religion and Politics, many people still kept their religion separate from their ordinary life. Men were too often the greatest culprits in this respect. Was it not Lord Melbourne who said, "Things have come to a pretty pass when religion is allowed to invade the sphere of private life!" Though statesmen and politicians claimed that religion should not be allowed to invade politics, women, on the other hand, were out to challenge religion being kept in water-tight compartments. Women were up against the idea of having one code for private life and another code for public life. It originated in the beginning from Machiavelli, and had been absorbed into public opinion ever since. Apart from being an irreligious tenet, it was not economic, and did not pay. By keeping religious life apart from political life we robbed both of beauty. A love of the beautiful was inherent in every human being. When life was robbed of beauty it tended to become irreligious. Our social system teemed with ugliness because of this divorce between religion and politics. "Business is business" was an irreligious saying upon which much of our industrial and social order was built. A Cabinet Minister had recently stated that the greatness of a country depended wholly upon the volume of its exports. This rank materialism had affected our Churches. If women would decide to bring their sense of beauty and religion straight into the industrial and social life of the country it would not only revolutionise all things, but it would be economically sound. "If you want peace, prepare for war" was another materialistic utterance which for too long had gripped and held the minds of men in a vice. Women must never allow themselves to become hypnotised by such suggestions.

The Rev. W. C. Roberts, Rector of St. George's, Bloomsbury, presided, and a discussion followed before the close of the meeting.

THE 'ENGLISHWOMAN' for DECEMBER

Dr. S. E. White contributes the third and last instalment of her indictment of our present lunacy laws. She draws a terrible picture of ordinary county asylum life, with its complete absence of privacy, total disregard of any personal rights, extreme difficulty and distress experienced by inefficient sanitary arrangements, and the appalling noise at night time engendered by the attendants on their hourly rounds. Dr. White enumerates numerous instances where the wrong kind of patients are frequently confined in asylums for mere temporary derangements, and contends that no delirious cases (pneumonic, puerperal, apoplectic, influenzal, etc.) ought to be accepted by asylums. She also pleads eloquently that mental derangement should receive the same matter-of-fact and common-sense treatment that is meted out to physical disturbances instead of being, as it is, so often regarded as a mysterious and alarming visitation which must be hidden from the world. E. Chivers Davies describes the Sokol Societies of Czechoslovakia, a great national movement, which, starting in the first place purely as gymnastic clubs, have now become magnificent nuclei of the nation's mental and physical life. Suppressed at the outset by the Austrian Government, the movement grew nevertheless, and convoked its first Congress in Prague in 1882. To-day the number of Sokol members is over 300,000. Women are admitted to these Societies on equal terms with men, and the description of drilling exhibited by 12,000 girls at a recent Festival in Prague forms a thrilling portion of the article. The importance of Vitamines in the daily diet is impressed by Mr. W. G. Cass in an interesting and informative article entitled "Scientific Nutrition." Before the war these were easily accessible in milk, butter, eggs, green vegetables, bananas, unpolished rice, and other cereals, etc., but of late years the difficulty of obtaining these foods has resulted in a general lowering of dietetic standards, with consequent injury to health. Experiments are now being made with margarine to add to it the necessary amount of vitamines in which vegetable fats are notably deficient. Dudley Wright describes the extraordinary progress now being made by women in Freemasonry. The Masonic organisations which include women as members are four in number. These are the Order of the Eastern Star, in America, and in England the Order of Universal Co-Freemasonry, founded in 1882, "The Honourable Fraternity of Antient Masonry," founded in 1908, and "The Honourable Fraternity of Antient Freemasons," founded in 1913.

WOMEN IN THE CHAIR.

Miss Tooke, J.P., has been appointed Chairman of the Primary Committee of the Gateshead Education Committee. This position has never before been held by a woman either in Northumberland or Durham. Gateshead also now has its first woman member on the Town Council. This is Mrs. Alice M. Wicks, who has been Mayoress five times, and is also a member of the Poor Law Guardians and a J.P. Mrs. How Martyn, who was elected Vice-Chairman of the Committee of the Springfield Mental Hospital under the Middlesex County Council, will act as Chairman during the next six months. We understand that although there are about twelve hundred patients—700 of whom are women—Mrs. How Martyn is the only woman who has ever been on the Middlesex Asylums Committee, since the Council has no power to co-opt women. There is, therefore, plenty of scope for her activities, especially as there is no woman doctor on the staff.

Women's Freedom League.

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

Friday, December 10.—Mid-London Branch Meeting, 144, High Holborn. 7 p.m. Speaker: R. C. Grey, Esq. Subject: "Ireland."
Saturday, December 11.—144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. National Executive Committee. 10 a.m.
Wednesday, December 15.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 3 p.m. Speaker: The Lady Anherst of Hackney. Subject: "The New Spirit and the Home." Chair: The Hon. Mrs. Walter Forbes.
Friday, December 31.—Hogmanay Party, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Tickets, including refreshments, 2s.

Monday, January 10, 1921.—Hampstead Branch Meeting, 7, Gainsborough Gardens, N.W. 3. 8.15 p.m.

PROVINCES.
Saturday, December 11.—Southend Branch. Whist Drive at 8 p.m. at Newbery's Café, Hamlet Court Road.

Monday, December 13.—Bexhill. Public Meeting at National Kitchen, St. Leonards Road. 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Edith W. Kirby. Subject: "Women Jurors."

Monday, December 13.—Hastings. Drawing-room Meeting, "Sea View," Pelham Crescent. 7 p.m. Speaker: Miss Edith W. Kirby.

Tuesday, December 14.—Rye. Meeting. Speaker: Miss Kirby.
Monday, December 20.—Southend and District Branch. Purcell House (School of Music), London Road. 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Absalom. Subject: "My Work Amongst the Girls and Young Women." Chair: Miss Angrove.

Friday, December 31.—Portsmouth. New Year's Eve Party, Unitarian School Room. 7 to 10 p.m.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

Madam,—May I say a word in reply to Miss Jacobs' letter in THE VOTE of the 10th inst.? I certainly did not wish to create the impression that "in voting by P.R. it is immaterial which party a voter votes for." The P.R. system gives the fullest possible freedom for members of a party to unite for the purpose of electing a person of like views. But it must sometimes happen that the voters of a party cannot number together a sufficient group to be entitled to separate representation. They have then the alternative of standing aside (this is done by marking no preference beyond one's own party) or of uniting with some other group in the election of a "second best" (this is done by marking preferences for candidates of another party after giving the earlier preferences to one's own party). I venture to doubt whether, for the general body of the voters, party division is so extremely watertight as Miss Jacob argues it ought to be. This is especially the case in municipal elections, in which, though lines of policy grow ever more important in the larger towns, the individuality and record of candidates and retiring councillors are—very properly it seems to me—an important factor in elections.

A. HELEN WARD.

Women M.P.'s and Proportional Representation

In a brief interview with Frau Schreiber-Krieger, a Member of the Reichstag, she stated that it was due to the system of Proportional Representation in Germany that so many women had there been returned to Parliament, and that it seemed to her that women would not be returned to the British Parliament in any great numbers until our electoral system was changed to one of Proportional Representation. Most electors had their men political favourites for whom they would always vote; but they are fair enough to recognise that women's point of view should be expressed in the legislature; and, for that reason electors of all parties and both sexes would willingly give a second choice to a good woman candidate—when they could not be prevailed upon to give them a first.

BRANCH NOTE.

MID-LONDON.
At the Meeting on Friday, December 10th, in the Minerva Café, at 7 p.m., the speaker will be Mr. R. C. Grey, who, as a land-owner in Ireland, has come over to place his view before the people of England. He is one of the speakers of the Peace with Ireland Council. All members and friends are cordially invited to be present, and are requested to take part in the discussion.

OUR TREASURY.

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	15 1 0		
Rest of Stalls—			
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Women's Freedom League (Nine Elms) Settlement	1	10	0
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London Vegetarian Society	3	0	0
Misses Davis and Perry	1	10	0
Peasant Shop	1	10	0
Miss Burwood	1	10	0
	18 0 0		
Stall Takings—			
Montgomery Boroughs (Produce and General)	66	7	11
White	34	9	8
Mrs. E. A. Weston	2	6	
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Scotch	19	8	10
Miss M. Baird	1	0	0
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Miss Gillies	10	0	
Mrs. Halley	5	0	
General	15	4	3
Miss Neave	5	0	
South-Eastern Branches	13	8	5
Stationery	12	15	10
Manchester	9	1	0
Toys	8	11	11
	204 1 10		
Side-Shows—			
Psychic Delineations (Mrs. Thomson Price)	3	10	0
Character Reading (Mrs. Goodall)	2	3	6
Psycho Dietetics (Mr. D'Arcy Denny)	1	17	6
"Great Grandmother Dear"	1	5	6
"Witches' Den"	16	0	
Bran Tub	17	6	
	50 10 0		
Tickets	31	7	9
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Goods Sold at Office	8	8	
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In addition to the above the Fair realised:—
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MANY THANKS

to all our members and friends whose efforts resulted in the above success. A great deal of hard work was put into the "Fair" by a great many people, and the impetus of enthusiasm is bringing a constant increase of membership, the formation of new branches, and the renewed activity of old ones.

E. KNIGHT.

BRANCH NOTE.

CLAPHAM.
By kind permission of Mrs. Samuel, a Meeting was held at 46, Lynette Avenue on December 6th. Mrs. Samuel took the chair, and an address was given by Mrs. Mustard on the aims of the Women's Freedom League. Mrs. Mustard urged the members to take up some definite work, such as seeing that qualified women were placed upon the register of Parliamentary voters. She also quoted some instances under which married women were penalised, such as income tax, etc., and pointed out that there was plenty of work to be done, so that women may be really free, both politically and economically.

All old members are asked to send their subscriptions to the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Samuel, 46, Lynette Avenue.

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