

THE VOTE,
FEB. 9, 1923.
ONE PENNY.

OUR RELATIONS WITH AMERICA.

Come and Hear Mrs. Haver Butler.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, FEB. 9, 1923

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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WOMEN IN THE MINISTRY OF PENSIONS.

By MARY E. LEGGE (Women's Freedom League Delegate).

A deputation, organised by the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries to press the claims of women employed in the Pensions Ministry, was received by the Minister on January 29th. The representative nature of the deputation may be judged from the fact that the following Women's Societies sent delegates:—Six Point Group, Standing Joint Committee of Women's Industrial Organisations, National Union of Women Teachers, London Trades Council, and the Women's Freedom League. Other organisations supporting were the General Council of the Trades Union Congress, National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, and the Consultative Committee. The majority of the sections of the Pensions Service were also directly represented.

Miss Maguire (President of the Association) said the work of the Department had been built up by women, and her Association claimed full opportunities in the higher branches of the Pensions Service, as well as on routine work. As the present Minister had been identified with the carrying out of the Third Lytton Report, it was hoped that the reservation of the temporary issue office work for women promised by Sir Laming Worthington Evans would be maintained. The opposition to the retention of women arose mainly out of a lack of knowledge of the facts, and a full statement by the Government of the actual position of the women would be of the greatest assistance. The present position was one of terrible anxiety for large numbers of women, and a frank statement of their future prospects was an act of the merest justice.

Viscountess Rhondda (Six Point Group) said it seemed very hard that women should have to come again to discuss a pledge which, at the time it was given, was so very much less than had been asked for. Women realised the difficulties, but wished to strongly emphasise the very great hardship that any further

weakening of the pledge would entail in the case of many women workers.

Mr. Carmichael (London Trades Council) said that in a great many cases well-trained girls had been dismissed, and replaced by men admittedly inefficient. Owing to their service under the Ministry, a large number of girls had been unable to fit themselves for ordinary commercial life, and it was the duty of the Government, before turning these unskilled workers adrift, to equip them with the necessary training.

The honouring of the pledge was also insisted on by several women employed in the Pensions Department, and the important point stressed that many women who had been refused permission to serve with H.M. Forces were now threatened with dismissal, in order that their places might be filled by men who had never served overseas.

In replying, the Minister congratulated the deputation, which, although so large, had presented its case with brevity. His attitude was not unsympathetic, and a good deal of his time in the past Parliament had been occupied in defending the position of women in the Ministry from attack. It was, however, a perfectly reasonable request that the Government should, as far as possible, lay plans ahead, and warn the people concerned of impending changes. The case of the ex-Service men, and also that of the women, had now been presented to him, and he must be allowed time to think over his decision.

The result of this deputation is, naturally, somewhat disappointing to women, but it is essential that the matter should not be allowed to rest. Members of all women's organisations should see to it that the general public are informed that the case of the women will be far harder than that of the ex-Service men, as the latter have the dole and often a State pension, whereas these benefits are denied to most women.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Labour Women's Conference.

This year's National Conference of Labour Women will take place at York on May 8th and 9th. Among the questions to be considered will be those of the education of children in the ideals of the Labour movement and of Peace, motherhood and child endowment, the work of women magistrates and the penal system, the workers' standard of life, matters of general education, housing and public health, infant welfare, unemployment, and methods of relief.

No Suffrage in South Africa.

By 56 votes to 55, the second reading of the Women's Enfranchisement Bill was rejected in the Union House of Assembly, last week. The division, however, shows that the measure is gaining adherents every year. All the Cabinet Ministers, with one exception, as well as the Premier, General Smuts, supported the Bill. The opponents were mostly Dutch members, who claimed that the rural women folk were opposed to the vote.

Woman Barrister's Gift.

Dr. Ivy Williams, England's first woman barrister, has offered to Oxford University two sums of £3,500 to found two scholarships in jurisprudence, in memory of her brother, Winter Williams, who was also a barrister. Dr. Williams does not practise at the Bar, but is lecturer to the Society of Oxford Home Students. The University has accepted the offer.

Asked to Fight Again.

In recognition of the plucky fight made by Lady Terrington, of Marlow, as Liberal candidate for South Bucks at the General Election, she was presented with a handsome chair—a typical product of Wycombe's staple industry—at a meeting of Liberals from all parts of the division at High Wycombe recently. It was unanimously resolved to ask her again to contest the seat.

Frenchwomen Barristers.

Mlle. Moreau, who is one of the most brilliant of the women at the French Bar, has made a special study of the Code Napoleon in its relation to women, and is never weary of exposing the unjust burdens it has laid for over a century on the women of France. She has recently delivered two addresses on the subject in Luxembourg to crowded audiences, who were deeply impressed by her revelations.

Women at Lincolnshire Assizes.

Last week, at Lincolnshire Assizes, a woman sat with the Judge, and there were many women on both the Grand and Petty Juries. Miss Geikie Cobb, a woman barrister, who then made her first appearance at Lincoln, at the invitation of Mr. Justice Sankey, defended an engineer who was charged with fraudulently converting trade union funds.

Bulgarian Women Conscripted!

Compulsory social service, which was inaugurated in Bulgaria two years ago, is to be extended to women after next March, for four months in the first year, and twenty days in subsequent years. Deputies may be paid for after the first year. The compulsory duties will include land work, bee-keeping, housework, sewing, and the cultivation of silkworms, for women in rural districts, and telegraphy, typography, telephony, and hospital work for townswomen.

Frenchwomen and Economy.

The shortage of the wheat harvest in France, together with the evil effect on the exchange of making heavy purchases of wheat abroad, has provoked a national movement for reducing the enormous daily wastage of bread and farinaceous food that goes on at present. The Chairmanship of one of the most important Committees has been offered to Mme. Avril de Ste. Croix, a well-known French suffragist.

Woman Chimney Sweep.

A Nottingham woman has just celebrated the seventh anniversary of her commencement in business as a chimney sweep. She first started during her husband's illness in war time, and for the first five years never had a day without an order.

Woman Assistant Overseer.

Miss M. Moore has been selected Assistant Overseer for West Rainton Parish Council, out of 72 applicants. She had been doing the work temporarily.

HUMANITY IN A POLICE COURT.

We have so often had occasion to protest against what we considered callousness on the part of men magistrates in their treatment of women and girls who were brought before them, that it gives us great satisfaction to express our appreciation of the humanity displayed by Mr. Francis at Westminster Police Court quite recently. A girl was accused, together with a man, of obtaining money by false pretences. The man was married, had deceived the girl and made a tool of her, and she was about to become a mother. The man was sentenced to twelve months' hard labour, and the girl to six months in the second division. In passing sentence on the latter, Mr. Francis said, "I believe that no child should be born in prison," and intimated that he would approach the Home Office, in order that she might be released before the child was born.

TRAINING UNEMPLOYED WOMEN.

We congratulate Middlesbrough on having decided on a Training Centre for unemployed women and girls. At the end of last month, sixty girls had joined for training under a Head and two assistant women. The training, which includes instruction in cookery, laundry work, sewing, and housewifery, is open to women between the ages of 18 and 35, who usually pursue some occupation, but who are at present unemployed. At the conclusion of the training, which lasts for thirteen weeks, the women are required to enter resident service. During the training, a maintenance allowance of £1 per week will be paid.

Portsmouth obtained leave to start a similar Training Centre, but at present has not the requisite number of unemployed women and girls able and willing to take advantage of this training.

THE
WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE
ANNOUNCE A SERIES OF
Fortnightly Lectures
ON
FOREIGN POLITICS
IN THE
MINERVA CAFÉ, 144 HIGH HOLBORN, W.C. 1.

In which the following subjects will be discussed:

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12th—6 p.m.—"THE RELATIONS OF THIS COUNTRY WITH AMERICA." Speaker: Mrs. Jessie Haver Butler.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26th—6 p.m.—"THE RELATIONS OF THIS COUNTRY WITH FRANCE." Speaker: The Lady Amherst of Hackney.

MONDAY, MARCH 12th—6 p.m.—"THE RELATIONS OF THIS COUNTRY WITH RUSSIA."

MONDAY, MARCH 26th—6 p.m.—"THE RELATIONS OF THIS COUNTRY WITH THE CENTRAL POWERS." (Speakers to be announced later.)

ADMISSION FREE. Reserved Seats 1/- each Lecture, or for the Course, 4/-; from W.F.L. Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Reports of the above Lectures will appear in "The Vote," 1d. Weekly.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P. (Middlesbrough), presided over a meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League, held at 144, High Holborn, W.C., on Saturday, February 3rd, the other members present being Miss E. Berry, Miss Alix M. Clark (Montgomery Boroughs), Mrs. Holmes, Dr. Knight, Miss Anna Munro, Miss C. Neal (Swansea), Miss M. I. Neal (Manchester), Mrs. Pierotti, Mrs. Whetton (Southsea), and the Secretary. Apologies were received from Mrs. Mustard and Councillor Ballard Dawson for unavoidable absence.

Reports from the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Organising Secretary, the Secretary, the Political, Literature, and Vote Sales Departments were considered, and the work of our organisers in Glasgow and the S.E. Coast district was discussed.

Conference.

The Committee decided upon the resolutions it will send for the Agenda of the Women's Freedom League's Sixteenth Annual Conference, to be held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Saturday, April 28th, and appointed an Agenda Committee, and a Credentials Committee, whose respective duties shall be the orderly compilation of the Agenda and the scrutineering of the delegates at this Conference.

International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., was asked by the Committee to represent the Women's Freedom League at the Congress arranged by this Alliance to take place in Rome next May. We are hoping to send another delegate, with two further alternate delegates, to this Congress. Dr. Knight was appointed to represent us, at the invitation of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, on the Committee of British Societies which is making arrangements for the Congress. The Committee considered resolutions for the Congress Agenda, and asked Mrs. Northcroft if she would arrange a meeting at the Minerva Club in March in support of the Congress, at which delegates going to Rome would be asked to speak.

National Union of Teachers' Conference.

Miss Alix M. Clark reported that she had been to Brighton and secured a Hall for a Public Meeting in connection with the Women's Freedom League campaign during the Easter Conference of the National Union of Teachers. The subjects to be dealt with by our speakers are "Married Women's Right to Work," and "Women Police." All arrangements for this campaign were left in the hands of Miss Clark.

Consultative Committee.

Mrs. Mustard and Mrs. Pierotti had attended as our representatives at the last meeting of this Committee. Our Committee decided to send representatives to Conferences on the "No More War Demonstration," and "Capital Punishment," the latter being arranged by the Fabian Women's Group.

Equal Franchise.

A letter was read from Mr. Bonar Law declining to receive a deputation on this subject because of its controversial character; and the Committee decided that we should do everything in our power to get Equal Franchise discussed in the House of Commons at the earliest possible date.

Dismissal of Married Women.

It was unanimously agreed that the Women's Freedom League should continue to offer the strongest protests against dismissals of women employees of any and every grade, merely because they marry.

The next meeting of the National Executive Committee will take place on Saturday, March 10th, and it is hoped that the majority of its members will be present at the Sale of Work at 25, Wimpole Street (by kind permission of Dr. Octavia Lewin), on Friday, March 9th, which is to be opened by the Hon. Lady Parsons at 3.30 p.m.

THE SICK IN MIND.

A NEW DEPARTURE.

The opening, on January 31st, by the Minister of Health, of the London County Council's Maudsley Hospital at Denmark Hill, marks a great forward step in the treatment of mental illnesses. This hospital is the first of its kind in this country, though on the Continent and in America similar institutions have long been working. As in every well-equipped hospital treatment and investigation will go hand in hand, exhaustive study of the causes of mental illness will, it is hoped, give invaluable results in preventing these illnesses, and the association of the Hospital with the University of London ensures a high standard of efficiency and scientific exactitude, and gives facilities for the best instruction in these ailments to students and practitioners.

The Maudsley is a public institution; any person within the County of London is eligible as a patient; patients unable to contribute to their cost are admitted free. The basis of reception is entirely voluntary; every patient, before admission, will be required to sign a formal application, making clear his right to leave after 24 hours' notice. No certified patients will be admitted, and no patient will be certified in the Hospital. Early and hopeful cases will have preference. There is a large out-patient department, three wards for men, and three for women (each including a dormitory, sitting-room, dining-room, small library, and piano), and thirteen private rooms for paying women patients, with special sitting-rooms and garden. The total of beds is 157. The staff includes a Superintendent, four Medical Officers, and a number of medical men and women assistants. Consultants will treat surgical or medical ailments of the patients. The Matron has one assistant, seven sisters, 39 nurses and probationers, and 12 male nurses. All nurses have three years' general hospital training.

It is to the late Dr. Maudsley, who, 15 years ago, gave £30,000 to the Council for this purpose, that we owe the inception of this enterprise; and great public interest will be taken in its results, especially in view of the general uneasiness and dissatisfaction in regard to much that is involved in our present asylum system.

OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The Sixteenth Annual Conference of the Women's Freedom League will be held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Saturday, April 28th, at 10 a.m. We hope to welcome many delegates from our Branches, who will have the right to speak and to vote on the resolutions and amendments appearing on the Conference Agenda. Resolutions have already been sent in by our Branches. These will be arranged by our Agenda Committee, which meets this week, and will all be sent to the Branches within the next few days. Branches are then asked to consider these resolutions, and send in any amendments, not later than March 10th. These amendments will again be dealt with by the Agenda Committee, and the full Agenda afterwards sent to the Branches. Branches are also asked to let us have their nominations for Hon. Treasurer, and for the twelve members of our National Executive Committee, having first obtained the consent of their nominees to stand for election, as well as the name of their delegate, not later than March 10th. If the delegate wishes to have hospitality in London, she should send full particulars of the time she wishes to stay here to Miss E. Berry, c/o this Office, who has again kindly consented to undertake the hospitality arrangements. Only members of the Women's Freedom League can come to our Conference, but every member of the League who is at the time in London is very cordially invited to be present during the proceedings. All London members look forward with the greatest pleasure to meeting the delegates and other members from our Scottish, Welsh, and Provincial Branches.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9th, 1923.

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

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

EDITORIAL.

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

THE NEW SESSION.

The second Session of the new Parliament begins next Tuesday. The first Session, which began November 20th last, and was prorogued December 15th, concerned itself chiefly with the Irish Free State Bills and Unemployment. Next Session there will probably not be much tranquillity for the Government in power. The payment of our debt to America will not make it easier for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to effect a reduction in taxation when he brings forward his Budget in March, and Members are likely to require a good deal of information about the relations of this country with other countries at the present time. These are all questions which concern women very closely—the younger as well as the older women. Yet Mr. Bonar Law has refused to receive a deputation from the Women's Freedom League in regard to the inclusion of an Equal Franchise measure in the King's Speech, on the ground that this is a matter of a controversial character, especially in view of the serious developments which have taken place in international affairs! We can only say that the position which Mr. Bonar Law has taken up on this matter is not statesmanship; it is sheer dilettantism. In the first place, we deny that Equal Franchise Reform is as controversial a subject as Mr. Bonar Law fears. A very great number of his best supporters are strongly in favour of it, and the whole of the Liberal and Labour Parties are pledged to secure this reform. It is certainly long overdue. As for the "serious developments which have taken place in international affairs" being a reason against this reform, the seriousness of the present international situation is an overwhelming argument in favour of granting it. The young women have as great a stake in the welfare of their country as the young men; they are as deeply concerned in our relations with other countries, and they should have an equal voice with the younger men in expressing, through the ballot-box, their views on the foreign policy of the Government. Should this country be faced again with war in the near future—and there are many war clouds gathering on the horizon—it is essential that the country should be united in its interests, and that no section of the community should have a grievance against the State. It is always the time to act justly, and the equal enfranchisement of women and men would be an act of justice. Despite Mr. Bonar Law's curious attitude, therefore, towards this much-needed reform, we rely upon all our friends in the House of Commons to make a determined effort to carry Equal Franchise into law next Session. Last Session the Government would give no promise of legislation on the lines of the Equal Guardianship of Infants Bill, which just failed to become law in the previous Parliament; but we would again remind Members of Parliament that there is very strong support in the country for such a measure, and we hope they will do their best to promote legislation in this direction. We are glad to see that the Home Secretary has decided that the 20 women patrols in London

should be "sworn in" as constables. This is certainly an advance, and we would urge the Government to take the earliest opportunity of making it possible throughout the country, that when women are detained in police stations and prisons, they shall be entirely in the charge and under the control of women. This means that there shall be available a matron or a wardress both night and day at all our police stations, and that there shall be women governors, women deputy governors, and women doctors in all women's prisons and women's sections of prisons. Further, we trust that our friends in the House of Commons will press for legislation, so that women may be co-opted to all Asylums Visiting Committees, and for the appointment of a Royal Commission, consisting of an equal number of men and women, to inquire into the conditions and treatment of patients in public and private asylums. We hope, too, that pressure will be brought to bear upon this Government to amend the present Criminal Law Amendment Act by raising the Age of Consent for girls to eighteen, instead of sixteen as at present; and, further, that the law in regard to "annoyance," "molestation," and "solicitation" shall be so altered that neither men nor women shall be convicted in our Police Courts for these offences on police evidence only—the person stated to have been "annoyed," "molested," or "solicited" being compelled to appear in Court to substantiate the charge against the accused, if that charge is to be proceeded with.

There is also the important question of married women's nationality. A woman of France, Belgium, Italy, or China does not lose her own nationality unless by the law of her husband's country she acquires his; but a British woman who marries a foreigner automatically loses her own nationality, and is assumed to become a foreigner on her marriage. The Cable Act recently passed in America gives to a married woman the right to her own nationality, and to naturalisation. A British woman who marries an American will not in future automatically acquire American nationality. If she does not take steps to acquire it, the British law will not recognise her as British, and she will then have no nationality. Yet an American woman who marries a British man will remain American under the law of the United States, and become British by British law! What British women want is that the present Government should restore to them the right to retain their own nationality on marriage with a foreigner—a right which was taken away from them in 1870.

These are a few matters—there are countless others—which women hope to see dealt with in the coming Session.

WOMEN NOT ADMITTED!

At a full meeting of the Central Criminal Court Bar Mess, last week, it was decided that women barristers should not be admitted to the Bar Mess. This, however, does not debar women barristers from practising at the Old Bailey when they are briefed. The Midland Circuit also has decreed that, although women barristers will be welcome in Court, they are not to become members of the barristers' mess. The *Liverpool Post* solemnly states: "There are times and seasons when men want to be alone, and women should be content to let them alone." We suppose this is the reason that so many public-houses have the warning, "Ladies not admitted"!

Women have not yet had the opportunity of becoming Judges or Stipendiary Magistrates, but, when they do, we feel sure they will not merit the strictures which have recently been passed upon some of our present Judges and Stipendiary Magistrates by a "Law Reporter" and a "Solicitor" in *The Times*. According to these correspondents, the remarks of those worthies are very often inaudible, and their statements are unheard by the unfortunate defendant. Many years ago we uttered the same grievance, and particularly remember a magistrate in a London Police Court, who not only mumbled all his remarks and sentences inaudibly—the accused rarely knew what sentence was passed—but was so deaf that we were convinced he never heard anything the accused said!

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE DINNER.

The Dinner and Reception, given in honour of the League's honorary officials, on Friday of last week, was a great success. Some sixty or more members and friends, including four of the women candidates at the last General Election, and Miss Aleen Cust, the first woman veterinary surgeon, sat down to dinner in the pleasant dining-room of the Minerva Club, which was prettily decorated for the occasion. The green, white, and gold colours of the League were faithfully reproduced in the flowers and menu cards, the latter being most tastefully designed by Miss Tharp, whilst bunches of pink Malmesbury carnations marked the places of the four honorary officials, the chief guests of the evening.

Towards the close of a very excellent Dinner, Miss Underwood rose to explain the *raison d'être* of that evening's meeting, a public acknowledgment of the excellent and unwearied work carried on efficiently and unobtrusively for so many years by Dr. Knight, the League's Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., Hon. Organising Secretary, Miss Alix Clark, Hon. Head of the Vote Sales Department, and Mrs. Pierotti, Hon. Head of the Literature Department. The only regret that evening was that Miss Margaret Hodge, Joint Hon. Head of the Literature Department, was unable to be with them, owing to absence abroad.

Mrs. Mustard, who cordially endorsed Miss Underwood's praise of the work of the League's hon. officials, pointed out that the chief object of the League's existence was to wage warfare against all inequalities between the sexes. The fundamental question of the day was undoubtedly married women's right to work, and upon this the League was now concentrating. The Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, except in one or two directions, such as the admission of women to the legal profession, had proved itself a farce. The London County Council, at that moment, was actually considering the question of obliging their women teachers to resign on marriage. She could not speak too highly of the way in which the League's honorary officials maintained the principles of equity and justice for which the League stood. Mrs. Schofield Coates, for instance, had lost her seat on the Middlesbrough Council for supporting married women's right to work.

Miss Aleen Cust, M.R.C.V.S., our pioneer woman veterinary surgeon, spoke of the difficulties as well as joys of her profession, and quoted an amusing story of Bismarck's ill-temper, and the Court physician's curt suggestion that he would be better suited if he consulted a veterinary surgeon rather than himself!

WOMEN AND PEACE.

A movement is now on foot amongst British Universities to bring the name of Miss Jane Addams, the well-known American worker for Peace, before the Norwegian Committee which allots the Nobel Prize each year.

The qualifications for the Peace Prize, as laid down in Dr. Nobel's will, include work "for the cause of fraternity among different peoples for the suppression or reduction of standing armies, or for the formation or promotion of peace congresses." No woman has done more than Miss Addams for these objects. To-day she is Chairman of the American Woman's Peace Party, and of the International Committee of Women for Permanent Peace, a member of the Executive Committee of the American Union against Militarism, and President of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Her work for the feeding of starving peoples began as soon as the war was over, and she is now visiting the Heads of various Governments, in order to promote a "new" Peace which shall cancel the present Treaties.

Mrs. Tanner pointed out that one had only to study the history of the Women's Freedom League to discover the good work done by its honorary officials. The League had survived the critical years of the war, and, like Tennyson's brook, seemed to have perpetual vitality, and to "go on for ever." In the days when the League first came into existence, no women were entitled to the Parliamentary vote, and no women were in Parliament. There were no jurywomen, or women lawyers, or women magistrates. During the last few years of the League, history was making itself very fast. Empires were crumbling, and thrones had been lost. But the great fight for equality between the sexes was not yet won, and it would probably be a long time before absolute abstract justice was achieved.

Mrs. Schofield Coates, replying for the honorary officials, expressed her pleasure at meeting some of the women candidates, and eulogised Dr. Knight's work as Hon. Treasurer, Miss Alix Clark for her organising capacity and wonderful Vote selling, and Mrs. Pierotti for her efforts in the Literature Department, but disclaimed any gratitude for herself, because she lived out of London, and was therefore not so closely in touch with the League's activities. Her own special activities in Middlesbrough lay chiefly in the direction of Local Government work, and she could not too highly recommend anyone, who hoped to stand for Parliament, to learn the ropes first in local work, which was the best possible training ground for Parliament.

The women candidates present, Mrs. Pease, J.P., Commandant Allen, Miss Helen Fraser, and Miss May Grant, also spoke, expressing their cordial gratitude for the help given them by the Women's Freedom League and other Women's Societies during their candidature. The difficulties of the Election were briefly discussed, but one and all declared they were not down-hearted, and were ready to enthusiastically fight again when the time came.

Dr. Knight made a special appeal for more members, especially from the younger generation, and urged everyone present to come to the special series of fortnightly Lectures on Foreign Politics in the Minerva Café.

An excellent Musical Programme followed the Dinner, including some brilliant pianoforte solos from Mr. Colin Seymour, and songs, delightfully rendered by Mrs. Cunningham and Miss Elsie Langston. Each artiste was warmly encored, and Mrs. Northcroft and Miss Reeves must be congratulated on the success of the festival.

No woman, so far, has been awarded the Nobel Prize, yet it was a woman who first instigated its founding—the Baroness von Suttner, author of the famous "Peace" novel, "Lay Down Your Arms." Just as "Uncle Tom's Cabin" popularised the anti-Slavery idea amongst all classes in America, so "Lay Down Your Arms" provoked universal interest in the pacifist movement, not only in Austria, the land of its birth, but in all civilised countries.

Its author for the greater part of a long lifetime worked practically, as well as theoretically, in the interests of Peace. Every country in Europe, as well as the United States, was visited by her for this purpose, and there was hardly a ruling personage in any of those lands who did not listen attentively to her upon the subject. It was mainly the impression she made upon the Russian Government's Delegate at the Budapest Peace Conference, in 1898, which later paved the way to the organisation of the Hague Conferences, whilst the founding of the Nobel Prize, it is well known, was entirely due to an historic conversation between Alfred Nobel and the Baroness.

WORKING WOMEN & HOUSING

Housing accommodation and the rent paid for it are of the utmost importance to working women, and that they have taken a keen interest in these matters has been evidenced by their views expressed at many housing Conferences held in different parts of the country, and by the issue of pamphlets setting forth the requirements of a working woman's home. In these homes the children are born, brought up, and are nursed through their illnesses. All the family life is lived within its four walls, and within them the woman does the washing, the cleaning, the cooking, the mending, and the housekeeping, with its bewildering problem of making both ends meet, besides looking after the needs of each member of the family. It is little wonder, therefore, that the Central Committee and the Sectional Councils of the Women's Co-operative Guild, representing 52,000 wives and mothers, have passed a resolution declaring that the housing of the people at rents within their capacity is a matter of vital national concern, and that if any improvement of real worth is to be made, it is absolutely necessary for the Government to tackle the question on a large scale for the whole of the country. They offer the following suggestions to the Government as to how this problem can be solved:—

(1) By raising a National Loan, and lending to local authorities the amount necessary for their housing schemes.

(2) By themselves organising the supply of the necessary materials on a non-profit-making basis, thus eliminating rings and profiteering.

(3) By encouraging building through the direct labour of local authorities and the building guilds.

We think that every credit is due to the Women's Co-operative Guild for making these suggestions. They certainly do not consider that the housing shortage problem is insoluble. If the authorities cannot adopt these women's methods of solving it, surely they should be in a position to bring forward better methods. We are sure that houses at reasonable rents are of much greater concern to working women, and, indeed, to all women, than the methods by which they can be obtained.

SPRING SALE OF WORK.

We remind our readers that the Spring Sale of Work will be held this year (by kind invitation of Dr. Octavia Lewin) at 25, Wimpole Street, W.1, on FRIDAY, MARCH 9th, from 3 to 8.30 p.m.

The Sale will be opened at 3.30 p.m. by THE HON. LADY PARSONS.

There will be Stalls for Household goods, Under-clothing, Fancy Articles, and Toys; also a Pound Stall, and a Stall for Welsh Produce, Cakes, and Sweets. Gifts are much needed for all these stalls, and will be gladly received by the Hon. Fair Secretary at the Office. Those who have already promised help with the Stalls are Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Pierotti, Mrs. Tanner, Mrs. Whetton, and it is hoped that Miss Alix Clark will be able to be present to take charge of the Montgomery Boroughs Stall, for Welsh Produce, Cakes, and Sweets.

An attractive programme has been arranged, the musical part of which will be under the direction of Mrs. Hawkins. Among those who have already promised to assist her are Mrs. Cunningham, Mrs. Legge, and Mrs. Sparrow. Dr. Octavia Lewin will give a Lecture on "Shut Your Mouth and Save Your Life," at 6 p.m. There will be competitions, character reading, and other amusements.

Mrs. Knight has kindly undertaken the arrangements for tea, which will be served from 3.30 to 6 p.m. Promises of gifts, either in money or in kind, will be most welcome to help this important part of the work. The goods most wanted are tea, butter, bread, scones, sugar, milk, cream, biscuits, all sorts of cakes, etc.

All members and friends are invited to come and spend a pleasant afternoon at the Sale, and buy all the necessary articles for their spring cleaning, all of which can be obtained at the Household Stall.

(Hon. Fair Sec.) ELIZABETH BERRY.

BOOK REVIEW.

The Experiences of an Asylum Patient. By Rachel Grant-Smith. (George Allen and Unwin, Ltd.) 5s. net. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

Dr. Lomax has written the Introduction to this little book, which gives simply and vividly, as seen from the standpoint of a woman patient, the companion picture to his "Experiences of an Asylum Doctor."

Mrs. Grant-Smith was the daughter of a well-known barrister, and the wife of a doctor; his sudden and tragic death threw her into a condition of nervous breakdown and depression, and, on her mother's advice, she voluntarily agreed to enter Chædle Royal Asylum for a few weeks, for a nerve rest-cure. Three weeks after admission, and without her knowledge, she was certified as insane. Then followed twelve long years of detention in five different asylums, being passed on without volition on her part. All this time Mrs. Grant-Smith fought for her liberty. She suffered and saw many horrible cruelties, and made reports on these to the authorities. Her complaints were usually passed over, though, in 1912, the Lord Chancellor held an inquiry (but no patients were questioned or examined), after which she received an official letter that "the Lord Chancellor sees no reason for thinking the facts mentioned to be well founded." This unfortunate patient's complaints, having been officially disproved, were, therefore, labelled "delusions," and she was told she could not be discharged whilst these "delusions" proved her to be of unsound mind. But her honesty and public spirit would not let her be silent, and it was not until the Medical Superintendent at her last asylum allowed her to be examined by Dr. Percy Smith and Sir George Savage, that she obtained certificates of sanity, and regained her liberty. We cannot too strongly insist on the urgent need for radical reform of our whole Lunacy system. Mrs. Grant-Smith's statements were not believed by Superintendents, doctors, and Commissioners, because they were "too terrible to be believed"—a sentimental rather than a scientific reason. E. K.

OUR RELATIONS WITH AMERICA.

At the moment, the relations of this country with America are of the greatest interest to the men and women of Great Britain. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has recently returned from the United States, and the Cabinet has agreed to important financial arrangements between the two countries. There is every reason to hope for the continuance of goodwill on the part of the people on both sides of the Atlantic, and those who wish to know more about America and our relations with her are very cordially invited to attend the Lecture we have arranged next Monday evening (February 12th), in the Minerva Café (at this address), when Mrs. Jessie Haver Butler, of the United States, will speak on "The Relations of this Country with America." The Chair will be taken by Miss F. A. Underwood at 6 p.m. Mrs. Butler's Lecture will be followed by questions and discussion. The third Lecture will be given on February 26th, when The Lady Amherst of Hackney will speak on "The Relations of this Country with France."

OUR LENDING LIBRARY.

"English Prisons To-day." Being the Report of the Prison System Enquiry Committee. Edited by Stephen Hobhouse, M.A., and A. Fenner Brockway.

"Penal Discipline." By Dr. Mary Gordon, late H.M. Inspector of Prisons.

"The English Prison System." By Sir Evelyn Ruggles-Brise, K.C.B.

"The Woman Doctor and Her Future." By Louisa Martindale, M.D., B.S., J.P.

"Women in the Factory." By Dame Adelaide M. Anderson, D.B.E., M.A.

"The Experiences of an Asylum Patient." By Rachel Grant Smith.

"The Experiences of an Asylum Doctor." By Dr. Lomax.

"Michael Field." By Mary Sturgeon.

Any of these may be borrowed from the Literature Department at 6d. per week.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Monday, February 12th, at 6 p.m. Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Speaker: Mrs. Haver Butler. Chair: Miss F. A. Underwood. Subject: "The Relations of this Country with America." Reserved seats, 1/-.

Wednesday, February 14th, at 3.15 p.m. Hampstead Branch Meeting at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

Monday, February 19th, at 6 p.m. Mid-London Branch Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Monday, February 26, at 3 p.m. Fair Committee, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Monday, February 26th, at 6 p.m. Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Speaker: The Lady Amherst of Hackney. Subject: "The Relations of this Country with France." Chair: Miss Elsie E. Morton, M.B.E. Reserved seats, 1/-.

Friday, March 9th, from 3 to 8.30 p.m. Women's Freedom League Spring Sale at 25, Wimpole Street, W. (by kind permission of Dr. Lewin). Opener: The Hon. Lady Parsons, at 3.30 p.m. Lecture by Dr. Lewin, at 6 p.m., "Shut your Mouth and Save your Life."

Friday, March 9th, at 5 p.m. Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, March 10th, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday, April 27th. National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, April 28th. Women's Freedom League Annual Conference, Caxton Hall.

PROVINCES.

Friday, February 9th, 6 to 9 p.m. Ashford. Social Evening in Parish Room. Games, Refreshments, Concert, etc. Proceeds for Branch Expenses.

Wednesday, February 14th. Wallasey. An American Tea, at "Holly Bank," Mount Road (by kind permission of Mrs. Pearson.) Speaker: Mrs. Dr. Dobbin Crawford.

Monday, February 19th, at 7.30 p.m. Portsmouth. Public Meeting, Model Election. Speaker: Miss Elsie Morton, M.B.E.

Tuesday, February 27th, at 3 p.m. Bexhill. Meeting for Members and Friends at Glyn Hall, Sea Road. Speaker: Miss Gertrude Eaton (Penal Reform League). Subject: "Capital Punishment."

Tuesday, February 27th, at 7.30 p.m. Hastings. Public Meeting at Lewcock's Assembly Rooms, Carlisle Parade. Speaker: Miss Gertrude Eaton. Subject: "Capital Punishment."

Tuesday, February 27th, at 8 p.m. Southend-on-Sea and District. Public Meeting at St. John's Ambulance Hall, 76, Queen's Road. Speaker: Inspector Stark. Subject: "Women Police."

WALES.

Thursday, February 15th, at 6.30 p.m. Public Meeting, Town Hall, Llanfyllin. Speakers: Lady Herbert Lewis, J.P., Chief Inspector Champneys. Subject: "Work of Women Police." Chair: Miss Alix M. Clark.

Friday, February 16th, at 7.30 p.m. Public Meeting, Baptist Schoolroom, Newtown. Speakers: Chief Inspector Champneys, Lady Herbert Lewis, J.P., Miss Alix M. Clark. Chair: Councillor Mrs. W. A. Williams. Doors open 7 p.m.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, February 14th, at 8 p.m. Women's League of Union, Oak Room, Kingsway Hall. Speaker from the Proportional Representation Society on the Work of that Society.

Wednesday, February 21st, at 8 p.m. International Women's Franchise Club, 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly. Speakers: (1) Miss Mary Richardson, "If I were Prime Minister." (2) Miss E. E. Crosby, L.L.A., "If I were Minister of Education."

Wednesday, February 28th, at 5 p.m. Stansfeld Lecture at the London School of Economics, Professor Graham Wallas on "The Competition of the Sexes for Employment."

Wednesday, February 28th, at 8 p.m. International Women's Franchise Club, 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly. Speakers: (1) Miss C. Nina Boyle "If I were Home Secretary." (2) Miss Acheson "If I were Minister for Foreign Affairs."

Wednesday, March 7th, at 8 p.m. National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, Demonstration on Equal Franchise for Men and Women, Central Hall, Westminster. Speakers: Lady Astor, M.P., Miss Margaret Bondfield, J.P., Lady Bonham Carter, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, J.P., Miss Daisy Richardson, Mrs. Winttingham, M.P. Chairman: Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., M.A., C.C. Single Tickets (numbered and reserved) 5/-, 2/6, 1/-. Admission Free.

SWANSEA.

BRANCH NOTE.

We hope to hold a Jumble Sale in a few weeks' time and we ask all members and friends to help by saving for us any articles for which they have no further use. All kinds of goods—clothes, boots, shoes, furniture, carpets, pictures, ornaments, etc., will be acceptable and we shall be glad to have anything and everything. (Hon. Sec.); Miss C. JELLEY, 14, Carlton Terrace.

To Branch Officials.

Please send me your Capitation Fees for 1922, and Statement of Expenses and Receipts for that year. E. KNIGHT.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Good Daughters v. Prime Minister and Lord Chancellors!

When some men talk to women and girls, they always feel impelled to indulge in trivialities. We suppose this is the explanation of the following remarks of Mr. C. B. Hurst, K.C., M.P., in a Founder's Day speech at the Manchester High School for Girls: "We can very well get along without women Prime Ministers and women Lord Chancellors, but we cannot get along without good daughters. It will be a sad day when boys do not give up their seats to girls in trams, and when girls do not say 'Thank you' for them." Must High School girls be talked to in this fashion?

Another Militant Suffragist.

The *Labour Press Service* reports that Toshio Tsuabaki, a member of the Japanese House of Commons, is being tried for the offence of throwing a live snake on the floor of the House, to indicate his opinion of the opponents of suffrage extension. We wonder what would have happened to a woman in pre-suffrage days who had drawn attention to our cause in a similar manner?

Traffic in Old Horses.

A Bill will be introduced in the House of Commons next Session, again seeking to establish a £20 inspection fee at ports prior to the export of horses. When Lord Lambourne introduced the Bill in the Lords last year, the fee was reduced to 5s., which had the effect of destroying the good effect of the proposed measure. The export of decrepit horses to the Continent still goes on, despite assurances to the contrary. The legitimate trade in sound horses will be exempt from the measure.

WOMEN AS PARISH DOCTORS.

At the meeting on January 23rd of the Festiniog (Merioneth) Guardians, Dr. Olwen Evans, Blaenau Festiniog, aged 25, sister of Dr. Carey Evans, son-in-law of Mr. Lloyd George, was proposed for appointment as parish medical officer for Festiniog.

The Rev. W. T. Ellis moved an amendment that Dr. Joseph Morris, aged 31, be appointed, remarking that women doctors were in the experimental stage as far as Wales was concerned. They must study the feelings of pauper patients. They all knew of the prejudice in Wales against lady doctors, and among no class was the prejudice greater than among the paupers.

Miss Gamwell said a woman doctor was eminently suitable as a parish doctor, having regard to the numerous women and children patients.

Dr. Olwen Evans was appointed by 18 votes to 12.

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS.

The Consultative Committee held its monthly meeting last month, and a number of Resolutions were passed. It was agreed that the Housing Shortage was one of the most serious problems of to-day, and that there was a good deal of ignorance on many complicated questions involved. It was therefore decided to appoint a small sub-committee to prepare, in consultation with expert opinion, a memorandum dealing with the failure to provide houses in the past, the legal and financial aspect of the present situation, and the alternate proposals for meeting the urgent need for houses.

A variety of subjects were then discussed, including Closing Hours of Public Houses, Venereal Disease in the Mercantile Marine, Women's Franchise, Freedom of the City for Women, the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Young People, and the Matrimonial Causes Bill. Special attention was given to Unemployment among Women, and the need for further training schemes, and the expected reductions in the women staff of the Ministry of Pensions.

OUR LAST NEW BRANCH

We congratulate Wallasey Branch on its activity and enthusiasm. A strong protest has already been sent to the local Health Committee against the dismissal of a married woman Health Visitor, who, as it happens, is the sole support of her family and invalid husband.

All local readers please communicate with the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Maud Andain, 22, Cromer Drive, Wallasey.

Support Your League.

Please remember week by week that we have to pay out money every week or starve, and always send what you can manage whenever you can manage it.

FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 9
1923.

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THE PIONEER CLUB has re-opened at 12, Cavendish Place. Entrance fee in abeyance *pro tem*. Town Members £5 5s.; Country and Professional £4 4s.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, February 11th. 12 noon. Little Rally for Children of all Ages. 3.15. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Dearmer. 6.30. Prof. J. A. Thomson.

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