

THE VOTE,  
APRIL 21, 1922.  
ONE PENNY.

AMERICAN WOMEN v. ENGLISH WOMEN.

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 1922.

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

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## "USEFUL WOMEN."

### Interview with Miss L. Kerr.

The reproachful epithet of "pin-money" women is a favourite missile in the minds of the nebulous-brained, who hurl their sarcasms, oblivious of the fact that numbers of the male sex, especially since the war, incapacitated by various causes from following more arduous careers, are filling similar niches at similar rates of pay. Yet niches need filling, and offer equally important contributions to the smooth running of the Universe as those various professions and trades which are more definitely labelled. It is impossible to pigeon-hole every separate incident in life, and the true artist, however humble, is the man or woman who can successfully manipulate unexpected events.

"Useful Women," for this reason, has more than justified its existence. Although it has not yet completed its first anniversary, it is one of the most "live" organisations in London to supply urgent necessities at a moment's notice.

"'Useful Women' is essentially a League of Gentlewomen," said Miss Kerr, the genial founder and promoter of this successful venture, in an interview with our representative at her busy office at 48, Dover Street, W. "It was started last year, primarily to cope with post-war conditions, and to give employment to the numbers of educated women, often well on in years, who are being forced into the labour market through no fault of their own. You may be interested to hear that middle-aged women are amongst my most successful workers. To-day I have over 800 "Useful Women" on my books, and clients in proportion, from Duchesses downwards!"

"My workers pay an annual membership fee of 2/6 to the League, a sum which is within everybody's power, and, of course, I insist upon good references with each applicant. I take only a small commission, the bulk of the profits going to the workers themselves.

With the help of the telephone, and much brisk correspondence, I am able to supply my clients at practically a moment's notice."

A glance at the neat, alphabetically arranged list of "Emergencies," which Miss Kerr undertakes to grapple with, impressed our representative, not only by its length and complexity, but by the startling originality of some of the demands. Shopping commissions, mending, arranging flowers, exercising pet dogs—all these have been efficiently catered for in the past, whether by organisations or individuals, but, surely, only "Useful Women," and their indefatigable promoter, have ever attempted to cope with such intricate problems as "preparing Dinner speeches," "attending auctions," "giving conversation lessons in all European and some Oriental languages," "packing for abroad," "choosing trousseaux," etc. The methods "Useful Women" bring to bear on the needs with which they daily grapple are equally original. The system of coloured labels, personally devised by Miss Kerr, for meeting and escorting passengers and luggage at railway stations, eliminates all apprehension beforehand, either of missing the right people, or meeting the wrong.

The success of the organisation in London is tempting Miss Kerr to go further afield, and branches at Southampton and Paris are in immediate contemplation, whilst a third one in India will probably materialise in the near future.

"I get so many requests for assistance from parents abroad, who want to send their children to be educated in England, that a branch office at Southampton is an absolute necessity," said Miss Kerr. "After that is established, branches in the chief provinces will follow as a matter of course, and if I should start a branch in India, I shall hope to include one or more of the Overseas Dominions as well."

## IN PARLIAMENT.

### Probation Officers.

LT.-COL. SIR SAMUEL HOARE asked the Home Secretary if he proposed to put into force the recommendations of the Departmental Committee on Probation Officers? MR. SHORTT replied that the Report, which had only recently been issued, was receiving careful consideration. He was not able to make any definite statement at present.

### Metropolitan Police (Matrons).

VISCOUNT CURZON asked the Home Secretary whether, in all police stations in the Metropolitan Police area, there were employed matrons to whom female prisoners could appeal for advice and assistance; and, if not, would he consider the advisability of making such appointments? MR. SHORTT replied that matrons were employed at all the police stations. Permanent matrons were employed at the busier stations, and at the others, where the number of female prisoners was too small to justify the appointment of a permanent matron, a temporary matron was employed as and when required.

### Women Police Patrols.

In reply to a question by MR. TREVELYAN THOMSON, MR. SHORTT said that, according to the Returns appended to the Reports of His Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary, the number of county and borough police authorities in England and Wales who were employing police women in September last was 38. Asked why he had not inquired what had been the effect of the appointment of these Women Police, MR. SHORTT curtly replied, "Because I was dealing with London." To a further question MR. SHORTT answered that he understood that police women had been employed in some cities in the United States, but he was not in a position to say what the results had been. SIR HARRY BRITAIN asked if he would make enquiries; but no reply was given.

### Children and Girls' Evidence.

SIR ARTHUR STEEL-MAITLAND asked the Home Secretary whether, in the event of the disbandment of the Metropolitan Women Police, he proposed to appoint assistants to Miss Macdougall, and, if so, at what salary; or, alternately, what other arrangements would he make for taking evidence from girls and children? MR. SHORTT replied that the matter was under consideration. It was proposed, where necessary, to employ a sufficient number of suitable women, with a status similar to that of Miss Macdougall, under the direction of the Commissioner of Police. The salary to be paid had not been decided.

### Prisoners Awaiting Trial.

SIR E. HUME WILLIAMS asked the Prime Minister if the Report of the Committee presided over by Mr. Justice Horridge to inquire into the delay of bringing prisoners to trial had yet been received, and, if so, what steps the Government proposed to take in order to carry out its recommendations? MR. SHORTT replied that instructions had been given for drafting a Bill to carry out those recommendations.

### Lunacy Reform.

CAPTAIN LOSEBY asked the Minister of Health if he intended to introduce a Bill dealing with lunacy reform at an early date? SIR ALFRED MOND replied that the question was under consideration, but he was not yet in a position to say if it would be practicable to introduce legislation. CAPTAIN LOSEBY further inquired if it was not a fact that the Minister of Health refused a Royal Commission on the ground that he intended to introduce a Bill at an early date, and if he did not so intend, would he reconsider the demand for the setting up of a Royal Commission? SIR ALFRED MOND said that he was still in hopes of being able to introduce a Bill, but that depended on the time of the House and other matters not under his control. If he did not, then he would reconsider the point put by CAPTAIN LOSEBY.

### Vaccination Declarations (Lewisham).

MR. MILLS asked the Minister of Health if he was aware that the vaccination officer for the Lewisham district had for some years accepted declarations under the Vaccination Act, 1907, made by mothers who were married women, and had allowed such declarations to cover the fathers of the children in question; if the officer now declined to accept such declarations, and if he could give any reason for that officer's change of conduct in the matter? SIR ALFRED MOND replied that he had no information as to the action of the vaccination officer in the matter. But he was advised that the obligation to cause a child to be vaccinated was placed on the person having the custody of the child, and, consequently, a declaration made by the mother, under the Vaccination Act, 1907, would not exempt the father from liability if he had the legal custody of the child. (It is well known that in such cases, unless he forfeits the right, the father is the sole legal guardian of the child, and there is no "if" in the matter.)

### Government Bills.

COLONEL NEWMAN asked the Prime Minister if he was in a position to tell the House what measures foreshadowed in His Majesty's Speech to Parliament would be introduced after the Easter Recess? MR. CHAMBERLAIN replied that it was the intention of the Government to introduce after Easter any of the Bills referred to in His Majesty's Speech which were not already before the House. (We wonder if the Criminal Law Amendment Bill will be proceeded with?)

### Education.

MR. CAIRNS asked the President of the Board of Education if he was aware of the great amount of discontent amongst teachers and parents; that the teachers were complaining that 5 per cent. was going to be kept off their salaries to pay for their pensions, and that parents were discontented with the large increase of the number of children attending elementary schools in the classes; and would he appoint a Select Committee of the House of Commons to make a full inquiry into these matters, and allow the teachers to give evidence? MR. FISHER said he was aware of the views of teachers in respect of the proposed contribution to the cost of the pension system, but he had no evidence of the dissatisfaction of the parents on the point referred to. He would give no promise to the last part of the question.

### Legal Inequalities (Men and Women).

SIR JAMES GREIG asked the Prime Minister whether, having regard to the existing inequalities in the Civil and Criminal Law as between men and women, he would consider appointing a Committee, departmental or otherwise, to investigate the matter with a view to legislation to remove such of these inequalities as might be deemed advisable? MR. LLOYD GEORGE replied that the Lord Chancellor was considering the appointment of a Committee to inquire into these matters and to report to him on the whole subject. (In 1918, MR. LLOYD GEORGE and MR. BONAR LAW said in their election manifesto, "It will be the duty of the new Government to remove all existing inequalities of the law as between men and women." Will MR. LLOYD GEORGE see that women are represented in equal numbers with men on the Committee, which, in 1922, it proposed to appoint in order to make preliminary enquiries about these inequalities?)

### Women Police.

On April 12th MR. GEORGE THORNE (Lib. M.P. for E. Wolverhampton) gave notice that he would call the attention of the House to the question of Women Police, and move a Resolution. F.A.U.

## NOSE-BLOWING DRILL.

An interesting lecture was given by Dr. Octavia Lewin, under the auspices of the Women's Freedom League, at the Goodie's Café, Elm Grove, Southsea, on April 11th, on "The Training of Children in Personal Hygiene." Dr. Mabel Ross was in the Chair.

Dr. Lewin spoke chiefly on the necessity for nasal hygiene. She showed various diagrams of the complicated structure of the nose, and said it was generally supposed that the part of the nose seen standing out on the face was the principal part; but this was a mistake. The really important part of the nose was embedded far back in the head, and consisted of intricate mechanism and many chambers and passages. It was necessary to keep these passages clear, and she specially advocated early morning nasal drill. Children should be induced to sneeze on waking and to blow their noses till they were perfectly clear. If this were done regularly, colds would be unknown. Dr. Lewin advocated the providing of children with handkerchiefs, and that these be attached to the pocket so that they could not fall to the ground and thereby collect dirt and dust, which would be transferred to the nose when used. She laid special stress on the absolute necessity of putting a breast pocket in every dress. Children ought to be taught personal hygiene from birth, she said. There were things it was impossible to do for children; they had to learn to do these things for themselves, and they could not start too early. Nasal breathing was one of them. Children were very adaptable, and would live under most amazing circumstances. Less infant mortality did not of itself mean that we were building up a healthy race. Dr. Lewin condemned the high and tight collar, which prevents the free circulation of the blood and the lymph, and said that no frock should be made to come higher than the collar-bone, and everything should be loose, to allow of free breathing. Specimens of dresses advocated by her were shown. She laid great stress on the cleansing effect of sneezing, and said that most people did not realise that a baby's sneeze was a sign of health. A sneeze eliminated the germs.

In the discussion which followed, Dr. Lewin answered many questions that were showered upon her. She said that adenoids were mainly caused by the passages of the nose not being kept clear; also that about five-fifths of the cases of deafness were caused by something wrong with the nose.

Mrs. Whetton, the local Secretary of the Women's Freedom League, in proposing a vote of thanks to Dr. Lewin and to Dr. Mabel Ross, said that the League stood for the absolute equality of the sexes, and when that equality was attained we should not have women students turned out of hospitals, as was the case now at the London Hospital. The League was still fighting to get the vote on the same terms as men had it, and she invited all women present who were not already members to become so at once.

### DEPUTATION TO SIR WILLOUGHBY DICKINSON, K.B.E.

Organised by the London Society for Women's Service, eighteen women's organisations having members in North St. Pancras (among which was the Women's Freedom League) were represented on a joint deputation to the Rt. Hon. Sir Willoughby Dickinson, K.B.E., at the Friendly Societies' Hall, on Thursday, April 6th. Under the chairmanship of Mrs. Oliver Strachey, various questions in which these societies were specially interested were put to Sir Willoughby, who, as a former Member of Parliament, was a staunch advocate of most of the reforms for which we are now working. He was strongly in favour of an immediate extension of the franchise to women at the same age and on the same terms as men. He agreed that work should be provided for unemployed women as well as for unemployed men, but pointed out that it was more difficult to devise schemes of employment for workless women than for workless men. He thought that the training schemes for women should be extended, and expressed himself entirely in favour of equal-pay for

equal work. He was convinced that marriage should be no bar to any employment of women by the Government or by local governing bodies. With regard to an equal moral standard for men and women, Sir Willoughby Dickinson was strongly in favour of the abolition of the "reasonable cause to believe" clause in the present Criminal Law Amendment Act, and just as strongly in favour of raising the Age of Consent to eighteen. He agreed that the divorce laws should be made equal as between men and women, but was against any greater facilities for divorce. He was in favour of the equal rights of fathers and mothers in the guardianship of their children; of an amendment of the law relating to separation and maintenance orders for married persons; and of the separate taxation of married persons, for which he had already given a vote in the House of Commons. As in the last Parliament, when this question was dealt with, Sir Willoughby Dickinson had been the protagonist of the right of British women to retain their own nationality on marriage with an alien, it was not surprising to learn that he is as keen as formerly on this reform. As an educationist, and one of the chief supporters in the House of Commons of the Fisher Education Act, 1918, he deplored the Government's action, or inaction, in regard to Nursery and Continuation Schools. He deplored also the larger classes and the systematic understaffing of our schools, and the diminished opportunities for higher education. Sir Willoughby spoke in the highest praise of the Metropolitan Women Police Patrols, and was prepared to urge that their numbers should be increased and their powers extended. He was a convinced believer in the League of Nations, and would advocate the reduction of armaments.

After an interesting discussion, the following Resolution was put from the Chair and carried unanimously: "That this meeting of representatives of women's organisations thanks Sir Willoughby Dickinson for his full and frank answers to their questions, and, while not committing him to agreement with all their views, nor themselves to agreement with all his, they express their general satisfaction with his answers."

### AMERICAN WOMEN versus ENGLISH WOMEN.

Under the chairmanship of Dr. Octavia Lewin, Miss Helen Fraser gave a delightful lecture at the Minerva Café on Friday afternoon, April 7th, on "American Women versus British Women." She explained that American women are cleverer at publicity than their British sisters. Their old pioneer spirit had taught them to make the best of everything, and they were certainly the best dressed women in the world, although they did not allow themselves much originality in their dress. American women were also house-proud women, and every conceivable labour-saving device was pressed into the service of their house management. The American woman's social position was very good, and Miss Fraser recalled the fact that it was not an uncommon thing for the American mother to make her morning tour in a luxury car, for her daughter to follow in a two-seater, while the husband proceeded to business in the street car. The Club movement was very strong in America; but men and women had their separate clubs, and fulfilled their social engagements at their own particular clubs. Indeed, men and women seemed to work there on parallel lines, and mixed clubs were rare. Miss Fraser gave a most interesting survey of political life in America, and of women's rights and opportunities in local government and in the Legislature. Women were eligible for election to Congress and Senate; but apparently they had their own special difficulties in securing election. The hope, however, in America, as in Great Britain, was that more and more women will win elections in the future. There were many superficial differences between American and British women; but Miss Fraser was convinced that in all essential things the women of these two nations were remarkably alike. Members of the audience expressed great appreciation of Miss Fraser's lecture, and very many questions were asked and answered before the close of the proceedings.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 21st, 1922.

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### EDITORIAL.

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

### RAISING THE AGE OF CONSENT.

In 1885, when the Criminal Law Amendment Bill was before Parliament proposing that the Age of Consent for girls should be sixteen, an amendment was moved by Mr. Samuel, and supported by Mr. James Stuart, to raise that age to eighteen. This also had the support of Mr. Gladstone, but it was never put to the House, because, owing to some previous discussion, it was ruled out of order. The age of sixteen was therefore adopted, it remains sixteen to this day, and the Criminal Law Amendment Bill promised by the Government in the last King's Speech proposes it shall continue at sixteen, although it also proposes to abolish the proviso in the previous Act which reads: "It shall be a sufficient defence to any charge if it shall be made to appear to the Court or jury before whom the charge is brought that the person so charged had reasonable cause to believe that the girl was of or above the age of sixteen years." In the debate in the House of Commons on the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, April, 1918, Sir Willoughby (then Mr.) Dickinson moved an Amendment raising the Age of Consent to seventeen. For that Amendment he had the support of Mr. Herbert Samuel and Sir John Simon who spoke at the end of the evening when the debate was adjourned. If a division on that occasion had taken place, the Amendment would have been carried. The Bill, however, was subsequently dropped. In his speech at that time on this Amendment, Sir Willoughby pointed out that all Women's Suffrage Societies were asking for the raising of the age to eighteen, and argued that this was not only a moral but a sanitary question. Quoting from Dr. Helen Wilson, he showed that young girls were most dangerous as regards syphilitic infection, and that, both for their own sakes and for the sake of the community, young girls ought to be protected until a higher age than they are at present. In that, the Women's Freedom League entirely agree with him, and we shall continue to demand that the Age of Consent shall be raised to eighteen. In our view, the great weakness of the Bishop of London's Bill (of which the Government's Bill is a copy) was that it did not seek to raise the Age of Consent. In spite of the Bishop's compromise on the question of age, and in spite of the agreement among women's organisations not at the time to press for the raising of the Age of Consent which they really desired, the Bill did not pass. We ourselves are convinced that there will be no more effective opposition to the raising of the Age of Consent to eighteen than there was, or will be, to abolish the "reasonable cause to believe" clause. The raising of the Age of Consent to eighteen would certainly be the quickest and surest means of combating venereal diseases, and both on moral and on sanitary grounds there should be a continuous agitation in the country for raising it to eighteen. Public opinion must be organised to demand it, and the Women's Freedom League is convinced that there is an enormous amount of public opinion ready to make this demand.

### POLICE EVIDENCE ONLY NOT SUFFICIENT.

For several years the Women's Freedom League has urged that neither women nor men charged with "soliciting" should be convicted on police evidence only, but that in every such case the person who was said to be "annoyed" should come to the Court to substantiate the charge. It is a fact that, whenever the accused are able to employ a solicitor for their defence, the case against them is almost invariably lost. Yet thousands of girls and women who have not sufficient means to employ legal aid are convicted every year on police evidence only. We are glad, therefore, that one London Magistrate has expressed dissatisfaction with this practice. When two women were charged at Tower Bridge Police Court last Saturday with "soliciting to the annoyance of passengers" in Waterloo Road, the Magistrate, Mr. Waddy, asked one of the police officers whether, in response to his previous suggestions, he had made any effort to secure the names and addresses of the men who were stated to have been "annoyed." The officer replied that he approached two men, but both said that they did not want to have anything to do with the matter. Mr. Waddy then said: "You two women will be discharged. I am not satisfied that proper efforts were made to secure evidence that these men were 'annoyed.' I shall go on saying this until some public notice is taken. I do not like the evidence in these cases, and I am not even satisfied that these women were transgressing." We entirely concur with these remarks, and in the interests of justice hope that Mr. Waddy will continue this line of action until the illegality of convictions on police evidence only, of persons charged with "soliciting," is universally established.

### OURSELVES.

All members of the Women's Freedom League have a right to be present at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Saturday, April 29th, on the occasion of our Fifteenth Annual Conference, and we cordially invite them to come there any time during the day from 10 a.m. till 6 p.m. Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., will preside. The Conference Agenda is now in the hands of our Branch Secretaries, so that delegates may be instructed at Branch meetings how to vote on the resolutions and amendments appearing on the Agenda, and for which candidates to vote for the members of the National Executive Committee who will be entrusted with carrying out the policy of the Women's Freedom League in the ensuing year. There is a very full Agenda, and, although only Branch delegates may vote, and only Branch delegates and members of the National Executive Committee may speak, ordinary members of the League will find much to interest them in the discussions. Hostesses will be present in Caxton Hall to introduce delegates from a distance to London members; and on the following afternoon (Sunday) our Hampstead and Mid-London Branches have arranged to hold a Reception to delegates, members, and friends of the Women's Freedom League at the Minerva Club (corner of Coram and Hunter Streets), Brunswick Square. There will be tea, music, and short speeches, and Dr. Octavia Lewin has very kindly promised to preside. We hope very much that our members from Scotland, Wales, the Provinces, and from various parts of London and district will avail themselves of this opportunity of spending an hour or so with one another, and getting to know each other better amidst pleasant surroundings. We can confidently rely upon our London Branches and Dr. Lewin to ensure that everyone who comes to that afternoon Reception will have a thoroughly good time. We look forward, therefore, to the pleasure of meeting many of our members and friends on Sunday afternoon, April 30th.

## OLD LONDON.

Some Quiet Backwaters, and other Relics of the Past, in a great Capital.

By E. G. CLAYTON.

At the beginning of an inquiry into the subject suggested by the title, if attention be restricted to the period from 1522 onwards, one is immediately confronted by the question—What did London look like in the days of the Tudors and the early Stuarts? The city and liberties then covered a comparatively small area. There were the royal and episcopal palaces, and the houses of the great nobles; churches at every turn (one hundred and nine were in existence just before the Fire of 1666); numerous monastic and other conventual buildings; the halls of the trading guilds; a profusion of small shops; and thousands of timber-built houses, in winding alleys which lacked pavements and were unlighted after nightfall. There was only one bridge before the year 1750, and travelling was difficult, owing to the bad condition of the thoroughfares. Sanitation was crude, and was grossly neglected. Repeated visitations of the plague and other diseases, from 1556—1665 inclusive, killed many scores of thousands of the people. The recurrences of the plague led to the civic authorities prohibiting the erection of theatres within the city boundaries, and also to the suppression of fairs. But numerous theatres flourished outside the city from 1576—1642. Puritan influences prevailed in the latter year, and all theatrical entertainments ceased until the Restoration.

During the pre-Dissolution period, the religious houses were exceedingly numerous, and the buildings of several were standing until the date of the Great Fire. Among the Orders represented in the sixteenth century were the Benedictines, Carthusians, Cluniacs, Cistercians, Augustinians, Dominicans, Franciscans, and Carmelites.

Vivid pictures of life in London during the Elizabethan and Jacobean age are to be found in the plays and pamphlets of Thomas Dekker. Another writer from whom something can be learned is Donald Lupton; and, for later periods, of course Evelyn, Pepys, Defoe, Addison, and the rest, are invaluable. Dekker devised and wrote the pageants for some of the Lord Mayors; and in one of these compositions the author finishes his effort by making Fame insert a little good advice into her welcome to the new occupant of the mayoral chair. She exclaims:—

"Welcome to Fame's high temple; here fix fast  
Thy footing; for the wayes which thou hast past  
Will be forgot and worne out; and no tract  
Of steps observ'd, but what thou now shalt act."

Some contemporary lines describing London in the eighteenth century run thus:—

"Houses, churches mixt together,  
Streets unpleasant in all weather,  
Prisons, palaces contiguous,  
Gates, a bridge, the Thames irriguous.  
Gaudy things enough to tempt ye,  
Showy outsides, insides empty;  
Bubbles, trades, mechanic arts,  
Coaches, wheelbarrows, and carts."

Warrants, bailiffs, bills unpaid,  
Lords of laundresses afraid;  
Rogues that nightly rob and shot men,  
Hangmen, aldermen and footmen.

Lawyers, poets, priests, physicians,  
Noble, simple, all conditions:  
Worth, beneath a thread-bare cover,  
Villainy, bedawb'd all over.

Women, black, red, fair, and grey,  
Prudes, and such as never pray;  
Handsome, ugly, noisy, still,  
Some that will not—more that will.

Many a beau without a shilling,  
Many a widow not unwilling;  
Many a bargain, if you strike it,  
This is London!—How d'ye like it?

Among the extant relics of the London belonging to the period with which we are concerned, and not quite so well known to the generality of people as the Tower, the Abbey, and St. Paul's, are Westminster School,

which occupies a great part of the site, and certain of the buildings, of the Benedictine monastery; Trinity House (the Wardens and Elder Brethren of which venerable institution have the management of light-houses, beacons, and buoys, the supervision of pilots, and the care of necessitous seamen); and the Foundling Hospital, which is of exceptional interest, not only because of the presence of the poor little children, but also from the internal elegance of the externally plain building, the close associations of the place with Handel and Hogarth, and from the very noteworthy character of the pictures and other possessions of the foundation.

The house of William Hogarth, at Chiswick; the gardens around Old St. Pancras Church; Devonshire House, Bishopsgate (the headquarters of the Society of Friends); Spital Square, off Norton Folgate; the Albany, between Piccadilly and Burlington Gardens; Queen Anne's Gate; and Pickering Place, St. James's Street, are other examples of "quiet backwaters" in London. The Adelphi, too, must not be forgotten, nor the epigram which was written about the four brothers Adam, who were blamed for encroaching on the river. The following lines are quoted from this production:—

"Four Scotchmen, by the name of Adams,  
Who keep their coaches, and their madams,  
Quoth John, in sulky mood, to Thomas,  
Have stole the very river from us.

Ye friends of George, and friends of James,  
Envy us not our river Thames:  
The Pr—ss, fond of raw-bon'd faces,  
May give you all our posts and places;  
Take all—to gratify your pride,  
But dip your oatmeal in the Clyde."

Finally, and as one of the most peaceful nooks in London, may be commended the institution known as Thomas Sutton's Hospital, otherwise the Charterhouse. Regarded as a relic of one of the nine Carthusian monasteries that existed in this country, as an asylum for poor gentlemen, and as closely associated with a famous school, the Charterhouse is possessed of a triple interest. And some of the remains bring out very clearly the difference between the existence of a recluse of the Chartreuse, from the life which was followed by a Benedictine monk. He—the latter—lived in community.

### OUR NEW PAMPHLETS.

- "The Work for Women M.Ps.," by Miss Helena Normanton, B.A. ... 3d.
- "The Need for Women Members of Parliament," (Second Edition), by Mrs. How Martyn, M.Sc. 3d.
- "Women's Right to Work," by Miss Lind-af-Hageby 3d.
- "Women and Income Tax," by Mrs. Ayres Purdie (Certified Accountant) ... 3d.
- "Race Motherhood. Is Woman the Race?" by Mrs. Montefiore ... 6d.

#### CAMEO LIFE SKETCHES.

- "Dr. Elsie Inglis," by Dr. Aimée Gibbs ... 4d.
- "Josephine Butler," by Marion Holmes ... 3d.
- "Lydia Becker," " " " " ... 3d.
- "Frances Mary Buss," " " " " ... 3d.

and various pamphlets and books on subjects of special interest to women.

Any books on any subject obtained to order.

### OUR LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

"My Experiences as an Asylum Doctor." By Dr. Lomax. The Literature Department of the W.F.L. is prepared to lend this book at the rate of 6d. a week.

"Woman: A Citizen." By A. E. Metcalfe, B.Sc. (2/6.) This very useful little book, which is intended more especially for the guidance of voters, and which deals with Government, both Municipal and Parliamentary, is a perfect mine of information, and can be obtained at this Office.

### WHAT AMERICAN SUFFRAGISTS ARE DOING.

Mrs. Taylor Marsh, Assistant Press Chairman of the National Woman's Party (President, Mrs. Olive H. P. Belmont), sends us a very interesting account of the present campaign for legal equality in the United States.

After the ratification of the Suffrage amendment on August 18th, 1920, American women Suffragists, at their Convention in February, 1921, decided to reorganise and fight for "the removal of all forms of the subjection of women." Since then great national headquarters have been purchased, the laws of individual States minutely studied as they affect women, a State blanket "Bill of Rights" to remove sex disabilities in individual States drafted and passed in Wisconsin, whilst in nine other States a campaign for it is still in progress. A National Equal Rights amendment is now being drafted.

The United States is blessed, not only with a National Constitution, but also with 48 State Constitutions. The exact status of women throughout the United States was, therefore, not known to anybody. The Legal Research Department of the Woman's Party, under a woman lawyer, is now studying this question, and drawing up a complete body of law covering the 48 States, to furnish accurate ammunition for the fight.

The blanket "Bill of Rights" provides for equal voting rights, equality in Government and public positions, equal pay, equality in giving service, choice of domicile, rights of property, control of labour and earnings, control of children, grounds of divorce, treatment of sex offences, examination and treatment of disease, and in all other respects.

The old English Common Law is responsible for many of the existing inequalities of the law—for the control by a husband of his wife's services in the home, and of the money earned by her by keeping boarders, nursing in the home, or even in outside work, he having the right to go and collect her salary himself, and for the control of children solely by their father.

All these objects are being taken as steps in making women finally free and independent; so the Woman's Party has established itself on a permanent basis as a national centre for all activities for the advancement of women.

The Headquarters will be opened on May 21, in the presence of the United States President, national representatives, and women Suffragists from England and other countries.

The best of good wishes will go out from the Women's Freedom League to our American fellow Suffragists.

### A WOMAN GRAIN EXPERT.

Miss E. Cora Hind is the Commercial and Agricultural Editor of the Manitoba Free Press, published at Winnipeg (Man.), which has for its special field the three great prairie provinces of Manitoba, Alberta, and Saskatchewan. Agriculture being the chief industry of Western Canada, this newspaper is the first in North America to devote a page of its daily issue to farm matters, under the title of the "Farmers' Forum," which, in addition to the commercial market page, is edited by Miss Hind. Every summer, from mid-July to the end of August, Miss Hind inspects the crop in person, travelling annually some 12,000 miles by train, and motoring some 3,500 miles, going into the fields and inspecting the actual condition of the standing grain. Every day she sends reports by wire to her paper as each section is covered, and at the end of her trip she makes the annual estimate of the crop. This estimate is regarded by the grain trade as one of the most authoritative forecasts that may be expected, and on the morning of its issue it is wired all over the United States and cabled to Great Britain. Miss Hind also visits regularly the big summer stock shows of the three prairie provinces, and the annual bull sales. She is regarded as a very fair judge of all classes of livestock.

### BOOK REVIEWS.

*Purple Springs*. By Nellie L. McClung. (Hutchinson). 7/6. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

Those of us who learned to know—and love—Mrs. McClung, when she came to England last autumn, will welcome the English edition of this bright little story of Canadian Western life, which we are told has been selling in Canada to the tune of 20,000 copies.

Mrs. McClung, as our readers will no doubt remember, has been elected by the City of Edmonton, where she lives, to be its representative in the Legislature of Alberta, a fitting sequel to the active suffrage campaign she waged, both in Canada and America, prior to the granting of women's enfranchisement in those countries.

*Purple Springs* is a novel of decided suffrage tendency, and we can detect a flavour of autobiography in Pearl Watson, the heroine, and her public utterances. In the rôle of Premier, played by Pearl in the Women's Parliament, we seem to be reviewing the prominent position Mrs. McClung herself held in the famous Mock Parliament of Women, held in the Manitoba Capitol, in 1914, which did more than all other political efforts put together to break down the prejudice which had so long surrounded the women of her country as possible voters.

We must confess that, to us, the weakest part of the book lies in the behaviour of Horace Clay, the young Millford physician, who is in love with Pearl, but is prevented by health reasons from asking her to marry him, and leaves her puzzled and bewildered in consequence, because he makes no attempt at explanation, which at least would have straightened things out a bit. We are not even told from what disease he was suffering, though, in the long run, the cloud clears off the young doctor's horizon as mysteriously as it appeared in the earlier pages of the book. But we will not quarrel with the threatened handicap, for it provides the impetus which enables Pearl to achieve public recognition of her youthful talents in the little community where she lives.

The unequal guardianship of married parents over their children seems to be the chief bone of contention amongst the women of the little Canadian prairie town which forms the *mise-en-scène* of *Purple Springs*. Certain hard cases are quoted with a good deal of effect one woman in particular being willing to go through life under a cloud as regards her good name, rather than run the risk of surrendering her only child to the tutelage of its grandfather, who eventually turns out to be the Premier of the Province. The foibles of certain male politicians who figure prominently in the story are ably exposed, and the respective points of view in the politics pursued by men, as compared with the special interests women have at heart, are subtly revealed. The writer is particularly lucid in her political disquisitions.

*Criminal Law Amendment Bill, 1922*. By Mrs. James Gow (National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland). Price 1d. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

This leaflet, just published, gives arguments for the removal of the defence of "reasonable cause to believe" a girl under 16 to be above that age. Here are many excellent reasons why this loophole, through which so many despicable offenders escape, should be closed; but the leaflet stops there, and we are not told why, if improvement is necessary in our disgracefully low standard of protection for girls, we should be content to totter forward on a halting little step, instead of taking the free advance that would swing us into line with the more progressive peoples, and establish an age of consent not only devoid of convenient loopholes, but raised from 16 to 18. The most effective way to ensure starvation is to join wholeheartedly in clamouring for a quarter of a loaf. That minimum of nutriment will in the end always be put beyond our reach; but the principles of right and justice always win unexpected support. Public opinion is ready, and the women of the country are full of latent enthusiasm for this long overdue reform. To belabour the "reasonable cause" alone is waste of time and opportunity. Let us proclaim that the women's minimum is 18 years.

### Women's Freedom League.

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### FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO  
BE FREE.

Monday, April 24, at 6.30 p.m., at 144, High Holborn.—Mid-London Branch Meeting.

Tuesday, April 25, at 3 p.m.—Hampstead Branch Meeting, at 7, Gainsborough Gardens. (By kind permission of Dr. Knight.)

Friday, April 28, at 1.30 p.m., at 144, High Holborn.—Meeting of Organization Committee.

Friday, April 28, at 2.30 p.m.—National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Saturday, April 29, at 10 a.m.—Annual Conference, Caxton Hall.

Sunday, April 30, at 3.30 p.m.—Reception to Delegates, Members, and Friends, arranged by the Mid-London and Hampstead Branches. Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

Monday, May 1, at 6.30 p.m.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn. Speaker: Dr. Lilius Hamilton, of Studley College. Subject: "The National Importance of Women's Work on the Land."

Monday, May 8, at 6.30 p.m.—Public meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Speaker: Miss Belle Rennie. Subject: "The Dalton Scheme of Education, which aims at developing Children as Individuals."

Friday and Saturday, November 24 and 25.—Caxton Hall, Green, White, and Gold Fair.

### OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, April 26, at 8 p.m.—Women's League of Union, Oak Room, Kingsway Hall, W.C. American Tea Party in aid of Foreign Mission Work in Hankow.

Sunday, May 14, at 6.30 p.m.—Kingston Church of Humanity, Orchard Road, Fairfield West, Kingston-on-Thames. Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin. Subject: "Nasal Hygiene and Spiritual and Mental Development."

### WOMEN TEACHERS' APPARATUS EXHIBITION.

Dr. P. B. Ballard, L.C.C. Inspector, opened the National Union of Women Teachers' Individual Teaching Apparatus Exhibition in Westminster Central Hall on Friday, April 7th. Dr. Ballard said that "the teacher's influence is greater, though less obvious, where individual teaching is carried out," and added that "the greatest forces are invisible." He emphasised the need for enlisting the child's interest in his work by introducing a joyous element, and said that his own experience had convinced him that better results in Reading and Arithmetic are obtained by individual teaching than by Class teaching. Miss C. M. A. Coombs, L.L.A., President of the London Unit (National Union of Women Teachers), thanked Dr. Ballard for his kindness in opening the Exhibition.

### BRANCH NOTES.

#### KENSINGTON.

An excellent meeting was held at the Minerva Club on Tuesday, April 11th, at 8 p.m. Miss Nina Boyle, who is well known to our members as an inimitable raconteuse, gave a vivid description of her recent journey, as a delegate of the "Save the Children" Society, to the Russian famine districts, incidentally painting a very terrible picture of the sufferings of the Russian peasants under the joint visitation of famine and disease. The vicissitudes of the journey out from England were humorously depicted; the intense cold—20 to 30 degrees below zero; the abominable train service, with its interminable delays; the dirt and vermin, and frequent lack of food. The terrible scenes witnessed by the travellers as they approached the famine districts were realistically described; trainloads of refugee children bound for Moscow, no longer human in appearance, but sitting crouched together in listless apathy for hours at a time, without moving even an eyelid, or taking the slightest interest in anything around them; the awful patience and resignation of their elders; the masses of dead bodies lying in the roads waiting for burial. The splendid work carried on by the various relief societies was enumerated. The "Save the Children" Fund is now feeding 250,000 Russian children daily, besides giving a number of rations to the various Children's Homes in the district. The children of sixteen nations have been helped by this particular Fund. Miss Boyle compared the present Russian famine with Indian famines in the past, explaining that, in India,

a famine where 15 per cent. died was considered a bad famine, whereas in Russia to-day it was estimated by the local relief committees, the Government, and various experts, that of the 19 millions in the stricken provinces, only 7 per cent. were likely to survive. Miss Boyle paid a special tribute to the workers, who, night and day, were striving to stem the ravages of disease and misery. Eight European workers died at their posts during Miss Boyle's visit, including Dr. Farrar, Miss Paterson, two German doctors, a Swedish nurse, and Miss Violet Tillard (see Memorial notice in the VOTE of March 10), whilst numbers of Russian workers died constantly. In addition to the famine, typhus, diphtheria, scarlet fever, etc., were also raging. The hospitals in the country districts were more like dens of wild beasts than curative institutions, and were devoid of linen, drugs, disinfectants, or any sort of equipment, the patients lying piled together on the beds, irrespective of the complaints from which each was suffering. The kitchens and distributing centres in the villages, however, were well managed, and periodically inspected.

Miss Reeves presided. A good deal of animated questioning followed Miss Boyle's interesting address, and the collection realised the welcome sum of £6 15s. 2d.

#### SWANSEA.

The Swansea Branch intends to hold a Jumble Sale towards the end of May, and would be very grateful for parcels of old clothes, household goods, or any other saleable articles. Will you kindly save any such articles that you have to spare? Parcels may be sent to 14, Carlton Terrace, or, if you would like your contribution sent for, please communicate with the Secretary.

Hon. Sec., Miss C. M. JELLEY, 14, Carlton Terrace.

#### MANCHESTER.

On Friday, April 7, a meeting of this Branch was held by kind invitation of Mrs. Ellison, at 3, Albany Road, Victoria Park. The aims of the Women's Freedom League were outlined to those present, and a really live interest was shown. Quite a keen enthusiasm was shown for the need of Women Police in Manchester, and evidences of that need were given. Disgust was expressed at the action of the Police Authorities in first withholding from Women Police the power of arrest, and then using the lack of this power as an argument for their inefficiency from a police point of view.

Four new members were enrolled, and paid up their subscriptions before leaving. It is felt that there is wide scope for the League in this City, and the hope was expressed that the Organiser should return at no distant date to follow up the many tracks now opened.

M. F. BRIMSON (Organiser).

#### WATERLOO & CROSBY.

On Thursday, April 6, this Branch held a meeting of members, which was very well attended. Members of Committee were appointed, and a real interest was evinced. The chair was taken by Mrs. Evans, the President, and the discussion of the evening was opened by Mrs. Grosart on the Guardianship, Maintenance, and Custody of Infants Bill. She outlined all the points of the Bill, and the members then asked for fuller explanation of the various clauses. In addition to the interest in this Bill a unanimous resolution was passed and sent to the Prime Minister and Col. Buckley, pressing for the adoption of the Equal Franchise Bill recently introduced by Lord Robert Cecil.

To get back to the Branch again was like going home, and the cordiality of its greeting was exceedingly refreshing. This week I shall be working in Bolton. Will readers who have friends in Bolton, who would be likely members or sympathisers of the Women's Freedom League, most kindly send their names and addresses to our "VOTE" Office, so that I may call upon them?

M. F. BRIMSON (Organiser).

#### WATERLOO & CROSBY.

The first monthly meeting of the re-formed Crosby and Waterloo Branch was held at 14, Brookfield Avenue on Thursday, April 6th. In welcoming members, old and new, the President said that, although there were in the neighbourhood local branches of several women's organisations, yet the Women's Freedom League had a very definite place, as it welcomed those who could subscribe to no party political programme, and its paper, the "VOTE," kept a careful record of women's affairs, in and out of Parliament. Members were urged to spend five minutes a day with the "VOTE." Mrs. Grosart introduced the Guardianship of Infants Bill, and several members took part in the discussion that followed. The following resolution was moved by Mrs. Savage, seconded by Mrs. King, and passed unanimously:—"That this meeting of the Women's Freedom League urges the Government to adopt the Equal Franchise Bill, introduced by Lord Robert Cecil, as a Government measure, and to facilitate its passage in the present Session." Copies of the resolution were sent to the Rt. Hon. David Lloyd George, M.P., and to Lt.-Col. Buckley, M.P.

Hon. Sec., Miss DORA GARNOLL.

### SUPPORT YOUR LEAGUE.

Our funds are again at their lowest Spring level and urgently require replenishing—weekly bills must be met and rent be paid. Members and friends of the Women's Freedom League only have to be told of their League's starving condition to come to the rescue. Please send your contributions at once before you start on your holidays.

E. KNIGHT,

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

Hon. Treas.

FRIDAY,  
APRIL 21,  
1922.

# THE VOTE

ONE  
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