

THE VOTE,  
MARCH 9, 1923  
ONE PENNY.

EQUAL MORAL STANDARD IN PARLIAMENT?

# THE VOTE

## THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 1923

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

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## A SERBIAN WOMAN DOCTOR.

Delegates from 16 countries arrived in London last week for the second "Interchange of Health Officials," a three months' tour organised by the League of Nations, with the financial assistance of the Rockefeller Foundation. The countries represented included Austria, Belgium, Czecho-Slovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Norway, Poland, Roumania, Russia, the kingdom of Serbs-Croats-Slovenes, Sweden, and America. Amongst the delegates was one woman Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Natalie Nikolajevic, who controls the medical inspection of schools in Belgrade (Serbia), and also acts as medical referee in the Ministry of Health for the kingdom of Serbs-Croats-Slovenes. Dr. Nikolajevic told our representative that, before the war, school medical inspection in Serbia was very much neglected, but during the last two or three years this feature had greatly improved. She herself received a portion of her training in municipal health matters in England two years ago, and speaks very highly of the methods adopted by this country.

The first week of the tour was spent in London, when visits were made to the Ministry of Health (where the visitors received an official welcome from the Minister, Sir A. Griffith-Boscawen, and Sir George Newman); the Royal Army Medical College, to see something of

military hygiene and sanitation; Somerset House, to investigate the routine of the General Register Office; the Metropolitan Asylums Board, and Metropolitan Water Board, and some typical activities of the L.C.C. Housing Committee, including the Tabard Street clearance and the Roehampton housing scheme. A Reception was also given them by the League of Nations Union.

This week the party, broken up into groups of four or five, will proceed to various provincial centres, where they will see something of every aspect of local health administration, urban and rural. The provincial areas include Birmingham and Warwickshire, Bradford and Yorks, Glasgow and Lanarkshire, Liverpool and Lancashire, Manchester and Cheshire, and Newcastle and Durham County.

On April 3rd, the whole party will re-assemble for three days' study of port sanitary work in London, and will also see something of the organisation of London food supplies. The various groups will pool their experience.

On April 11th, the whole party, accompanied by five British colleagues, nominated by the Ministry of Health, on the recommendation of the Society of Medical Officers of Health, will depart for a similar educational tour in Austria,



Madame Nikolajevic shaking hands with Lord Onslow at the Ministry of Health.



## IN PARLIAMENT.

### League of Nations (British Representative).

MR. GRAHAM WHITE (E. Birkenhead) asked the Prime Minister what arrangements had been made for the representation of this country on the Council of the League of Nations at its next meeting? MR. BONAR LAW replied that he could not at present make any announcement. *In the meantime, the Women's Freedom League is urging that a woman shall be included in the British delegation.*

### Unemployed Women.

SIR MONTAGUE BARLOW, replying to a question by MR. A. GREENWOOD (Nelson and Colne), said that the estimated numbers of women in receipt of benefit on January 22nd and February 5th were 167,000 and 160,000 respectively. He could not state the number of women who had ceased to be eligible for benefit from any cause, but it was known that between January 24th and February 5th, 951 women had exhausted the maximum benefit allowed, and 1,012 others had been refused further benefit before reaching the maximum.

### Domestic Service.

LT.-COL. CAMPION (Lewes) asked the Minister of Labour if he would see that unemployment pay was not continued to women and girls capable of domestic service when employment in such service was available? SIR MONTAGUE BARLOW replied that benefit was only paid to women who were normally employed otherwise than in private service. Further, such women who were suitable for, and who refused, domestic service were not granted benefit. He had for some time past been giving attention to the existing conditions as to the supply of female domestic servants, and to the effect of the Unemployment Insurance Scheme in that connection.

LT.-COL. NALL (Hulme) inquired if benefit was being paid to a number of domestic servants who were usually employed in hotels; and if there were no vacancies in hotels, why could they not be employed in private houses? SIR MONTAGUE BARLOW replied that if they were employed in an hotel or an institution carried on for profit, they came within the ambit of the Act. That was quite true, but they were always considered first of all, if there was no institutional vacancy, for ordinary domestic service before benefit was granted.

### Women Nurses.

MR. L. V. MCENTEE (W. Walthamstow) asked the Minister of Pensions if he was aware that women nurses at hospitals under the control of his Department were employed on day and night shifts for 12 hours, with only two breaks of a half-hour each, and four days' holiday at the end of each month; and if he could make arrangements for those nurses to have a more reasonable day's duty, with a proper mid-duty rest time? MAJOR TRYON replied that he was afraid the hon. Member had been misinformed. The hours of day duty were from 7.30 a.m. to 8 p.m., with three hours off duty in addition to 1½ hour for meals. Night duty was for 12 hours, with two half-hour intervals for meals, but it must be remembered that the actual attendance on patients during night duty was normally light, and, further, no nurse remained upon it for more than two months at a time. As to leave, each nurse was allowed two nights each month when on night duty, and when on day duty a weekly half-holiday, and a whole day or week-end once a month. She also received annual leave of four or five weeks, according to rank. MR. MCENTEE asked, if he provided the right hon. Gentleman with a specific case to verify the statement in the question, would he have enquiries made? to which MAJOR TRYON replied, "Certainly."

### Infants' Assistants, London.

MR. WOOD, replying to MR. PERCY HARRIS (Bethnal Green), said he understood that the infants' assistants employed by the London County Council had all undergone a period of training, and they were restricted to teaching classes in which the majority of children were

below five years of age. In both those respects they differed from supplementary teachers in rural areas, and in London, as compared with those areas, there was a larger field of choice among women suitable for the work. Within the general limitation of classes to 60 children on the register, no special limit was prescribed by the Code for a class which a supplementary teacher or an infants' teacher might teach. MR. HARRIS further enquired if the right hon. Gentleman was aware that infants' assistants only had a few months' training, and were not qualified teachers? MR. WOOD replied that his information was that they were qualified, and, in any case, he would be loth to consider that a great local authority such as that concerned would employ them unless fully satisfied they had the requisite qualifications. MR. SHORT (Wednesbury) asked if the right hon. Gentleman could say what he meant by "qualifications"? What were the qualifications of those people? THE SPEAKER, intervening, said, "That is a question for debate."

### Income Tax (Separate Assessment).

MR. BALDWIN, replying to MR. GRAHAM WHITE, said that if the existing system of taxation of incomes was so altered that the incomes of married persons were taxed separately, it was estimated that the immediate loss to the Exchequer would be £12,500,000, and that the ultimate loss would approximate £35,000,000.

### Hong Kong (Houses of Ill-Fame).

LORD HENRY CAVENDISH-BENTINCK (S. Nottingham) asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, during the recent census in Hong Kong, a census was taken of the number, with their ages, of the inmates of the houses of ill-fame in Hong Kong; and if he could give the figures? MR. ORMESBY-GORE replied that the census recorded a total of 2,823 prostitutes of various nationalities in the adult population of Hong Kong. No record appeared in the census of the individual ages of those women. LORD HENRY CAVENDISH-BENTINCK further enquired what was the number of houses of ill-fame in Hong Kong; how many of them were set aside for the exclusive use of Europeans and Asiatics, respectively; and whether those for Europeans were only allowed to be opened at a specified distance from those for use by Asiatics? MR. ORMESBY-GORE replied that the information was not in his possession, but he would ask the Governor for a report on the matter.

### Magistracy (Appointments).

MR. F. GRAY (Oxford) asked the Attorney-General if he would recommend legislation providing for the appointment of magistrates on the nomination of directly elected bodies or by other methods of selection than the present? SIR DOUGLAS HOGG replied that he was not prepared to propose any such legislation, and he would not regard such a method of appointment as a satisfactory means of selecting Justices of the Peace. Replying to a question by MR. GILBERT (Central Southwark), SIR DOUGLAS HOGG said there were 337 Justices' Advisory Committees. In the case of a Committee acting for a county, the Lord Lieutenant was the *ex-officio* Chairman. In the case of a committee acting for a city or borough, except in the case of Lancashire, the Chairman was appointed by the Lord Chancellor, and in Lancashire by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. Their duties were to report from time to time as to the need for additional magistrates, and to recommend suitable persons for appointment.

### Lunatic Asylums (Supervision).

SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS (Director of Overseas Trade Department), replying for the Minister of Health to MR. BURGESS (Rochdale), said there were women visitors to lunatic asylums in cases where women were members of the Visiting Committee. The supervision of male patients was not conducted by women, but in some institutions suitable male patients were nursed by women, and that would generally be the case in the infirmary wards.

F. A. U.

## WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD.

### The President's Portrait.

Miss Margaret Lindsay Williams, who has recently completed a full-length portrait of President Harding, is little more than a girl, fresh from the Royal Academy schools, where she carried off with ease every honour open to her, including the coveted gold medal, and travelling scholarship. Many of the Royalties have had their portraits executed by Miss Williams, Queen Mary having been one of the first to discover the young artist's genius.

### How Women Vote.

Women formed a large proportion of the voters at the recent Willesden election. Where schools were used as polling booths, a dozen perambulators were to be seen in the playgrounds, adorned with the placards and photographs of the favoured candidate. One mother wheeled her twins to the booth, and was accompanied by two other children on scooters, and a dog which bore two cards of one of the candidates.

### Co-education in Japan.

Co-education is to be attempted in Japan by the Seijo Shogakko, a primary school of Tokyo, directed by Dr. Sawayanagi, one of the foremost educators of the country. Fifteen boys and 15 girls will be admitted to the new class, and the director thinks that the best results will be the outcome of this innovation.

### Versatile Women.

In the 1921 Census (England and Wales) mention is made of a solitary fisherwoman, who lives at Wandsworth; a woman blacksmith who works in Shoreditch; a woman bricklayer, of Deptford, and two women who are gasfitters' labourers, and who live respectively at Hampstead and Deptford.

### American Woman Architect.

To a woman architect, who owns and manages her own business, has been given the task of reconstructing the Roosevelt Memorial House, in New York. This is a great step forward for a woman to secure such a commission in open competition with architects of the opposite sex.

### A Doomed Traffic.

Miss Grace Abbott, Director of the Children's Bureau, Washington, will sail shortly for Geneva to attend, as an unofficial observer, the discussions on international methods to stop the traffic in women and girls.

### Woman Poet Laureate.

Mrs. Nellie Burgett Millars has been appointed Poet Laureate for the State of Colorado. She has been writing verses on her native scenery for several years, but, curiously enough, has had nothing actually published as yet.

### Women and Medical Research.

The report\* of the Medical Research Council for 1921-22 (Stationery Office, Kingsway) reveals the names of over 60 women engaged upon investigations into such subjects as the opsonic index in tuberculosis, anti-pneumococcal serum, the pedigrees of anomalies and diseases of the eye, diphtheria, and the appetite of school boys.

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

### LAST TWO LECTURES

#### FOREIGN POLITICS

in the  
MINERVA CAFÉ, 144 HIGH HOLBORN, W.C. 1.

MONDAY, MARCH 12th—6 p.m.—"THE RELATIONS OF THIS COUNTRY WITH THE CENTRAL POWERS."  
Speaker: Miss Christina Roberts.

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

ADMISSION FREE. Reserved Seats 1/- from 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

## LADY ASTOR'S BILL.

To-day (Friday) Lady Astor is asking the House of Commons to give a Second Reading to a one-clause Bill making it illegal to sell intoxicants to anyone under the age of 18, for consumption on licensed premises. The Bill is put forward on the initiative of 115,000 teachers who signed a petition last year for legislation on these lines. In connection with this matter it is interesting to note that last week Mr. Greaves-Lord (Norwood) asked the Home Secretary what number of persons under the age of 18 years had been charged with drunkenness during the years 1919, 1920, 1921, and 1922; and how many of such persons were convicted? Mr. Bridgeman replied that the only figures he could give were as follows:—1919, no convictions of persons under 16 years of age, 2,610 between 16 and 21; 1920, two under 16, and 4,063 between 16 and 21; 1921, two under 16, and 2,172 between 16 and 21. The figures for 1922 were not yet available.

## L.C.C. AND EDUCATION.

The London County Council is apparently prepared to do its worst so far as the education of London's children is concerned. It is nothing short of a calamity that the educational body of the greatest city in the world should have so little conception of the value of education for the future citizens of this country. Not content with securing that all their future contracts with teachers shall require these trained, experienced women to resign their posts on the day of their marriage, and placing one hundred scantily trained "motherly" women in the Infant Schools to teach children under five years of age while fully trained young women teachers from colleges cannot find posts, the Council has now placed another two hundred of these partially trained, "inexpensive" (?) women in our Infant Schools in London. The County Council's niggardly so-called economies in regard to education are preparing more deadly blows against the future prestige of this country than any enemy without her gates could effect.

## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BEGINS TO MOVE.

On March 3rd the Senate of Cambridge University took the plunge (and it is the first step that costs!), and passed their Grace granting Titles of Degrees to women. Those women who hold Tripos Certificates will now be at liberty to ask for the Title of their degree, and if they are engaged in teaching, they may find it and the accompanying right to cap and gown, of sufficient economic value to be worth accepting, until the brief unwanted Titular Degree is replaced by Membership of the University. For this we look to the sense of fairness which Parliament now shows in women's questions, for the passage after Easter of the Universities Bill.

## THE FEMINIST LEAGUE.

OBJECT: To restore to Women all they should HAVE, all they should KNOW, and all they should BE.

### MISS ABADAM

will Lecture on the following  
TUESDAYS AT 6.30 P.M.

MORTIMER HALL, MORTIMER STREET,  
UPPER REGENT STREET.

March 13th.—Historic Lights on the Charge of "Sex Antagonism." The Dispossessed Heiress.  
.. 20th.—Quest of Truth. Past and Present Obscurantism. The Idol with the Feet of Clay.  
.. 27th.—Up-to-date Biology and Theological Reflexes. Some ignored Scriptures.  
All Women welcome. Free Admission. Silver Collection for Expenses.



## THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 9th, 1923.

### 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.

### EQUAL DIVORCE.

By 231 votes to 27—a majority of 204—the Second Reading of the Matrimonial Causes Bill was carried in the House of Commons last Friday. In moving the Second Reading, Major Entwistle (Kingston-on-Hull) said that the Bill proposed to give women the right of divorce on the ground of their husband's adultery, without having also to prove cruelty. The days had gone by when a wife could be regarded as her husband's chattel, and no one could doubt the right of women to be placed on an equality with men in regard to the matrimonial tie. A corresponding amendment of the law was carried in the House of Commons in 1857, but was afterwards rejected by the House of Lords on account of the uncertain nature of the wording. The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York gave their support to Lord Gorell's Bill of 1921, which contained this proposal. The strongest ground on which he could commend the Bill was that, where there were two standards of morality, the tendency was to accept the lower standard. If the standard was equalised between the sexes, the general tendency would be for the standard as regards men to be raised, and not for the standard as regards women to be lowered. That had been the experience in Scotland, which had had this provision as part of its law since 1560. Practically every civilised country in the world, with the exception of Spain, recognised this equal right of the wife to divorce. In seconding it, Mr. Foot (Bodmin) maintained that, because there were so few women members of the House, there was a greater obligation to do justice as between one sex and another. Mr. Dennis Herbert (Watford) moved an amendment for the rejection of the Bill. He argued that it was not desirable that the marriage contract should be terminable and dissolvable by the consent of the parties. At present the divorce laws almost gave the right to end marriage by consent. "Equality between the sexes" was one of those catch phrases which were often ignorantly used, and, as in this case, in regard to matters to which it did not really apply. They might have equality and identity of treatment between man and man, or woman and woman, but they could never make a man a woman, or a woman a man, nor could they ever get over those physical differences between man and woman which were factors in the question of divorce. Was there any Member of the House, the father of a son and daughter, who would regard the sin of adultery by his son in the same light as the sin of adultery by his daughter? It was the fact that throughout all ranks of society in this country, from the highest to the lowest, the sin of adultery did not ruin the reputation of a man in the way that it ruined the reputation of a woman. If divorce was made so easy, as the Bill proposed, obstacles would be put in the way of real reform, to the continued hardship of men and women being tied for life to incurably insane partners. Adultery, to be a cause of divorce, should be habitual. Major Brown (Hexham), in seconding the rejection of the Bill, said, if it was allowed to pass into law, an obstacle would have been placed in the way of reform for many years to come. Mr. Cairns (Morpeh) supported the Bill because he believed in equality for men and women. Sir Henry Craik (Scottish Universities) opposed the Bill because it was not true to human nature. If a man committed adultery, he did not introduce a bastard into the household of his wife.

If a woman committed adultery, she made the man the legal father of a bastard. In this working of the destruction of the marriage tie, was there not some sort of false idea that they were raising mankind to a higher level, that somehow they would achieve emancipation if they made the tie less strong? To his mind, marriage was a tie that ought to be permanent through life. Sir John Simon (Spenn Valley) said that the argument that the actual character of the offence of unfaithfulness might be adapted as between men and women, with the idea of drawing some distinction between them, had nothing whatever to do with the importance of carrying the Bill. He did not believe that mankind was really promoting the happiness of our country or of the world, unless they set out for one another the same standard which they would set for their wives. If they did not support the Bill, they were in danger of creating an impression that they set up for themselves a lower standard than they exacted and required from women. He conceived it to be the duty of the House to accept on behalf of mankind the responsibility and obligation of observing with strict fidelity the marriage vow, or of taking the consequences. Mr. Rawlinson (Cambridge University) opposed the Bill, on the ground that anything which made divorce easier was an evil thing for society. He was opposed, in the interest of society and the State, to any weakening of the marriage tie. Sir Alfred Mond, supporting the Bill, said that the question was not whether divorce should be maintained—a subject for argument—but, as there was divorce, whether there should be equality between the sexes with regard to it. Mr. Maddocks (Nuneaton) opposed the Bill, on the ground that young men were exposed to temptations which did not assail womenfolk, and that was the reason for the old ecclesiastical distinction that allowed a man to obtain a divorce on the grounds of his wife's adultery, but refused the same remedy to a woman. Capt. Evans said he failed to understand why a wife should not be granted a divorce for her husband's misconduct, when it was granted to a husband for his wife's misconduct. Mr. Bridgeman (Home Secretary) said that the Government did not oppose the Second Reading of the Bill; but if an extension of the Bill were attempted beyond the most modest kind, he could not answer for the Government not opposing it. He certainly should then oppose it himself, for he was not in favour of easy divorce. He would vote for the present Bill. In our view, this was an illuminating debate. It is of special interest to women to learn what men's views are in regard to the relations of the sexes, and how far they are prepared to recognise an equal moral standard in those relations.

### LEGITIMACY BILL.

Last week the Legitimacy Bill "to amend the law relating to children born out of wedlock" was given a Second Reading in the House of Commons, with only one dissentient, Sir Sydney Russell-Wells (London University). The Bill was introduced by Mr. Betterton (Rushcliffe), and provides that, where the parents of an illegitimate person marry one another, whether before or after the coming into force of the Act, the marriage shall render that person legitimate on condition that neither the father nor the mother was married to another person when the illegitimate child was born. It is further proposed to empower the Registrar-General, on production of satisfactory evidence, to authorise at any time the re-registration of the birth of a legitimated person. In concluding the Debate on this Bill, the Attorney-General (Sir Douglas Hogg) said that the Government was in no way hostile to the Bill, and left the matter entirely to the House. The Bill had his own unqualified approval. He submitted that, in the name of humanity and fair play, it was only right that, where a man and a woman had given way and offended, if, later on, they wished to repair the damage they had done, the legislative authority of the country should not lag behind other nations in giving them the power to put right the wrong.

## "WOMAN IS THE FOREIGNER WHO LIVES AT HOME."

STANSFELD LECTURE BY PROFESSOR GRAHAM WALLAS.

The annual Lecture inaugurated by the Stansfeld Trust was held in the Large Hall of the London School of Economics, Houghton Street, Aldwych, on Wednesday of last week, and was attended by a crowded audience, the gallery being filled by the School students. These lectures form one of the many activities of the Stansfeld Trust, which was founded many years ago with subscriptions received from women from all parts of the United Kingdom, as a tribute to Sir James Stansfeld, M.P., for his many services to the Women's Cause, in and outside Parliament. The equality of men and women before the law of the land being one of the primary objects of the Stansfeld Trust, the subjects of these Lectures are invariably some aspects of the many reforms now being urged by the various women's organisations.

### The Competition of the Sexes.

This year, "The Competition of the Sexes for Employment" was discussed by the lecturer, Professor Graham Wallas, with Dr. Christine Murrell in the Chair. After a passing reference to Italian women sorting letters at Venice, surrounded by fixed bayonets, British women's fight to obtain recognition and degrees at Cambridge University, the march of sandwichmen in Whitehall to protest against women being employed at the Pension Offices at Kew, and the recent proposals to bar married women teachers from the L.C.C., Mr. Graham Wallas passed on to the problem of human nature as represented by the sexes, pointing out that, though each division, whether women or men, shared the same needs, of education, medical treatment, houses, clothes, food, etc., yet a distinction was being made between them as to their wealth-producing capacity. This problem, curiously enough, never arose within the home itself, but only persisted outside, where work was paid for in money. This, too, in spite of the fact that women still had to be maintained, whether they worked or remained idle. The problem, however, was a comparatively new one, and would soon settle down and solve itself, said Mr. Wallas. It was partly owing to the new spirit in women, their work during the war, and their recent enfranchisement, which had created the modern demand for paid employment for women.

There were no reliable census statistics respecting women in paid employments before 1881, but from 1881 onwards, the figures were definite and reliable. During the thirty years from 1881-1911, there was a slight decrease in the percentage of women in paid employments. The Census of 1921 was not yet completed, but the London and Scottish figures which were accessible showed that the slight decrease had continued. The increase of work during the war had been completely wiped out since. These figures showed that about one-third of the women of the population above the age of fifteen were employed in paid work, but the employment itself was very unequally distributed amongst the various ages. Roughly, five million women were employed outside their homes, out of a total of 15 million, and half of these five million were under 25 years of age.

### Women Have Always Worked Outside the Home.

Mrs. Sidney Webb, in a recent article in the *New Statesman*, had stated that "the revolution in the industrial status of women had come about within the last 150 years"; but Mr. Graham Wallas did not agree, and said he believed the majority of girls of 15 and over had always worked, and chiefly away from home, and that more wives, and certainly more widows, were engaged in agriculture in the old days than nowadays. A proof of this was afforded by the enormous Hiring Fairs, where women stood in rows, waiting to be hired by the farmers.

There was one big change, however, in women's employment in modern times, and that was the great drop in the proportion of women employed in domestic service in 1881, 12 per cent. of the girls over ten years of age, and in 1911, 9 per cent., whilst the figures

for 1921, from the Scotch towns and the Metropolis, showed a further drop to 7 per cent. This fall was balanced by a marked increase in the number of girls employed in commercial work, or as clerks and typists. The latest figures showed no rise in the number of women engaged in industrial employment, but a material change in the number of women engaged in the higher professions.

The influence of the war clearly proved that the five million women employed in the community could, if they got the chance, enormously increase the national power of producing wealth; able women got their first chance of organising and directing, and girls in factories were, for the first time, allowed to use freely the best modern machinery, and in engineering, after a few weeks' training, girls turned out in repetition work twice or three times as much as the men who had served several years of apprenticeship. After the war, the Government turned out every woman from the engineering trades, although if they had been allowed to continue in this industry, they would have greatly increased the wealth of the community.

### Prejudice Against Innovations.

The wealth-producing value of a British family had enormously increased, from 35/- in the Stone Age to £300 now. That had been brought about by organisation, subdivision of labour, education, credit, and exchange. The ultimate advantages of innovations were always to the mass-visionary and doubtful. Their difficulties were obvious and urgent, and the first wool spinner brought dismay to the skin dressers, the first bronze maker to the flint workers. The use of money made this injury more obvious and vivid. The idea arose that money was definitely limited in amount; if A had it, B must go without; so people who could produce wealth kept the process to themselves, and tried to prevent other people from getting wealth by starting new processes. Nobody knew what would happen if machines of all kinds could be freely made, and from fear of the unknown consequences, our most highly organised trade, engineering, tried to prevent it. Inventions came only from the "enemies of Society"; visionaries like Watts of the kettle, foreigners and women—"woman is the foreigner who lives at home."

Man had always prevented woman from going out of the home. The cave man kept her because he "intended" that she should remain; modern man had to put forward some alleged public good—that the work is too hard for the woman (they must not lift heavy ledgers), the argument of the average (average man stronger than the average woman, therefore no woman is so strong as the weakest man). The longest and most dramatic arguments were against medical women, who would be "demoralised by their work," though no consideration had ever been given to nurses, and a compromise was suggested that women doctors might be allowed to attend the 30/- confinements, and leave the better paid to men. Striking, too, was the tearful sincerity of the man who declared that woman's sphere was the home, whilst he wanted as many maids as possible for himself.

### The Ultimate Goal of Labour.

During the war, practically all men were in uniform, and women, with equal fortitude, bore their part. But now it was claimed that every man must have work before any woman.

It was very difficult for women to work except in new trades. We must learn to think of production in terms of consumption, to work for the social good of the result, and understand causes and effects. Then in the Future, working freely, completely, and gladly, we could honestly study the differences in men's and women's work, settle the problem of the married woman, and give the able woman her suitable position in the State.



## PRISONERS—THEIR TREATMENT AND COST.

## Why no Woman Prison Commissioner?

Last week, in the House of Commons, Mr. Buchanan (Gorbals) asked the Under-Secretary for the Scottish Board of Health if a prisoner in Scotland, who had been sentenced to any punishment while in prison for an offence while serving his term of imprisonment, was entitled to any appeal beyond the Governor of the prison; and, if so, what Court of Appeal had the prisoner? Capt. Elliot replied that any prisoner was entitled to appeal to the Prison Commissioners or to the Secretary for Scotland against a punishment awarded by the prison Governor. Readers of THE VOTE will doubtless recollect that there are still no women Prison Commissioners to whom a prisoner can appeal.

## Why not a Woman Medical Officer in a Woman's Prison?

Mr. Lansbury (Bow and Bromley) asked the Home Secretary if his attention had been called to the case of a woman, at present serving a term of three years' penal servitude to which she was sentenced at Birmingham in December, 1921; whether the prison Medical Officer had testified that, in his opinion, the prisoner was mentally deficient; and was she being treated as a mental, and not a criminal, case? Mr. Bridgeman said he had made inquiry and found that the woman was considered to be mentally defective when she was at Birmingham Prison immediately after her conviction. She was, however, not certified at Birmingham, but was transferred to the women's convict prison at Liverpool for further observation. The Medical Officer at Liverpool, who had her under his special observation, reported that, finding she responded well to ordinary treatment, and that her general conduct was excellent, he did not consider her removal necessary or likely to be beneficial to her. It was, however, possible that on the completion of her sentence she might still require institutional care, and this would be kept in view.

## Prisons and Borstal Institutions.

Mr. Rhys Davies (Westhoughton) asked the Home Secretary the average annual cost per individual, including administrative charges, of maintaining convicts in penal settlements, prisoners in ordinary gaols, persons in Borstal institutions, and in industrial schools, respectively? Mr. Bridgeman replied that the average annual cost per inmate of prisons and Borstal institutions was as follows:—For convict prisons, £110 15s. 4d.; for local prisons, £79 6s. 4d.; for preventive detention prisons, £225 4s. 6d.; for Borstal institutions, £111 8s. 3d. Mr. Bridgeman added that the average annual cost of an inmate of a reformatory or industrial school was £65, but that figure did not include any administrative cost at the offices of local education authorities in respect of schools under their management. Mrs. Rackham, J.P., writing in the March number of *The Labour Woman*, states that the cost of a boy or girl in a reformatory or industrial school is about £70 a year, and strongly urges that young people especially should be placed on probation. She says that the total cost of probation for the last year for which we have the figures, 1919-20, was less than £27,600, or about £2 16s. per head. Yet last year over 3,000 youths between 16 and 21 were received into prison, of whom one-half had not been previously convicted; 571 girls between the same ages were sent to prison, of whom again rather more than half were first offenders. She points out that no less than 215 courts out of 1,062 in England and Wales have taken no steps whatever to appoint a probation officer, and the result is that in many places first offenders (children, young persons, and adults) are being convicted and punished, and are thereby, in many cases, receiving their initiation into a life of crime, when they could, under the Probation of Offenders Act, be bound over and placed under a probation officer without being convicted, so that they would have a chance of being helped to keep straight in future. Our great hope is that, with the increase of women magistrates throughout the country, every Court will appoint probation officers, and reduce to a minimum the numbers in our prisons, Borstal institutions, reformatories, and industrial schools.

## DR. WALDO AND THE WOMAN JUROR

(Contributed.)

It was very gratifying to read that within two days of Dr. Waldo, the City Coroner, debaring a woman juror from service, a Judge of the High Court told a woman juror in the Russell divorce case that it was for her to decide whether she should serve, and not him. Many Coroners would have ignored the report of the incident in the Press, but Dr. Waldo, possibly realising that he had made a mistake, looked around for an excuse, and the explanation he offered was a very unfortunate one, as we shall see. It is to be remembered that the Coroner had never had a woman juror in his courts, yet in the *Daily Express* of February 28th he is represented as saying, "He considered that the two cases in his list for that day (Monday, February 26th) were especially suitable for juries of men, and he therefore sent for 11 men, and he exercised his discretion in restricting the jury to men, by reason of the nature of the cases before him."

Let us see what the cases were. One was that of a child who had died from delayed chloroform poisoning, and it was essentially a case in which a woman juror might well have taken part, because a question arose as to the routine adopted in children's hospitals, where prophylactics are given before anaesthesia, as compared with the methods employed in the great general hospitals such as Bart's, where this particular death occurred. A little girl of five had died in the same hospital in exactly similar circumstances two or three days before, the inquest being held on February 24th. This case was referred to on the 26th. The second inquest was on a youth who had run a nail into his toe, and was believed to have died from lockjaw, but the cause of death turned out to be meningitis; it was a mistaken diagnosis. Surely, these two cases were not too terrible or unsuitable for a woman to hear! Women jurors at the Old Bailey and in the High Court hear much worse cases. So much for Dr. Waldo's explanation. It must not be forgotten that if the woman had not obeyed her summons, she would have been liable to a heavy fine.

How very different was Mr. Justice Hill's treatment of the woman juror in the Divorce Court on February 28th! He said (we are quoting from the report of the case in the *Evening Standard* of the same date): "It is for you (the juror) to decide, rather than for me. *You have the right to serve.* At the same time, if you think you would rather not serve, no one, I am sure, will think any the worse of you, or think you wish to shirk a public duty."

The fact that the woman, who was debarred by Dr. Waldo, wrote to a morning newspaper, saying that she was glad the Coroner released her, in no way affects the principle involved.

## SPRING SALE OF WORK.

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

The Sale will be opened at 3.30 p.m. by Dr. Mary Scherlieb, C.B.E., J.P., the Chair being taken by Mrs. Whitaker Thompson. Those who have promised help with the Stalls are Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Mustard, Mrs. Pierotti, Mrs. Tanner, Mrs. Whetton, and Mrs. Trafford Williams, and we are glad to say that Miss Alix Clark will be up from Wales. Mrs. Cunningham, Mrs. Hawkins, Mrs. Legge, Mrs. Sparrow, Miss Newman, and Mr. Eric Richmond have kindly promised to assist with the music. Dr. Octavia Lewin will lecture at 4.30 and 6.30 p.m. Competitions are being arranged by Mrs. Pierotti, and Character Readings by Mrs. Grace Goodall. A Dutch Auction will be held at 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Knight has kindly undertaken the arrangements for tea, which will be served from 3.30 to 6 p.m. All members and friends are cordially invited to visit the Sale some time during the afternoon or evening.

(Hon. Fair Sec.) ELIZABETH BERRY.

## Women's Freedom League.

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

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



## DARE TO BE FREE.

Friday, March 9th, at 12 a.m., Minerva Publishing Co., Ltd., Annual Shareholders' Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday, March 9th, from 3 to 8.30 p.m. Women's Freedom League Spring Sale at 25, Wimpole Street, W. (by kind permission of Dr. Lewin). Opener: Dr. Mary Scherlieb, C.B.E., J.P., at 3.30 p.m. Chair: Mrs. Whitaker Thompson. Lecture by Dr. Lewin, at 4.30 p.m., and at 6.30 p.m., "Shut your Mouth and Save your Life."

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

Monday, March 12th, at 6 p.m. Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Subject: "The Relations of this Country with the Central Powers." Speaker: Miss Christina Roberts.

Friday, March 23rd, at 3.30 p.m. Reception at Minerva Club, Brunswick Square (corner of Coram and Hunter Streets), in support of the Rome Congress. Speakers: Mrs. Fawcett, J.P., LL.A., Mrs. G. F. Abbott, Mrs. Herabai Tata and others. Tickets 1/-, including Tea, to be obtained at this office. (Tickets must be applied for not later than March 21st).

Monday, March 26th, at 6 p.m. Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Subject: "The Relations of this Country with Russia." (Speaker to be announced later).

Tuesday, March 27, at 3.15 p.m. Hampstead Branch Meeting, at 7, Gainsborough Gardens, N.W.3. (by kind permission of Dr. Knight). Conference Business.

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

## PROVINCES.

Wednesday, March 14th, 3 to 6 p.m. Portsmouth. Work Party at 17, Green Road.

Wednesday March 21st, at 3.15 prompt. Portsmouth. Public Meeting, 2, Kent Road. Speaker: The Rev. F. W. Rumsby. Subject: "Portsmouth Slums."

Friday, March 23rd, at 3.30 p.m. Bexhill. Public Meeting at Glyne Hall, Sea Road. Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin. Subject: "How to Prevent Diseases in the Home."

Tuesday, March 27th, at 8 p.m. Southend-on-Sea and District. Public Meeting at St. John's Ambulance Hall, 76, Queen's Road. Speaker: Mrs. Stanley. Subject: "Hostels for Women Workers."

## OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

DEAR MADAM,—I am now taking three copies of THE VOTE every week, and sending the spare two to different women every week, all over the country. Why not suggest that other readers do the same? It would not only send the circulation up at once, but effect a steady increase, and "spread the message."—Yours, A CONSTANT READER.

MADAM,—In connection with your remarks on the Borstal system, I would remind your readers that this piece of cast-iron officialdom, in dealing with the juvenile delinquent, costs us a net average charge of £98 8s. 8d. per inmate per annum. [The Home Secretary specifies £111 8s. 3d.; see page 78 of this week's VOTE.—ED.]

Surely we have a right, as tax and rate payers, to demand better value for our money, and as women for a better use of our fellow-women's children.—Yours faithfully,

KATHERINE GILLET GATTY.

## INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE.

The Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations (to which the Women's Freedom League is affiliated) has arranged an extraordinarily interesting Conference on "Protective Legislation for Women in the Economic World," to take place at the W. H. Smith's Memorial Institute, 4, Portugal Street, Kingsway, on Thursday, March 15th, from 5 to 7 p.m. The following two resolutions will be discussed:—(1) That under the present organisation of manufacture by power-driven machinery for mass production, some protective legislation for women is indispensable for the salvaging of civilisation." This will be moved by Miss Cecile Matheson, and seconded by Dame Adelaide Andersons. (2) "That the establishment of a system of legislation for the protection of industrial and professional workers, based on sex rather than on the nature of the occupation, is reactionary in tendency." This will be moved by Mrs. Abbott, seconded by Miss Helen Ward, and strongly supported by the Women's Freedom League. No tickets are necessary, and everyone is invited to come and take part in the discussion.

## BRANCH NOTES.

## HASTINGS.

Councillor J. Macdougall, who presided at the Assembly Room, Harold Place, on Tuesday evening, said that the Women's Freedom League was a great force in the march of progress. Woman generally was a powerful factor in progress, and when she took anything in hand she took care to bring about its accomplishment. Mr. Charles Simpson said that ever since 1819 a move had been made to do away with capital punishment. It was time that such a barbarous relic had been done away with. William the Conqueror abolished it, and yet nearly a thousand years afterwards, meetings were being held to demand the abolition of the death penalty. Many questions were asked at the close of the speech, and the following Resolution was passed unanimously:—"That this meeting urges the abolition of capital punishment, believing it to be vindictive, rather than reformatory, tending to demoralise the community as a whole, and a stain on our 20th century civilisation, and on our Christianity. It requests the Government to bring in a Bill for its abolition."

## BEXHILL.

The Rev. J. C. Thompson presided at the meeting which was held at Glyne Hall last Tuesday afternoon. Miss Gertrude Eaton was unable to speak, owing to an attack of influenza. Her place was taken by Mr. Charles Simpson, of the John Woolman Educational Settlement. Mr. Simpson said that judicial murder carried out by State servants was equally as bad as the murder done on the battlefield. All the prison officials he had come into contact with were in favour of the abolition of capital punishment. This spoke for itself. Many countries had abolished capital punishment, and the time had come when a Royal Commission should be formed to review the subject afresh, and to substitute some other form of punishment for the extreme penalty.

## PORTSMOUTH.

The thanks of the Branch are due to Mrs. Ball, who very kindly gave a Whist Drive on Wednesday, February 28th, at her house in aid of the local funds. Mrs. Bleach, Mrs. Ball, and Mrs. Whetton gave the prizes, and a very enjoyable afternoon was spent.

On Wednesday, March 14th, there will be a work party at 17, Green Road, by kind invitation of Mrs. Poole.

The monthly Public Meeting, on March 21st, at 2, Kent Road, will be addressed by the Rev. F. W. Rumsby, whose subject will be "Portsmouth Slums." The Chair will be taken at 3.15 prompt. (Hon. Sec.) MRS. WHETTON, 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

## GLASGOW.

A meeting of members and friends was held on March 7th, at 7.30 p.m., at Room No. 9 of the Religious Institute Rooms, 202, Buchanan Street, to meet Miss F. Brimston, the London organiser of the Women's Freedom League, who is now in Glasgow for the purpose of waking up this Branch.

## LUNCHEON TO MISS TATA.

A Luncheon, organised by the Oriental Circle, was held at the Lyceum Club on March 2nd, to celebrate Miss Mithan Ardeshir Tata's "call" to the English Bar, she being the first Indian woman to have achieved this distinction. Over 50 guests assembled, amongst whom were Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, Miss Chrystal Macmillan, Mrs. Abbott, representatives from the chief feminist organisations, and various Eastern ladies and gentlemen. Mrs. Shrimpton Giles, who presided, spoke of the "great asset of a sympathetic mother," such as Miss Tata had always had in Mrs. Tata, and Mrs. Fawcett referred to the "great asset of a sympathetic father," such as her own sister, Mrs. Garrett Anderson, had experienced in Mr. Garratt, during her fight for admission to the medical profession. Toasts were drunk to Mrs. and Miss Tata, and both replied, Miss Tata in a graceful little speech, in the purest English, which delighted all present. Mrs. and Miss Tata will shortly be leaving for India, where the latter hopes to obtain access to the Madras Courts of Law, these not yet being opened to women.

## EASTER CAMPAIGN—1923. BRIGHTON.

Miss Alix Clark will carry out her usual Campaign during the Annual Conference of the National Union of Teachers. She urgently asks for the help of all members and friends who will be there. Please send promises to the Office.

## GREEN, WHITE &amp; GOLD FAIR.

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## STRING BAND.

Amateur String Players are invited to give their services to provide a Band for the days of the Fair. The Band will be under the Hon. Conductorship of Mrs. Van Raalte. Application to be made to the Hon. Fair Sec., Women's Freedom League Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.



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**F**ELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, March 11th. 12 noon. Little Rally for Children of all Ages. 3.15. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Dearmer. 6.30. Dr. Dearmer.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

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