

THE VOTE,  
OCT. 18, 1929.

WOMEN—USE YOUR VOTES!

# THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1929

**OBJECTS : To use the power of the Parliamentary vote, now won for Women upon equal terms with men, to elect women to Parliament, and upon other public bodies; 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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## EQUAL PAY.

By SIBYL M. BURLS (Vice-President, National Union of Women Teachers).

There was never any doubt in the minds of those who took part in the final skirmishes of the long battle for Equal Franchise, that once political equality was attained the next citadel to be stormed must be that of economic equality; and there is not one of the old campaigners, who worked strenuously for woman's suffrage, who does not know that the fight before us now is destined to be a much more severe struggle than that long crusade, which achieved its object when in May of this year, for the first time in this country, women voted at a Parliamentary election on the same terms as men. It is true that it was essential that the franchise victory should be won first, and that the possession of the vote is very much more a means to an end than an end in itself; but it is still more true that while, as far as the franchise was concerned, there was one clear-cut issue—either we had the vote or we had not—when we come to the question of economic equality the issue is much more involved, and if we attempt to define all that is covered by economic equality between women and men, we find ourselves considering not merely rates of pay, but such widely diverse subjects as special restrictions on women's labour, the right of married women to do paid work outside their homes, the separate assessment of a woman's income when she happens to be married, the endowment of motherhood, women's liabilities in respect of dependent relatives, etc., the ramifications of the subject are almost endless; in other words, there is a tremendous amount of work to be done, and it is fairly clear that economic equality must be won, first in one sphere and then in another, and that it will be politic to make the first attack in the sphere where public opinion is most prepared for a change, particularly if it is a sphere where success will affect a very large number of women. The majority of organised women would probably agree that the economic reform which would affect the largest number of women and which public opinion is most ready to endorse is that of "equal pay for equal work," and therefore let us be up and doing.

For the last twenty years at least the women teachers organised in the National Union of Women Teachers and the women civil servants organised in their various associations have been pressing hard for this measure

of justice. Twice the House of Commons has by resolution affirmed its belief in the equity of equal pay for the Civil Service, and the representatives of this country who signed the Treaty of Versailles accepted the principle laid down in Art. 427, that "men and women should receive equal remuneration for work of equal value." What stands in the way then of just pay for these two large bodies of women workers, whose rates of pay, because they are paid by the largest employers of labour in the country, have a tremendous effect on the wages of all other women workers? What stands in the way? The cost and the opposition!

What will it cost? Something, of course; every reform has to be paid for. But the country that could afford to spend £8,000,000 after the Napoleonic wars in buying out the slave-owners can afford to give the women civil servants and the women teachers the *right* pay. Remember the country was not so wealthy then as it is now; remember the relative value of money then and now, and then consider if we cannot afford to free our women teachers and women civil servants from an injustice which has long been intolerable.

Who is opposed to Equal Pay? Not the general public. At public meetings, large and small, organised during the last twenty years, equal pay resolutions have been invariably passed, always by large majorities—often unanimously.

Who is opposed to Equal Pay? Not other bodies of organised workers. In the Labour and Trades Councils, where delegates of the local trades unions meet regularly, and where the great majority of the delegates are men, pledged to reflect faithfully the policy of their respective unions, these workers who are not teachers will vote unanimously for Equal Pay for teachers.

Who is opposed to Equal Pay? Not the present Government, who included "Equal Pay" in their national manifesto before the election which returned them to power.

Who is opposed to Equal Pay? We are ashamed to confess it, but it is nevertheless true that, so far as the teaching profession is concerned, the most strenuous opposition comes from some of our male colleagues, who appear to be actuated by a craven

fear and a glorious unreason. They are afraid that, if and when Equal Pay is established, it will be accomplished by taking the total sum now used for payment of teachers' salaries and making that same sum suffice to pay all teachers of the same standing the same rate of pay. In other words, they fear (or say that they fear) that men's salaries will have to come down in order that women's may go up. This fear should surely be baseless unless the men are entirely incapable of taking care of themselves; it surely is baseless if one remembers the Treasury's attitude towards the establishment of Equal Pay in the Civil Service; the Treasury opposition is entirely on the ground of the cost. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has no delusions on this subject: he is quite clear that the end will not be achieved by lowering the men's salaries to some half-way house where they shall meet the women's. The Treasury knows perfectly well that the women would resist this method of settlement no less strenuously than the men. The men opponents of equal pay inside any trade or profession should put fear on one side; it brings them no credit in the eyes of the public that they should imagine their women colleagues are less anxious than themselves to maintain any standard salary that has been established for any particular piece of work; what the women do rebel against is the acceptance of any fraction (say, four-fifths) of that standard wage as remuneration for the work when women happen to be doing it. Women, equally with men, abhor the rôle of "blackleg," which is forced upon them in so many occupations.

And then as to the logic of this opposition. Who said that man was a reasoning animal? Somebody who had little acquaintance with the opponents of Equal Pay. There is quite a considerable body of opposition which says: "If you give a single woman with no responsibilities the same salary that you give a man with two children, the woman will be able to live in much greater comfort, not to say luxury, than the man does." This is quite a fair statement of a per-

#### MRS. PETHICK-LAWRENCE AT THE MINERVA CLUB.

Many old friends and new members of the League spent a delightful evening at the Minerva Club on Wednesday of last week. It was the opening meeting of the autumn session, and the large gathering was a sign of encouragement for the future. After coffee had been served, Dr. Knight, who presided over the meeting, welcomed those present and expressed the hope that the League would have a very successful autumn campaign. Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, President of the League, then gave a delightful speech on the need for our work. Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence pointed out that though men and women are working together now more than ever in the past, there are still many reforms for which the League must press. In mentioning how the League had taken action in the case of the London Lock Hospital until the whole matter had been investigated, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence paid tribute to the work of Miss Underwood at headquarters. Other needs, said Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, are more women Members of Parliament, more women on local governing bodies, and more women magistrates. It, too, is a great injustice that at present women may not sit in the House of Lords.

Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence said it was a great joy to her to see so many young people present; she felt sure that their work in the League would be full of inspiration, joy and friendship. The gallant, outstanding spirit of the militant movement still finds a home in the League, which we hope will grow to be a centre where women from other countries may come to find a welcome and understanding.

Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence having pointed out many injustices to women still to be rectified, including their inferiority both in numbers and position on various committees, said that a new chapter had been opened, a new life begun, and she hoped that the League would

perfectly obvious fact, but as an argument for or against Equal Pay, it is merely foolish. If the salary which is being paid equally to this man and woman is not really sufficient to maintain the man and his dependent children (for whose advent as dependents he is directly responsible, knowing what his salary would be) in comfort and happiness, then the man has every reason for working with his colleagues for a higher salary scale, which they will obtain with much less agitation if there are no women (care-free or otherwise) doing the same job as they are at a lower rate of pay. Isn't it notorious yet that blacklegs, willing or unwilling, will break the back of any strike?

Apart from the mere irrelevancy of the statement quoted above, it can, of course, be reduced to an absurdity by pursuing such an "argument" to its logical conclusion. It would mean paying the married man more than the single man, the man of experience whose children had ceased to be dependent less than the young married man, the woman who supported her mother more than the man who had only himself to keep; it would end in paying the employee not for the work that he or she did at all, but according to the number of people who, either from the worker's choice or from necessity or misfortune, are dependent upon that worker's salary. In short, salaries would vary not with the value of the work or the qualifications of the worker, but with the amount that the worker chose or was forced to spend. The result would be justice for no employee and chaos for every employer.

The sooner it is acknowledged as uncompromisingly as it is realised that wages are given in exchange for work, and should therefore bear the right relation to the work, irrespective of the sex, social status, or private life of the worker, the sooner underpaid women workers will receive the right salary and be able to devote their time outside their working hours to some aspect of economic equality other than that of equal pay for equal work.

go forward till the light of freedom dawned on every woman in the world.

Our member Mrs. Barwick (Morecambe Town Council) gave particulars of the fight of her friend, Miss Ashworth, on the Preesall (near Fleetwood) Urban District Council, described in THE VOTE of October 4th.

Dr. Knight then expressed the hope that every member would support the collecting box scheme, which had just been started to help the funds of the League. This was followed by an interesting discussion relating mainly to the position of women on local governing bodies.

Miss Marian Reeves said it was a great joy to have Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence with them and expressed, on behalf of those present, appreciation of her speech that evening. Miss Reeves was glad, too, to welcome the young members and to feel that they are joining in the wonderful fight for freedom. Miss Reeves concluded by expressing the thanks of the meeting to Dr. Knight, Treasurer of the League, who had presided that evening, to whose faithfulness, loyalty, and hard work the League owed so much. Mrs. Pierotti kindly seconded the vote of thanks.

### JAZZ WHIST DRIVE

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56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.,

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AT 8.15 P.M.

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(Write at once for Tickets).

## RAISING THE SCHOOL-LEAVING AGE.

By C. NEAL, L.L.A.

It is a matter of great satisfaction to the majority of educationists that the Government has recently announced its intention to raise the legal school-leaving age to 15, instead of the present 14 years, as from April 1st, 1931.

The Fisher Act of 1918, by one of its clauses, provided that full-time education should be continued till the 16th birthday, or, as an alternative to that, that there should be compulsory part-time education up to the age of 18. But that clause has never been put into effect, and, during the intervening eleven years, educationists have never ceased to put forward their demand that the leaving age should be raised immediately to 15, and ultimately to 16.

The promise to raise the leaving age was given a prominent place in the programme of the Labour Party in the recent election, and there was consequently very great disappointment when no mention of this was made in the King's Speech at the opening of Parliament, and when it was realised from answers to questions in the House that it was the intention of the Government to postpone any decision on this important matter. Constant agitation by the supporters of the reform, however, and particularly by members of the Government's own Party, added, doubtless, to Sir Charles Trevelyan's own strong desire, brought forth the pronouncement that the age would be raised in two years' time.

According to statistics, nearly half a million boys and girls now leave school every year at the age of 14, so that in the eleven years already elapsed since the 1918 Act, over five million young people have had their education cut short at this early age, and, by 1931, nearly another million will have been added to this number. If arrangements for the reform had been made earlier, what large numbers of these children would have been prevented from entering the labour market, and so ousting older workers, and what still larger numbers would have been prevented from joining the army of unemployed of the few last years!

But, though the delay has been regrettable, the promise of reform now given is very welcome. It is to be hoped, however, that the Government will introduce their Bill to make the higher leaving age the law of the land as soon as possible; it would be disastrous now to allow anything to intervene which would prevent the Bill from going forward. Suffragists know too well the dangers of Parliamentary delay.

While acknowledging whole-heartedly the advantages of keeping children at school for even one year longer than at present, and while welcoming with the greatest possible pleasure the comparatively short time to elapse before the reform is to become actual fact, it would be useless to minimise the difficulties which have to be overcome in order to effect the change.

The greatest problem will probably be that of securing sufficient teachers for the additional number of children in the schools. The preparation and training of a teacher is a lengthy business; even those young people who have already passed a qualifying examination and are entering a Training College this year will not be available until August, 1931—four months after the "appointed day." Again, the present accommodation of the Training Colleges is not nearly sufficient for the number of teachers that will be required; it is reported that this year over 800 students wishing to become teachers and having passed the necessary examination, have been excluded through lack of accommodation. A very conservative estimate of the number of extra teachers required in 1931 is 10,000, and it is certain that still more will be wanted in 1934 and 1935 to provide for the larger numbers of 14-15 year olds who will then be in the schools consequent upon the high birth-rate of 1920 and 1921. Without adequate teaching staff, it will be impossible to retain the older children in the schools. Where are all these teachers to come from?

First of all, and most welcome of all to feminists, it seems almost certain that the authorities will be obliged to

try to obtain the services of those women teachers who have been dismissed or have been compelled to resign because they got married. It is difficult to see what else can be done. And if these—or even any considerable number of these—married women do return to the teaching profession, it is to be hoped that this indefensible custom of making marriage a bar to well-paid work will be broken down for ever; and so the carrying out of one reform may possibly bring another in its train. Again, a few Educational Authorities now insist that the teachers employed by them shall resign on reaching their 60th birthday. The Teachers' Superannuation Act, however, permits service to continue until the age of 65 is reached; the rescission of the lower age regulation will probably prove to be necessary. The greatest danger to the teaching profession and to the welfare of the children is that, in the need for a larger school staff, the proposal will be made to use unqualified or partially qualified people. This is a possibility that will be watched very carefully by the various teachers' organisations.

The accommodation of the additional pupils will also present considerable difficulty. Under many education authorities, energetic building of new schools is now proceeding, and plans have been made for three years in advance for accommodating pupils up to the age of 14 only. These plans will all need to be revised in the light of the new law and greater activities in school building must result. Incidentally, this must have a good effect on the problem of unemployment.

The cost to the nation will necessarily be very great. It has been computed that the addition to the salary bill alone will be about two and a half million pounds. Added to this, there will be the expenditure on new schools, or the enlargement of existing schools, and on the equipment for them; for, if the extra school year is to be of real benefit to the children, it would be folly to stint them in the provision of books and apparatus. But, on the other hand, there will probably be a very considerable saving on unemployment charges and, if there is the promised reduction in armaments, more money will thereby be released for educational purposes. The "Economist," while not minimising the cost in pounds sterling, states that "there is fairly general agreement among all who have gone into the question that the return in economic 'welfare' which the raising of the age will yield will, in a very few years, amply repay its cost."

While the administrative difficulties are now being coped with by the Board of Education and the Local Education Authorities, the teachers' difficulties still lie before them. For them the problem is how to make their plans so that the curriculum and the syllabuses for the future shall provide the greatest possible benefit to the children. It does not simply mean that another year's work has to be added to the present schemes; the fact that the school life is to be prolonged alters the whole outlook and necessitates a complete change of plan; the planning of a four years' course for a senior school instead of a three years' course needs a new point of view; there can be a complete broadening of the whole scheme and it is possible that the ideals outlined in the "Hadow Report" can now be realised. With the right spirit of co-operation between the authorities and the teachers, and between the teachers and the parents and children, the outlook for the future in education is one of cheerfulness and hope.

Since the above article was written, the Board of Education has issued Circular 1404, dealing with the raising of the school-leaving age. In order to provide for the staffing difficulty, the circular states that:—

(1) Training colleges have been invited to secure an increased number of admissions.

(2) The Board looks for (a) the retention, \*temporarily at any rate and in suitable cases the recall, of married women teachers; and (b) The retention of teachers over 60 years of age who would otherwise retire before 65. \*(Our italics.)

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### EDITORIAL.

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

## WOMEN—USE YOUR VOTES!

By BERTHA MASON.

On Friday, November 1st, elections for one-third of the members of county borough and non-county borough councils in England and Wales will take place. The men and women then elected will serve for three years. For the return of *suitable* representatives (and by *suitable* representatives we mean women and men who will put the moral, social, and material interests of the borough and its inhabitants before all and any party and personal considerations), women electors are as responsible as men electors.

Do all women fully realise the importance of the issues at stake? Do they fully realise that the health, the comfort, the morality—in fact, the general well-being of millions of people, children as well as adults, depend in no small measure upon the manner and spirit in which borough councillors discharge the duties of their office after they are elected?

Do all women realise that borough councils are already responsible for housing and sanitation (including the removal of dust and refuse), and the cleansing of streets, for education, public health, the care of expectant mothers and infants, the maintenance of law and order (including the appointment of women police), the development of playing fields, and other legitimate forms of recreation and amusement?

Do all women fully realise that on April 1st, 1930, boards of guardians will cease to exist, and that their duties, which involve the care of over a million of destitute persons (of whom it is estimated about 75 per cent. are women and children) and the administration of home and institutional relief, will be transferred on that day to the councils of counties and county boroughs?

These are matters which are of supreme importance to the well-being of the home and the nation.

Yet another point. Do all women realise that the work entrusted to borough councils—which in the case of county borough councils will be enormously increased next April—is work which cannot be efficiently carried out without the co-operation and experience of intelligent and sympathetic women who have understanding of the needs of the people amongst whom they dwell and practical experience of the requirements of the home? We wonder if these points are fully realised by all women local government electors and for this reason?

The total number of women serving to-day on seventy-three of the eighty-four county borough councils in England and Wales, which in the immediate future will be responsible not only for the work already in their hands, but also for the additional work of home and institutional relief, is only 185; a number not sufficient for the amount of present work and totally inadequate for the additional and important work connected with the care of the destitute, for which they will shortly be responsible.

Eleven of the eighty-four county borough councils are composed only of men. The number of women members on the 259 non-county borough councils is also inadequate, and 103 of these borough councils in England and Wales and 202 in Scotland have still no women members.

It is obvious, in view of the facts now given, that if the work of local government is to be satisfactorily carried out, the number of women members of county and borough councils must be greatly increased, and without delay.

The necessity for this increase is the greater owing to the deplorable fact which, lamentable as it is, must be faced—that the abolition of boards of guardians carries with it the displacement of the 20,000 elected poor law guardians (of whom 2,300 are women), who at present are rendering admittedly invaluable service to the community in connection with the care and relief of the destitute. Under the new arrangements, the experience and co-operation of the majority of these elected women in respect to the administration of indoor and outdoor relief will be lost to the community. This being so, the work of the moment for everyone who believes that the services and co-operation of women in local government work (including poor law administration) are absolutely essential, is to mitigate as far as possible the deplorable loss which the community must face, by increasing the number of women on county and county borough councils.

The first opportunity for so doing will occur on November 1st in connection with the municipal elections. Not all women can come forward for election, but all women whose names are on the local government registers (with few exceptions) can go to the polling booth on November 1st and record their votes for the candidates who in their opinion are the most likely to serve, without fear or favour, the material, social, and moral interests of their borough.

It is not the business of any individual, nor is it our wish, to tell anyone how to vote, but we can, and we do, earnestly appeal to all readers of THE VOTE who are local government electors to go to the polling booth on November 1st and "Use Your Votes."

## WHY NO WOMAN MEMBER?

The matter of National Parks is extremely important and we are glad to note that the Prime Minister has appointed a Committee of Inquiry, with the following terms of reference:—

"To consider and report if it is desirable and feasible to establish one or more National Parks in Great Britain with a view to the preservation of natural characteristics, including flora and fauna, and to the improvement of recreational facilities for the people; and to advise generally and, in particular, as to the areas, if any, that are most suitable for the purpose."

Nine men have been appointed as members, but no woman. The members are the Rt. Hon. Christopher Addison, M.P., M.D. (chairman); H. L. French, Esq., C.B., O.B.E., of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries; A. S. Gaye, Esq., C.B., Commissioner of Crown Lands; I. G. Gibbon, Esq., C.B.E., of the Ministry of Health; Sir Robert Greig, M.C., LL.D., etc., Secretary to the Department of Agriculture for Scotland; Sir E. W. E. Holderness, Bt., of the Home Office; F. J. E. Raby, Esq., F.S.A., of H.M. Office of Works; Sir John Stirling-Maxwell, Bt., K.T., Forestry Commissioner; with Mr. G. G. Barnes, of the Treasury, as secretary.

During the life of the last Parliament we were continually pointing out the inadequacy of the number of women appointed by the Government to membership of Royal Commissions and Departmental Committees. The present Government, in spite of the fact that women electors now outnumber men electors, still fails to recognise that in matters of equal concern to both sexes the Committees set up to deal with them ought to consist of an equal number of men and women. Can the Government deny that the question of National Parks is of interest to women, or that women might have a valuable contribution to make to the deliberations of this Committee of Inquiry? Why, then, did the Government appoint only men to the National Parks Committee?

## THE BAD OLD TIMES.

BEFORE THE BLUE STOCKINGS. By ADA WALLAS.

Mrs. Graham Wallas has written of the position of women and children in the last half of the seventeenth, and the first half of the eighteenth century. Her method is new and extremely interesting. She takes five women, four of whom are authors, and the fifth the cause of authorship in another, and gives their lives and opinions, largely as revealed by quotations from these little known, although published, works. The reader is thus put into the position of a contemporary, and feels that history is not being read, but lived.

In all five cases, the women who have been chosen are connected to an exceptional extent with the education of children. Hannah Woolley, at the early age of fourteen, kept a little school, and followed this by seven years as a governess in the families of "Persons of Honour." Then she married, and later became the author of several books, chiefly dealing with domesticities as their charming titles reveal. "The Ladies' Directory in Choice Experiments and Curiosities of Preserving and Candying both Fruit and Flowers," "The Ladies' Delight," "The Queen-like Closet," "The Gentlewoman's Companion." It is this last that contains many educational revelations.

Elizabeth Savile, the second of the series, is herself little more than a child. We are brought into contact with her through "Advice to a Daughter," an essay written by her fond father, Lord Halifax.

Damaris Cudworth is the daughter of the Regius Professor of Hebrew at Cambridge. She becomes, by her marriage to Sir Francis Masham, the stepmother of nine children and the mother of one son of her own. Locke, an intimate friend of the Mashams, has a large share in the upbringing of this little boy, and thus puts into practice his "Thoughts on Education." Lady Masham later follows up Locke's book with her own "Occasional Thoughts in reference to a Virtuous or Christian Life," in which the education of children plays a considerable part.

Mary Astell, the daughter of a Newcastle merchant, is more doctrinaire in her connection with education. Her "Serious Proposal to the Ladies for the Advancement of their True and Greatest Interest" is an urgent plea for a woman's college. The suggestion did not materialise, but an idea of such originality was in itself an achievement.

Elizabeth Elstob is also, curiously enough, the daughter of a Newcastle merchant. For a brief and happy period she lived with her brother, a city clergyman, studying and writing on "Saxon, Gothick, Francick, old Teutonic," and other tongues. Then the brother died, and money difficulties made it necessary for "Mrs. Elstob" to leave London and go into hiding. Some years later the gift of a hundred pounds from Queen Caroline enabled her to set up a little day school at Evesham, and later she became governess to the infant children of the Duchess of Portland.

From the account in Mrs. Wallas' book of all these educationalists, one definite fact emerges—the barbarous treatment of English children two hundred years ago. Perhaps Hannah Woolley throws most light upon the subject in her deprecations of "unadvised severity." She tells of a Dorset governess who, "being somewhat aged and suspecting her strength was not able to grapple with active youth, called up her Maid . . . with whose help she so cruelly chastised a young Gentlewoman . . . that with grief and shame she died a little time after." Mothers are urged not to frighten the love of their children into "abhorrence of their sight."

But, on the whole, Mrs. Woolley considers that motherhood tends to gentleness. She says of herself that she has now "more tenderness to youth" since she became a "Mother of Children." It is probably for this reason that she begs mothers to teach their own children, although it is left for Lady Masham definitely to stress the point. This disciple of Locke

observes that "the Teaching of little children so as not to disgust them, does require much greater Patience and Address than Common People are often capable of." "Also, it is very strange," she says later, "that women do not make an effort to help their children in their studies from a Principle of Pity to that tender age."

The position occupied by women two centuries ago, as described in Mrs. Wallas' book, is, in its way, as shocking as the treatment of the children. Even an enlightened person such as Hannah Woolley, announces that "Children are so much the Goods and Chattels of a Parent, that they cannot without a kind of theft give themselves away without the allowance of those that have the right in them." The one exception she makes is that a young gentlewoman should not be "induced to marry one she has either abhorrence or loathing to."

This same assumption that a girl is at her parents' disposal is reiterated in Lord Halifax's "Advice to a Daughter." "It is one of the Disadvantages belonging to your Sex," he writes, "that young Women are seldom permitted to make their own Choice; their Friends' Care and Experience are thought safer Guides to them than their own Fancies."

From what follows, it is difficult to see how the young woman's own fancies could well lead her into a worse plight than the care and experience of her friends. For in considering the question of a husband for his much-loved little daughter, Lord Halifax apparently foresees—and as events proved rightly—that all his care and experience will be unable to find her one who will behave with ordinary decency. That the man she marries will be entirely faithless is taken for granted, and the only remedy suggested is to shut her eyes to it. "Our Sex seemeth to play the Tyrant in distinguishing partially for ourselves, by making that in the utmost degree Criminal in the Woman which in a man passeth under a much gentler Censure . . . Affected Ignorance, which is seldom a Virtue, is a great one here." He contemplates further that the man may be a drunkard. The consolation for this lies in the fact that the wife will get more power and credit than with a husband who never put himself "into an Incapacity of holding the reins." Again, a "Cholerick or Ill-humoured" husband demands dexterous temporary yielding and "a little Flattery." Or, if the man be "a Close-handed Wretch," his wife must choose seasonable hours for approach, and also enlist the help of "a Wise Friend." Lastly, with a feeble-minded husband, the wife is to find comfort in the fact that such "weakness giveth her the Dominion."

Presumably, even in Lord Halifax's day, there were husbands who did not come under any of these depressing headings. Indeed, the last essay in the book, that on Sir Richard Steele, shows that there was one man at least in the early eighteenth century, who held the same views about women that all enlightened men hold to-day. Moreover, even during the hundred years covered by Mrs. Wallas, one does seem to detect a slight improvement in the position of the women. The fact serves to lessen one's wrath.

Perhaps a review such as this on "Before the Blue Stockings" demands an apology. For what has been reviewed is not so much Mrs. Graham Wallas' book as the books of the Gentlewomen to whom she introduces us. The trouble with this author's method of writing history is that there is no place for the author. Her reader is back in the seventeenth century; what will be printed in the twentieth century is not of the slightest importance. The book cannot be seen for the characters. But, on reflection, no apology is due. Is not the ignoring of Mrs. Graham Wallas the highest testimony to her literary skill? EDITH ZANGWILL.

Before the Blue Stockings. By Ada Wallas. (George Allen and Unwin.) Price 8s. 6d. (Can be obtained from this Office.)

## GREEN WHITE AND GOLD FAIR.

The Green White and Gold Fair will be held at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Thursday and Friday, November 14th and 15th, and will be open each day from 3 to 9 p.m. The Fair will be formally opened on Thursday, November 14th, by DR. ETHEL BENTHAM, M.P., at 3 p.m., and on Friday, November 15th, at 4 p.m., by MISS ELEANOR RATHBONE, J.P., C.C., M.P. The chair will be taken on Thursday by Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, and on Friday by Mrs. Mustard.

### Stalls and Stallholders.

**Hampstead Branch.**—Handkerchiefs: Miss Lyndon, Miss James, and Miss Trotter.

**Chiswick Branch.**—Christmas Decorations: Mrs. Parkin. **Edinburgh and Glasgow Branches** (Scottish Stall).—Mrs. MacLeod Easson, Miss Godwin, Mrs. Boxshall, and Miss Munro.

**Mid-London Branch and Barnsbury Branch** (Stationery Stall).—Mrs. Anderson and others.

**Portsmouth Branch.**—Household Goods: Mrs. Whetton and Members.

**South Eastern Branches** (Basket Stall).—Miss White and Members.

**Book Stall.**—Mrs. Pierotti, Miss M. Pierotti, Miss Stephens, and Miss Marian Berry.

**China Stall.**—Mrs. Lindus, Miss Lindus, Mrs. Tanner, and Mrs. E. J. Rubra.

**Country Produce and Cakes.**—Miss A. M. Clark and Friends.

**Nasal Hygiene Stall.**—Dr. Lewin.

**Overalls and Aprons.**—Miss Underwood, Miss F. A. Underwood, Miss Brewer, Mrs. Turriff, and Miss Charles.

**Pound Stall.**—Mrs. Legge.

**Shilling Stall.**—Mrs. Delbanco, Mrs. Wilss, and Mrs. Thompson.

**Sweets.**—Miss Mary Knight and Friends.

**Toys.**—Mrs. Knight and Friends.

**Treasures Old and New.**—Mrs. Dore, Mrs. Mustard, and Miss Phyllis Mustard.

**Underclothing** (supported by the Hackney Branch).—Mrs. Holmes.

**"Vote" Stall.**—Mrs. Evans, Miss Barton, Miss E. Pigott, Mrs. Flowers, and Miss Lilian Armstrong.

### Please Help.

Will everyone interested in the Women's Cause send us something for one or other of our Stalls. All kinds of useful and fancy articles will be most acceptable and will help to supply our Stalls with the many goods for which our Annual Fair is always noted. Please spare a little time to make some pretty article for the Fair, or if you have not time to make anything, buy something. Goods that always sell well are Overalls and Aprons; we require dozens of these useful articles to supply the wants of visitors to the Fair. Lingerie is always much sought after, and a number of dainty garments are needed for this Stall. Handkerchiefs are wanted in large numbers, at all prices and of all sizes. Gifts of Table Linen, Sheets, Pillow Cases, Towels, Teacloths, Dusters, Pots, Pans, etc., are wanted for our Household Stall; these goods are always very popular, and many are needed. Stationery is always useful. Visitors to the Fair often buy a supply to last them for months; therefore Note Paper is required, and many Blotters, Post Cards, Pens, Pencils, etc. The Shilling Stall is always a joy to our younger members, who love to buy these pretty little things for their Christmas presents. Pin-cushions, Ash Trays, small Fancy Boxes, Powder Puffs, etc., will be most acceptable. Treasures Old and New are needed; please hunt out all the articles you have put away because you are tired of them and send them to us for the Fair, and if you have no old Treasures, buy us some new ones, large or small—it does not matter which, all kinds are required. The Sweet Stall is one of the great attractions of the Fair. Many boxes are required to supply the needs of buyers at this Stall. Toys are wanted in large numbers, also Books—Children's Books are in great demand for Christmas presents. Gifts of Baskets and China are much wanted, especially Teapots, Hot-water Bottles, Vases, Jugs, Dishes, etc. General goods will be acceptable for our Scottish Stall, and home-made Jam and pounds of Tea, Butter, Rice, Sugar, Currants, etc., for our Pound Stall; also Cakes and Country Produce. Please

support the Fair to the very utmost of your means. If you cannot do anything else, write to the Hon. Secretary for twenty, thirty, forty, or fifty handbills and send them to your friends and ask them to come and meet you at the Fair. They are sure to enjoy themselves and have a delightful time.

### Entertainments.

An excellent programme of Entertainments has been arranged by the Entertainment Committee, and will include a short Poetry Recital on both days of the Fair at 6.30 p.m., by Miss Katherine Barry, Miss Louise Ducat, Miss Louise Cottam, and Miss Clare Soper (students of Miss Marjorie Gullan's Polytechnic School of Speech Training), and a short Play on Friday, November 15th, at 8 p.m., by the Dramatic Group of the Practical Psychology Club of London. Those taking part are Leander Porteous, Peggy Leather, Ivy Grantham, Kathleen Fitton, Ethel Watson, Anita Davis, Edith Roberts and Arthur Nicol.

Concerts will be arranged each day by Miss T. A. Davis, who will be assisted by Miss Lilian Foulis, Miss Joan Dunsford, Miss Mabel J. Marx, Miss Alice Manderville, and Mr. G. H. Harris; and there will be a String Orchestra, by students from the Royal College of Music, on Thursday, November 14th.

### Character Reading.

The following have kindly promised to give Character Readings:—Mrs. E. Espir, Madame Gena, B.Sc., Miss Hudson, Mrs. Platnance, and Miss Wall; Mrs. Peters will tell stories from tea cups.

### Competitions.

Visitors to the Fair may look forward to a delightful time in the Competition Corner of the Fair. There will be various attractive Competitions, including Magic Squares by Miss E. M. Elliott and Mrs. Gallop.

**Treasure Hunt.**—Miss J. Boorman and Mrs. Peacy.

**Mystery Stall.**—Mrs. Harry and Mrs. Stanton.

### Afternoon Tea and Evening Refreshments.

Teas will be served in the Lounge from 4 to 6 p.m., and Refreshments will be served after 7 p.m. Miss Reeves, Mrs. Fisher, Miss New, Miss Owen, and the members of the Minerva Club Branch have very kindly undertaken this part of the work, and will be assisted by the staff of the Minerva Club and other friends.

### The Information Bureau.

Mrs. Seymour Pritchard has very kindly promised to manage this part of the work.

### Other Societies and Friends taking Stalls.

**St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.**

**The Dames of St. Joan.**

**The Invalid and Crippled Children's Society.**

**The Open Door Council.**

**The Psychological Aid Society.**

**Miss Burwood (Beads).**

**Mrs. Clifford (Wax Flowers).**

**Cooper's Studios (Decorated Furniture, etc.).**

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**Miss Seyfang.**

**Miss H. D. Stringer.**

TICKETS, price 1s. 10d. (including Tax), the first day until 5 p.m.; after 5 p.m. and on the second day, 1s. 2d. (including Tax). All communications and gifts, also applications for Stalls, should be sent to Miss E. Berry, Hon. Fair Secretary, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

### Notices.

Helpers are needed for giving away Handbills outside meetings. Any readers of THE VOTE willing to help in this way should send in their names to the Hon. Fair Secretary.

Mrs. Holmes is undertaking the Underclothing Stall, and will be very grateful for gifts for this Stall. All articles should be sent to her at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

## Women's Freedom League.

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Tuesday, October 22nd, at 8 p.m.

**Highbury Branch.** Meeting at 1a, Highbury Quadrant, Highbury, N.5 (by kind invitation of Mrs. Flint). Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood.

Thursday, October 24th, at 4.30 p.m. (Tea at 4 o'clock).

Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Miss Agnes Dawson, L.C.C. Subject: "Women under the New Local Government Act." Chair: Dr. E. Knight.

Thursday, October 24th, at 6.30 p.m.

Mid-London. Branch Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday, October 25th, at 4.45 p.m.

Thames Valley District. Conference at Pitt's Restaurant, Kew Green, on the "Need for the appointment of more Women Police." Speakers: Inspector Campbell, and others. Chair: Miss F. A. Underwood.

Wednesday, October 30th, at 8 p.m.

Barnsbury and District. Branch Meeting at 15, Richmond Crescent, N.1 (by kind invitation of Mrs. Potter).

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

Minerva Club. Branch Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

Thursday and Friday, November 14th and 15th, 3 to 9 p.m.

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

### PROVINCES.

Monday, October 21st, at 2.30 p.m.

Middlesbrough. Jumble Sale. Crown Hotel, Cargo Fleet (by kind permission of Mrs. Watt).

Friday, October 25th, at 3 p.m.

Ashford. Meeting at the Bowling Green Club Room. Speaker: Captain Gascoyne. Subject: "The Local Government Board" Chair: Mrs. Miles.

Thursday, October 31st, at 3 p.m.

Bexhill. Branch Meeting in the Albany Hotel. Speaker: Mrs. Zangwill on "What we expect from the present Government."

### SCOTLAND.

Saturday, October 26th, 3—6 p.m.

Edinburgh Branch. Cake and Candy Sale in aid of the Green, White and Gold Fair, at Heriot Hill House, Canonmills, Edinburgh. Donations in money and all kinds of articles, cakes, sweets, fruits, jams, toilet requisites, antiques, fancy goods and woollens for the Scottish Stall will be gratefully received by Mrs. MacLeod Easson.

### OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, October 19th, at 3 p.m.

The Speech Club, at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Conservative: Speakers from the Coningsby Club; Labour: Mr. Sandilands (President, London Club); Liberal: Mr. P. Herbert Jones (80 Club).

Tuesday, October 22nd, at 2.30 p.m.

Committee on Maternal Mortality. Conference at the Caxton Hall, Westminster. Speakers: The Minister of Health and others. Chairman: The Lady Cynthia Colville, J.P.

Tuesday, October 22nd, at 5 p.m.

Six Point Group. Public Meeting at 92, Victoria Street, S.W.1. Speaker: Mrs. Pollard on "Feminism in the Church."

Tuesday, October 22nd, at 3 p.m.

St. Alban's Branch of the National Council of Women, at the Y.W.C.A., Chequers Street, St. Albans. Speaker: Miss Marian Reeves. Subject: "The Equality Urge."

Tuesday, October 22nd.

British Commonwealth League. Jumble Sale at The Quest, 86, Clarendon Road, W.11. Gifts of all descriptions acceptable.

Wednesday, October 23rd, at 3 p.m.

Women's International League. Meeting at Friends' House, Euston Road, to discuss the report of the work of this year's Assembly.

Wednesday, October 23rd, at 5 p.m.

National Council for Mental Hygiene. At the Lecture Room of the Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W.1. Speaker: Dr. W. A. Potts on "Young Citizen or Young Criminal?"

Thursday, October 24th, at 8.15 p.m.

Howard League for Penal Reform. Public Meeting at Church House, Westminster. Speakers: Mr. Salter Davies and Miss Margery Fry, J.P. Chairman: The Rt. Hon. J. R. Clynes, M.P.

Saturday, October 26th, at 8.30 p.m.

West London Mission Girls' Club, Kingsway Hall. Speaker: Miss Auld.

### BRANCH NOTES.

#### HASTINGS.

A successful meeting was held at Furness Mount, Holmesdale Gardens, on Monday, October 7th, at 7.30 p.m. Miss White, in introducing Mrs. Prelooker, said that she had asked her to conduct the meeting, as it was mainly a business one. But she wished to take this opportunity of thanking her on behalf of the members for her unswerving kindness to the late Mrs. Buckingham. Mrs. Prelooker gave a most interesting account of her visit to the Berlin Congress, which was greatly appreciated by those present. Several questions were asked, which were ably answered by the speaker.

After the speech there was a long discussion about the work in the near future. There was a balance in hand of £4 10s.

It was decided to have a meeting on Child Slavery in November, another meeting on the Ministry of Women early in December, a New Year's party in January, and another meeting on the Local Government Board in February. Miss White made an appeal for the S.E. Branches' Stall and invited members to attend on one or both days of the Fair. Mrs. Richardson very kindly undertook to carry on the work of the Treasurer in place of Miss Prelooker, who has resigned.

MAUD L. WHITE, 8, Holmesdale Gardens, Hastings.

#### MIDDLESBROUGH.

Last Tuesday, by kind permission of Mrs. Schofield Coates, who presided, a Branch Meeting was held in the Grey House, Linthorpe.

Mrs. Arnott produced a balance sheet of the picnic she had been so good as to organise on behalf of the funds, and handed over the profit. The Whist Drive, booked for October 16th, was postponed until Tuesday, October 29th, and preliminary arrangements were made for a meeting on November 6th, at which Mrs. Israel Zangwill had kindly consented to be the speaker.

Members were again reminded of the Jumble Sale at the Crown Hotel, Cargo Fleet, on October 21st, and asked to take steps to see that anything they had to give arrived there in time.

The Green, White and Gold Fair was discussed, and it is hoped that all donations for this event, whether in "cash or kind," will be at the Grey House by November 9th.

Other money-raising schemes were mentioned, such as making and raffling a cake, etc., and it was decided to call a Committee Meeting for Saturday, October 26th, that final arrangements might be made for the Whist Drive on the 29th.

#### LEEDS.

On Thursday, October 10th, a Social Meeting of the Leeds Branch of the Women's Freedom League was held in the Y.W.C.A., Colclridge Street, when Dr. Marion Mackenzie presided.

A very good audience listened with interest to Dr. Marion Mackenzie's remarks *re* the large amount of work the Women's Freedom League had done in the past and their hopes of doing more in the future. She outlined the schemes the National Executive Committee had in hand *re* the Women Police, the Prison System, Women and the Jury Service, and the Lock Hospital, etc., and especially mentioned the need for women on the town councils.

Miss Lilian Lenton gave an inspiring address on "Woman and the Inferiority Complex," and illustrated how the majority of women still continued to regard themselves as inferior to men in the labour market, in the home, and sometimes in the professions, chiefly from hereditary tendencies and their environment. She emphasised that women should not want to be second best, but to work for equality in all ways.

After coffee was served an interesting discussion ensued, and nine new members were enrolled. The meeting was closed, and everyone, having enjoyed a very pleasant and instructive evening, I think came away eager to hear more at the next meeting on November 4th, when it will be our pleasure to listen to Mrs. Israel Zangwill. L. ROACH (Hon. Sec.).

### OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

#### "The Women of the Gospel."

Dear Madam,

Just returned from Middle Europe, I find that THE VOTE of September 20th had two letters, suggesting that I should have mentioned in my little study, "The Women of the Gospel," Miss Tucker's "Ecce Mater," published in 1915. In that year until 1918 I was in occupied territory (Serbia), and practically cut off from communication with England. After the Armistice I was engaged in relief work and on two lecture tours in the United States, which would further explain how this publication from Miss Tucker's scholarly pen escaped my notice.

To-day I have ordered the book, and when I have obtained and perused it I hope you will again allow me a little space to say whether I agree with your two correspondents that my own work is superfluous. I have no claim to possess the talent or erudition of Miss Tucker, but I was impelled to study and compare the four evangelists in order to refute numerous pious works in various languages, where the women of the Gospel were misrepresented through unconscious bias. I was particularly intent on producing a Catholic book, based on authorised commentators, that would find its way into Catholic institutions, and in this I am happy to say that I have already had a fair measure of success. There have been too few Catholic feminist writers on the inexhaustible subject of the Women of the Gospel.

Yours faithfully, A. CHRISTITCH.

FRIDAY  
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1929.

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## NOTICES.

**FELLOWSHIP SERVICES**.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, October 20th. 3.30 p.m. Music. Lecture. H. I. Bell O.B.E., M.A. 6.30. The Rev. P. T. R. Kirk.

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

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