

CHILD ASSAULTS—INQUIRY WANTED.

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, JULY 25, 1924

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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MISS KATHARINE STEPHEN.

All Cambridge women and educationists generally read with regret of the death, on July 16th, after a long illness, of Miss Katharine Stephen.

Miss Stephen was born in 1856, the eldest daughter of the famous Judge of the High Court, Sir James Fitzjames Stephen, and niece of the distinguished essayist and critic, Sir Leslie Stephen. She was educated at a private school at Brighton and at Bedford College.

Her connection with Cambridge began in 1887, as Librarian to the College, and this lasted till 1910. She went to Newnham College as Private Secretary to Miss Helen Gladstone, the Vice-Principal of Sidgwick Hall. Later on, she became Vice-Principal of Clough Hall, to relieve the first Principal of the College, Miss Clough, of routine work, and afterwards succeeded Miss Gladstone as Vice-Principal of Sidgwick Hall.

In 1911 she followed Mrs. Henry Sidgwick as Principal, and in 1920 she retired from educational work and was succeeded by Miss B. A. Clough.

Miss Stephen was upon the Managing Committee of Stormont House Tubercular School, and of Carlyle School, Chelsea, and a Governor of the Swanley Horticultural College. She was the author of a "French History for English Children" and of "Three Sixteenth-Century Sketches."

Keenly interested in Social Work, it was in her room at the College, in 1887, that the Women's Uni-

versity Settlement, Nelson Square, Southwark, was first founded. In it she took an active part in personal work and counsel, and was a very regular Executive Committee member and Vice-Chairman for many years.

The Sunday morning school at Barnwell, a poor part of Cambridge, for men and boys, was also vigorously carried on and organised by Miss Stephen for many years.



Miss Stephen's portrait, by Mr. Glyn Philpot, A.R.A., was presented to the College at the Jubilee celebrations in July, 1921, and now hangs on the north wall at the end of the Peill Hall dining-hall.

All who in any way came into contact with Miss Stephen felt the force of her vigorous personality. Her very tall, upright figure and well-marked features were the index to a strikingly upright and sincere character, and to great honesty and determination. Through all the troublous years of the war Miss Stephen guided the College ship with wisdom and patience, and overcame the many difficulties which cropped up when old methods had to meet and be

adapted to new conditions. Partly due to her highly cultivated and orderly mind, and partly to her legal heredity, was the "detestation" of militancy, but as a Constitutional Suffragist she was a firm upholder of political progress for women, as well as their social and educational advance.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Hong Kong (Maisons Tolérées).

LADY ASTOR (Sutton, Plymouth) asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, with reference to the closing of *maisons tolérées* in Hong Kong, the fact that no houses had been closed on the complaints of three householders, as allowed for in the Regulations, might be taken to mean that no complaints had been received? MR. J. H. THOMAS replied that the Governor's report made no statement on that point. He would refer the question to the Governor. LADY ASTOR then asked if any new *maisons tolérées* had been opened in Hong Kong between 1914 and September, 1923; and, if so, whether they had been included in the total of 296 such houses reported by the Governor of Hong Kong? MR. THOMAS replied that, as it had already been stated, the total number of registered brothels in 1923 was 296, but he was not aware of the dates at which any of these had been opened.

Catering Trade.

MISS JEWSON (Norwich) asked the Minister of Labour if any instructions had been issued to Employment Exchanges with a view to checking the supply of cheap labour to catering employers; and what was the minimum rate of wages below which work was not now offered to women at those Exchanges? MR. SHAW replied that no such instructions had been issued. It was no part of the duty of Exchanges to inquire as to whether wages were suitable, provided always that there was no maximum rate fixed by law which was being infringed. When the question of stoppage benefit arose, there were rules with which his hon. Friend was no doubt familiar. MISS JEWSON then asked if the right hon. Gentleman was aware that recently, at one of the Exchanges, a woman was offered a job at 10s. a week for work in a picture-house café from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.; and that she had her benefit stopped because she refused the job? Did the right hon. Gentleman think that that was suitable employment within the meaning of the rules? MR. SHAW replied that he was not aware of that case, and if the hon. Member would give him particulars he would have inquiries made. MISS JEWSON said that it was quite a common case. MR. SHAW answered that that was a statement. He wanted the facts. If details of the case were supplied to him, he would look into it, and see exactly what could be done. Certainly the rules that were laid down for Committees did not, at any rate, prescribe that they should act in a manner like that. LORD HENRY CAVENDISH-BENTINCK asked when the right hon. Gentleman was going to set up a trade board and stop the sweating in that industry? MR. SHAW replied that they were now considering the matter in every case where a definite application was made and the possibility showed itself that a trade desired a trade board. LADY ASTOR said that the trade did not desire it, but the country did. LORD HENRY CAVENDISH-BENTINCK added that his right hon. Friend had ample information.

Women (Remuneration).

MR. AYLES (Bristol, N.) asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury if he could see his way to advise the Government to review the question of the remuneration of women as compared with men in the Civil Service, as promised in the Resolution passed by the House of Commons on 5th August, 1921? MR. GRAHAM referred the hon. Member to the answer given by his right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the noble Lady, the Member for the Sutton Division of Plymouth, on the 3rd July. LADY ASTOR asked if the hon. Gentleman did not himself think it a most unsatisfactory answer, considering the promises of the Labour Party? MR. AYLES asked if the hon. Gentleman did not think, now that women had political equality with men (*surely Mr. Ayles is anticipating events in this matter!*), that the time had

come when they should have economic equality, and that it was infinitely better for economic equality to be granted rather than to have it wrested from the Government?

MR. GRAHAM answered that the reply of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in regard to those cases was, he thought, that every effort had been made to secure equality of opportunity in the service (*Readers of our "In Parliament" Notes will not have been much impressed by the results of those efforts!*), but his right hon. Friend indicated that, in view of the very large cost involved, he could not at this stage undertake to make monetary equality, or equality of payment, as well.

Women (Temporary Service).

LT-COL. JAMES (Bromley) asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury if he proposed to make some provision for the legitimate claims of temporary women who had served in the Government Service from very early periods during the war, and who now considered that they should be given a chance of establishment; and if he was aware that early last year nearly 1,000 girls with no Government service to their credit were brought in at the ages of 15 and 16, and that their introduction meant the subsequent discharge of many efficient older women, who had since found it almost impossible to get outside employment? MRS. WINTRINGHAM (Louth) asked if the Financial Secretary to the Treasury was prepared to make some arrangements whereby the temporary women civil servants who had given such long periods of efficient service to the Government would be offered a chance of competing for any vacancies which might arise on the women's side in the Civil Service? VISCOUNT CURZON (Battersea) asked whether, in view of the publication of the Southborough Report and provision therein for establishment of ex-Service men, the Treasury was now contemplating making some provision for the temporary women who had been in the Service for many years to enter women's vacancies which might arise during the next year or two; and whether he was aware that those women found it impossible to obtain outside employment, and had had no chance of establishment since 1920? MR. GRAHAM replied that he would answer those questions together. The position of temporary women clerks now serving in the Civil Service was receiving his consideration with reference to the recommendations of Lord Southborough's Committee, but he regretted that he was not yet able to announce a decision on the subject.

Magistrates Appointments).

MR. SCURR (Mile End), asked the Prime Minister if he was aware that considerable dissatisfaction existed regarding the appointment of persons to be justices of the peace; and if he would have legislation introduced, permitting local authorities to appoint some of their number, for a limited period of years, as justices, thus following the practice which prevailed in Scotland? The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Mr. Patrick Hastings) said he had been asked to reply. He was not aware that any dissatisfaction existed regarding the method of selecting and appointing persons to be justices of the peace in England. The alternative method suggested by the hon. Member was not recommended by the Royal Commission on the Selection of Justices of the Peace, which considered both the Scottish and the English systems, and he did not think it necessary or desirable to introduce legislation on the subject.

Representation of the People Act (1918) Amendment Bill.

MRS. WINTRINGHAM asked the Prime Minister if it was the intention of the Government to adopt and proceed with the Representation of the People Act (1918) Amendment Bill this Session? The PRIME MINISTER replied that the answer to both parts of the question was in the affirmative. F. A. U.

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

The Medical Women's International Association, which was initiated at New York in 1919, and formally provided itself with a constitution at Geneva in 1922, held its first meeting under its fully constituted Representative Council in London last week, July 15-19.

Dr. Esther Lovejoy, the retiring President, at the General Meeting, said that the Association sought to band together medical women throughout the world in matters of international hygiene, to prevent pestilence by fighting its causes—war, prostitution, traffic in women and narcotic drugs. Parties of medical women had travelled with the Smyrna refugees and cared for them, and had assisted after the Tokio earthquake.

Some twenty-four nations were represented. The Turkish delegate, Dr. Safieh Ali, said that many Turkish women were now studying hard for their degrees, but as it was only one year since the Government had allowed women to practise, she was at present the only one qualified.

Lady Barrett, C.B.E., M.D., M.S., was elected President, and Vice-Presidents from America, France and Norway, and delegates from over 16 countries reported on their local conditions.

Many festivities were arranged for the visitors: A lunch at the London School of Medicine for Women, by invitation of the Dean; tea at Lambeth Palace; tea at the Royal Free Hospital; tea on the Terrace, by invitation of the Prime Minister and Members of Parliament; tea at Hampton Court Palace, by invitation of Mrs. Creighton; visits to old mediæval London treasures, Barbers' Hall, the Apothecaries' Hall, and to many hospitals, museums, etc.

Particularly interesting to suffragists was the reception by the Prime Minister and Miss Ishbel MacDonald at the famous No. 10, Downing Street, when the guests explored with great delight the beautiful house, so full of charm and simple dignity, its walls hung with splendid portraits of the great statesmen of the past, its Cabinet room, with one big table and many chairs, presided over by a huge black cat mascot to ensure good fortune, and opening upon terrace and garden, so welcome when discussions run high.

Expeditions also took place to Bath (by invitation of the Mayor and Corporation), to Dr. Jane Walker's Sanatorium at Nayland, and to Brighton to the Lady Chichester Hospital for Early Nervous cases, and the New Sussex Hospital for Women, Cottage Homes, etc.

SOME OVERSEAS CRITICISMS!

An informal Meeting, to discuss matters of mutual interest with some of our Overseas visitors, was held at the Minerva Club, on Friday of last week. Mrs. Corbett Ashby presided for the first half of the meeting, but was obliged to leave early, when Mrs. Fox-Strangways took her place.

Mrs. Holman (New South Wales) commended the hard work and public spirit of her English sisters, but commented very plainly upon London's dirty streets and general want of order and cleanliness. She also thought the small shopkeeper and ordinary 'bus conductor were lacking in courtesy to visitors from other countries, classing them all contemptuously under the vague term of "foreigners." Mrs. Holman also criticised the "Women's Pages," in our daily press.

Dr. Morris (Melbourne) regretted the small number of overseas visitors to the pavilion of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance at Wembley Exhibition.

A lady from South Africa deplored the low moral tone of the London evening press, and contrasted the South African evening press very favourably in this connection, crimes not being at all in evidence. Like Mrs. Holman, she also criticized the untidiness of the streets in London, and also at the Wembley Exhibition, and our "Women's Pages."

A lady from Plymouth said the reason for the low tone of the London evening press was the fact that it was now entirely under the control of a handful of thoroughgoing materialists.

Mrs. Emma James (America) contended that the

American papers were much worse than the English ones, and were largely responsible for the crimes that were committed in the United States. It made her sad to see how hard Englishwomen had to fight for mere fundamental privileges, such as Equal Guardianship of Infants. Only three of the 48 American States had unequal guardianship. The States were not all progressing on the same lines. In Illinois, for instance, women were not yet permitted to serve on juries.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby said she was afraid English people did not believe in education, in the wide sense of the word, and needed to revolutionise their whole attitude towards education. Education meant something far wider than mere ability to earn a living.

Mrs. Fox-Strangways protested against the tendency of the cinemas to concentrate on sexuality and revolution, and said they were largely controlled by Jewish financiers.

Miss Horniman, who was listened to with great interest, said, "Women's Pages" were written only for "ladies"! Before the war she could claim, when she had her theatre in Manchester, far larger space in the Press than men theatre proprietors. In those days, she would sit in her flat and read plays, and though without either a secretary or a reader, would finish them in six weeks. The average theatre manager took six months to read a play, and usually had both secretary and reader. Of all the countries which submitted plays to her, Denmark sent the best. She wondered, if American papers were as bad as had been stated that afternoon, why American women put up with them. She commended the New York "Nation," however, very highly, because of the excellence of its international news. English people did not read nearly enough foreign news.

THE NEW SWEDISH MARRIAGE LAW.

By MRS. A. L. ELGSTRÖM.

The old-time guardianship over the wife that the old Swedish law gave the husband is now withdrawn. From being legally quite a child the wife is now as independent a person as her husband in the eyes of the law. She has also quite as much as he to say concerning the management of the family and its affairs, economic and otherwise. She and her husband have also a kind of joint wardenship over the children. *But—* and here the new law has made a very grave slip back to the Middle Ages—only the father has the legal guardianship over the child in economic matters.

With regard to the wife's property, everything she had when she married, and likewise everything she may acquire afterwards, is hers to use as she likes, except that, under the new law, *both* the married parties are entitled to a certain portion of the other's property, this portion being named her or his "marriage right." The new law also makes it the legal duty of *both* to maintain *each other*, it being recognised that the woman is fulfilling her part when she works in her home.

With regard to the laws regulating the position of illegitimate children, these are considered legitimate, and their father's (but not their paternal grandfather's) rightful heirs, if the mother can prove that the father promised her marriage. If not, the mother has still a right to a certain amount of the father's income for the maintenance of the child, whose sole guardian she is. Before the birth of the child, the mother can—*must*—apply to the warden of a civic body, whose duty it is to act on behalf of the child. This warden has the legal right to request the father's employer to keep back the stipulated sum to which the child is entitled, if the father does not afford maintenance willingly. If the father is out of work, and cannot or will not pay, the town or Commune will give the agreed sum to the mother, but disfranchises her at the same time. The Danish system is better, for this gives the money to the mother without any disqualification, and gets it back again from the father later. In Sweden, the non-paying father is sent to the workhouse, which, however, does not benefit either the mother or the child.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, JULY 25th, 1924.

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.

CHILD ASSAULTS.

In the May number of *The Magistrate*, a Quarterly Bulletin of the Magistrate's Association, is a very informative report of a Conference convened by the Secretary of State last April at the Home Office, to consider cases of carnal knowledge and other assaults on children. This Conference was held under the chairmanship of Sir John Anderson, K.C.B., Permanent Under Secretary, and among those attending it were Sir Ernley Blackwell, K.C.B., the legal adviser to the Home Secretary, Dr. Griffiths, Prison Commissioner, Miss MacDougal, Scotland Yard, the Medical Officer of Brixton Prison, Lady Astor, M.P., Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., Sir Thomas Bramsdon, M.P., Mr. Frank Briant, M.P., and several members of the Magistrates Association, viz: Miss S. M. Fry, J.P. (St. Pancras), Miss E. H. Kelly, J.P. (Portsmouth), Mrs. C. D. Rackham, J.P. (Cambridge), Miss G. M. Tuckwell, J.P. (St. George's), Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., and Mr. Cecil Leeson (Secretary to the Association).

The writer says that in the discussion it was stated that statistics showed that these cases of child assault were increasing, and that many offences were reported to the police who, doubtless with adequate reason, took no proceedings. Cases were cited in which fines were imposed for quite serious offences, and instances quoted tending to show that the possibility of no conviction being obtained, and the considerable ordeal involved by court proceedings, as now conducted, undergone by the children, resulted in an unwillingness on the part of parents to report these assaults; and the opinion was strongly expressed that an effort should be made to secure the attendance of a woman magistrate when child assault cases were down for hearing, and that suitable women officers of the Court should be associated with the proceedings—e.g., women police or probation officers—that they might stand near to the child whilst she was giving evidence. It was also felt that the preliminary medical examination should be made by a woman doctor. Complaint was made that the interval between offence and trial was unduly prolonged, resulting in indistinct memory of detail, which was taken advantage of in cross-examination. In the actual proceedings in court, it was also stated that the children, some of whom were still suffering from the effects of the assault, were kept waiting about the precincts of the Court for long periods before their cases were taken, and the suggestion was made that they should be heard before other cases, and that the children themselves, having given evidence, should not be permitted to remain in court during the subsequent proceedings. The complaint regarding inadequate sentences for child assault might be due to the magistrate's suspicion that the offenders were abnormal; and it was therefore suggested that all men charged with a second offence should be medically examined, that the police should have legal aid in all cases, and that charges of carnal knowledge should be referred to the Public Prosecutor.

The Conference urged that the Home Secretary should appoint a Committee of Inquiry, and this he has since agreed to do.

We extract the following cases from those quoted, to illustrate the various points made, the children involved being little girls:—

I.—Aged 10. Indecent Assault. The assault took place on a Friday. Information given to police same

day. Child examined by police surgeon same day. Evidence taken by woman inspector on Saturday morning, but man, who occupied the same house, not arrested until Monday.

II.—Aged 8. Indecent Assault. The headmaster of an elementary school sent to the local police station regarding a girl, aged 12, who had been decoyed away by a man. The police replied on a slip of paper that the only case reported referred to a girl named C—.

The Children's Worker followed up this name, and through the attendance department discovered her whereabouts, and found that the child (aged 8) had been indecently assaulted by a man living in the same house; but the police did not think that the man could be convicted on the child's evidence only, and that, therefore, the charge could not be proceeded with.

III.—Aged 14. This case was discovered through a cutting in a local paper, which quoted the name of the offender, a youth, who indecently assaulted the girl. She was much frightened and upset. Her statement was taken by a man, and she was examined by the Police Surgeon—a man—but was not required to give evidence in Court.

Complaint is also made that children are re-exposed for the purpose of obtaining evidence.

IV.—Aged 7. Indecent Exposure. A male indecently exposed himself to this child. The parents informed the police; detectives were put on to watch, and the child was instructed to go by the same route again. The man again exposed himself, but the police were not satisfied, and made the child again go down the same road, when the man repeated the offence. The child, thoroughly frightened, merely glanced at him on this the third occasion, and ran home. She gave evidence in Court for over an hour, but the man, who employed a solicitor, was discharged, as it was pleaded that he was not going to assault the child, and she could not give exact evidence as to the extent of the exposure on the third occasion.

V.—Aged 8. Criminal Assault. This little girl and her two brothers, one deaf and dumb, were accosted by a man on a common. He shut the two boys into a shed, and criminally assaulted the girl behind the shed. The child was much injured, and badly infected with V. D. She was in bed for months. The child, wretchedly ill, and unable to sit up for long together, was required to attend on the day previous to that on which the hearing was reached, and wait all that day after a long tram journey, and again, of course, on the following day.

An official Committee of Inquiry, to investigate all the aspects and bearings of these painful cases, is surely long overdue. It is imperative that there should be more effective protection for these children. Women police are absolutely necessary, for more women, too, on the magistrates' bench, and, of course, women doctors should examine the children. We also emphatically reiterate our demand that all juries, before which cases of child assault come, should consist of an equal number of women and men.

A WOMAN'S PAY.

MAJOR CHURCH called the attention of the Minister of Agriculture, last Monday, to an advertisement in the Press for a man or woman assistant mycologist in the Ministry of Agriculture's pathological laboratory at Harpenden. The successful applicant, if a man, was to receive £250 to £400, plus Civil Service bonus; if a woman, £200 to £300, plus Civil Service bonus. MR. BUXTON maintained that it was the recognised rule of the Civil Service to differentiate in the pay of men and women, and referred Major Church to Mr. Snowden's recent reply to Lady Astor on this subject. MR. LANSBURY asked if there was any differentiation between Members of the Ministry according to whether they were women or men? MRS. WINTRINGHAM asked if it was not the policy of the Government to give equal pay for equal qualifications and equal work. MR. BUXTON replied that the scales were determined by the Treasury?

WOMEN IN THE UPPER HOUSE.

Last week the Debate on the Second Reading of the Parliament (Qualification of Peeresses) Bill was adjourned. In moving the Second Reading, Viscount Astor explained that the Bill contained three clauses. Clause 1 proposed that Peeresses in their own right should be entitled to receive a Writ of Summons to Parliament, and to sit and vote in the House of Lords as if they were men. Clause 2 enabled Peeresses in their own right to be entitled to vote at Elections of Representative Peers of Scotland and Ireland, and also to be elected to represent either of those two countries. Clause 3 dealt with an amendment to the Representation of the People Act. At the present moment a Peeress was allowed to vote at an Election. A Peer had not that privilege. Clause 3 proposed to put Peeresses in their own right on exactly the same footing as a Peer in that respect. Lord Astor said that fewer than two dozen Peeresses would be affected by the Bill, and contended that the House of Lords ought to reflect more accurately the opinions of the 8,000,000 women voters in the country. In his opinion, the point of view of women was necessary. It was a good point of view on a large number of questions. Their Lordships had to consider and to pass legislation dealing with problems affecting children, women, morality, and the employment of both sexes, and it was essential that the women's point of view should be put at first hand before the Upper House. In the House of Commons, women had proved an enormous success, and there was now a woman occupant of the Ministerial Front Bench.

Lord Banbury of Southam moved its rejection. He stated that the three women elected to the House of Commons while he was there were all elected because their husbands had to give up their seats. He did not know about the Labour Party, but he had never met anyone else who did not regret that women were in the House of Commons. He quoted Lord Hugh Cecil's remark in the House of Commons last February:—"I am sorry we have come to include among our members persons belonging to the other sex, but what

we have lost in dignity, we may have gained in efficiency," and Lord Banbury plaintively inquired: "Do your Lordships wish to lose the dignity of this House, which for centuries has been the model of a Parliament House, in order, perhaps, to gain efficiency?" He maintained that it was not a movement on the part of the women of the country, and asked: "Do you mean to tell me that the women of the country care twopence whether Lady Rhondda or any other Peeress sits in this House?" He earnestly entreated his fellow-members to reject the Bill with such a majority that they would not be troubled with Bills of that sort again.

In supporting the Second Reading, Lord Darling referred to history, and asked why in the beginning women were not summoned to Parliament? He gave the answer: the Barons were strong, just as Lord Banbury was strong, in the upholding of their own individual and newly conquered rights, determined not to share them with other men, and certainly with no women. Did Lord Banbury know that before women were allowed to sit in the House of Commons they were capable of being Members of Parliament, and were Members of Parliament? Either King or Queen was a Member of Parliament, and Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth, Queen Anne, and Queen Victoria had been Members of the House of Lords. How could their House lose dignity by allowing ladies to come and sit upon those Benches and to vote? Ladies of the oldest blood of England and Scotland could not detract from the dignity of any assembly. If a lady could sit upon the Throne, why not on the Benches of the Upper House?

LORD GAINFORD declared that he was prepared to vote against the Second Reading. He thought it should not be left to an unofficial member to try to extend to that House the principle of allowing ladies to sit and vote. In his opinion the question ought to be raised when the reform of the House of Lords was discussed. The Debate is to be continued, but has not taken place at the time we go to press.

THE CLYDE COAST CAMPAIGN.

Hon. Organiser: ALIX M. CLARK.
Speaker: MISS LENTON.

Once more the Women's Freedom League Summer Campaign on the Clyde is in full swing, our headquarters being, as in previous years, at Rothesay.

Once more the pretty little town, with its magnificent scenery of sea and hills, is full of holiday makers from Glasgow and the other industrial centres on the Clyde, enjoying their annual release from the various activities on which they are engaged throughout the year, and presenting an unsurpassed opportunity for the propagation of the aims and objects of the Women's Freedom League; for the effective spreading of the doctrine, not only of the justice, but also of the absolute necessity of equality between the sexes, politically, industrially and economically.

Although Miss Clark arrived in Rothesay only last Wednesday, and thus missed nearly half the week, she has sold 700 copies of "The Vote." In last week's issue it is the article on the front page, dealing with "Equal Guardianship," which has attracted the greatest interest. Many women have approached Miss Clark whilst she has been selling, to say how much they resent the strange position they occupy under the law regarding their own children, and how they appreciate the work that is being done by the women's organizations in demanding the removal of this surprising injustice. In this week's paper perhaps the article which has made a stronger appeal than any other is that by Mrs. Emily Juson Kerr, J.P., on the "Rise in the Cost of Living." Here we have a subject which the working woman feels is, of all others, of vital importance, for, whether she is a wife trying to feed her family on the little her husband is willing or able to

allow her, or a widowed mother trying to work for pay and look after her children at the same time, or a single woman keeping herself—and perhaps dependents—on the miserable wages that are all the great majority of voteless young women can command, the slender means at her disposal force her to go without yet something else each time the great food combines decide to take advantage of the monopolies they hold to raise the cost of the necessities of life.

Not only have so many "Votes" been sold to such interested purchasers, but also a large number of copies of that excellent little pamphlet, "British Women M.P.s."

As in previous years, it has been arranged to hold meetings every evening on the Rothesay Pier at 8 p.m. However, on the first two nights, Wednesday and Thursday, the idea had to be given up, as the pier was covered with the various impedimenta of a fair, so that, what with cocoanut shies, auction sales, bands, men selling balloons and everything else, children with shrill whistles, noisy rattles, etc., etc., it was impossible to do any good.

However, on Friday evening Miss Lenton addressed an interested audience on "Equal Guardianship," many of the women appearing surprised to hear that they were not the parents of their own children, but, to judge from the lack of opposition, the whole audience agreed with everything the speaker said. On Saturday night the subject chosen was "Equal Franchise," and once more the elementary justice of the women's demand seemed to be appreciated by the members of the crowd, who, as no dissenting voice

was raised, were evidently convinced of the obvious fact that the young working woman needs the protection of the vote as much as her elder sisters or the working man.

During the week it is hoped to hold meetings in the daytime at Dunoon, Largs, Millport, and at Rothesay each evening.

LARGE FAMILIES AND HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

Last week, in the Debate on the Housing (Financial Provisions) Bill, MR. E. SIMON (Manchester, Withington) moved: "That reasonable preference shall be given to large families in letting houses." Lady Astor contended that the local authorities could get round this Amendment. In Liverpool the 6,000 houses built under the Addison Scheme were not to be let to families with fewer than three children, and preference was to be given to large families, but the greater number of houses had been let to married couples with one child. She insisted that the Minister of Health had not faced the two pressing problems of slum clearances and houses for large families. Private enterprise was not going to produce houses for workers with large families. The owners could not face the repairs. COMMANDER KENWORTHY (Central Hull) and MR. HAYDAY (Nottingham W.) both objected to the word "reasonable," and urged that an instruction be given that large families should have a preference in the matter of housing accommodation. Later in the Debate MR. REMER (Macclesfield) argued that the matter should be left entirely to the local people, who knew the circumstances. There might be cases where there should be a preference given to young people who were about to be married, and who had had, perhaps, to delay their marriage. They might be delayed still further under this Bill. MRS. PHILIPSON (Berwick-on-Tweed), although she sympathised with the difficulties of the young people, disagreed with the former speaker. She said there were hundreds of men and women in the country who were ashamed that their families, boys and girls, were huddled together in the same room, not under decent conditions, and it was those people who most wanted help. It was not right that they should be living together in the same room with their parents. The Amendment was passed by 293 votes to 49.

MISS I. O. FORD.

All suffragists will regret to learn of the death of Miss Isabella O. Ford, which occurred at Leeds last week. She was a pioneer in the cause of the emancipation of women, and a delightfully forceful and convincing speaker. When women in the clothing factories began to agitate for better conditions in the 'eighties, she went to their aid. She helped the tailoresses to organise themselves into a trade union, and led their cause on public platforms continuously. In 1890, she went to Bradford to associate herself with some Manningham mill girls who were on strike, and she marched with them through the streets during a snowstorm. She was elected President of the Tailoresses' Union—a position which she held till the Union was amalgamated with the Clothing Operatives' Union—and became a life member of the Trades and Labour Council. After the war, she visited Germany to make personal investigation of the conditions there, and she did valuable work through the Friends' Relief Committee in assisting to relieve distress in Germany.

A gathering will be held, in memory of Miss I. O. Ford, in the Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1., on Monday, July 28th, at noon; and among her many friends the following expect to be present:—Miss Bondfield, M.P., Mr. Charles Roden Buxton, Miss Kathleen Courtney, Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., J.P., Mr. T. E. Harvey, M.P., Mr. Carl Heath, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, Mr. H. W. Nevinson, Lady Parmoor, Mr. Philip Snowden, M.P., and Mrs. Swanwick.

BOOK REVIEW.

Ancilla—an Indictment of Sex Antagonism. (Hutchinson). 18s. (Can be obtained at this office.)

The jacket on this thoughtful and closely reasoned book shows us the picture of the woman mummy case swaddled in grave-cloths to the feet with only the serving hands left free—a true representation of "Ancilla," or the serving-woman of the past. Woman in the past has been largely what man made her; she was expected to come into life, not asking, as the young man does, "How best he may place himself," but "How she may give herself." They are to help men to work better, not to work themselves, that has all along been the man's view, and any evidence of "mastery" on her part, either in art or science, is an offence, and where Ancilla has shown outstanding talent or even genius which could not be overlooked she has been met by either contempt or fear—the children of ignorance.

Now our author is not content to trace this in the past—this want of faith in women's power—but she shows it clearly in the present disappointing failure, the rejection of organised women, as soon as their wonderful war work was no longer needed, the refusal of help which women alone can give. Full participation in public affairs—in politics in commerce, in social work, is not to be allowed anywhere, neither by Labour Party nor any other Party—and it is time that women recognised that they stand at a most serious crisis in their history. Yet surely there is no time when women needed more to conduct an "active battle of the spirit against brute force," now when the world seems to be travelling once more on the "old road on which Europe travelled before the last great war."

The author, whom we now know to be Miss Elizabeth Robins, speaks strongly of the need for realising the oneness of men's and women's interests, for man's sex antagonism marks, not only his divergence from fundamental truth, but from his real interests—in the terrible waste of power caused by the want of recognition of the solidarity of all human interests. Above all is co-operation necessary among women, not submergence in old political parties, but a close union which shall cause their needs to be felt. Small groups of women can do little or nothing to overcome the age-long prejudice of man, and his fear of their moral power. The constructive and conserving powers of women must be used, or "Heaven help the world!"

To those of us who have been living in a false Paradise, and pointing proudly to the successes already gained, this book will come as a rude awakening, but a very necessary one. It is a call to all women to realise their power, at a time when the sum of their influence is needed to stabilise the forces of civilisation. "Woman stands for continuity"—she is the greatest force for peace—and wars will cease "when she is given equal hearing out in the world, and equal authority in council with man's will to war." Without this, our civilisation is in peril.

People may think that this is an extreme view to take; but read it for yourself, and you will find the arguments fully proved, an army of facts to substantiate the statements, and last, but not least, a powerful and imaginative presentation of the state of the world at this time, and the causes and remedies thereof.

J. M. T.

W.F.L. PAMPHLETS.

- "British Women M.P.s," by D. M. Northcroft ... 4d.
- "The Work for Women M.P.s," by Mrs. Helena Normanton, B.A. ... 3d.
- "The Need for Women Members of Parliament," (Second Edition), by Mrs. How Martyn, M.Sc. 3d.
- "Women's Right to Work," by Miss Lind-af-Hageby 3d.
- "Women and Income Tax," by Mrs. Ayres Purdie (Certified Accountant) ... 3d.
- "Race Motherhood. Is Woman the Race?" by Mrs. Montefiore ... 6d.
- "Women Police," by D. M. Northcroft ... 1d.
- "Women at Work in the League of Nations," by D. M. Northcroft ... 6d.

Women's Freedom League.

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

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

Monday, September 1st, at 3.30 p.m. "Fair" Sub-Committee, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.



Friday and Saturday, November 28th and 29th. Central Hall, Westminster. Green, White and Gold Fair. To be opened on Friday, at 3 p.m., by Mrs. Hilton Philipson, M.P., and on Saturday, at 3 p.m., by Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P.

DARE TO BE FREE.

PROVINCES.

Tuesday, July 29th, at 4 p.m. Hastings. "Thé Chantant," at 1, St. Paul's Place, St. Leonards-on-Sea (by kind permission of Mrs. Darent Harrison). Programmes 1/- each.

WOMEN & HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) BILL.

We have received the following communication from Miss Bertha Mason, Hon. Secretary to the Women's Local Government Society:—"The Council of the Women's Local Government Society have considered the amendment set down in the names of Mr. E. D. Simon, Mrs. Wintringham, Mr. Masterman and Mr. Trevelyan Thomson, by which it is proposed to permit local authorities to charge a lower rent to tenants in proportion to the number of children living with and dependent on them. The Council are of opinion that this proposal is unsound in principle, and one that may lead to abuse, as it is well known the number of occupants to a house increases the wear and tear of the building, and the proposal therefore is merely a subsidy to wages. They consider that the method usually adopted by local authorities, of giving the tenants with families the prior claim to municipal houses, is the right method. For these reasons, amongst others, they are of opinion that this amendment should be opposed. They are in favour of action which would enable tenants to become owners of their houses through a scheme of deferred payments, and welcome the new clause which stands in the name of Mr. Trevelyan Thomson, viz., to prohibit building operations which interfere with the provision of dwelling-houses."

Yours faithfully, etc.

BRITISH OVERSEAS COMMITTEE PAVILION.

The little Suffrage Pavilion belonging to the British Overseas Committee of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, at the British Empire Exhibition, is in the Eastern Section, near the Exhibition Station within the Exhibition, under the shadow of that prominent landmark the States Express Cigarette Tower, directly behind Hampden's pretty little house and Day & Martin, flanked by Spratt's exhibit, and looking on to the Shetland ponies and Pekingese puppies. The Women's Freedom League are responsible for the Pavilion on Mondays. Next Monday, our members, Mrs. Delbanco, Mrs. Hanscomb, and Miss Wolfe Murray, will be in charge. All suffragists visiting Wembley are warmly invited to drop in at any time for a rest and a chat.

BRANCH NOTE.

MINERVA CLUB.

Our first business meeting was held on 15th inst.; it was well attended. Miss Reeves was elected to the chair, and the officers elected were:—Miss Baker, Secretary, Miss Haugh, Treasurer, and Miss Katie Reeves, "Vote" Secretary.

It was unanimously decided to ask Mrs. Despard to be President of the branch, and she has since, in a very gracious letter, accepted. A series of Whist Drives are to be held in the winter, and one of the earliest events in the autumn will be a Public Meeting on a topical question of the day.

It was felt that this Branch, which was so hopefully inaugurated during Mrs. Despard's recent visit to London, has every prospect of securing a large membership and of doing a good work.

(Hon. Sec.) MISS H. M. BAKER, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

CLYDE COAST CAMPAIGN, 1924.

July 16th to August 16th.

Meetings will be held as usual on the Pier Head, Rothesay, every evening, also at Largs, Dunoon and Millport during the day, weather permitting. Miss Lillian Lenton is the Speaker. Helpers and workers from Scotland, especially members from Glasgow and Edinburgh branches, and any other members or friends who can be in the district for a few days, will be warmly welcomed, and donations towards the expenses gratefully received.

(Hon. Organiser) ALIX M. CLARK,

c/o Miss Thomson, 29, Battery Place, Rothesay, Bute.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CIVIL SERVICE?

Last week, Commander Kenworthy asked the Minister of Health how many executive and administrative posts there were in headquarters branches of his Ministry; how many of those posts were held by women; and how many by ex-service men? Mr. Greenwood (Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health) replied that there were 364 executive and administrative officers serving in the headquarters branches of the Ministry of Health. Of those officers, 19 were women and 168 ex-Service men.

Miss Jewson asked the Minister of Health, whether the Approved Societies Branch of the Ministry of Health dealt with the administration of the benefits of men and women under the National Health Insurance Acts; if so, how many men and women, respectively, above the lower clerical grade were employed therein; and what were their ranks and salaries? Mr. Wheatley replied that the answer to the first part of the question was "Yes." There were 37 posts in that branch above the lower clerical grade, all of which were held by men, as follows:—One Head of branch at £850—£25—£1,000. Six Superintending Clerks at £550—£20—£700. Eleven first class Clerks at £400—£15—£500. Sixteen second class Clerks at £100—£10—£130—£15—£400. Three higher grade Clerks at £300—£15—£400.

PROFITS ON BREWERY CONCERNS.

Replying to a question by Mrs. Wintringham, the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated in the House of Commons last week that the following estimates had been prepared of the profits of brewery concerns, whether owned by individuals, firms, or companies, for the accounting years ended within the Income Tax years 1913-14 to 1918-19 inclusive. The figures included any profits arising from carrying on any trade ancillary to the main business of brewing, as, for example, from the retail trade of managed houses, sales of wines, etc.:

Accounting years ended in the Income Tax years.	Estimated Profits of Brewing Concerns in the United Kingdom.
1913-14	9,971,000
1914-15	11,680,000
1915-16	13,181,000
1916-17	14,220,000
1917-18	24,394,000
1918-19	30,190,000

In Memoriam.

PATCH.—On July 19th, 1924, Winifred Secretan Patch, M.D., B.S., of 31, Highbury Place, N. 5.

We deeply regret to record the fatal accident to Dr. Patch, one of the original members of the Women's Freedom League, and a zealous tax resister until women gained some measure of political enfranchisement. Dr. Patch was cycling in Islington on her professional duties last Saturday afternoon, and, at Islington Green, in avoiding injuring a man in the road, was run over by a motor lorry and died almost at once in the Royal Free Hospital. Dr. Patch was beloved by all who knew her. We hope to give further particulars of her work in next week's VOTE.

Dear Readers,

Our "Vote" Seller, we regret very much to say, has had to give up her work, and we are temporarily without a regular seller. As we are anxious to maintain our present sales, we appeal to YOU to help us avoid a decrease in our circulation by taking a few extra copies weekly, and selling them among your friends or at local gatherings.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

E. KNIGHT, Director.

G. FLOWERS, "Vote" Secretary.

I shall be pleased to help by taking extra copies of "The Vote" weekly

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1924.

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

NOTICES.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED. Consult H. M. BAKER, the only woman Income Tax Expert, 275, High Holborn. Telephone: Holborn 377.

FACING REGENT'S PARK.—To Let (furnished or partly furnished), Maisonette; also upper part (or would divide). Electric light, bath (geyser).

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, July 27th. 6.30. Rev. James I. Vance, of Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A.

TRAVEL.

HOLIDAYS ABROAD. — Summer Holidays in Germany, Switzerland, France, Italy. Two weeks (2nd class travel, hotels, service), £4 to £15.—FRIENDSHIP TRAVEL, 22, Princeton Street, W.C.1.

FOUR HOLIDAY CAMPING HUTS, Furnished or Unfurnished. Extensive view. Splendid air. Golf. Half-mile from Bournemouth bus.—ALDRIDGE, Ferndown, Dorset.

REST AND HOLIDAYS.

BOURNEMOUTH.—“Loughtonhurst,” West Cliff Gardens. Food Reform Guest House. Best situation. Old established. Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. Hume.—Apply SECRETARY.

FOOD REFORM GUEST HOUSE, 13, Marine Parade, Dover. Excellent cooking. Gas-fires in bedrooms. Specially recommended Eustace Miles. Unequalled excursion centre.

PARKFIELDS, near Ross-on-Wye.—Vegetarian Holiday Guest House. Special Holiday Fortnight, July 25th to August 8th.—Write for Prospectus, E. D. MOODY.

PEACEHAVEN.—On the Downs by the Sea. Vegetarian Guests received in Bungalow Home, £2 2s.—MRS. MILLS, Southdown Avenue, Peacehaven, nr. Newhaven.

TO LET.—Large Caravan, attractively furnished for two, stationed near sea, golf and shops, in pleasant surroundings, and with reasonable conveniences. By the week-end, 15s.; the week, £1; after July, 30s.—Apply MISS NAPIER, Upton House, Sandwich.

LEAMINGFON SPA.—To Let during August, small Furnished House, three bedrooms, electric light, gas stove and fire.—8, LEICESTER STREET.

CORNWALL.—Superior Farmhouse board-residence for September, one mile city and River Fal. Splendid centre. Moderate terms.—LAMBESSOW, Truro.

BEAUTIFUL BUTTERMERE, Better than the Seaside. Best rambling centre in Lakeland. Wildest scenery. Bracing Mountain air which cures insomnia.

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REST AND HOLIDAYS.

THE GUILD HUT, Cranbrook, is the place for your holiday. Furnished for 3. Tents available. Full particulars—SEC.: 2, Upper Woburn Place, W.C.1.

WENSLEYDALE.—Comfortable board-residence, country cottage. Lunches packed when desired. Special terms long period.—SMITH, Low Green, Thoraby, Aysgarth, Yorks.

JERSEY.—Paying Guests received. Every Comfort. Terms from 2 guineas per week.—PROPRIETRESS, Ashton House, Rouge Bouillon, St. Helier, C.I.

TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

FRENCH DRESSMAKER and Renova-tor. Thoroughly experienced Also makes loose covers for Furniture, Ladies' Houses, Town and Country, or at Home. Excellent references.—Write L., 11, Westmoreland Street, Marylebone, W.

BARGAIN—list free. Plants, Garden Utensils. Beautiful dwarf roses, named varieties, 6/- dozen, carriage paid.—MCELROY, 33, Saville St., South Shields.

64—PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS AND HOW TO USE THEM. 2d. Send for one.—TRIMNELL, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond Road, Cardiff. Est. 1879.

ANCONAS lay the largest eggs. Hand-some birds, good layers. Sitings 6/-. Chicks 12/- doz., carriage paid.—PARRIS, Danecroft Poultry Farm, Bagshot.

IRISH LINENS, Afternoon Tea Cloths, Hemstitched, size 36 x 36, 3/6 each. Bleached Heavy Linen Damask Table-cloths, size 2 x 2, 10/6 each. Serviettes to match, 14/- doz. Linen remnants in 5/-, 10/- and 20/- bundles. ORMEAU LINEN CO., 2, Clarence Street, Belfast, Ireland.

WANTED.—Second-hand Clothing, best prices given; parcels sent, valued, and money sent by return. Stamped addressed envelope for reply.—RUSSELL, 100 Raby Street, Byker, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

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