

SAFETY OF WOMEN TRAVELLERS.

THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXV. No. 775.

(Registered at
the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 1924

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

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XX.—IF I WERE M.P. (SEE PAGE 274.)

Mrs. Corner was born in Plymouth, educated privately, and spent two years in Paris studying French, music, and diction. Did two years' Care Committee work. Joined W.S.P.U. 1912; W.F.L. 1914. Member of the National Executive Committee, Acting Political Organizer during Miss Boyle's absence in Serbia. Served on Consultative Committee which worked with M.P.s to draw up Franchise Bill. Speaker for Ministry of Food during the war. Member of Fabian Society Executive, 1923. Labour Candidate for Farnham, Surrey, 1923 Election, and now prospective Labour Candidate for the same place.

To a woman like myself, who, as recently as 15 years ago, looked on the suffrage movement from a distance as something small and transitory as well as quite unnecessary, there seems something akin to magic in the fact that I should now be seriously considering what I should do "If I were M.P." And even 10 years ago, when I had learnt to see the woman's movement as one of the finest and noblest things in history, the possession of a vote seemed something so far off that one would have thought the idea of a woman sitting in Parliament a contingency too remote to be worth thinking about.

Yet, I suppose, many of us in the thick of the fighting had our dreams and hopes of how women might one day rise in that, to us, stupid and indifferent assembly, and, speaking in words of passionate sincerity such as we so often heard, force home to men's imagination the true facts of the poverty, dirt, and disease which we felt to be such a blot on our civilization. Some of us believed that, although a minority of the House was already fighting these evils, only ignorance of such conditions on the part of the majority could prevent their being dealt with—disillusionment has come since on that, as on so many other things. One of the most bitter, in my own case, has been the discovery that there are women, as well as men, who are deaf to the cry of hungry children and suffering mothers, and are helping to perpetuate those wrongs which I, long ago,

in my youth and innocence, thought all women would join together to right.

I have learnt, also, that such "passionate sincerity" as I have referred to is not received with favour by the majority of Members in the House. To use the words of one of the Members, in reference to a recent speech by a woman Member, "The house will not stand being preached at," an example, to my mind, of the way in which our whole outlook has become artificialized, so that we are as uncomfortable in the presence of realities as most people are when someone insists on talking about God on a weekday.

But I am afraid, if I ramble thus, that I shall expose myself, and justifiably, to the accusation of being "critical, but not constructive." I will therefore try, very briefly, to suggest what I should like to alter as regards the working arrangements of the House, the points which I should wish especially to deal with in legislation.

Anyone who has visited the House lately must, I imagine, have been struck with the enormous increase in the number of people in the lobbies, and the constant coming and going of Members who have been called out by visitors. Without wishing to interfere with the right of the citizen to "lobby" on important measures, I cannot help feeling that no business can be carried on efficiently under such conditions, and if I were a Member, I should attempt to secure some system



MRS. ANNE CORNER.

whereby Members could only be called out at certain hours, and all important debates arranged not to clash with these hours. I should also like to see a certain amount of control exercised over the attendance of Members at the House, and over the length and matter of speeches, which to any of us who are used to the strict rulings of Conference Chairmen on "dealing with points outside the subject which is under discussion," must frequently seem a wicked and wanton waste of time in a place where time should surely be considered the most precious thing.

With regard to legislation, I think my whole creed might be summed up in the words, "Back to the babies' milk," by which I really mean a simplification of all those things which, by being so frequently and unnecessarily complicated, have gradually lost all meaning and understanding, not only for the mass of the people, but even for those whose job it is to deal with them. How often were we told, "Politics are too complicated for women," until we began to see that politicians themselves had complicated the simple things, and that we were needed to come in with our "practical housekeeping" minds and simplify the apparently complicated things. The more one studies the various points in any particular programme, the more, I think, one is impressed by the fact that no one point can stand or be judged alone, but that they are all like the separate pieces of a jig-saw puzzle and must be brought into proper relation with the whole to be effective. And the key-pieces of the puzzle are, I believe, Housing, Milk, and Education. I think that no real reform of our system can be possible until these things are on a sound basis. But that must not be taken to mean that I should take no interest in what are so often called (or miscalled) the larger issues; rather does it mean that I see these larger issues through the glasses of the simple needs of life. When there is talk of trade questions, exports, etc., I see the workers in the factories, and feel there can be no flourishing trade built up on bad conditions of work, on workers living in unhealthy homes, and brought up under a system which cannot give any individual that proper sense of responsibility to the State which will be essential for real prosperity in the future. When Bills relating to Divorce, Lunacy, Crime, Disease, etc., come up for discussion, I feel again how much time and trouble seems to be given to remedial measures or punishments, and how little to the wiping-out of the evils which help to produce these things.

I am obliged to leave out a great deal; and if I have not referred especially to legislation affecting the position of women, it is only because I hope that in a short time all women, receiving votes "on the same terms as men," will be able to play their full part in framing the laws and controlling the destinies of the country. I hope also that none of my readers will feel that, in making this plea for simplification, I am underrating the difficulties of our political and social systems to-day. It is rather that I see so many persons' minds become confused and frightened at the mere thought of the complications of politics, that I feel a certain simplicity of outlook to be, not only a natural reaction, but a very necessary one, if we are to rescue ourselves from the state into which we have fallen, and to build up that better state which was the great ambition of the founders and workers of the woman's movement.

ANNE CORNER.

Other issues of this series in "The Vote":—Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY, July 15, 1921; Mrs. SCOTT GATTY, August 12, 1921; Mrs. ELEANOR BARTON, August 26, 1921; Mrs. WINTRINGHAM, M.P., September 23, 1921; Dr. ETHEL BENTHAM, October 7, 1921; Mrs. AYRTON GOULD, October 21, 1921; Mrs. MARJORIE PEASE, J.P., October 28, 1921; Miss MAY P. GRANT, January 6, 1922; COMMANDANT MARY S. ALLEN, O.B.E., February 17, 1922; LADY COOPER, March 17, 1922; Miss HELEN FRASER, March 24, 1922; Mrs. STEWART BROWN, March 31, 1922; LADY CURRIE, April 7, 1922; Mrs. BURNETT SMITH, June 30, 1922; Mrs. HAMILTON MORENSBITT, Aug. 18, 1922; Miss C. PICTON-TURBERVILL, Sept. 8, 1922; Miss MINNIE PALLISTER, July 6, 1923. COUNCILLOR ELLEN C. WILKINSON, M.A., July 4th, 1924. Mrs. LOUIE SIMPSON, J.P., August 15, 1924.

A WOMAN DETECTIVE.

A recent issue of the *Manchester Guardian* contains an interesting account of Miss Maud West, the well-known woman detective, who for many years has had an office in the West End. Miss West belongs to a family of lawyers, and drifted naturally into an occupation which she finds extremely interesting. She thinks that in some ways women are better fitted for detective work than men, especially in the more subtle portions of the work. She says they pay much more attention to small facts that a man would be apt to regard as insignificant, and they seem to have an extra sense, and are better actors. Miss West does not think, however, that women are much use at shadowing, as they are too easily recognised. Miss West has herself played all sorts of parts. She has served behind counters, and been a waitress, and a nurse. She has served in hospitals and all sorts of institutions, and has been on the staff or stayed as a member or guest in clubs and hostels. Much of this work was to investigate cases of pilfering.

The qualifications for detective work are great tact, and strong staying power (since much of the work needs any amount of endurance, long hours without food, and a great deal of standing about). A sense of humour is essential. The work is not sensational, in spite of the popular cinema representations, and except for criminal work, carries very little danger with it.

One class of investigation, for which women are fitted, is in regard to blackmailers, which Miss West claims is extraordinarily interesting.

WOMEN IN COUNCIL.

The annual conference of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland is to be held at Brighton this year from October 6th to 10th. It is commonly known as the "Women's Parliament," for it is widely representative of all classes and points of view among the women of this country, and about 150 societies, greatly differing in their activities, are affiliated to the Council. The meetings will be held in the Dome and Royal Pavilion, and in most cases the chair will be taken by Mrs. George Morgan, who is commencing her second year as president of the Council. Last year "The Call of the Child" was the subject which occupied the attention of the gathering. The subject this year is to be "The Call of the Younger Generation."

The conference will open on the afternoon of Monday, Oct. 6th, with a meeting for girls, at which the audience will be composed largely of school children, and at which Viscountess Astor, M.P., will preside. Miss C. T. Cumberbirch (Hull) will speak on "Openings for Social Service," and Mrs. Morgan on "The Spirit behind Work." A devotional meeting on Tuesday morning will be followed by addresses of welcome from the Mayor of Brighton, the Mavor of Hove, and Lady Cowan. A public meeting on "The Home" will be held in the afternoon, and addresses on home-makers, good housing, and homes overseas, will be given by authorities on these subjects. On Wednesday afternoon a conference will be held by Women Justices of the Peace, at which Mrs. Edwin Gray, J.P., will preside, and the evening meeting will be occupied with addresses on "Citizenship," by Lady Cowan, Mr. Frank Briant, M.P., and Mrs. George Cadbury. Thursday will be devoted to meetings of the Council, and the final meeting on Friday evening will be presided over by Lady Frances Balfour, and addressed by Viscount Cecil, the subjects being "International Co-operation," and "The League of Nations."

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Enterprising Woman Journalist.

Mrs. E. F. Allan, Editor of the Women's Pages of *The Argus*, and *The Australasian*, two of the principal Melbourne papers, who has been included as substitute delegate in the Australian delegation to the League of Nations Assembly at Geneva, next month, once occupied the unique position of Parliamentary correspondent and political leader writer on *The Lyttleton Times*, of Christchurch, New Zealand, and was the first woman to invade the Parliamentary press gallery of the New Zealand House of Representatives.

Oriental Policewomen.

Women Police have long been an institution in Siam, where a corps of female police is maintained to guard the Inner or Women's Palace at Bangkok. They are uniformed but not armed, and they follow every stranger who enters the palace precincts, and remain with him until he leaves, and even palace officials, workmen, doctors, &c., always have one of the corps in attendance.

Woman's Battleship Model.

Miss J. Bridges, of Sevenoaks, has built a model of a battleship, which is the admiration of admirals and other officers of the Royal Navy who have seen it. The work occupied all Miss Bridges' spare time in 15 years. It was intended for Wembley, but, unfortunately, could not be completed in time. It will probably be sent either to South Kensington Museum, or to the Crystal Palace.

Co-operative Woman Candidate.

One of the best-known women supporters of the Co-operative and Labour Movement, Mrs. Edna M. Penny, of 17, Stafford Road, Park, Sheffield, has been officially adopted as Labour and Co-operative candidate for the Parliamentary Division of North-East Leeds at the next General Election. Mrs. Penny, who for some time held a journalistic appointment with the Co-operative Movement in Manchester, unsuccessfully opposed Mrs. Hilton Philipson, M.P., at Berwick, at the last election.

International Co-operative Women.

The International Conference of Co-operative Women meets at the Palais de Fêtes, Ghent, Belgium, to-day (Friday). Discussions will range around "What co-operative women can do for Peace," "What women can do for Co-operation," "An International Language," and "Problems of organising women in rural areas."

Our Champion Swimmer.

Miss Gemma Harrison, who has by now almost recovered from the effects of her recent accident, swam last week from Cape Gris Nez to Wissant and back, a distance of about 7½ miles. Miss Harrison, who was accompanied by her trainer, hopes to make another attempt to swim the Channel about the end of the month.

A Remarkable Record.

Mrs. Bridget Wakeley Hawkes Richardson, who recently died at Wimbledon, at the age of 107 years, lived in six reigns. The Battle of Waterloo had only been fought two years when she was born. She was eight years old when the first railway was opened in this country, and was twenty when Queen Victoria came to the throne.

More Women Parliamentary Candidates.

Mrs. Muriel Matters Porter, better known as Miss Muriel Matters, has accepted an invitation from Hastings Labour Party to stand in the Labour interest at the next election. An Australian by birth, Miss Matters is well known as a lecturer and writer on educational and social topics. Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon will also probably stand for the same constituency in the Liberal interest.

Woman Governor for Texas?

The primary election to the Governorship of Texas appears to have resulted in a large majority for "Ma" Ferguson (properly Mrs. Miriam Ferguson), the anti-Klan candidate. Though many districts have not yet reported, her supporters claim she has won by 75 to 100 thousand over her principal opponent, Judge Robertson, who is believed to have pro-Klan sympathies. Both Mrs. Ferguson and Mr. Robertson are Democrats, and in this democratic stronghold success in the primary is regarded as tantamount to election, as no effective Republican opposition is to be expected in the final.

An Unusual Occupation.

A woman's unusual occupation is described in a recent issue of the *Christian Science Monitor*. For the last twenty years, Miss Olive Williams, of Cape Cod, day in and day out, holidays and Sundays, has watched the ships that pass her window, identified them, and telegraphed the information to the offices of various tow-boat Companies or their owners in New York or Boston, and Baltimore.

Girl Swimmer's Feat.

Miss Audrey Clemons, last Saturday, won the annual long distance swim of the Kingston Ladies' Swimming Club. The competitors entered the water at Surbiton, and Miss Clemons went on for about 5½ hours, to a mile below Hammersmith Bridge, having travelled 12½ miles. Miss Lily Rideout, who was second, is 15. She swam 6½ miles in 4½ hours.

More Women Magistrates.

Twenty new women magistrates have been appointed by the Commission of the Peace for Lancashire. They represent seven important towns, and of their number six come from Liverpool, and fifteen are married. Mrs. Earengy, B.A., has been appointed for Hampstead.

Women and Theology.

Mlle. Von Auw, of Lucerne, Switzerland, has been granted a theological degree by the Free Church of Vaud. She is the first woman in Switzerland to receive this degree.

Woman Bank Chief.

Miss Helen Varick Boswell, of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers Co-operative Trust Co., New York, is the only woman vice-president of a bank in the East, and one of three in the United States.

New Zealand Women Inspectors.

The New Zealand Government have decided on an innovation to appoint women as school inspectors, and also to administrative positions in the Education Department.

Polygamy in Turkey.

A Government Commission, which has been inquiring into the subject, has issued a report urging the abolition of polygamy, except in cases where special licences are obtained from magistrates.

The POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL of SPEECH TRAINING

PUBLIC SPEAKING FOR WOMEN.

Many women realize to-day that there are great opportunities for those who think logically and speak clearly.

A Class is conducted by MISS LOUIE BAGLEY on Thursday afternoons, at 3 o'clock, at 15, Lougham Place, W.1. in which the subjects dealt with include Voice Training, Vocal Expression, Nerve Control, Methods of Preparation and Construction of Speeches, Delivery, Control of an Audience, etc.

FEE for Course of 24 weeks - - - £3 0s. 0d.
FEE for Course of 12 weeks - - - £1 12s. 6d.

An Evening Class, followed by a Debate, is held on Mondays at 6.30

Full particulars free on application to the Director of Education The Polytechnic, 309 Regent Street, W.1.

THE VOTE

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 29th, 1924.

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

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

EDITORIAL.

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

THIS FREEDOM.

The general Press ought to be very grateful to Miss Bondfield for supplying it with so much material for controversy during the "silly season," by her recent diatribe against those mothers and housewives who consider work done outside the home as of more importance than the work of home-making itself. It is quite possible that Miss Bondfield has been misinterpreted on this point, and the real meaning of her assertions twisted from its context—such a thing has happened before, we believe, in the history of newspaper reporting! And in any case, Miss Bondfield is no comfortable arm-chair critic. Has she not been through the mill from her earliest years, and struggled and fought for a footing in the keen and often cruel competition, which, as a result of modern civilisation, exists amongst the world's workers? However one may differ from her in her general conclusions, surely no intelligent person wants to quarrel with her contention that the work of home-making, with all it includes, is of paramount importance in the full development of the race, or as she prefers to phrase it, in a recent interview in the *Manchester Guardian*, "that the primary work of women in the community will be the moral and spiritual development of the race." The only contribution we feel inclined to add to this hailstorm of criticism, which, though started many days ago, still rattles about our ears, in company with the storms and gales of our present holiday weather, is that the gifts which go to the development of moral and spiritual faculties are even more necessary in the hurly-burly of the outside world than within the comparative shelter of the home; that such gifts should not be confined to one sex only, for surely men must share these equally with women if a New Order is to come into being; and, finally, that it is not the work itself—whether domestic or professional—which needs to be called into question, but the spirit in which it is undertaken, and carried out. A good many pens have taken up the cudgels either for or against Miss Bondfield's remarks, but the majority may be dismissed as of merely academic importance. Mrs. Eleanor Barton's contribution, however, is of practical value, inasmuch as she has brought up a family, done most of her own housework, and yet managed to take an active part in public affairs as assistant secretary of the Women's Co-operative Guild, and a prospective Parliamentary candidate. She is emphatic in her contention that the care of a home, and bringing-up of children, ought not to occupy the whole of a woman's life any more than his work should occupy the whole life of a man. The mother wants outside interests as much as a man does.

SAFETY OF WOMEN TRAVELLERS.

One of our correspondents has sent to us from Hertfordshire a strong letter with regard to the lack of compartments for women only on the L. & N.W.R., and other railways, either for first or third class passengers. Most compartments are set aside for smokers, and when young girls are forced, from lack of other accommodation, to enter these, they render themselves liable to the taunt that they wish to push themselves into men's company and must abide by any results which occur. Representations have been vainly made to the Companies, but no attention has been paid to requests for more "non-smokers," or for carriages for women only. Young girls attending evening classes, or coming home late from work, are liable to find themselves alone with unpleasant characters, and our informant quotes the case of a young married woman, who felt obliged to resign good work in a factory, because of the annoyance she experienced while travelling from her home to the next station.

We have also further particulars of the case referred to in our issue of August 15th, when Miss Sellwood, aged 50, a chambermaid at a London Hotel, accompanied by a child of 4, returning from Southend to London, was attacked by the only other occupant of the carriage, a man named Cox, aged 39. At East Ham Police Court, on August 13th, she described the violent struggle which lasted till the train came to a stop at a station. A porter, at East Ham Station, said he saw the woman struggling as the train came in and ran to the carriage door. When he unlocked it, Miss Sellwood fell on to the platform exhausted. The man had to be dragged out of the compartment.

Cox was sent for trial, on two serious charges, but the ordeal which this implies for the woman, and the too frequent attitude of magistrates, that the unfortunate victim must somehow have been to blame, does not give much encouragement to public-spirited women, who are willing to show up these and similar vicious pests who haunt our quiet thoroughfares or insult any woman whom chance places at their mercy. That very attitude was shown on August 13th, at the Petty Sessions of Hemel Hempstead, when a lady cyclist courageously charged to the police, a motor lorry driver who had insulted her by indecent exposure. Cycling near her home at Markyate, at the time, the lady took the number of the lorry, and immediately informed the police, and gave a description of the man. A warrant was issued, and he was arrested and taken to Hemel Hempstead Police Station, where she picked him out from a dozen men without hesitation. The accused denied the charge, and the Chairman dismissed the case, giving the man the "benefit of the doubt," although the only doubt that could have existed in the minds of those present must have been as to whether "their worships" were really administering justice according to their oath, "without fear or favour, affection or ill-will," or pure masculine prejudice!

Besides, even if nothing worse occurs, young women, who are probably not often able to afford new outfits, and yet have to appear well and neatly dressed at their work, have to occupy carriages with soiled cushions, previously used by workmen, who from the nature of their occupation, have dirty clothes, and who are accustomed to spit all over the floors.

We hope that this fresh evidence of the need for specially reserved carriages for women, brought forward by Mrs. Wintringham, will lead to the subject being brought forward again and conducted to a successful issue. Meanwhile we appeal to all our readers to help us by sending up cuttings from local papers, giving reports of assaults and police court proceedings, with name and date of the paper in which they appear.

WOMEN'S SOCIETIES IN IRELAND.

The Central Council of Women of Ireland was formed in February, 1922, to act as the National Auxiliary for affiliation with the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. Miss E. S. Montgomery is the representative from the North, the Secretary is Professor Mary Hayden, M.A., and the Hon. Press Secretary, Miss Dora Mellone, to whom, with Miss E. S. Montgomery, we are indebted for these notes on Irish women's societies. Miss Dora Mellone's Press activities have been invaluable in furthering the woman's movement in Ireland. The Central Council represents and includes women in both the North and South of Ireland, the Belfast Women's Advisory Council, and various women's organisations in the Irish Free State, including the Irish Women Citizens' Association, originally the Irish Women's Suffrage Society, founded in 1874 by the late Mrs. Haslam.

In March of this year, the National Council of Women of Ireland was formed. Ireland was represented for the first time at the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Council of Women at Copenhagen, in May, by an Irish lady living in Denmark, and the National Council of Women of Ireland is to send a delegate to the International Council of Women Congress, at Washington, in 1925. Other active feminist Women's Societies in Ireland to-day include the Londonderry Women Citizens' Associations, the Belfast Women Citizens' Union, and the Irish Women Citizens' Association, all these being representatives of earlier Suffrage Societies. The newly formed Central Council, mentioned above, represents all these Societies, and other organisations, such as the Women's National Health Association.

This latter organisation is especially necessary in a country where the figures for infant mortality, child sickness, and the general death rate, are all high for a country the population of which is 90 per cent. rural, and where the medical inspection of school children was only comparatively recently obtained after years of agitation by the women's organisations. In Belfast, for instance, although medical inspection of schools was on the Statute Book, it was not enforced until 1923, after two years' constant agitation on the part of the Belfast Women's Advisory Council.

The Belfast Women's Advisory Council, of which Miss E. S. Montgomery acts as Hon. Secretary, is the largest women's society in Northern Ireland, and works both for municipal and legislative reforms. Both the Women's Co-operative Guild and the Girls' Friendly Society are affiliated to the Council. A glance over the Council's latest report for the Session 1922-23 indicates the width and scope of its activities. In municipal affairs, during the period covered by the report, careful watch was kept by the Council on Corporation housing proposals, housing plans were inspected, and suggestions made. The work carried out by the Council to enforce the medical inspection of school children has already been referred to. The Council has urged upon the Cemeteries and Parks Committee the necessity for up-to-date playing-grounds. It organised a deputation to this Committee, and received an assurance that the matter would be dealt with.

A deputation also waited upon the Improvement Committee of the Corporation, urging that the new sanitary type of drinking fountain be installed in all public places. A circular letter was addressed to the proprietors of all picture houses in Belfast, asking that special films, suitable for juvenile audiences, be made a feature of the weekly programme, and the Commissioner of Police was approached in regard to the employment of Policemen on duty inside the picture houses.

With regard to legislative reforms, the Criminal Law Amendment Act (1922), passed by the Imperial Parliament, was not included in the Uniformity of Laws Bill passed by the Northern Parliament last

autumn, and this matter was taken up with the Home Office. A deputation waited upon the Minister of Home Affairs in November last, and the Minister gave a promise that a Government measure would be introduced at an early date. The Council took immediate steps to organise public opinion through letters to the Press, special addresses at guild meetings, letters to the clergy and individuals, and a deputation to the Irish Church Council. Letters were also sent to the Prime Minister, Members of the Cabinet, and Members of Parliament. Mrs. Chichester, M.P., consulted with the Hon. Secretary as to the Council's views on the Bill introduced by the Government last March, and these views she put forward in the Debate on the Second Reading of the Bill in the House of Commons. The Bill passed through all its stages, and is now on the Statute Book. In one provision (the abolition of a clause giving to a man under 23 years of age, in the case of a first offence, the opportunity to plead "reasonable cause to believe"), the Bill is an advance on the British Act.

The Education Bill has also been the subject of careful consideration. The Council made strenuous efforts to have the following points included in the Bill:—Provision for women representatives on all Educational Committees; Establishment of the Two-Session Day; Abolition of all employment of children before school hours, and the necessity of a certificate from the School Medical Officer prior to employment after school hours being allowed; Compulsory sanitary inspection of all school buildings. A letter embodying the Council's views on these points, and expressing appreciation of the Bill as a whole, as a step towards educational reform in the six-county area, was sent to the Belfast and provincial press. Letters were also addressed to Lord Londonderry, Minister of Education, Mr. R. J. McKeown, and individual Members of Parliament.

The Council arranged a deputation to the Departmental Committee on Police Reorganisation, urging the appointment of additional trained women police in Northern Ireland, emphasis being laid on the needs of a large industrial centre, such as Belfast, in this respect. Later, a deputation waited upon the Ministry of Home Affairs, as a result of which the matter was again referred to the Departmental Committee on Reorganisation.

Every available opportunity has been taken of bringing this question before the public. The Council had valuable assistance from the Belfast Women Citizens' Union, which organised a meeting addressed by Commandant Allen, O.B.E., of the Women's Auxiliary Service. This meeting was largely attended and well reported in the Press. Commandant Allen also visited Londonderry, and, as a result, the Derry Women Citizens' Association agreed to take joint action with the Council in pressing for the appointment of additional women police. Letters to the Press also have appeared.

The attention of the Minister of Home Affairs was drawn to the very small proportion of Women J.P.s appointed in Northern Ireland. The Council was asked by the Ministry to supply a list of names of suitable women for the Magistracy. Miss Montgomery communicated with all the organisations represented on the Council, and the list of names was forwarded to the Minister of Home Affairs.

Miss Montgomery also gave evidence before the Departmental Committee on Reformatories and Industrial Schools, urging the establishment of Day Industrial Schools, the extension of the Probation Act, and more preventive work in dealing with juveniles. Evidence was also given before the Departmental Committee on Jury Service. The need for Women Jurors was emphasised, and equality of treatment in regard to exemptions insisted upon. The extension of Jury Service to a larger class of women was also recommended.

GREEN, WHITE, AND GOLD FAIR.

The Annual Green, White, and Gold Fair will be held on Friday and Saturday, November 28th, and 29th, in the Basement Hall, at the Central Hall, Westminster, and will be formally opened each day at 3 p.m.—on Friday, November 28th, by Mrs. Hilton Philipson, M.P., and on Saturday, November 29th, by Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P. The Fair will remain open each evening until 9 p.m., and will be open on Saturday, November 29th, from 11 a.m.

The Chair will be taken on Friday by Mrs. Juson Kerr, J.P., and on Saturday by Councillor Schofield Coates, J.P.

STALLS AND STALLHOLDERS.

The Stalls at present arranged for the League are:—

Hampstead Branch.—Handkerchiefs, Soap, Scent, Antiques, and White Elephants. Miss Goodlife, Miss Lydon, and Miss Vibert.
Letchworth Branch.—Lavender Stall. Mrs. Lynn and Members.
Middlesbrough Branch.—Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates and Members.
Minerva Club Branch.—Shilling Stall.
Montgomery Boroughs Branch.—Welsh Produce and General Stalls. Miss Alix Clark and Friends.
Portsmouth Branch.—Household Goods. Mrs. Whetton.
South-Eastern Branches.—General Stall. Miss White, Mrs. Asser, Mrs. Kither, and Miss Margery Dunhill.
Children's Clothing, Overalls, and Aprons.
Cushions, Cushion Covers, and Tea Cosies.
Grocery Stall.—Mrs. Sutherland, Mrs. Watts, Mrs. Charles Sutherland, and Mrs. Padfield.
Haberdashery Stall.
Hygiene and Pottery Stall.—Dr. Octavia Lewin and Friends.
Sweet Stall.
Toy Stall.—Mrs. Knight.
White Stall.—Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. Trafford Williams.
Literature Stall.
"Vote" Stall.—Toilet and Chemists' Goods.—Mrs. Flowers, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Northcroft, and Miss Sutherland.

Gifts are much needed for all these Stalls.

COMPETITIONS AND GAMES.

The Competitions and Games are being arranged by Mrs. M. M. Abbott, assisted by Miss Jessett, and members and friends may look forward to something very original and attractive in this part of the Fair.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

The Fair Committee are engaging a Ladies' String Orchestra to play at intervals during the days of the Fair, and a most attractive programme of entertainments is being arranged, including a Dancing Display, by Miss Grace Woollacott's charming little pupils, on Saturday evening, also solo dancing by little Miss Margery Dunhill (Hastings). There will also be Character-Reading, Phrenology, etc.

TEAS AND REFRESHMENTS.

Mrs. Fisher has undertaken the teas and refreshments, and will be assisted by the staff of the Minerva Café, and members of the Minerva Club. The teas will be served from 4 to 6 p.m., and arrangements are being made for a "Thé Chantant," on one or both days of the Fair. Refreshments will be served at moderate prices after 7 p.m.

The Bureau for the sale of tickets for Character-Reading, Phrenology, etc., will be in charge of Mrs. Pierotti.

SOCIETIES TAKING STALLS.

The British Esperanto Association.
The Bucks Cottage Workers' Agency.
The Good Education Society.
Council for International Service.
St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.
The Montessori Society.
Miss Burwood (Beads).
Miss Nettleton (Association for the Deaf and Dumb).

Tickets—(including Tax, 2s. 6d. the first day until 5 p.m.; after 5 p.m. and on the second day 1s. 3d. (including Tax)—will be on sale early in the autumn at the Offices, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

All communications, and applications for Stalls, should be sent to Miss Elizabeth Berry, Hon. Fair Sec., at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

BOOK REVIEW.

Women Peace Makers. By Hebe Spaul. (Harrap.) 2s. 6d. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

The issue of this little book is opportune, in view of the near approach of the League of Nations Assembly at Geneva next month, five out of the seven women described by Miss Spaul being more or less permanently connected with the League's activities. The names of Fröken Forchhammer, the Danish woman substitute delegate to the Assembly, who also sits on various League Committees, Dame Rachel Crowley, Chief of the Social Section of the Secretariat at Geneva, Fröken Jeppe, of Near East fame, Fru Kjelsberg, the Norwegian factory inspector, Mme. Curie, the great scientist, Mrs. Coombe Tennant, J.P., who was included in the British Delegation to the Assembly in 1922, and Dame Edith Lyttelton, who went in the same capacity last year, are probably already well known to readers of THE VOTE, but Miss Spaul adds some interesting particulars in connection with each one of the seven, which, hitherto, we believe, have remained unpublished.

We learn, for instance, that Miss Forchhammer headed a procession of some 20,000 women through the streets of Copenhagen to the Danish Parliament House in 1915 after woman suffrage had been granted, and was there invited to come up to the rostrum and address the Parliament—the first woman to do so. Her wonderful linguistic attainments enabled her all through the war to act as a kind of "clearing house" for letters for belligerents on both sides. In this way she received letters from Germans, Austrians, French, Belgians and English, and was able to give them news of each other. Fröken Forchhammer was also the first woman to speak in the Assembly of the League of Nations, which she has attended since 1920.

The life-work of Miss Karen Jeppe, a member of the League's Committee on Deported Women and Children of the Near East, reads like a romance. How, at 26 years of age, she first heard of the Armenian Massacres, and sacrificing a teaching career in Denmark, went out to Urfa, in Mesopotamia, to take charge of the orphanage maintained by the German Orient Mission for some 300 Armenian Christians. How she planned school workshops, and started a farm settlement, and made friends indiscriminately with Kurds, Turks, and Arabs, so that her fame spread far and wide, and she was trusted and loved of every nation. Her later work is also described at Aleppo after the war, where she revived the ancient Armenian art of embroidery amongst destitute women refugees, and of her final work under the League of Nations of looking after women and children who had been deported from their homes.

The work of Fru Betzy Kjelsberg, the first woman elected to the Norwegian legislature, and one of the world's pioneers in social reform, is vividly told. Of Scotch parentage on her mother's side, Betzy Boresen showed marked ability from an early age, and her marriage at 19 with a young solicitor, Olaf Kjelsberg, and the rearing of five children, proved no handicap to her subsequent career. Her first piece of public work was the organisation of a Society called the Business Women's Union, the object of which was to improve the conditions under which the women employed in the offices of Drammen (where she was living) worked. Later she became a member of Drammen Town Council, and was several times called to serve on the special jury connected with the Chief Norwegian Criminal Court. She also served on several Royal Commissions. Norway was one of the first countries to pass factory laws to protect the workers, and, in 1910, Fru Kjelsberg was appointed the first woman factory inspector. Since then, Fru Kjelsberg has visited many countries in order to study their factory conditions, and has been appointed by Norway as deputy Government delegate at the Annual Conferences of the International Labour Office of the League of Nations. D. M. N.

Women's Freedom League.

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

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Telegrams:—"DESPARD, MUSEUM 1429, LONDON."

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, September 1st, at 3.30 p.m.

"Fair" Sub-Committee, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Monday, September 8th, at 5 p.m., at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Political Sub-Committee Meeting.

Monday, October 6th, at 3 p.m. Hampstead Branch Meeting, at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3. (by kind permission of the Misses Berry).

Friday, October 10th, at 8 p.m. Public Meeting, Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand.

Saturday, October 11th, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

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

DARE TO BE FREE.

ASHFORD.

A very successful "Thé Chantant" was held at the Hempstead Street Hall, last Friday. It was advertised to take place in Mrs. Kither's garden, but owing to the inclement weather it was decided to hire a hall and so take no risks. We had a delightful concert during tea, and a truly wonderful display of dancing by little Margery Dunhill who had come over from Hastings by special invitation. She was the recipient of a lovely bouquet of flowers, and a box of chocolates presented by little Peggy Knock. Mrs. Stevens, L.R.A.M., who accompanied the songs, etc., throughout the afternoon, was also presented with some beautiful flowers. After tea, there were competitions for everyone. Mrs. Kither, our President, caused much amusement by asking those present to pay a penny to guess the weight of the youngest guest, a baby in long clothes! She collected a good many pennies, but did not appear to share the fun.

For our next Meeting, at the end of September, we are going to try a new venture—instead of having a speaker, we are going to ask some of our members to make very short speeches, and so find out how much talent we have in the way of speakers at Ashford.

(Organiser) Miss M. L. WHITE, 8, Holmesdale Gardens, Hastings.

"WOMEN'S EQUALITY."

The Chairman of the Hampstead Bench of Magistrates appears to have started on a quite extraordinary crusade to vindicate the equality of women with men.

It has always been the rule in sentences for indecency on Hampstead Heath to give heavier fines to the men than to the women offenders, but for the last few weeks the fines have been the same in both cases. The Chairman's explanation is that women are equal now and should be treated equally, but women members of the Bench strongly protest that economic equality of women with men is still far to seek, which makes equality in the amount of fines mean inequality in their severity.

BRITISH OVERSEAS COMMITTEE PAVILION.

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

OUR ADVERTISERS

like to know the results of their Advertisements. When writing them, mention THE VOTE.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Women and Evolution.

The July No. of *Stri-Dharma* (the official organ of the Women's Indian Association) reports a sensational discovery by Roster of Russia, reported to the Academy of Inscriptions by Solomon Reinach, a celebrated antiquarian. "The discovery is a statue of a nude female with enormous limbs and a Sinitan cast of countenance, carved in stone, and remarkably preserved in a bed of radio-active lava. Reinach estimates that the statue goes back before the pre-mammoth egg, or approximately 4,000 years prior to the earliest manifestations of humanity hitherto found. The statue is undoubtedly the oldest in the world, and is priceless."

Bombay Children's Bill.

The same paper also reports that six different organisations of women combined in a public meeting in Bombay, on July 4th, to discuss the Children's Bill. Miss Contractor, B.A., presided, and amongst the speakers were Dr. Naorange, Bilshad Begum Shaiba, Mrs. Avantikabai Gokhale, and Mrs. and Miss Tata. A number of valuable suggestions were sent forward to the Government regarding amendments from the women's point of view, such as increasing the term of imprisonment for forcing a girl into immorality, requesting that it should be expressly stated that a mother is an equally responsible parent with the father for the child, pointing out where the purdah system would make certain sections of the Act impracticable, calling for women magistrates to serve in Children's Courts, and demanding the inclusion of women on all Committees connected with the working of the Act, etc. The organisation of the meeting fell chiefly on the capable shoulders of Mrs. H. A. Tata. The Government should be very thankful for the practical help the women's societies are thus giving them in their desire to serve the needy or oppressed children of Bombay.

Preparation for Freedom.

Miss Lilian Barker, C.B.E., J.P., Governor of the Girls' Borstal Institution, Aylesbury, is highly delighted with the success of the first fortnight's summer holiday ever enjoyed by Borstal girls. The nineteen girls, all of whom will be released during the coming year, returned to Aylesbury greatly benefited in every way.

Japanese Women Organize Labour Council.

Japanese women employed in various industrial and professional pursuits have organised the first women labourers' council in that country. It was founded by noted women writers, and social workers.

Dr. Sabin's Appointment.

Dr. Florence R. Sabin, Professor of Histology at John Hopkin's Medical School, has been appointed a member of the scientific staff of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. She will take up her new work on September 1st, 1925.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

Women as Home-makers.

To the Editor of THE VOTE

MADAM.—Miss Margaret Bondfield is reported to have stated, when addressing the Independent Labour Party Summer School, that woman's proper function was that of home-maker, and to have rebuked the modern woman for her failure in this respect.

This reminds one rather of old times when we were told "to go home and wash the baby." It is obviously the duty of both parents to look after the welfare of their children, but I fail to see why an intellectual woman, because she is a mother, should confine herself to the duties and occupations of the nursery. Then, if the home is to be of such absorbing interest, she should at least be given a say in its management. How does Miss Bondfield account for the fact that the present Government, from which women were taught to expect so much, deliberately refuses to recognise the mother as equal with the father, in what Miss Bondfield considers to be her chief, if not her sole sphere?

Yours, etc., A. M. VATCHER.

W.F.L. PAMPHLETS.

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NOTICES.

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

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, August 31st. 7 p.m. Miss Maude Royden: "St. Joan," by Bernard Shaw.

TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

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

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Name

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I enclose £ : s. d. as my first Annual Subscription.

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