

THE VOTE.  
AUGUST 31, 1917.  
ONE PENNY.

**The Women's Freedom League  
and The Grille.**

# THE VOTE

## THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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Edited by C. DESPARD.

**OBJECT:** To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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### HONOURS FOR WOMEN—AND WHY.

On August 25 the first list was published of appointments to the two new Orders—the Order of the British Empire and the Order of the Companions of Honour—instituted by the King in recognition of the manifold services which have been rendered by British subjects and their Allies in connection with the war. As was reported in THE VOTE at the time the new Orders were announced, women are included on their own merit, and we call the attention of our readers to the important service women are rendering in many ways and in many spheres including the Foreign Office, the War Office, etc. The Order of the British Empire has five classes: 1, Dames Grand Cross; 2, Dames Commanders; 3, Commanders; 4, Officers; 5, Members. Among the appointments are the following:—

#### Order of the British Empire.

*Dames Grand Cross (G.B.E.).*—H.M. the Queen, Lady Paget, Serbian Relief Fund; Mrs. Katherine Furse, Commandant in Chief, Women's Voluntary Aid Detachment; Lady Lawley, Queen Mary's Needlework Guild; Lady Reid, work for Australian Forces.

*Dames Commander (D.B.E.).*—The Dowager Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava; Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton, War Refugees Committee; Mrs. Charles Lees, ex-Mayor of Oldham; Marchioness of Londonderry, Founder of the Women's Legion; Lady Byron.

*Commanders (C.B.E.).*—Dr. Louisa Garrett Anderson, organiser of Women's War Hospital at the Front and in London (Endell-street); Mrs. Cecil Baker, British Ambulance Committees; Miss Lilian C. Barker, Superintendent Women's Welfare, Woolwich Arsenal; Lady Florence Elizabeth Barrett, eminent doctor; Mrs. Henrietta Octavia Barnett, social service; Miss Gertrude Lothian Bell, war work in the East; Mrs. Helen May Gaskell, War Libraries; Miss Margaret Hogg, matron, Guy's Hospital; Miss Eva Lückes, matron, London Hospital; Miss Margaret Mac-

Millan, valuable social and educational work; Miss Annie McIntosh, matron, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Dr. Flora Murray, hospitals at the front and in London (Endell-street); Lady Norman, hospital work; Sister Pauline, Italian Hospital, London; Miss Dorothea Proud, Welfare work, Ministry of Munitions; Lady Roxburgh, Queen's work for women; Mrs. Mary Scharlieb, eminent doctor; Mrs. C. S. Selater, Queen Alexandra's Field Force Fund; Lady Sophie Scott, British Red Cross; Miss Lloyd Still, matron, St. Thomas's Hospital; Mrs. Edith N. Stokes, Surgical Requisites Association; Mrs. Chalmers Watson, Chief Controller, Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.

*Officers (O.B.E.).*—Miss E. L. Birkin, British Red Cross, Nottingham; Miss G. M. Broughton, Welfare work; Mrs. J. E. Courtney, Welfare work; Mrs. M. Dease, Welfare work; Miss E. B. Jayne, Welfare work; Mrs. Florence Matthews, buffets, Victoria Station; Lady Muriel Paget, Anglo-Russian Hospital; Miss Helen Pratt, Welfare work, now W.A.A.C. (France); Mrs. Neville-Rolfe, War Committees; Miss Elsie Saunders, Red Cross, Derbyshire; Miss Lena Ashwell, concerts for troops; Miss Meuriel Talbot, Board of Agriculture; Mrs. Louisa Wilkins, Women's National Land Service Corps; Mrs. Ethel M. Wood, London War Pensions Committee.

*Members (M.B.E.).*—Miss Rachel Ard, V.A.D. Hospital Tonbridge; Miss Rosa Bassett, work for service of educated women in War Office; Miss C. G. Bingham, secretary Contraband Committee, Foreign Office; Miss E. F. Collingwood, secretary Foreign Claims Dept., Foreign Office; Mrs. J. H. Fisher, hospital work; Miss E. P. Hughes, Red Cross work, S. Wales; Mrs. C. A. Hunter, Red Cross work, Chester; Miss Mary Jackson, Prisoners of War Book scheme, Board of Education; Miss E. H. Kelly, Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, Portsmouth; Miss K. A. Landon, Red Cross work, Devon; Miss Ivy Matheson, Ladies' Emergency Committee, Navy League; Mrs. M. McNalty, Separation Allowance Dept. Territorial Force; Miss Laura Willson, Organiser Women's Munition work, Halifax; Mrs. Frances Wood, Assistant Director, Statistical Branch, Ministry of Munitions.

The Medal of the Order of the British Empire is awarded to men and women for manual and other work done for the

war. The eleven women included in the first list are honoured for courageous conduct and devotion to duty in munition work. Here are two records: Miss Isabella Dixon, for presence of mind and courage in entering a burning room in an explosives factory and playing a hose upon the flames; Miss L. M. Ede, an examiner in the Inspection Dept., Ministry of Munitions, for valuable service in discovering a concealed defect in certain fuse caps.

#### Companions of Honour.

The Marchioness of Lansdowne, Officers' Families Fund; Miss Elizabeth Haldane, Territorial Force Nursing Association; Mrs. Tennant, Assistant-Director, Women's Section National Service Dept.; Mrs. Carruthers (Miss Violet Markham), Assistant-Director, Women's Section National Service Dept.

We honestly confess that we should have felt more enthusiasm over the inclusion of *some* women in the old-established honours—from the peerage downwards—than for the pell-mell mix-up of the new Orders. That women have at last been deemed worthy of so much attention is, however, one of the signs of awakening grace—and of our own approaching success! We respectfully congratulate His Majesty upon two things—that honest and faithful manual service has been recognised as *national* service; and that Miss Margaret MacMillan has a place in the Honours List. These two things dignify and redeem an otherwise unremarkable effort. Women themselves will have a hand in shaping the next attempt.

#### That Blessed Word "Constitution."

The *Daily Telegraph* has made a discovery. It has suddenly remembered the Parliament Bill, and reflects that the Constitution has been tampered with. The new Electoral Reform Bill, by the admission of women, has placed the Constitution in serious jeopardy. The worthy journal demands that there shall be an "approach to political stability," and that "the Constitution shall be a good Constitution which will command the respect and veneration of the country." How that will be achieved by the permanent minority of the country—the men—laying down regulations about which the about-to-be-enfranchised majority—the women—will not be allowed to give an opinion, it is for *The Daily Telegraph* to explain. For what it has the effrontery to advocate is that the Representation of the People Bill shall not become law until the House of Lords Reform question has been settled! The indecent scurry to get various big national questions, such as education, Ireland, and the Lords, pushed through before women can intervene, is hardly calculated to result in a Constitution which "will command the respect and veneration of the country." The deadly fear displayed of the women who are their fellow-patriots and fellow-workers, their wives, mothers, and daughters—from whom they wish us to believe, in more sentimental moments, that they derive all their noblest inspirations!—is as undignified as it is craven and silly. And we would point out to *The Daily Telegraph* that the inclusion of women in the electorate, while it may be a "leap in the dark" for the present generation of timorous and purblind men, is no new thing in British history and is a fundamental principle of the Constitution, which the editor of *The Daily Telegraph* pretends to revere but has done so much to bring into contempt. "The enfranchisement of woman," said Sydney Smith, long ago in the early part of the 19th century, "is the law of the land. Not the law, but the lawyers, hold it from her." And a Constitution which is never certain when a person is a person or is not a person, is a mere grotesque travesty. If this is the new point from which danger is to come, and *The Daily Telegraph's* article is a "ballon d'essai!" or a signal, put out by the Lords, we shall know how to deal with it.

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## Women's Freedom League.

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### FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.



#### LONDON AND SUBURBS

Friday, August 31.—Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Dinner to Miss Boyle, 7 p.m. Tickets 2s. each, which must be obtained beforehand from Mrs. Fisher. Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 8 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Miss Boyle, Miss Anna Munro, Miss Eunice Murray, Mrs. Schofield Coates, and others.

Sunday, September 2.—Hyde Park, noon. Speaker: Miss Eunice G. Murray. Chair: Miss Eggett.

Sunday, September 9.—Hyde Park, 12 noon. Speaker: Miss Dorothy Evans.

Saturday, September 15.—Political Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, 3 p.m. Speakers: Miss Boyle and others.

Wednesday, September 19.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mr. Laurence Housman, on "Prison Reform in America," and Miss Nina Boyle. Chair: Mrs. Mustard. Admission free. Tea can be obtained in the Café.

Sunday, September 23.—Lecture by Miss C. Nina Boyle, "A Modern View of Ancient Macedon" (in aid of the Despard Arms), Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, 3.30 p.m. Tickets, 1s. Tea after lecture, 8d.

Wednesday, September 26.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Miss Margaret Hodge, on "W. T. Stead and His Work for the Woman's Cause," and Miss Nina Boyle.

Wednesday, October 3.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. M. W. Nevinson, L.L.A., on "The Prospects of Success," and Mrs. Mustard. Chair: Mrs. Nourse.

Sunday, October 7.—Discussion Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn. W. L. George, on "Will the position of married women be enhanced or diminished by the War?" Tea, 6d., 4 till 4.30 p.m. Lecture, 4.30 till 6 p.m. Admission by ticket only, price 1s., from W.F.L. Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

#### Irish Women and the Convention.

The following letter has been sent to every member of the Irish Convention by the Irish Standing Committee of Irish Suffrage Societies:—

#### TO THE IRISH CONVENTION.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,—I have been instructed by the Joint Standing Committee representing the Belfast Suffrage Society, the Conservative and Unionist Women's Suffrage Association, the Church League for Women's Suffrage, the Irish Catholic Women's Suffrage Association, the Irishwomen's Reform League, and the Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation, to ask you to support the co-option of a woman on the Convention, should such a proposal be made. This recognition of the citizenship of Irishwomen, and of their right to be consulted as to the government of their country, is especially just and fitting at the present time. The effective co-operation of women is necessary if urgent problems such as Public Health, Education and Poor Law are to receive adequate consideration in the near future, and my Committee trust you will do all in your power to further such co-operation by supporting the co-option of a woman. This would be a guarantee that the Parliamentary franchise will be extended to Irishwomen, and that, should a referendum be taken on the result of your deliberations, women as well as men will be included in it.

I have the honour to remain, on behalf of the Joint Committee,—Yours faithfully,  
MARY L. GWYNN,  
Hon. Secretary.

37, Ailesbury-road, Dublin.  
August 24,

THEY SUPPORT US!

### GIVE US A BIT OF THE GRILLE.

Acting on the spirited suggestion of Mrs. Thomson-Price, whose name is known to all readers of THE VOTE, Dr. Knight approached the Speaker of the House of Commons on the subject of the disposal of the Grille of the Ladies' Gallery, Mrs. Thomson-Price having pointed out what an interesting memento this would be for the Women's Freedom League to possess. The Speaker referred Dr. Knight to the First Commissioner of Works, who is, of course, Sir Alfred Mond, a tried and proven supporter of the women's cause, who is known to have taken a great deal of personal interest in the pourparlers which led to the removal of the Grille. The result was an invitation to attend at the Office of Works, which was duly accepted by Dr. Knight and Miss Boyle. A courteous assistant secretary heard the application, and promised to forward it on the following lines:—That the Women's Freedom League has a claim to possess a part of the Grille equal to that put forward by any museum, seeing that the organisation had identified itself specifically with the attack on the Grille; that the Grille was removed the first time on account of the Women's Freedom League, and that it would be a sporting thing, and show there was no ill-feeling if a portion of it were bestowed as a souvenir on the League. The interview was a genial one; and we now await the result. Mrs. Marion Holmes has recalled the fact that Mrs. How-Martyn, head of the Political and Militant Department, put in a formal claim, after the first removal of the Grille, for the return of the chains and padlocks, the property of the League; and was informed that they were in the Speaker's Museum. It is only fair, therefore, that the League also should have its "souvenir."

### OUR POINT OF VIEW.

#### The Blot on the Bill.

We call the serious attention of our readers to Mrs. Despard's leading article in this number on the Education Bill introduced by Mr. Fisher before Parliament rose for the recess. It emphasises the real difference between the masculine and the feminine outlook on public affairs. The grave blot on Mr. Fisher's Bill is the absence of any maintenance provision for children during the further courses of education—at an age when they require, if they are to develop into fine and fit men and women, more and better food, more clothes, and a good deal of extra attention. The prospect of a long spell of high prices may well make many a working mother wonder how the hungry mouths are going to be filled; and the Bill would be a much more workman-like job if, during its passage through the House of Commons, a generous maintenance clause were added to supplement the educational advantages.

#### Where the Pinch Comes.

There comes a memory to the writer. It is of an incident that happened long before the war. A committee of a Poor Law Board was sitting, when there came before them a young widow, whom Nature had intended to be comely. Two of her children were in the Poor Law schools, two were under her care. It occurred to the chairman of the committee—also a woman—that she was not looking well. The young woman explained that work had been slack. "I've managed to feed the children, but—" and there came a strange look into her sad eyes. The committee, feeling that rest and a short absence from care would be of service, tried to persuade her to go for three weeks to a seaside convalescent home. Her rent, she was told, would be paid, and her children looked after. She went a little later, and came back with colour in her cheeks and hope in her eyes, but that day she was

distrustful; she thought it might be a prelude to the breaking up of her poor little home. "I think I should be quite well if I had a little more to eat," she said.

"It isn't so bad after the first two days," said a woman the other day, speaking of the starvation that was sure to come if food prices continued to rise. That is what it means to a woman; and yet of her point of view, or of the practical help she might give in dealing with it, there is no sign in the essentially man's debates which take place in Parliament.

#### A New Power.

A novel point in the Education Bill is the definite statement that a local authority "may pay the expenses of a prosecution for cruelty to children." This is a new power, and is to be welcomed on the ground that the State now recognises its interest in the safety and protection of child life, and will not leave this important work solely to a private institution, dependent upon appeals to the public for generous assistance, and at times handicapped for want of support.

#### More Impertinence.

Suffragists will not hail with any overwhelming delight Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "interference between man and wife," even though the "man" be a German man. It is the abominable arrangement which makes an "alien"—think of it—of a woman with an alien husband while retaining full rights for the man with an alien wife, which is the proper point of attack. Sir Arthur need not put himself out. Women will shortly be in a position to deal with their own affairs themselves; to protect their own nationality, and to decide exactly what measure of importance and finality they will attach to the contracts they enter into. Meanwhile, let Sir Arthur busy himself to more purpose, and endeavour to get compensation for the British women wrongfully, wantonly, and unconstitutionally fined, imprisoned, and otherwise harried and insulted as "aliens," under Naturalisation Acts that would have been long ago exposed as illegal impositions had they so dealt with the rights of enfranchised men.

#### A Real Grievance.

Last week we published particulars given in Parliament concerning University electors, and forecasts of their numbers under the Representation of the People Bill. Women who have taken examinations at Oxford and Cambridge equivalent to a degree, but are denied the right of calling themselves graduates of these Universities, are in a grievous case. They will not only see men graduates vote, but also women graduates of the more modern and less tradition-bound universities. Both the injustice and the illogicality of the position should move the authorities at Oxford and Cambridge to make amends for their narrow-mindedness by recognising that in the matter of degree examinations not sex but worth counts. It is high time that senseless sex restrictions should disappear.

"THE ENGLISHWOMAN."—The current number of this welcome monthly provides interesting and informing reading for those who are enjoying well-earned leisure and for those who are still in the rush of everyday life. "The Future of the Women's Societies," by Mrs. O. Strachey; "Problems of the Day: the Mesopotamia Report and the treatment accorded to women's offers of hospitalities"; "Women Workers and the Whitley Committee," by Mrs. Esther Roper; "A German Girls' School in the 'Eighties'; "War and the Poets," together with sketches, poems, and book reviews, are some of the features of the issue. From Miss Roper's article on the Whitley Report—to read which gives the impression that women are almost non-existent—we take the following extract: "It is absolutely essential to the existence and well-being of women workers that those who have fought for the political freedom of women should continue to organise themselves to secure for all women—(1) equal pay for equal work; (2) equal opportunity of work; (3) equal educational opportunities."

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 344.

## THE VOTE.

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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.

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### LONG VIEWS.

"We have reached a point in our history," said Mr. Fisher, in his introduction of the new Education Bill, "when it is necessary to take long views." We are of the same mind. Indeed, it is our contention that had those who are responsible for the conduct of the nation's business in the past been able to look beyond their exceedingly limited horizons; had they taken long views, our position would be much better than it is to-day. One thing at least is certain. Many of the splendid national resources which they have so recklessly squandered would now be available for the service of the country.

It is a sign of awakening to real issues on the part of our male legislators that attention is at last being drawn to the glaring defects of our educational system. We know too well what the result of our defective system has been. The reports of school medical inspectors and the story of these last three dreadful years, giving wholesale evidence of the low physique of thousands of our young men, tell the same sad tale. The child of the worker has been considered as the tool of industrialism, to be wrought into an efficient instrument for the production not of life-wealth, but of profit for the favoured class, to whom for the most part our legislators belong. Mr. Fisher, we find, is somewhat afraid of disturbing the juvenile labour market as the producer of other workers or as food for cannon, and for such ends it has been educated. Suitable and abundant food, open-air life, the joy of games, the satisfaction of the desire for adventure and discovery latent in so many, have formed but a small part in the curriculum of our elementary or even secondary schools.

In these and many other respects the Bill is not so far-reaching as we could wish. It bears the stamp of timidity. The employer is still to be considered, and juvenile labour tolerated. Moreover, although not in sympathy with Commander Wedgwood's root and branch opposition to the Bill, we cannot but feel that it embodies too much compulsion and too little opportunity. What every true mother in the nation desires is that doors shall be thrown open to the child in every direction, so that it may develop freely

and fully, not as worker or soldier, or even mother of children, but as human being following out its own destinies.

That Mr. Fisher has such aspirations—though he may not think himself able to carry them out in practice—is evident in his speech, which here and there impresses us as that of one who has a vision which he does not see his way to bring into practical life.

He says, for instance, that he has noted a new way of thinking about education among "the more reflecting members of our industrial army. They do not want education only in order that they may become better technical workers and earn higher wages; they want it because they know that in the treasures of the mind they can find an aid to good citizenship, a source of enjoyment, and a refuge from the necessary hardships of a life spent in the midst of clanging machinery in our hideous cities of toil."

That is well said; but may we not add that if to the great mass of children in our country such an education were given "hideous cities of toil," with all the degrading misery they represent, might soon become a thing of the past?

We are dealing with the present, and Mr. Fisher, with an admiring House of Commons behind him, proposes no revolutionary measure. Certain abuses, such as the employment of children under fourteen as half-timers, he would do away with altogether. He would provide nursery schools for little children, letting them enter upon the business of learning at six years of age instead of five. He thinks—and we agree with him—that amongst women who have often to supplement the earnings of the children's fathers by working themselves, and in crowded slum areas such provision is necessary for the health and well-being of the child. We note, however, with regret that the establishment of nursery schools is not to be insisted upon, but merely encouraged, while the local education authorities are to be empowered to raise the age at which "normal instruction in the elementary schools begins." While we have "hideous cities of toil," productive through their labour-power of immense riches for individuals, companies and syndicates, it might surely be made obligatory on those who are being thus enriched to provide open spaces, gardens and comfortable, even beautiful buildings for the children of those through whom their wealth-producing industries have been built up. To us, as women, that would seem a just and commonsense arrangement.

Then, again, half-time work, "a system which," says Mr. Fisher, "should, after a convenient interval, come to an end;" the employment of children after school hours, and—the one novel provision in the Bill—compulsory attendance at continuation schools for no less than 320 hours a year, or eight hours a week for forty weeks, which obviously would lessen the young person's earning powers—admirable as all these provisions are and simple as they may appear in the clauses of a Parliamentary Bill, we should not accept them as the best that can be done without a somewhat closer investigation.

Let us ask the working mother what her opinion is. She certainly comes nearer to the child and knows more about its needs than even the most sympathetic member of the House of Commons. That a nursery school should be established where, without being compelled, she can leave her younger children—knowing that their minds will not be forced, and that their little active bodies will be given free and safe scope for exercise while she is busy over cleaning, washing, providing, and cooking—will be quite to her mind. As regards the other provisions, no good working mother wishes to over tax her child. If any of our legislators want information on this point we advise them to go to the fountain head.

Let them listen to the brave woman who, with tears in her eyes that she does not allow to fall, tells of how she has in the dark bitter cold mornings of winter to awake and feed, as far as she is able, the boys and girls who have to go to factory or shop and so help to keep themselves. "You see," she will tell them, "we have to live." The war has made many widows. There were widows before the war. Their allowances and the Poor Law pittance which some of them obtain, even eked out by their own poor earnings, will not enable them to feed, clothe and shelter their children; therefore the elder ones must go to work. There is no help for it.

The law proposes to restrict the earning power of the boy and girl. Have those who make the laws even the most elementary conception of what it costs to feed and clothe the growing persons of fourteen and fifteen years of age?

Mr. Fisher, rightly, wishes them to rise higher up on the golden ladder of education; but does he

know, as many of our teachers do, what it means to try to teach a child whose vitality is being lowered by unsuitable and insufficient food? Well for such a child if it is obstinately apathetic. Kindle a spark of enthusiasm for knowledge and the insufficiently fed brain will feed upon itself, to the great detriment both of the child's mind and body.

Let it not be forgotten that when the Electoral Reform Bill passes, the State will have to reckon with mothers the vast majority of whom will be workers. We believe one of their first demands will be not education as our middle-class legislators understand it for their children—an education that can be given with only a slight disturbance of the present order—but an all-round consideration of the needs of workers' families and opportunity for the full and harmonious development of every child.

We wonder if this, the mother's view, is too far-reaching for Mr. Fisher and his colleagues!

C. DESPARD.

### MRS. KELLY ON WOMEN IN POLITICS.

"I don't understand why them gentlemen at the College there, that's settlin' what's to be done about the Government, didn't ask women to help at first, miss. At long last they'll have to have them, and why wouldn't they do it at wanst? Shure, women's in all the politics now, miss. Did ye hear of the row in the Model Buildings the other night? It was the night the East Clare news came. Molly Brady and Pat Reilly were afther lightin' a fire to celebrate it, and the whole Square was out to see the fun, and of course the women were head and tail of it all. Tim Walsh, him that's home wounded from France, out he rushes (I think he had a sup in) an' thramples through the fire an' puts it out. Then Molly and Pat set on him, and indeed they might have offered him violence if all the neighbour women hadn't got him away, and his wife put him to bed an' he went off to sleep. Then what does Molly do, but ups and lights the fire again, and makes Pat help her, and sets him on playin' them Sinn Fein tunes on his flute, an' all the little boys and girls were singin' the Sinn Fein songs. But he didn't half like it, for he was sorry for the poor wounded man, the crathur, and what does he do but starts to play Rule Britannia all of a suddint, and scatters them. An' it's just the same on the other side, from all that I hear. My sister's second girl, she had a place in Belfast three years ago, and she wrote to her mother how all the ladies there were drillin' and playin' at bein'—what is it?—signallers, yes, that's the word, and givin' out flags an' everythin'. An' as for the mill girls, shure, Mary said they kicked up desolation if anything was said about Home Rule. Just a terror they were. Now all the gentlemen were eggin' them on to this sort of work, miss, and pattin' them on the back. And here in the city, shure, the women were in the thick of it that Easter, though indeed I never heard they fired a shot themselves, but they were loadin' rifles for them that were firin', besides all the nursin'. Now I heard someone say that women shouldn't have the vote because they couldn't fight, but it seems to me as if the way was this, that women were to be egged on to the fightin', and shoved back when anythin' like votin' is goin'. All them gentlemen in Ulster was quick enough to get women to help when there was nothin' but fightin' in the wind, and now when it's just talkin', not a woman is to be let get a word in, as far as I can hear. Shure, they all say it's talkin' that we're good at, but it's a job they like to keep to themselves, and let us do the rough work. And all the time they say that politics is too rough for women. Bedad, it's quare, miss."

DORA MELLONE.

### ON RACIAL HEALTH AND MORALITY.\*

#### The Master Problem of the Empire.

Long ago Herbert Spencer declared in his "Principles of Ethics" that the saddest part of the history of humanity, as written, concerns the treatment of women; had we the unwritten history before us, he added, it would be still sadder.

The Rev. James Marchant has written a profoundly interesting book, "The Master Problem." We should have liked the author to make it perfectly clear what he means by this title. He probably means the Social Evil, the White Slave Traffic; but the scope of his book and a whole and profoundly interesting chapter on the legal position of women, the changes that are necessary almost everywhere to secure for them substantial liberty and equality, would allow us to regard the relations of the sexes as the master problem which humanity must solve before it can attain its full stature. Sad as Mr. Marchant's book undoubtedly is, its keynote is hopefulness. To a very large extent, and despite all the love poems, novels, dramas with which recent literature abounds, the real relations of the sexes, what they are, what they should be, and the reasons why they should be frankly treated, have been almost taboo. Our policy has been to hide, especially the less agreeable aspects of the master problem of all ages and all civilisations. Mr. Marchant is emphatic on the necessity for a new and better method: "The inculcation of ideals of purity and chastity in the minds of the growing generation, and the boldly tireless uncovering of national shame, that the cancerous growth may be cut out, or at least its baleful ramifications circumscribed."

It may be truly said that the cancerous growth has been aggravated in recent years, because the nations almost without exception went wrong on the subject. They considered that by organising vice they would limit it and render its effects less injurious. On the contrary, under State regulation, vice extended itself, and the percentage of the victims of venereal disease notably increased. Thus in the British Army the percentage went up from 65 in 1875 to 88 per cent. in 1881. In 1882 the Contagious Diseases Acts were suspended as a conspicuous failure. In India they still exist *sub rosa* in Army regulations, and wherever this is the case the same fruits are always gathered. Young men imagine that the State is protecting them, sanctioning and legalising their lack of one of the greatest of human needs and virtues, self-control.

\* "The Master Problem." By the Rev. James Marchant. (Stanley Paul & Co. 5s. net.)

Of the State we must demand two things: the protection of minors of both sexes, and it may well be suggested that the age up to which the property of a minor is respected is a suitable age for the protection of the person. Several of the progressive American States have accepted this standard. And we must demand of the State the severe punishment of all keepers and landlords of immoral houses, procurers of girls, pimps, cadets, by whatever name they choose to style their disgraceful calling. In every country this would be a relatively easy matter were it not that these offscourings of humanity find protection in high places. The Legislature itself sometimes makes a beneficial law for the protection of youth void and of none effect, because a clause is interpolated which renders the law nugatory. In Great Britain the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1885 raised the age of consent for girls from 13 to 16, but diminished the excellent effect it might have had by a proviso which protected her seducer, if he had "reasonable cause to believe the girl was of or above the age of 16 years." Only males would ever have inserted such a clause; nations that are earnestly seeking a better way do not provide loopholes of this kind.

The international traffic in girls is being scotched. It is painful to read that Russia, Austria, Roumania and the Near East generally are the great hunting-grounds of procurers. Thousands of young women are annually drained from these countries—the very ones where the most appalling tragedy of the human race started in 1914—to the centres of vice in "civilised" lands that can afford imports of this nefarious character. The conscience of humanity is awakening, and it is probably true that in this matter the United States is leading. Alabama decrees the death-penalty to the man who seduces a child under 12; forty-six States make adultery a crime, thirty-seven penalise fornication. Several States demand the entire abolition of the policy of toleration and segregation, and every year a more rigid administration of the law is called for. It is probable that ere long each State may establish a bureau for the suppression of vice. Canada is equally in earnest in cleansing its cities of commercialised vice. Vancouver filled its gaols with loose-livers and had to appeal to the provinces for help in housing the remainder. A severe law against the White Slave Traffic was passed in 1913 by the Argentine Republic. Immediately 2,000 procurers left Buenos Ayres as if fleeing from an earthquake, taking from the banks £150,000 of the worst-earned money that imagination can touch upon. There is certainly money in this business; the takings of one immoral house in New York were estimated as at least £40,000 per annum.

Prostitution is related to many other social questions, such as housing, better education, a living wage, alcoholism, and even insanity, preferably in its old Latin meaning of unhealthiness of the mind. Treated alone the Social Evil will not be dealt with successfully; it is part of a wide, moral regeneration. Reformers will undoubtedly strike the right track when they can agree with Mr. Marchant's wise dictum that *most forms of vice are due to some disorder of the body, either mental or physical.*

It is not without interest to learn that in the Middle Ages, those "good old times" to which certain minds always hark back, brothels were built and maintained out of the public funds. The taxation profited by these shameful earnings, of which the Church also claimed a share. Our morals are certainly improving, for Mr. Marchant points out that the Central South London Free Church Council prosecuted 218 brothel-keepers in 1909-1913, thereby causing the closure of 1,150 dens of infamy. The law should certainly award penal servitude to estate agents who knowingly let houses, etc., for immoral purposes. In the U.S.A. a city (whose name Mr.

Marchant discouragously suppresses—we need more, not less, publicity) caused visits to be made to 122 estate agents for the alleged purpose of renting a house for infamous use; 67 consented, only 17 refused. There are a great many ways in which society can protect its youth, and we venture to suggest one. A fine of £100 for each of the estate agents, and the compulsory publication of the agents' names in the local Press and on the doors of Town Halls and Court-houses. There would not be many second offences. Mr. Marchant complains of the extraordinary laxity of the administration, both here and abroad. The great weapon of attack is publicity, and it is consolatory to remember that many loose-livers have died of this simple remedy. An American investigator, Mr. G. J. Kneeland, sums up the four methods of attacking commercialised vice: strike at the money-nerve—to achieve this liquor must be separated from prostitution—laws must be enforced against owners of property used for immoral purposes; men who live on the proceeds of prostitution must be punished; and the number of patrons must be reduced.

Everyone should read this book; it will emphasise the vital need for the enfranchisement of women, whose efficient help is imperative in cleansing the Augean stable. C. S. BREMNER.

### WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

#### Representative for Greece.

Miss Felicia R. Scatcherd has been appointed representative for Greece at the Conference of the Socialist and Labour Parties of the Allied Nations, which began its meetings in London last Tuesday. Miss Scatcherd, who was associated in work with Mr. W. T. Stead, is a personal friend of M. Venizelos, and has made a special study of Greek and Balkan affairs.

#### Decorated by the King of Italy.

Mrs. Nina Hollings has been decorated by the King of Italy with the bronze medal for work under fire; also Lady Helen Gleichen, who is joint commandant of one of the British Red Cross Radiographic units in Italy.

#### Honours from the French Government.

The French Government has conferred the Legion d'Honneur on Mrs. Edith Wharton, the novelist, for her work in assisting French and Belgian refugees; also on Miss Gassette, a Chicago artist, for an invention of appliances for correcting difficult fractures.

#### Secretary to Minister in France.

The British Premier has had a woman private secretary for a considerable time. M. Albert Metin, the new Minister for Blockade in France, has followed Mr. Lloyd George's example, and has appointed Mademoiselle Tardy his chief private secretary. Mademoiselle Tardy is the daughter of an officer; she holds the B.A. degree of the University of Paris, and hopes shortly to present her thesis for the doctorate in jurisprudence.

#### Civil Servants in Russia

A cable from Petrograd on August 19 states that the Government has decided to enlarge the existing rights of women so as to allow them to occupy positions in the Civil Service of the State.

#### Curator at the Zoo.

Miss Cheesman is the first woman to be engaged as assistant curator at the Zoological Gardens, London. She is in charge of three departments: water animals, butterfly house, and the aquaria.

#### Manager of Theatres for Soldiers.

"Most of the theatres have a woman manager," writes a journalist in describing the theatres for soldiers, which have been established in several

### PRESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY FUND.

The second list of contributions will be published in our issue of September 14. Belated donations from Branches and friends and additional sums from all quarters are very urgently required to make this year's Fund worthy of this great occasion of our triumph. Generous support is vital to ensure the Victory.

Please send as early as possible next week for inclusion in the second list. E. KNIGHT.

parts of the country, "for it is realised that if you put a well-educated woman in charge there will be a pleasant atmosphere about the place."

#### More Transport Workers.

A second contingent of women transport workers, trained at Aldershot, has been sent to the Front, where they will undertake suitable transport work, thus releasing a certain number of men for the combatant service. "To make themselves more workmanlike," says a writer in the Press, "they have cut their hair short."

#### Serb Tribute to Mrs. Harley.

The Serbian Legation gives an interesting account of the recent unveiling at Salonika of a memorial to Mrs. Harley, sister of our President, Mrs. Despard. Mrs. Harley, it will be remembered, devoted herself to hospital work for the Serbians and was killed at Monastir during the shelling of the civilian quarter of the town by the enemy. The memorial is erected in the Allies' cemetery, and the unveiling was attended by the Serbian colony, Mrs. Harley's two daughters, British nurses, officers, and soldiers. An inscription in English tells how she gave her life in the service of Serbia. The Serbian flag hung from the memorial, and Father Blagoyevitch, of Monastir, in a moving oration, expressed the gratitude of the Serbian race for Mrs. Harley's devotion.

### FIVE MILLIONS OF WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.

#### 300,000 Replacements in Commerce.

Leaving out of account domestic servants and women at work in military, naval, and Red Cross hospitals, it is estimated that nearly 5,000,000 women are now directly employed in various occupations in this country.

Tables published in *The Labour Gazette* show that since the war 1,256,000 men have been directly replaced by women up to the end of April. The position as compared with July, 1914, is as follows:

Occupation.	Estimated No. of Females employed in July, 1914.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in the Employment of Females since July, 1914.	Direct Replacement of Men by Women.
Industries ... ..	2,184,000	+ 453,000	438,000
Govt. establishments ...	2,000	+ 198,000	187,000
Agriculture in Gt. Britain (Permanent Labour) ...	80,000	—	32,000
Transport ... ..	19,000	+ 62,000	64,000
Finance and Banking ...	9,500	+ 50,000	48,000
Commerce ... ..	496,000	+ 307,000	308,000
Professions ... ..	67,500	+ 21,000	20,000
Hotels, Public-houses, Cinemas, Theatres, etc.	176,000	+ 13,000	35,000
Civil Service ... ..	68,000	+ 89,000	83,000
Local Government ...	198,000	+ 47,000	41,000
Totals ... ..	3,298,000	+1,240,000	1,256,000

In the occupations enumerated in the table there has been an expansion since January of 182,000, which is nearly double the increase that took place in the preceding quarter. The acceleration has been felt in all the main groups. The largest numbers of

replacements are to be found in industrial and commercial occupations. Compared with the numbers usually employed replacements have been most common in the case of Government establishments, the Civil Service, banking and finance, and transport.

### "Punch" and "The Vote."

We are glad to note that *Punch* has again found *THE VOTE* a useful peg on which to hang the witticisms and apt comments which have so often before been of great help to the suffrage cause, added to the admirable cartoons which have marked the great advances in the struggle for votes for women. In the issue of August 22 is the following paragraph:—

#### MARCHING ON.

The council of the Chippewa tribe of North American Indians, by a two to one majority, have accorded the suffrage to their squaws.—*THE VOTE.*

"As Shakespeare was on the point of saying, 'Suffrage is the badge of all our tribe.'" More power to Mr. Punch's elbow!

### North-East Coast Campaign.

Organiser: Miss Dorothy Evans, 9, Stoneyhurst-road, S. Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

The campaign is now over, but the visitors in these watering-places have been left with the impression that the Women's Freedom League is an essential feature of their summer holiday. Public meetings were addressed last week by Mrs. Metge, Miss Evans and others in Redcar, and visits were paid to Saltburn, Marske and Skelton. Two private meetings were held, at which lively discussions were carried on.

Five hundred VOTES were sold and five dozen pamphlets, making a total of 1,500 VOTES and 200 pamphlets during the campaign. Financially the campaign has been very successful. £3 has been sent to *THE VOTE* and £2 to the Organiser's Fund, besides a separate donation of £2 2s. The total collections have been £19. Miss Davison has given valuable help by collecting in Whitley Bay.

### Clyde Coast Campaign.

Organiser: Miss B. H. McLelland, 18, Windsor-place, Rothesay.

The eighth week of the campaign has been conducted under lowering skies and sheets of rain. On Wednesday and Thursday it seemed impossible to hold meetings, but undismayed our crowd turned out with umbrellas, and stood well all the other evenings. The campaign will close on August 31, after which date the organiser will proceed to Paisley and Glasgow and will welcome offers of help from members in those districts. The following contributions are gratefully acknowledged: Mrs. Kerr, 10s.; Mrs. Thomson, £1.

### The Despard Arms.

125, Hampstead-road, N.W. 1.

The process of transforming our upstairs rooms into bed-sitting rooms continues, and we are discovering needs in the form of looking glasses, hanging cupboards, chests of drawers, strips of carpet, Japanese grass mats, easy chairs, cushions, and other articles to add to the attractiveness of the rooms. Will friends who can help to supply these needs send at once, addressing their gifts to the Manageress?

*Miss Boyle's Lecture.*—Kindly note that Miss Boyle's lecture, in aid of the Despard Arms, will be given at *The Minerva Café*, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1., on Sunday, September 23, at 3.30 p.m. Admission, 1s. Keep the date, and come early!

### Dinner to Miss Boyle and Public Meeting.

Many friends have intimated their intention to be present at the dinner to Miss Boyle this (Friday) evening, at the *Minerva Café*, at 7 p.m., and those who wish to attend the public meeting which will follow at 8 p.m. are advised to arrive early.

### Suffragist and Scholar.

Mrs. Alice Grenfell, who recently died at Oxford in her 75th year, will be held in honour by suffragists for her prominent service to the woman's Cause in Bristol and in London almost a generation ago. She was also widely known as a scholar in Egyptology, especially the interpretation of scarabs, and her writings were published in the journals of learned societies in many countries.

FRIDAY,  
AUGUST 31,  
1917.

# THE VOTE

ONE  
PENNY  
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

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Lessons given in Spinning and weaving at The Alston Studio, 8, New Bond-street, W. Send for terms and particulars. Free demonstration every Tuesday from 11.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hand woven materials for sale, made in the Dauntless Hall Workroom. Children's Frocks from 6s. 6d., Sports Coats from 14s. 6d.

**WE CAN WEAVE YOUR HAND-SPUN WOOL.**

#### FOR SALE.

**N**EW MUSQUASH FUR COAT, skunk collar and cuffs, stock size; 19 gns.; a great bargain.

**G**REY SATIN JUMPER; 10s. 6d.

**S**ET SABLE MINK FURS; 28s.

**B**LACK JUMPER DRESS; 11s. 6d.

**A**NTIQUE GRANDFATHER'S CLOCK; £9.

**C**OSTUME LENGTH SUPERIOR SAXE BLUE GABERDINE.

**N**EW MOLE superior velour cloth COAT FROCK; 29s. 6d.

**B**LUE AND WHITE STRIPED SILK MOTOR-SCARF; 6s. 6d.

**S**TONE COLOUR GABERDINE COAT FROCK; 38s. 6d.

**H**ANDSOME SET MALTESE LACE; 30s.

**S**EVERAL NEW CREPE DE CHINE BLOUSES, also a few Second-Hand ditto.

#### FOR SALE—cont.

**S**ET OF SUPERIOR QUALITY WHITE FOX FURS, new; £7 10s.

**18**-CT. GOLD PENDANT, set pearls and turquoise; 27s. 6d.

**D**OULTON WARE DINNER-SERVICE, full set (12 each), including soup.

**N**EW, superior quality COVERT COATING RAIN-COAT; £2 10s.; stock size.

**T**WO NEW OSTRICH FEATHER CAPES, navy and natural; 27s. 6d. each.

**N**EW, superior quality TUSSORE JUMPER - PLEATED SKIRT; 27s. 6d.

**S**EVERAL NEW STYLISH HATS at moderate prices.

**S**EVERAL SILK and WOOL DRESS LENGTHS, art shades, from 16s.

**O**NE BROWN and ONE OLD ROSE ZENANA DRESSING - GOWN LENGTHS; 27s. 6d.

**N**AVY BLUE TAFFETA SILK COAT; 17s. 6d.

#### FOR SALE—cont.

**V**ERY HANDSOME MAHOGANY DRAWING-ROOM SUITE; one canopy, two arm-chairs, two small upholstered violet damask; £7.—Can be viewed at 13, Theobald's Road, W.C. 1.

**A** ROYAL TYPEWRITER (No. 5); nearly new and in perfect order; price £20 or very near offer.—Can be seen and tested at "THE VOTE" Office any day between 11 and 1.

**A** BLICK TYPEWRITER, in perfect order; price £8.—Can be seen at "THE VOTE" Office any day between 11 and 1.

**F**OUNTAIN PENS which will NOT LEAK, highly recommended by members of the Women's Freedom League; price 6s. 6d.; try one.—Apply SECRETARY, "THE VOTE" Office.

**E**VENING COAT of pale grey bengaline, wadded and lined with white silk; Empire shape, revers and buttons of rose-coloured velvet; seams outlined with lace; only worn once; 3 guineas (half price).—Write H. 2, c/o "THE VOTE" Office.

The Articles for Sale are on view at the Minerva Exchange, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 10 to 6. Saturdays, 10 to 1.

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