

THE VOTE,
MAY 12, 1922.
ONE PENNY.

HOW TO INCREASE OUR FOOD PRODUCTION.

By Dr. LILIAS HAMILTON.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, MAY 12, 1922

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

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

LONDON'S WOMEN POLICE. Protest Meeting, Central Hall, Westminster, 3.	GET BUSY AT ONCE! HOW TO INCREASE OUR FOOD PRODUCTION. Lilias Hamilton, M.D.
WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.	NOTES AND COMMENTS
THE DALTON PLAN.	BOOK REVIEW. Aimée Gibbs, M.B.
IN PARLIAMENT. F.A.U.	

LONDON'S WOMEN POLICE.

PROTEST MEETING, CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER.

A special mass meeting, convened by the National Council of Women, to protest against the proposed disbandment of the Metropolitan Policewomen Patrols, was held in Central Hall, Westminster, on Wednesday, May 3rd. The Lady Frances Balfour, President of the National Council of Women, presided, and the following Resolution proposed from the Chair and seconded by Lady Emmott, was carried upstanding, and with acclamation:—

"In view of the valuable work of the Metropolitan Policewomen Patrols, this Meeting calls upon the Government to take no further action to disband them, to reinstate those who have already been disbanded, and further to grant them the power of arrest."

Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland, M.P., said the question of Women Police was not a party question, nor yet a woman's question, but a citizen's question. The issue involved the welfare of the country as a whole, and men were as much concerned as women in its solution. The work of the policewomen during the last three years had raised the whole standard of police work in this country. Statistics showed that nearly half the girls and young women, who had been helped by the Women Police, were back again in the community, leading decent and independent lives. No economy whatsoever would be effected by their disbandment, indeed increased expenses would be incurred. Out of the £27,000, which the Geddes Report had estimated as clear saving on Women Police, at least £8,000 or £9,000 would still go on as running expenses of the Police Force, whereas a minimum of £5,000 or £6,000 could be effected immediately, if police women were sworn in with full power of arrest, in the same way as men constables. Further, the expenses of replacing Women Police by other women would bring down the whole estimate to a very negligible sum indeed. At present, the proportion of policewomen to policemen was only one in 200. Moreover, every conviction prevented saved the country £30. It had been argued that the powers of the Women Police were "limited," but the Home Secretary could remove that limitation with a stroke of his pen, by giving the women full powers of arrest. It was argued that Women Police required to be protected in

London, yet, in the provinces, where women had the power of arrest, they used it quite happily. Women Police had been an experiment in this country, and they had more than justified themselves. Whatever fate was meted out to the Metropolitan Policewomen Patrols would be reflected in the provinces.

Mrs. George Morgan referred to the undoubted protection of children in parks and open spaces which had been afforded by the Women Police, and the trust and affection their work had inspired in all classes of the community. The Women Police were preserving the money of the State by preserving the morality of its young people. Such work ought not to be carried out by voluntary workers, as was proposed by the Home Secretary. Pioneers were the only people who could perform voluntary work satisfactorily. The building up of the Women Police had been slow and painful, but their disbandment was being proposed in an utterly reckless spirit. Before being finally decided the whole question should be examined by a Parliamentary Committee provided with all the facts of the case.

Mr. William Graham, M.P., said there could be no doubt the war had brought about a great material collapse, but it had brought about a moral collapse as well. The war had made serious inroads upon the habits and customs of enormous numbers of our young people, and had given rise to special problems needing special treatment. The remarkable records of the Divorce Courts within recent times, and the trials in the Criminal Courts, with their unsavoury details, could almost all be traced to the upheaval caused by the war. The artificial prosperity created during the war carried with it great dangers, but to-day another danger had been created, especially to our young women, in the prevailing depression and unemployment. One human touch in these crises might make all the difference between recovery on the one part, and ruin on the other. That human touch could often be supplied by the policewoman on duty. There was too much tendency to measure everything by material results which could be seen at a glance. In the work they were endeavouring to promote that evening, the results were tangible enough but frequently remained hidden.

THE DALTON PLAN.

Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., referred to the work performed by Women Police in taking evidence from young children in the Police Courts, which she said no man could possibly do so satisfactorily, and quoted a woman J.P., who once said to her, "If only the Women Police always took evidence from children it would alter the whole tone of our Courts." Legislation was chiefly controlled by public opinion. The influence of public opinion had already been seen in the case of the proposed "cuts" in Education, suggested in the Geddes Report, which had since been withdrawn. The same influence must now be brought to bear on this matter of Women Police. Members of Parliament were giving the subject very serious thought. Nearly everyone was interesting himself in the subject, and doing so in a sympathetic manner. Not only was this interest increasing, but, should a decision be made in the House, there would be a great majority in favour. Everything now depended upon the people outside, as they alone could create sufficient public opinion to carry the matter through.

WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD.

Egyptian Women's Progress.

An interesting sign of the progress of thought, and the raising of the moral standard among women in Egypt, is afforded by a petition signed by over 2,000 ladies begging the King to abolish what is known as Zar. Zar is the ceremonial for casting out an evil spirit from a woman, which is much employed throughout the country, and gives rise to various immoral practices.

Women Win £50,000.

Three thousand women workers of Singer's Company, Limited, Clydebank, have won an action involving £50,000, when Sheriff Menzies in the Dumbarton Sheriff's Court issued his judgment in the test case brought by Helen McDonald, a machinist, who claimed £15 18s. 5d. in bonus awards. He held that all workers, both piece and time, were entitled to the industrial court's award, and not one class alone.

Women's "International."

The annual meeting of the executive committee of the International Council of Women is to be held this year at The Hague. The conference will open on Sunday, May 14th, and will be continued from day to day till May 22nd. Subjects to be discussed cover a wide range, from equal moral standard, traffic in women, and laws concerning the legal position of women, to public health, education, peace and arbitration, and emigration and immigration. Lady Aberdeen has assented to the proposal that she should again be nominated as president.

Women and Unemployment.

A special service has been organised by the Ministry of Labour to find work for unemployed women as domestic servants during the summer at seaside and holiday resorts. The scheme is being worked through local employment exchanges at the resorts and at big industrial centres.

Athletic Women.

While the doctors are busy discussing whether or not athletics are harmful to women, the Amateur Athletic Association has formed a branch for them. It is to be known as the Women's Amateur Athletic Association, and most of the clubs in London and the provinces, interested in women's athletics, have become affiliated.

Woman School Dentist.

Exeter Education Committee last week appointed Miss Elizabeth Watson, Glasgow, school dentist at £350 per year. All the five candidates were women.

Bravo Colchester!

Colchester Town Council, in spite of instructions from the Home Office regarding reduced expenditure, has decided to continue the services of its women police.

Widows' Pensions.

Mrs. H. B. Irving and Lady Cynthia Mosley are to act in a propaganda film, advocating pensions for widowed mothers, written by Mrs. Burnett Smith (Annie S. Swan).

Last Monday evening, in the Minerva Cafe, Miss Belle Rennie (Hon. Sec. of the Dalton Association) explained the Dalton Scheme of Education to a very interested audience, Mrs. Dexter presiding.

Miss Rennie said the Dalton system, which was now being used in hundreds of schools, both in this country and in America, entirely changed the child's mental attitude towards school work. The child no longer relied solely on the teacher's guidance, but used its own initiative, and did things entirely on its own responsibility. Little or no class teaching was given, as it was found that the children made more progress when they worked independently. In every school, of course, there were some children who preferred to lean upon the teacher rather than strike out for themselves, but these, too, were catered for in the Dalton system, since a certain amount of direct teaching and guidance was always allowed for. This was especially the case in the teaching of languages, where a good deal of information needed to be imparted orally, because of learning the correct pronunciation. But the point was, that, under the Dalton system, the teacher was just as free as the child. The Dalton plan worked most successfully with children from eight to twelve years, at which period of life a certain amount of academic knowledge had to be acquired. It followed out in spirit the Montessori system, and gave scope for the development of judgment and responsibility. Its effect on character formation was very marked, the development of a strong individuality being the chief feature of the system. The Dalton plan was essentially a co-operative system, though it admitted of an element of competition as well, in the matter of getting well ahead with the work, and in doing it in less than the allotted time.

Many questions, and much animated discussion followed Miss Rennie's interesting address.

LORD CHANCELLOR'S COMMITTEE OF "EXPERTS"!

The following statement has been sent by the Women's Freedom League to the Press:—Last month Sir James Greig asked the Prime Minister in the House of Commons whether, having regard to the existing inequalities in the Civil and Criminal Law as between men and women, he would consider appointing a Committee, departmental or otherwise, to investigate the matter with a view to legislation to remove such of these inequalities as might be deemed advisable. Mr. Lloyd George replied that the Lord Chancellor was considering the appointment of a Committee to inquire into these matters, and to report to him on the whole subject. Now we learn that the Lord Chancellor has appointed a Committee of Inquiry to consider the doctrines of the Criminal Law with reference to the wife's responsibility for crimes committed by her in the presence of or under the coercion of her husband. All the members of this Committee are men, eminent lawyers, and the Women's Freedom League protests both against the terms of reference of this Committee, and the fact that it has no women members.

On the eve of the General Election of 1918, Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Bonar Law together signed a Manifesto in which they said that "It will be the duty of the new Government to remove all existing inequalities of the law as between men and women," and when women are suffering under so many legal disabilities as at the present time we submit that a serious attempt should be made at once by the Government to investigate all these disabilities, and to include on the Committee trained women who are experts in the disabilities of their own sex.

MRS. DESPARD'S MESSAGE.

"It would be impossible for me to express how deeply I feel the continued and faithful friendship of the League Members with whom I worked so long. I thank them heartily for their messages. I am sure the 15th of June will be delightful, and I look forward to it with pleasant anticipations."
C. DESPARD.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Education—Administrative Appointments.

MRS. WINTRINGHAM asked the President of the Board of Education the number of men and women, respectively, holding administrative positions at the Board of Education, the nature of the positions held by the women members, and the names of the present holders of such positions? MR. FISHER replied that there were 77 men and two women holding administrative posts in the Board of Education. Of the two women, one—Miss I. A. Dickson—was an assistant secretary, the other—Miss K. W. Elliott—was a temporary examiner.

Women Teachers (War Service).

MRS. WINTRINGHAM asked the President of the Board of Education if Circulars 1227 and 1244, though specifying only men teachers, were intended to include women teachers; and if the Board, while prepared to recognise for the calculation of grant additional expenditure incurred by local education authorities, who desired to treat periods of war service with the Forces as qualifying men assistant teachers for increments on the appropriate scales, was prepared to recognise that the war service of women should also be treated as teaching service for salary purposes in the same way that the war services of men were recognised in Circulars 1227 and 1244? MR. FISHER replied that the answer to both parts of the question was in the negative.

Mothers' Pensions.

On May 3rd, MR. KENNEDY gave notice that on that day four weeks he would call the attention of the House to the question of Mothers' Pensions, and would move a Resolution.

Venereal Disease.

SIR J. D. REES asked the Minister of Health how many county, county borough, and borough councils had adopted the immediate self-disinfection policy of the Society for the Prevention of Venereal Disease? SIR ALFRED MOND replied, that, since the grant was not payable in respect of measures in pursuance of the policy mentioned, he had no special information as to the extent to which that policy had been adopted; but, so far as he was aware, it had never been claimed that more than an extremely small proportion of the local authorities concerned had adopted it.

Maintenance Orders (Imprisonment).

MR. RENDALL asked the Home Secretary the number of men in His Majesty's prisons who were there for failing to pay maintenance, under magistrates' orders, to wives; and whether many of those men were continuously in and out of prison for the same reason? MR. SHORTT replied that he could not give the total number now in prison, nor the number who had been committed for that cause more than once; but in 1920 the number so committed was 2,920.

Naturalisation Fees.

COL. SIR C. YATE asked the Home Secretary what was the fee now levied for naturalisation; and how did that fee compare with the fees levied by other countries? MR. SHORTT replied that the fee payable in respect of the grant of a certificate of naturalisation to a woman who was a British subject previously to her marriage to an alien was five shillings. In all other cases the fee was £10. He was not in possession of information which would enable him to make the comparison suggested in the second part of the question.

Domestic Service.

CAPT. TERRELL asked the Minister of Labour if he would institute an inquiry into the abuse of the unemployment pay by women and girls, who, accustomed to domestic service, now refused to re-enter it; if he could state the weekly sum paid to unemployed women; if there was still a serious shortage of servants; and what steps he was taking to reduce the public outlay in that respect? SIR MONTAGUE BARLOW replied that the matter was occupying the continuous attention of the Ministry. £130,000 was estimated to have been paid

to unemployed women in the week ending April 22nd; but private domestic servants as such were not insurable under the Act, and the women who received the above benefit were, therefore, those normally engaged in other occupations. Any claims for benefit by women normally engaged in private domestic service would be disallowed. There were many vacancies for properly trained resident domestic servants, and the local employment committees were doing all in their power to ensure that benefit was not paid to any women for whom domestic service could be regarded as suitable employment.

Male and Female Workers (Substitution).

CAPT. TERRELL asked the Minister of Labour if he had any statistics to show the extent to which females were still replacing men in work done by the latter before the war; if he was aware that the substitution was a cause of male unemployment; and that the work done by females before the war was now not at all or imperfectly done, although their sex was the best fitted to do it? SIR MONTAGUE BARLOW said he regretted that there were no statistics showing the extent to which females were still replacing men in work done by the latter before the war. It seemed probable, however, that in some occupations—for example, among clerks and shop assistants—the proportion of females employed was appreciably greater than before the war.

Women Medical Students.

MR. T. GRIFFITHS asked the Prime Minister whether, in view of the fact that a Government grant of £30,000 a year had been made to five London hospitals where clinical units had been set up, that a Government grant of £16,000 had been promised this year to the London Hospital, in which was included £3,000 from the University Grants Committee, and that the last-named hospital now excluded women medical students altogether, and of the remaining four one only admitted them without restrictions, it was the intention of the Government to intervene in any way, so that those who accepted public money did not discriminate against one section of the public which contributed the money? SIR ALFRED MOND replied that the question of the admission of students to university institutions was essentially for the discretion of the university authorities, with whose autonomy the Government desired to interfere as little as possible. The Government had no information indicating that the facilities for university education in medicine of qualified women were inadequate. He would remind the hon. Member that admission to the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine, which was also grant-aided, was wholly confined to women.

Women and Emigration.

During the Committee stage of the Empire Settlement (Money) Bill, the object of which is to make better provision for furthering British settlement in His Majesty's Overseas Dominions, MRS. WINTRINGHAM said in the House of Commons on May 3rd: "On behalf of the women workers of the country I welcome this Bill. As a result of the war, a great many women have been thrown out of employment, and if this Bill is successful it will deal to a very considerable extent with the present surplus of 2,000,000 women. There are ex-Service women and munition workers, among whom great unemployment exists. During the war, through the different war agricultural agencies, women had an opportunity of entering into agricultural work. Immediately after the war they had the opportunity offered them of going overseas, but a great many did not accept. This new Bill gives a further opportunity, and I think many of them will be pleased to take advantage of it. In England we have schemes for learning the smaller branches of agriculture—poultry-keeping and that kind of thing, and also some dairy work—and that will prove most beneficial. I welcome the Bill particularly on behalf of the ex-Service women, so many of whom are at present out of employment."
F. A. U.

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EDITORIAL.

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

GET BUSY AT ONCE!

At the recent Annual Conference of the Women's Freedom League it was clearly indicated by the delegates present that there was a growing desire throughout our branches for further activity on the part of our League, both politically, and in rousing public opinion on questions of vital interest to women. We have all realised fully that the granting of the Parliamentary franchise to the majority of women over thirty years of age in this country has by no means solved the great problem of women's civil and legal disabilities, and the more we see of Parliament, and Parliamentary methods, the more we are convinced that we have little to hope for from the majority of our men legislators, so far as the redress of our grievances is concerned. The only way to secure the removal of all the civil and legal disabilities under which women suffer is by trained, unceasing, organised effort on the part of women themselves. Not only must women be prepared to work with increased vigour for the granting of the Parliamentary vote to women at the same age and on the same terms as men, to promote the candidature of suitable women for Parliament, to work for the appointment of women administrators in Government Departments, of women officials in prisons, mental hospitals, and Poor Law infirmaries, of women Prison Commissioners and women on the Board of Control, and for equal opportunities for women and men of promotion to the higher posts in the Civil Service, but also to investigate for themselves the whole field of women's civil and legal disabilities. The recently appointed Committee of men by the Lord Chancellor, to inquire into the inequalities of the Criminal Law as regards women, shows us only too plainly how much we can expect from men in regard to the removal of all existing inequalities of the law as between men and women. Women themselves must appoint their own committee of experts to investigate exhaustively the whole range of these inequalities. They are organised better than they know, and, through their separate organisations, can supply to a central body the names of women who are thoroughly expert in most of women's civil and legal disabilities. Let women, therefore, at once begin this investigation, so that we may, at the earliest opportunity, all know exactly where we stand, and work together for their complete removal. Other local governing bodies are following the bad example of St. Pancras in refusing to employ any married women who have husbands to support them. It was strongly urged at our Conference that the Women's Freedom League branches, up and down the country, should immediately arrange meetings and debates at which our view on this very important subject should be made known, and that public opinion should be roused on it before the next Borough Council Elections. There is urgent need, too, for the public conscience to be awakened in regard to

the recognition of an equal moral standard for both sexes, and to the raising of the Age of Consent to eighteen. Meetings must be arranged to make known this demand, and every branch of our League should make itself responsible for focussing public attention on this subject in its own locality. One resolution passed at our Conference imposed upon the Women's Freedom League the obligation of investigation of the conditions under which children and young people are licensed to appear in theatres, music halls, etc., with a view to securing the raising of the licensing age, and improving the conditions, especially of those permitted to go on tour. This is a piece of work which our branches would do well to undertake at once, and report the results of their investigation to this office. Another resolution deals with the economic position of the mother. It pointed out the importance of her work to the community in rearing healthy human beings, and asked us to promote legislation whereby she shall be assured of a sufficient sum for the care of each child during infancy and school age. In the discussion on this resolution it was shown that the views as to the kind of legislation required were very diverse, and the Women's Freedom League, through its branches, must make up its mind on this point. We suggest that they all arrange for lectures and discussion on a State endowment of motherhood; on the legal claim of a wife and mother to a proportion of her husband's earnings; on an insurance scheme by which this sum can be secured; on a Family Endowment scheme; or, as our Portsmouth Branch suggested, on the State Bonus scheme outlined by Mr. Dennis Milner. Our message to every member of the Women's Freedom League, therefore, is, *Get Busy at Once*. We at Headquarters will do our part to carry out the Conference Resolutions, but we also rely upon you to do yours!

PEACE DISHONESTY.

Our readers will agree with us that the treatment recently meted out to women teachers by the Board of Education has been disgraceful. During the War, when the country needed women's help, and the Government definitely called for it, women assistant teachers offered their services as nurses, etc., and many women teachers served with the Forces both at home and abroad. These were accepted, the local authorities under whom they worked giving them a distinct pledge, as in the case of men assistant teachers who volunteered for War Service, that their War Service would count as teaching service for increments on the appropriate scales, so that their pensions would not be delayed or suffer. So far as we can gather, local authorities have invariably honoured that pledge until recently, when they received from the Board of Education Circulars 1227 and 1244, distinctly specifying "men" assistant teachers for the calculation of grant additional expenditure incurred by local authorities who desired to treat periods of War Service with the Forces as qualifying for these increments. Local governing bodies thereupon began to differentiate between men and women assistant teachers in this matter, and when Mrs. Wintringham inquired if there was not some mistake, and if women as well as men assistant teachers were to be treated equally in respect to a pledge which had been given to both, the President of the Board of Education replied curtly in the negative. We seem to remember that we once went on a deputation to Mr. Fisher, organised by the National Union of Women Teachers, on the question of equal remuneration for men and women teachers. Mr. Fisher then said that he had no power to compel local authorities to take this action, and advocated patience among women teachers! The patience of women teachers has long ago been worn out in its dealings with the present Board of Education, and we can hardly think that this fresh, deliberate injustice will revivify it. We hope, too, that all women electors will remember that the Government, as well as their local governing bodies, are responsible for the special grievances of women teachers.

HOW TO INCREASE OUR FOOD PRODUCTION.

By LILIAS HAMILTON, M.D. (Warden of Studley Agricultural College).

In no matter what grade of society, fashionable or intellectual, we may find ourselves to-day, the general topic of conversation, in some form or other, is connected with our financial position—excessive taxation, failure of old-established firms to pay dividends, no decrease in railway fares—the general cost of living in fact. We are all anxious, and this anxiety is in many cases telling on our health—the national health. We are poor—the nation is poor. We are wondering what outlook there is for our young people. Labour generally is being reduced wherever possible. In the middle classes girls are having their education cut short that they may help at home. Unemployment is conspicuous everywhere. What is to be done?

Let us turn up Whitaker, and see where our money is running to. The national debt—of course we can do nothing for that except pay, with what grace we can, the taxes that are imposed upon us. But there are other channels—our imports. Can we do nothing to lessen these? We women are particularly interested in food-stuffs; they are our special province, and when we see that, in 1910, over £1,100,000,000 went out of the country for food alone, it is only natural that we should look round and see if none of that huge sum can be saved—be kept in this country, instead of pouring out in one vast stream.

One Cow, One Acre.

We proved what we could do during the war: luxuries were forcibly reduced by food control, we grew an immense amount of our own food, because imports of all but war material were immeasurably reduced, and large quantities of such food as was shipped went to the bottom of the sea.

Townpeople are naturally incredulous as to what country folk can do and have done, as regards food production. Grass, they say, is the natural food of all stock, and they are not wrong, but is it the most economical food? That is the question. Years ago, we heard a great deal about three acres and a cow—three acres of grass—three acres of our precious food yielding land—for one cow! Can we not supply it with some less costly food, and put our fields to more profitable use? Denmark reckons one acre to a cow, and so practically do Holland and Belgium. Instead of the "prairies of England," as a Belgian once called our grazing land, we are looking at the close cultivation that is everywhere carried to such perfection in a country very similar to our own—similar with one very important difference. The land in Belgium, in great measure, belongs to the growers, and on that land, therefore, from sun-rise to sun-set, every member of the families to whom it belongs, spends his or her time and energy. It is human nature to work for oneself as hardly any of us work for an employer. To-day labour hours are restricted, and the very pace a man may work at for an employer is limited by the trade unions. Hardly anyone is giving his best, even for a higher wage.

Re-organisation Necessary.

The country is poor, because we are producing less. We may resent this state of affairs, but resentment will not have the smallest effect. History shows that we cannot break the "masses," even if we want to try. We cannot force men and women to do what they do not intend to do. We, who have studied history, must see that there is only one way out. We must re-organise to meet the demands of the people of to-day. If they will not give more than eight hours poor work for an employer, where they could work an easy twelve good hours for themselves, we must make it our endeavour to free them, that they may work for themselves. In the towns much has been done by employers, but, while recognising this, I will not dwell on it. The towns do not produce—they manufacture. We are concerned with "production" at the moment, and very little so far has been done to free the producer.

As a nation, we are not fond of copying foreigners—we think, alas! that because we once led the growers of the world, we are still leaders in all branches. We are as regards stock. We can still boast that in that sphere no one in the world can touch us. Enormous prices are given in the most distant parts of the world for our best animals, but this is a small trade. We are importing incredibly more carcasses than we are selling pedigree stock. What concerns us as a nation to-day is, not our prize beasts, whose frozen progeny is adding so seriously to our imports, but what we grow for our own use. Not only would food production save our money, but it would provide healthy employment for our unemployed, both men and women. As we do not care to follow our Continental neighbours, let us consider what our own Colonies are doing, and first and foremost, the help given by Colonial Governments to enable the labourer to be at the same time the owner. For that is what secures to the country the best that is in the individual.

Colonial Encouragement.

The Colonial Governments, in the first place, give either directly, or through the banks, loans to "accredited persons" of both sexes, but they must be accredited. What does our Government do for our skilled men and women in the way of loans? Nothing! Without capital, they are bound hand and foot to an employer. What incentive have they to give the best that is in them? None! The very wages are fixed, as well as the hours, so that the best worker is no better off than the poorest. Then as regards taxes. Even Ireland has a more advantageous system than Great Britain. She is taxed on her weeds, while we are taxed on our crops, and on every improvement, whereas we ought to be taxed on our *lack* of improvements! The Governments of other countries give special transport facilities for foodstuffs; our Government gives none. No wonder £1,100,000,000 is being poured away.

We women now have votes. Can we not combine and force the vote-seekers to give us the advantages enjoyed by our fellow countrymen in our Colonies? Perhaps we could, but we old suffragists know how time would be lost, and what we need is instant relief! Besides, there is no object lesson close at hand that we can point to. We Islanders know so little of our Dominions.

A Suggested Remedy.

There are still a great many men and women who have small incomes and a little capital, which could be put to profitable use if they were given time—if, in fact, the colonial system of granting land free for five years, with a subsequent rental, to include purchase, over a considerable number of years—say thirty—could be granted to "accredited persons" in this country, on colonial conditions.

I suggest that interested persons (and there are a great many generous people to be found, though their incomes be but small) should combine to collect a fund to start small holdings for those with small incomes or a little capital, on the above conditions. But what about those who have nothing? They must, for a time, take employment and earn a wage from the others, while working overtime on a small, even a very small, piece of land for themselves. English apples and small fruit still bring in good returns—they cannot be beaten for flavour, and command the highest price in the market. The small piece of land can become a larger one, as the trees and bushes and canes start yielding. The little trees will need more room, cuttings can be taken from the bush fruit, and wild stock can be grafted. Every grower in Evesham, in the Wye valley, round Southampton, and in Kent, can bear witness—the employed can become the employer, the cottager can become thy householder. He or she, or both, can not only live, then can increase, they can become independent, and can bring wealth and prosperity to the country instead of receiving character-sapping doles.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Coercion of Wives.

The Lord Chancellor has appointed a Committee to consider the doctrines of the criminal law with reference to the wife's responsibility for crimes committed by her in the presence of or under the coercion of her husband, and to report what changes, if any, are desirable in the criminal law upon the subject. The members of this Committee are: Mr. Justice Avory (Chairman), Sir Ernest Pollock, K.C., M.P., Judge Sir Alfred Tobin, K.C., Mr. G. J. Talbot, K.C., Sir Richard Muir, Sir Archibald Bodkin, Mr. Travers Humphreys, Mr. H. D. Roome. We wonder what kind of a mouse this mountain of accumulated legal knowledge will bring forth?

Franchise Fancies.

We all remember Lt.-Col. Archer-Shee as an old opponent of any kind of extension of the franchise to women, and his strong desire to punish all those people who have the vote and do not vote at elections. Last Friday he moved the Second Reading of a Representation of the People (1918 to 1921) Amendment Bill. He described it as a democratic measure, but it did not seek to enfranchise any more women, although it provided, that where a woman has the Parliamentary vote owing to her husband having been qualified as a local government elector, though not as a Parliamentary elector, he should become entitled to the Parliamentary Vote. It also proposed to disfranchise conscientious objectors for another five years, and to delay giving the Parliamentary vote to aliens who have become naturalised until five years after their naturalisation. One clause sought to prevent any person from voting, or standing for any public office, who had been imprisoned for any offence for more than seven days, and another clause proposed to abolish the Spring Register, on the grounds of economy, and to have instead a supplementary register, which would consist only of the names of those people whose claims had been made and sustained before the registration officer. Yet another clause provided for a deposit by a candidate at local government elections, which deposit he would lose if he did not secure one-eighth of the votes polled; and the last clause aimed at increasing the limit of candidates' election expenses. Truly a fantastic attempt to reform the Constitution while you wait! Mr. Foot, in his speech for its rejection, riddled its absurdities through and through; and we are glad to note that Mr. Foot, Mr. Kennedy, Lt.-Col. James, and Capt. Loseby mentioned women's claim to equal franchise when taking part in this debate.

Women on Juries.

The Juries Bill was considered in Committee last week, when an amendment was moved to enable women to get exemption from serving on juries if within 24 hours of receiving a summons they notified in writing that they did not desire to serve. Mr. Shortt said he did not disagree with this amendment on its merits, but it pressed it would probably defeat the Bill for this year. It was therefore withdrawn. Whatever Mr. Shortt's personal views on this subject, we can assure him of the strenuous opposition of organised women if this inequality in jury service is pressed for women.

Women Police.

As we go to press, the question of the retention of Women Police is being discussed in the House of Commons. According to the *Surrey Comet*, Miss W. N. Stark, of the Talbot House Settlement, late Inspector in the Women Police, last week addressed a crowded meeting at Kingston, convened to secure support for the Home for Friendless Girls in that town, and the Vicar of Kingston, in moving a vote of thanks to the various speakers, said, that after the speech of Miss Stark they would all agree that to drop the Women Police was a most fatuous policy.

St. Pancras and Women Doctors.

In spite of the report of a Sub-Committee advocating that men doctors only were to apply for its vacancies,

the St. Pancras Borough Council decided to allow women also to apply, and the *Manchester Dispatch* says that this "marks not only a triumph for women doctors generally, but is a tribute to the Women's Freedom League, the organisation mainly instrumental in the conversion of Councillor Tibbles, who moved that the post be open to both men and women. Councillor Tibbles, at a protest meeting of St. Pancras ratepayers, organised by the Women's Freedom League, showed himself very hostile to women doctors, and there is more joy among organised women over one sinner that repenteth than over ninety-and-nine just persons." There is—when the repentance is complete and intelligent; but we understand that the St. Pancras Borough Council will only consider applications from unmarried women, or women who have to support their husbands!

BOOK REVIEW.

Josephine Butler and her work for Social Purity.
By L. Hay-Cooper. (S.P.C.K.). 5/-. (Can be obtained at this office.)

This book adds but little to our knowledge of Josephine Butler and her work; but in view of the magnitude of the social evil at the present time, it proclaims anew the principles that should govern the attitude of law and society toward it, as laid down by Mrs. Butler, saint, mystic, and social reformer, in the latter half of last century.

By the Contagious Diseases Acts of 1864-6-8-9, the Regulation system was introduced into the garrison towns of England. In 1869 the call came to Josephine Butler to oppose them, as a violation of moral law and Christian ethics, and as a menace to the liberties of the nation as a whole. She began her work by a journey through the subjected districts, in order to gain first hand information. From this moment she lived at white heat, knowing neither politics nor opportunism, the acknowledged leader, the inspiration and rallying point of the agitation, both at home and abroad, for sixteen stormy years. With a sure intuition she appealed to the people themselves, writing and lecturing unceasingly, armed only with a belief in the power of justice and moral right to prevail over apathy and injustice. It was to the "driving power of her emotion for the ideal of justice between the sexes, based on love of God and man", that the repeal of the C. D. Acts in 1886 was primarily due, and also the marvelous change in the nation's thought, as evidenced by the findings of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases, 1913-16.

Is there guidance for the future to be found in the life of Josephine Butler? The author thinks that a higher standard of morality can only be attained by so "organising the emotion of the ideal in higher matters of sex," that boys and girls may be ready for the self-sacrifice that chastity will demand. Self-control must be "shown in its active relation to a great view of life as a whole," so that the feeling of restriction of life may disappear, and inhibitions be set up, "sufficient in the hour of supreme temptation, because to break through them would mean the loss of all that makes life worth living."

One cannot but feel in reading this book that a Josephine Butler is needed to-day, to lead a crusade against that age-long institution—Prostitution. At the core of the Regulation system is "the theory that prostitution is a necessity, and that the prostitute herself is a being so dehumanised that it is impossible to degrade her further." Even though Regulation has been abandoned in this country, this ideal is still current, or women would never tolerate the existence of a class of women set apart to minister to the vices of men, who, once they are labelled 'common prostitutes,' become the outcasts and pariahs of society. The existence of a prostitute class degrades all women and brands them as belonging to a subject sex. As long as women allow this greatest of inequalities between them and men to persist, they will never be able to attain to freedom.

AIMEE GIBBS, M.B.

Women's Freedom League.

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

Friday, May 12, at 6.30 p.m.—Mid-London Branch Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.
Monday, May 15, at 3 p.m.—"Fair" Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.
Monday, May 15, at 6.30 p.m.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Speaker: Dr. Marion Phillips. Subject: "Women in Industry."

DARE TO BE FREE.

Wednesday, May 17, at 3 p.m.—Public Afternoon Meeting at Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Speaker: Miss Margaret Hodge. Subject: "Local Finance and the Ratepayer."

Monday, May 22, at 6.30 p.m.—Public Discussion Meeting at Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Speakers: Miss Edith W. Kirby and Miss Stella Wolfe Murray, on "Should the Daily Press Pander to the Public Taste?" Chair: Miss Mary Macleod Moore ("Pandora" of the *Sunday Times*).

Friday, May 26, at 6 p.m.—Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, May 27, at 10 a.m.—National Executive Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, May 27, at 7 p.m.—Whist Drive, Minerva Café. Tickets, including refreshments, 3/6.

Monday, May 29th, at 6.30 p.m.—Public Meeting at Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Speaker: Mr. H. Ernest Hunt. Subject: "The Use of Auto-Suggestion."

Thursday, June 15, at 7 p.m.—Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, Caxton Hall, Westminster.

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

PROVINCES.

Saturday, May 13, at 3.30 p.m.—Bexhill. Members' Meeting, 19, Marine Mansions.

Wednesday, May 17, at 7 p.m.—Portsmouth. Whist Drive at Unitarian Schoolroom, High Street. Tickets 1/6.

Monday, May 29, at 7.30.—Hastings. Public Meeting, The Corner House, Claremont. Speaker: Mrs. Nevinson, J.P. Subject: "My Experiences as a Magistrate." Chair: Mrs. Strickland.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

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

Friday, May 19, at 3 p.m.—Burrage Grove Sunday School, Plumstead. Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin. Subject: "The Teaching of Personal Health."

BRANCH NOTE.

MIDDLESBROUGH.

We are holding a Jumble Sale on May 29th, at 2.30 p.m., in the Suffrage Rooms. If any readers of the VOTE have any goods they want to get rid of, will they please send them to 231, The Arcade, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough?

DOMESTIC LABOUR SAVING COMPETITION RESULTS

The result of this Competition, organised by the Women's Engineering Society, and advertised in our issue of January 6th, 1922, is now announced.

Prizes have been awarded as follows:—

Section A.—Miss Ashberry, for Dish-Washing Machine.

Section B.—The Assessors have decided not to award a prize in this Section, as the designs did not reach a sufficiently high standard to warrant an award.

Section C.—Miss Ramage, for "Ideal Oven."

Two certificates of merit have also been awarded in Section C—one to Mrs. Lockyer for the "Hotlock and Coldlock," and one to Miss Long for "Forty Plates in One."

It has not been possible to arrange for an exhibition of models at present. The Women's Engineering Society hope at a future date to hold a second competition.

SUPPORT YOUR LEAGUE.

Our funds are again at their lowest Spring level and urgently require replenishing—weekly bills must be met and rent be paid.

Members and friends of the Women's Freedom League only have to be told of their League's starving condition to come to the rescue. Many thanks for all welcome donations already received, but please send yours.

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Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1921, £37,191 12s. 10d.

	£	s.	d.
Protest Meeting, Dismissal of Married Women—			
National Union of Women Teachers.....	3	3	0
Special Emergency War Fund—			
A Friend.....	2	10	0
Minerva Café.....	1	15	0
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Mrs. Branch.....	7	5	0
Mrs. J. T. King.....	11	4	
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Miss M. Watson Petty.....	8	6	
Mrs. A. M. Dawson.....	5	0	
Mrs. Fred Hardy.....	5	0	
Miss E. A. Jenkins.....	5	0	
Miss Emily Knight.....	5	0	
Miss Emily K. Lidsey.....	5	0	
Miss Crystal Macmillan.....	5	0	
Miss Doris C. Phillips.....	5	0	
Miss D. Olive Turton.....	5	0	
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Mrs. Keating Hill.....	3	6	
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Miss E. G. Montgomery.....	2	6	
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Mrs. Sutcliffe.....	2	6	
Miss F. A. Underwood.....	2	6	
Councillor Mary Hatfield.....	2	0	
Mrs. Marion Maycock.....	2	0	
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Miss Rachel T. Wells.....	2	0	
Miss Alice Burton.....	1	0	
Mrs. Marshall.....	1	0	
Miss M. Meredith.....	1	0	
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	£37	18	8

Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League, and crossed "Barclay's Bank, Ltd."

IMPORTANT.

We are holding a WHIST DRIVE, on behalf of the VOTE, in the Minerva Café, on SATURDAY, MAY 27th, at 7 p.m. Tickets, including refreshments, 3/6. Write for your Tickets at once, to save correspondence, and show your appreciation of our gallant little paper by coming in crowds. It's your money we want!

SUPPORT OUR MEETINGS!

Members are asked to make a special effort to attend next Monday's meeting in the Minerva Café at 6.30 p.m., when Dr. Marion Phillips will give us first-hand information on the organisation of women in industry. Those of our readers who live near Richmond, Surbiton, Kingston, or Teddington, are asked to come next Sunday, May 14th, to the Kingston Church of Humanity, Orchard Road., to hear Dr. Octavia Lewin speak on the subject of "Nasal Hygiene and Spiritual and Mental Development."

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB,
9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.1.—Subscription: London Members, £2 2s., Country Members £1 5s. (Irish, Scottish, and Foreign Members, 10s. 6d.) per annum. Entrance Fee, one guinea. Excellent Catering; Luncheons and Dinners à la Carte—All particulars, Secretary. Tel.: Mayfair 3932.

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THE VOTE

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W. Sunday, May 14th, 6.30, Miss Margaret Bondfield.

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