

THE VOTE,
FEB. 10, 1922
ONE PENNY.

COURAGE AND HOPE!

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

VOL. XXIII. No. 642.

(Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper and transmissible through the post in the United Kingdom at the newspaper rate of postage, but to Canada and Newfoundland at the Magazine rate).

FRIDAY, FEB. 10, 1922.

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

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THE PAN - AMERICAN CONFERENCE.

The National League of American women voters is celebrating its third annual Convention by a great Pan-American Conference, which will be held in Baltimore from April 20-29 of the present year. Delegates from North, South, and Central America will take part, and the various Latin-American Governments have been asked to appoint official delegates whenever possible. On April 28th, which has been designated as "Washington Day," the Pan-American delegates will visit the Capitol City, and after a day of sight-seeing and special entertainment, will attend a great mass meeting arranged in their honour. The subject of the meeting will be, "What the Women of America can do to Promote Friendly Relations." Secretary of State Hughes is to be the principal speaker on this occasion, and Dr. L. S. Rowe, Director-General of the Pan-American Union. Secretary Hughes has sent the following message to the League of American women voters :—

"The effort to assemble representative women of North and South America in a Pan-American Women's Conference is of special interest to all who desire to promote a better understanding between the American Republics. In many Latin-American countries, as in the United States, women are taking an increasingly large part in the study and solution of the social problems which will be discussed at your meeting, and an interchange of views in regard to these problems cannot but be helpful to all."

According to the latest reports Feminism is making sure, if slow, headway in the countries of South America. The two foremost women to-day in this

movement are undoubtedly Dr. Alicia Moreau, of the Argentine, and Dr. Paulina Luisi, of Uruguay. Dr. Luisi, who was the first woman in Uruguay to graduate for the B.Sc., and the first to qualify as a doctor of medicine, was the Vice-President of the Second American Congress of "The Child," and a member of the International Women's Committee of the Second Pan-American Scientific Congress. She is now Chairman of the Committee on Equal Moral Standards and Traffic in Women, of the Uruguayan Council of Women. She is also the founder, and is the present President of the Uruguayan Woman Suffrage Association, and of the National Council of Women in her country. Dr. Moreau is a tireless worker for public health measures to mitigate the sufferings of the sick poor. She recently crossed the continent twice, and traversed a large section of the western hemisphere in order to take part in a Public International Conference of Women Physicians in New York on the subject of Public Morality, her own contribution being an address on the "White Slave Traffic." Buenos Aires, where the suffrage movement is going forward with surprising rapidity, possesses an excellent woman's political magazine, entitled *Nuestra Causa*, which circulates widely in Europe. So far, only some of the Central States of South America have fully enfranchised women, but a Bill to establish Woman Suffrage is now being considered by the Uruguayan Congress. Practically every large city has its Women's Suffrage Club, all of which are engaged in paving the way for women's political enfranchisement.

RESIGNATION OF MRS. HASLAM.

We record with deep feeling the news that Mrs. Haslam, President of the Irish Women Citizens and Local Government Association, has this week resigned her official position. Mrs. Haslam's life-work commenced in 1867, when she took part in the movement to secure signatures for the first woman suffrage petition. In 1871 she founded the Irish Women's Suffrage Society, and, with her husband, was the inspiring and guiding force in its development through all the many years until in 1910 it was reorganised under the present title. Her last public appearance in London was in the great public meeting held on behalf of the movement for abolition of the age limit in the Reform Act. At this meeting Mrs. Despard also spoke, the two women thus giving proof of that trust in the future and in the young which had characterised all their lives. It is satisfactory to learn that the Committee of the Women Citizens' Association, after passing a resolution expressing their deep regret at Mrs. Haslam's resignation and their trust that she would continue to give them the benefit of her ripe experience and wise counsel, passed on to consider action with regard to the position of women in the Irish Free State, and took steps to bring before Mr. Collins, the head of the Provisional Government of the Free State, the need for including in the Constitution of that State recognition of the citizenship of women on the same terms as men. This is carrying on the spirit of the founder of the society.

The world has changed in the fifty-five years during which Mrs. Haslam has worked. Women doctors, women lawyers, women in well nigh every branch of the Labour world, women in Parliament—but still there is the same need for faith and hope, such as led her to champion the cause of women when no statesman, under pressure of dire necessity, had applauded their capacity, and no politician, in dire need of votes, had praised their political acumen. Mrs. Haslam was the first woman to record her vote in that grey December morning in 1918; she was one of the first to realise that the victory, great as it was, was but partial. She has passed the torch to other hands; it is for them to bear it onward as it was borne in the ancient Greek rite, till at last it be placed in that Temple in the City of To-morrow where men and women, different in so much, but recognised at last as equal in the right to serve and in the duty to serve, will kneel together in the worship of Him who created the human race—male and female created He them. One of the brightest memories of the Women's Freedom League is a drawing-room meeting in London, convened by them many years ago, when both Mr. and Mrs. Haslam addressed the audience, and were accorded a great ovation.

NORTH LAMBETH L. C. C. ELECTION.

Woman Candidate:

COMMANDANT MARY S. ALLEN, O.B.E.

Mrs. Lamartine Yates, unfortunately, is not able to stand again for North Lambeth in the coming County Council Election, but her place will be very ably filled by Commandant Mary S. Allen, O.B.E., of the Women's Auxiliary Service.

"Equal Pay for Equal Work" is part of Commandant Allen's battle-cry.

Both Mrs. Lamartine Yates and Commandant Allen will speak at the following indoor meetings:—

Tuesday, Feb. 21st.—St. Andrew's School, Roupell Street, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, March 1st.—Johanna Street Schools, 8 p.m.

Helpers are required at the Central Committee Rooms at 107 Lower Marsh, S.E.

Miss Anna Munro is in charge of this Election.

INEFFICIENT WOMEN!

Monday Evening Lecture at "Inerva Café."

Last Monday Mr. Edward Cecil, Dramatic Writer and Author, addressed the Women's Freedom League on the subject of "The Inefficiency of Women," informing his audience at the outset that a morning paper had described him in consequence as the "boldest man in Great Britain!" The principal accusations launched by him against women included the domestic ignorance of the ordinary middle-class housewife, who was an adept at tennis and hockey, and could play the piano, but who knew nothing of cooking, food values, marketing, or the best way to make both ends meet, and who also collapsed in every serious crisis; and the business inefficiency of women who went out to work in the world, and who did not realise that such work carried with it very serious responsibilities. The women of the last generation, he contended, though limited in their outlook and opportunities, were at least very efficient in their home lives, and good house-keepers and rearers of children. Mr. Cecil asserted that these alleged deficiencies had combined to produce a reaction against women at the present moment. For this he proposed two remedies: (1) Absolute equality between the sexes, as in the days of the old Roman law, and (2) full freedom for women. Freedom, equality, and responsibility, he suggested, would be good watchwords for the League, but he added that no very drastic reforms would take place with regard to women's position until women learnt to combine, and organise themselves in mass movements in the same way as men had done. Women were peculiarly apathetic in some respects. They did not sufficiently realise, nor protest against the present laws of the country, which handicapped both their progress and their freedom. It was most important that women should make themselves acquainted with these particulars, and this they could best do by joining societies such as the Women's Freedom League, which would keep them abreast of these matters.

A particularly animated discussion followed the close of the address, and a good many points of view on various subjects connected with the speaker's remarks were very thoroughly ventilated. Dr. Octavia Lewin presided in her usual able way, and in her remarks from the Chair, suggested that neither women nor men would ever become really efficient until the present system of education was reformed in many particulars.

THE KING'S SPEECH.

The Speech from the Throne at the Opening of Parliament was longer than had been expected and did not indicate an intention of the Government to seek a Dissolution. The hope of Peace with other Countries was emphasised by special reference to Washington, a pact with France, and the Genoa Conference. The need for economy in national expenditure was insisted upon. Reference was made to the Articles of Agreement signed by Ministers and the Irish Delegation; and measures were foreshadowed to give effect to this Agreement. Unemployment was mentioned as a matter causing the deepest concern, and proposals were promised for the reform of the House of Lords and for the adjustment of differences between the two Houses. Among the measures to be submitted for the consideration of Parliament, are a Bill relating to the establishment of an International Trade Corporation, a Bill to enable the Government to give effect to the policy of Co-operation in Empire settlement and Migration, and a Bill to amend the Criminal Law Amendment Acts, 1885 to 1912. This last Bill will have a very special interest for women. So far as the Women's Freedom League is concerned, we shall not be content with any Amendment to the present Criminal Law which does not raise the Age of Consent to Criminal Assault to eighteen years for girls; and it behoves all women to see that no clause is added which in operation will act unfairly as between women and men.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Reichstag's "Enfant Terrible."

Frau Luise Zietz, M.P., whose illness in the Reichstag, and subsequent death, was recently reported, was known as the *Enfant Terrible* of the Reichstag. She came from the poorest class of the community, and in early life was a kindergarten teacher. She joined the Socialist Democrat Party in 1892, and was a prominent figure in its numerous fights, being elected to its Executive in 1908. She was a bitter opponent of the war, and when Herr Hugo Haase and his following seceded from the main body of the Socialists on the question of the vote of war credits, Frau Zietz became one of the principal organisers of the Independent Socialist Party. She was elected to the National Assembly in 1919, and subsequently to the Reichstag.

Spanish Women's Progress.

The first woman in Spain to follow the career of an advocate is Miss Carmen Lopez Bonilla, who has recently been admitted to the College of Advocates at Madrid. Mrs. Julia Peguero, General Secretary of the National Association of Spanish Women, has been appointed by the Home Secretary member of the Higher Council for the Protection of Infancy, her nomination being unanimously approved by the general meeting of the Council. The Senorita Maria Cristina de Arteaga, daughter of the Duke del Infantado, has won the special prize in the History section of the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters.

Women and International Dinners.

A sign of the times is the number of International Dinners which women are arranging at their various London Clubs. The Committee of the British Dominion Women Citizens' Union are holding a series of Dinners at the International Women's Franchise Club, the first of which takes place on February 13th, when Dame Adelaide Anderson, O.B.E., is to be the guest of honour. The Public Service Section of the Forum Club is also arranging a series of dinners, at which the diplomatic representatives of various countries will be asked to speak on women's questions. The first of this series has already been held, when the French Ambassador, and Mme. Gaston Strauss, a French woman lawyer, were the principal guests.

French Woman Farmer's Appeal.

Mlle. Gouze, who recently appealed against the decision of the French Courts, practically expelling her from her farm, forsook her studies at the Sorbonne at the outbreak of war, and went to work on the land. Later she borrowed money from the State and rented a farm, which she re-stocked and fitted with new machinery. Before long the landlord had a better offer, and refused to prolong her lease. It is against this unjust decision that she is now appealing.

German Women and Commerce.

German women are now admitted to the Exchange, and have also been made eligible to the Trade and Commercial Courts. Previously, by reason of their sex, they were legally excluded, but now the necessary changes have been effected in the law, and carried unanimously without a debate by the Reichstag.

First Austrian Woman Barrister.

The first Austrian woman to practise as a barrister in the Vienna Courts is Fraulein Mulzi Meier, who finished her legal studies some months ago, and is now studying for her degree as doctor of law. She practices in the Doblinger Criminal Court.

No Lady Jockey for France.

The application to the French Jockey Club of Mlle. Fanny Heldy, the well-known opera singer, for a jockey's license has been refused.

A Versatile Woman.

One of the joint winners of the second prize in the *Daily Mail* competition for a labour-saving house, is Mrs. Jessie M. Dreschfield, who is shortly going to the United States to study American labour-saving ideas. Later, she hopes to build some working-men's cottages in this country, which will contain many labour-saving devices. Architecture is only one of Mrs. Dreschfield's many interests, as she is a member of a Parliamentary Advisory Committee, a public speaker, a designer of stage costumes, and a playwright.

A Manless Hotel.

Washington now boasts of a manless hotel. This hotel is run exclusively by women. The pages, porters, cooks, room clerks and other employés are all women. The manager is a woman, formerly manager of the government hotel for war workers.

Woman Explorer as Negotiator.

Mme. Camille du Gast, the French explorer, who has travelled thousands of miles in little-known parts of Morocco and North Africa, has been asked by the Riff tribesmen, now fighting the Spaniards in the region of Melilla, to go thither to act on their behalf in negotiations with Spain.

Mme. Curie Successful!

Mme. Curie was this week elected a member of the French Academy of Medicine.

THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the National Executive Committee was held at 144, High Holborn, last Saturday, those present being Miss A. M. Clark, Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., Councillor Miss Ballard Dawson, Dr. Knight, Miss Anna Munro, Mrs. Mustard, Miss M. I. Neal, Miss Normanton, Mrs. Pierotti, Miss Ste en, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Whetton, and the Secretary. Mrs. Schofield Coates was appointed to the chair. Reports were read and adopted by the Committee from the Hon. Treasurer, the Secretary, and the Organisation Committee. The Executive Committee confirmed the appointment as Organiser of Miss Brimson, who will next week proceed to Liverpool and remain to work in the South Lancashire district for three months. Reports were considered from Miss White, who is organising work for the Women's Freedom League in Hastings, Bexhill, Rye, and Ashford. Resolutions proposed by members of the Committee for the Conference Agenda were fully discussed, and the report of the Sub-Committee appointed to bring the Constitution of the Women's Freedom League up-to-date was considered. The Committee discussed plans for the General Election, if this Election takes place in the near future, and considered what help we could give to Women Parliamentary Candidates. In the meantime the Committee decided that we should do everything in our power while a General Election was in sight to make the public understand that the Election Pledge given to Women in 1918 that "It will be the duty of the New Government to remove all existing inequalities of the Law as between Men and Women" has not been fulfilled.

The following urgency resolution proposed by Mrs. Stewart of Edinburgh, and seconded by Miss Ballard Dawson (of Swanage), was passed unanimously by the Committee, and forwarded to the Prime Minister: "That in view of the disastrous effects of delay, the National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League urges the Government not to lose any more time, but to act in accordance with Dr. Nansen's appeal for the immediate relief of famine-stricken Russia. At the same time the Committee urges that all possible pressure should be put upon the Russian Government to make use of its own gold reserve in this connection."

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Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.
Offices: 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10th, 1922.

COURAGE AND HOPE.

THE NEED OF OUR MENTAL HOSPITALS.

The desperate condition of the mentally sick of our land demands the help which women are longing to give.

Shut away from the world as they are for months or years or generations, most of us know nothing at all about the miseries of these most pitiable men and women who spend their days helpless in the iron grip of an antiquated departmental system.

War-time difficulties, however, forced the authorities to bring in outside persons, untrained in the system, to help to run the Hospitals during the last few years, and the impressions received by these independent minds have shed a few rays of the much-needed searchlight of public opinion upon their dark seclusion.

Dr. Lomax, the most prominent of the temporary war-time Hospital officers has brought out a volume of criticism (to be reviewed next week) of the conditions he found in two of these places. His "charges" have roused keen public interest, and a departmental enquiry was to be held. The Committee appointed was, to us, quite unsatisfactory, because, as related in last week's VOTE, the Minister of Health refused to include women members.

It is also equally worthless in the eyes of Dr. Lomax who has now refused to appear before it because:—

(1) The Health Minister publicly declared on January 19th to the Conference of Medical Superintendents that "the agitations got up in recent years were fictitious and untrue";

(2) The Mental Hospitals Association (an official body) has just published a pamphlet extolling the excellencies of the present system;

(3) The National Asylum Workers' Union has instructed its members (attendants and nurses) not to give evidence;

(4) All the members of the Committee are bound up in the system against which the "charges" are brought, the enquiry is to be confined to the text of the book, and makes no suitable provisions for the obtaining of evidence from witnesses.

Instead of this apparently prejudged, valueless and time-wasting "investigation" of a single small book, Dr. Lomax now asks for a Royal Commission, "a body consisting of two representative women, a medical man of recognised authority, a barrister of repute, and one or two Members of Parliament and social workers, presided over by a retired Judge," to enquire into the whole question of Lunacy administration, and report to Parliament with a view to the drafting of a new Lunacy Act.

We entirely support the Royal Commission idea, but, as women form roughly half the 117,000 persons under care in England and Wales, we shall only be satisfied with a Commission containing an equal number of women with men, and we hope our two women M.P.'s will be included.

Dr. Lomax is very kindly coming to address the Women's Freedom League next week (see notice), and it is our business as responsible women voters to hear and weigh all that he can tell us from his own experience.

Some Mental Hospitals are of course better than others, but all require a thorough overhauling and readjustment.

What is at the root of the evils of these institutions? It is that their foundations are not well and truly laid. Our Lunacy Laws and Administration are the product of exclusively male minds; true there has of late years been an attempt to draw women into the pernicious system and two women form a small minority on the Board of Control, but there is no pretence anywhere of any approach to the equal numbers of men and women, which are alone likely to bring satisfactory results.

In the Hospitals themselves things are even worse.

Women are of course present as nurses and attendants, etc., on the women's side, and young medical women often do good work; a matron and housekeeper corresponds to the head male attendant and is responsible for the domestic arrangements, but the whole control and treatment of the inmates is vested in the Medical Superintendent, who is invariably a man.

The first essential, therefore, in promoting the welfare of the patients and bringing to them that courage and hope which more than any other agent will aid their recovery, and which are so conspicuous a feature of the one small mental hospital controlled by a woman, is to add to the officials a woman medical superintendant of equal authority with her male colleague, who will share with him the administration of the institution.

THE ATTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT

Quoting from Pope that "the proper study of mankind is man," Mr. Edward Cecil, at a meeting of the Women's Freedom League, held last Monday contended that three hundred years ago women were not considered to be worth mentioning—they simply did not count; but that to-day women were in an entirely different position and had to be taken seriously. Is the last part of this statement quite true? In *The Times* last Monday and Tuesday appeared paragraphs from distinguished Members of the House of Commons belonging to all political parties, giving their views upon the tasks, to which, in their opinion, the Government should devote attention in the session which has just opened. There was a curious agreement among these Members as to the likelihood of this session being the last session of the present Parliament, and yet no Coalitionist, Liberal, Unionist, or Labour representative thought it worth while mentioning that one of the tasks to which the Government should devote attention was the enfranchisement of the women of this country between the age of twenty-one and thirty, on the same terms as men. Not one of them considered that any of the Bills in which women are specially interested, such as the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, the Equal Guardianship of Infants Bill, etc., was sufficiently important to claim the Government's attention in the last session of its life. It must be recorded that no paragraph appears from either of our two women Members of Parliament. Were they not invited to contribute a Statement? If not, why not? There was a general consensus of opinion that the Geddes Report should be immediately dealt with and that drastic economy should be established. In this matter of effecting economy the young women of our land are as deeply concerned as are our young men. Will it be used to curtail still further the erection of houses, and the supply of milk to necessitous mothers and children? Are not these matters of pressing importance to the young women of the country, and ought they not to have the power of expressing their views on economy of this description? The solution of the problem of unemployment was also considered by these distinguished Members to be an important task worthy of the Government's consideration; but it would only be unemployment so far as it concerned men, because the Government has never found the unemployment of women worthy of its consideration. Affairs in Ireland, Egypt, and India, our foreign policy, the question of reparations, the reduction of taxation, and the reform of the House of Lords were, in the judgment of these Members, tasks deserving of the immediate attention of the Government. But should not the proper representation of the people rank as of at least equal importance with the reform of an unrepresentative Upper House? Is domestic legislation affecting the welfare of the whole population of these Islands to be entirely ignored by our Government, except in so far as economy can be secured on it? If this is really the considered opinion of members of the House of Commons, and of all parties in it, we certainly think that it is high time they returned to their constituencies and explained to their women electors why these women should vote for them at the next General Election.

PEACE OR WAR ?

BY AIMEE GIBBS, M.B.

A few weeks ago a very distinguished woman, in the forefront of her profession, speaking on women's work, said that war was inevitable. Does this represent the considered opinion of the majority of British women? If so, it explains the present inaction of women, and the meagre support that is given to all efforts to promote international peace and goodwill. It is said that American women in their tens of thousands brought pressure to bear on their President to call a Disarmament Conference. A number of Great Powers were represented at that Conference, and yet there was not a single woman delegate to voice the aspirations of women for World Peace.

Before the Great War many people, both men and women, blinded themselves with the belief that a great European war was unthinkable, and therefore impossible. When it did break out, it was proclaimed a war to end war. It has been fought and won—it will be many years before it is known who were the real victors—and still the Powers are spending large sums in preparation for the next war!

Is this no concern of women? Yet women are silent. They know that all the resources of science are being used to produce instruments of destruction. The United States of America have discovered a poison liquid so deadly that three drops on the skin will kill a man. Aeroplanes and torpedoes can now be controlled by wireless. "It is calculated that a fleet of 300 machines, each carrying 5 cwt. of bombs, manipulated from a single control station in Paris, could within twenty-four hours unload nearly 2,000 tons of bombs in Berlin, Geneva, or London." Another great war would in reality end war, for it would wipe out the belligerent nations. It will not be a question then of women sending their husbands, sons, and brothers to fight, so that we may be safe—as was alleged in justification of the last war—for there will be no distinction between combatants and non-combatants.

Women, as guardians of the race, must not allow these horrors of bloodshed and destruction to go on. Many men, thinking no doubt that war is inevitable, are discussing means of lessening its disastrous effects, as, e.g., by prohibiting the use of submarines, poison gas, etc. But it is much easier to do away with war altogether than to try to alter its very nature.

Benjamin Kidd, in his *Science of Power*, states his belief in the power of women within a gener-

ation or two to bring about the organisation of the world for peace, instead of for war, as at present. They can do this by developing "the emotion of the ideal" in their children, so that the will to peace shall become part of the child's social heritage. To do this, however, they must exercise far greater control over the education that their children receive in the schools. They must insist that their children get their physical training untainted by militarism, and that a new ideal of patriotism is put before them. The imagination of the children must be stimulated, and their capacity for hero-worship satisfied by the story of the saint, the scientist, the explorer, and the philanthropist, instead of by that of the soldier. The scope of history, too, must be widened, and its ethical implications must be taught as well as its international bearings.

There are some, however, who think that war is primarily due to the rivalries of competing economic groups. Those who take up this position maintain that war began with the institution of private property, and that as long as we have our present economic system, with production for profit and not for use, wars will continue. They point out that a fertile cause of modern wars has been the desire of rival groups to obtain exclusive possession of the raw materials of the more undeveloped parts of the earth, and to exploit the lower races to that end. It is surely the duty of all lovers of Peace to sift such statements as these, and to estimate how much truth there is in them and wherein lies the remedy. Women should take their part in these investigations. It would help to free them from the tyranny of catch phrases, and increase their understanding of the deep, underlying causes of social phenomena.

During the last war women as a whole were more vindictive than men, partly because of their narrower outlook, and partly because they were echoing the men. It makes one ask whether women have a contribution of their own to make to the world's thought. Yes—if they cease to do what is still expected of them, that is, cease to echo men's ideas and accept the taboos that men have imposed upon their activities. Surely their greatest contribution at the present time is, in the interests of the race and of humanity, to take their stand on the side of Peace, by pressing for an investigation into the social, political, and economic causes of war, and by striving to remove the causes of distrust among nations.

WOMEN AS HIGH SHERIFFS.

Mr. Justice Darling has been pleased to be facetious lately with regard to the eligibility of a woman as High Sheriff, and the possibility of such a one riding at the head of a *posse comitatus* in the case of civil disturbance. Few men, even those of considerable mental attainment, seem to be aware of the fact that most of the public offices which women are now debarred from entering were assigned to them without question in mediæval times, a period, which with all its drawbacks and limitations, preserved a far finer balance between the sexes than the present day.

The author of "British Freewomen," to whom feminists owe a deep debt of gratitude for her scholarly and painstaking researches into the past, makes it abundantly evident that during the middle ages eligible women held practically every important public office in the land. They paid and received homage, held Courts Baron, were Justices of the Peace, had the cure of Churches, were Peeresses in their own right, and so liable to Summons to Parliament in person, were nominated to Private Boroughs, and acted as Marshals, High Constables, High Stewards, Champions, Governors of Royal Castles, and a score of other important positions now rendered obsolete by the march of time. In such public offices that of Sheriff

or High Sheriff was included as a matter of course, and Mrs. Stopes quotes several instances of noted women who administered this office in person. Ela of Salisbury, sole heir to the title and lands of her father, the Earl of Salisbury, inherited the office of Sheriff of Wiltshire, and exercised it in person until 21 Hen. III, when, probably to facilitate her son's entrance into the Earldom, she retired as Abbess to the Abbey of Lacock, founded by herself. Other women sheriffs mentioned by Mrs. Stopes were Nicholaa de Camville, who was Sheriff of Lincoln in the time of John, and the Countess Dowager of Cornwall who was Sheriff of Rutland, in the reign of Edward I., but who deputed this office to one Gilbert Holm. The High Sheriff of Westmoreland seems to have been more often a woman than not. Isabella and Idonea de Veteripont, who afterwards married Roger de Clifford and Roger de Leybourn, jointly held this office in the reign of Edward I., and insisted on the Burghers bringing their cases to them personally. Later, the same office was held, also in person, during the reigns of the Stuarts, by Anne de Clifford, Countess of Dorset, Pembroke, and Montgomery, and Baroness of Westmoreland. In virtue of her office, Anne also sat on the Bench of Justices in the Court of Assizes at Appleby.

THE YOUNG OFFENDER.

An afternoon meeting in the Minerva Café was arranged by the Women's Freedom League on Wednesday of last week, when Miss Penrose Philp, Secretary of the State Children's Aid Association, gave an interesting address on delinquent children, and the best methods for their reclamation. The children who appeared in the Police Courts in London or in the country were usually quite ordinary children, said Miss Philp, but their parents being usually of the working classes, they lacked the supervision which better class children received. London had been recently the scene of a great reform in connection with delinquent children, inasmuch as all Juvenile Courts were now removed from the ordinary Police Courts, and set up in special places in the Metropolis. There had been great difficulty in getting this particular Act through Parliament, as it had been opposed in both Houses. The lawyers in the House of Commons had been especially bitter in opposition, and in trying to prevent women from sharing in the administration of these Courts. There were now eight Juvenile Courts in London. Each one was presided over by a Stipendiary Magistrate, who was assisted by one or more women J.P.'s. These people had a thorough knowledge of the neighbourhood and its various local agencies which were necessary factors in dealing with the different cases. In the country, however, Juvenile Courts were still held in the Police Courts, though rooms in Town Halls, Mayor's Parlours, Council Chambers, and Coroner's Courts, were sometimes used instead. The great aim in the Juvenile Court was to remove as much as possible of the old penal associations, and endeavour to lead the children's feet into safer paths. For this reason more homely surroundings and a simpler method of procedure were absolutely necessary, in order to deal effectively with the child and his wrongdoing. At present the procedure was as follows. The children were brought in by the jailer, as he was often called, and put to stand in a row in front of the dock. The jailer then told the story of each child's misdemeanour, and the magistrate asked if the child wanted to ask a question, a query which it was usually much too bewildered to understand. Great sympathy was needed when dealing with children. Judge Ben Lindsay had asserted that if a child was not frightened, ninety-nine out of a hundred would speak the truth, and it was better to remand children for a considerable period rather than deal with them too hastily. Their convictions might prove the turning point of their lives. The magistrate's decisions included discharge, dismissal, binding over the child, ordering him to come up again in six months' time, birching, (which was growing less frequent, owing to the realisation that it was impossible to change the child's spirit from the outside) and probation. This last was not always suitable, though in most cases it did well. Indeed there was nothing so fine as the Probation System if properly worked, because its roots were set in a spiritual basis. A recent book, "Probation in Children's Courts," written by the Secretary of the Probation System in America, stated that out of 7,647 children put on probation last year, 6,215 of these, or 81.3 per cent., finished their terms, and were reported as successful cases; 417 were reported as not having improved; 882 failed; but only 52 were lost from supervision during the year. A Bill to establish a Probation Commission was to be brought forward at the next Parliamentary Session. For those cases which required more drastic remedies than Probation, there were reformatory schools for children over twelve years of age, and industrial schools for children of any age up to sixteen. These institutions did good work undeniably, but a home, not an institution, was the right place to rear a child. If the child were abnormal, either mentally or morally, it needed a special institution. Juvenile adults, viz., young persons of 21 and over, were now usually sent to Borstal Institutions. Of these, there were several for boys, but only one for girls. Boy or girl prisoners, committed to Borstal Institutions, were committed from Quarter Sessions, not from Police Courts. These institutions were a tremendous advance on the ordinary prisons.

BOOK REVIEW.

Women in the Socialist State. By Mrs. H. M. Swanwick, M.A. (International Bookshops.) 3/6. (Can be obtained at this office.)

Quite apart from the subject of Socialism, into which it is not necessary to enter in the discussion of this book, Mrs. Swanwick has much to say in sympathetic understanding of women of all classes of the community, and even if she does not always touch on any specially new point of view in connection with their needs and opportunities, at any rate she adequately ventilates possibilities.

Mrs. Swanwick comments shrewdly on the large amount of "bad psychology" which has been "spilt over 'Woman'" in the generic sense of the word, and adds a word of caution to all writers in generalising about such an abstraction. She invests Motherhood with its due importance, but refuses either to become obsessed, or to sentimentalise over the function, insisting instead that once the normal period of child-bearing is over, say from the age of 35 years and upwards, mothers should enter on a definite sphere of productive work for the community, not necessarily in the industrial market, but in many forms of administration, nursing, large-scale catering, management of schools and nurseries, hospitals and clubs, as home or school inspectors, or magistrates, or in service on representative bodies, parliaments, councils, guilds, committees, and so forth. Thus will the world receive the full benefit of their refined experience and matured wisdom, and the women themselves keep pace with the development of their own children, and those of other people. Mrs. Swanwick is furthermore convinced that mothers should combine into special organisations, and have their own representatives in Parliament.

The alleged economic inferiority of women is submitted by the writer to very close analysis. The probability of marriage withdrawing most women either wholly or partially from industry, is accepted as fundamental and ineradicable, but by no means as a final argument against adequately equipping women as wage earners. Although statistics of employment seem to show that women are more often incapacitated by sickness than men, Mrs. Swanwick contends that this is largely because women work under conditions which are more unfavourable than men work under, and also because maternity is not always properly treated. The alleged muscular inferiority of women to men, in Mrs. Swanwick's opinion, merely provides a reason for a perfectly natural line of demarcation as to certain kinds of work, and the rate at which this work is done. Women can usually put in as much work as men during a day provided they have frequent short breaks. It must always be borne in mind, too, that most women wage-earners, even when working under the best conditions possible, are still suffering under what the writer describes as a "monstrous wrong," viz., that when they get home they have a number of hours to put in at unpaid home work, from which most men, by prejudice or tradition, or mere selfishness, are exempted. Laundry work, especially, Mrs. Swanwick would ban from the individual home, and have it performed on a large scale outside. "The misery of washing day in tiny homes is responsible for an incalculable amount of ill-temper, drunkenness and ill-health . . . there is far more justification from a social point of view for the turning out of laundry work than for the buying of bread and clothes, and this should be one of the problems to which good organisers for the common weal should turn their minds." D. M. N.

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

Saturday, February 11, at 4-6 p.m.— Minerva Club, Brunswick Square. Tea-Dance. Admission 1/6.
Monday, February 13, at 8 p.m.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Miss Agnes Dawson (National Union of Women Teachers). Subject: "False Economy in Education." Chair: Miss Lilian Pierotti.

DARE TO BE FREE. *Friday, February 17, at 3 p.m.—*Lecture (by free ticket only. Apply to office).

Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Dr. Lomax. Subject: "What is wrong with the Administration of our Asylums?" Dr. Knight in the Chair.

*Monday, February 20, at 6.30.—*Mid-London Branch Meeting, 144, High Holborn.

*Monday, February 20, at 8 p.m.—*Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn. Speaker: Miss Kate Manicom. Subject: "The Working Women's Delegate at Washington." Chair: Councillor Jessie Stephen.

*Wednesday, February 22, at 3.30 p.m.—*Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn. Speaker: Councillor Margaret Hodge. Subject: "The Spinster of To-day, and of a Hundred Years Ago."

*Monday, February 27, at 8 p.m.—*Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn. Speaker: The Rev. C. M. Coltman, M.A., B.D. Subject: "The Priestly Vocation of Women."

*Saturday, March 18, at 10 a.m.—*National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.

*Friday, April 28, at 10 a.m.—*National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.

*Saturday, April 29, at 10 a.m.—*Annual Conference.

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

SCOTLAND.

*Saturday, February 11th, at 6.30 p.m.—*Edinburgh. At rooms of the Scottish Veterans' Garden City Association, 28, Castle Terrace. Dramatic Recitations by Miss Watanabe—Dancing. Tickets 2/6 each at 40, Shandwick Place.

PROVINCES.

*Monday, February 13, at 3.30 p.m.—*Hastings. Meeting of Members and Friends at 40, White Rock. Speaker: Miss Elsie Morton, M.B.E. Chair: Mrs. Strickland. Tea 5 p.m. Annual Meeting 5.30.

*Monday, February 13, at 7.30 p.m.—*Bexhill. Public Meeting, Prince's Café, Devonshire Road. Speaker: Miss Elsie Morton, M.B.E. Subject: "The Wrecking of Women's Bills."

*Tuesday, February 14, at 7 p.m.—*Portsmouth. Public Meeting, Theosophical Rooms, 12, Victoria Road. Speaker: Mr. A. G. Yeaxlee. Subject: "The Work of the Welfare Association in Portsmouth." Chair: Mrs. Speck.

*Monday, February 20, at 8 p.m.—*Southend-on-Sea and District.—Public Lecture, at Metropolitan Academy of Music, 10, London Road, Southend-on-Sea. Speaker: Dr. Charlotte Shields. Subject: "Maternity Centre and Infant Welfare Work."

*Tuesday, April 11, at 7 p.m.—*Portsmouth. Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin. Subject: "The Training of Children in Personal Hygiene."

OTHER SOCIETIES.

*Friday February 10, at 8 p.m.—*St. Albans Debating Society. Public Library. Debate: "Should women cease to be employed when married?" Miss Helena Normanton, B.A., opposer.

*Sunday, February 19, at 7.30.—*St. Pancras Secular Society. Speaker: Miss K. Raleigh. Subject: "Words that Deceive."

*Sunday, March 5th, at 11 a.m.—*Ethical Church, Queen's Road, Bayswater, W. Speaker: Mr. Laurence Housman. Subject: "Living Sacraments." 6.30 p.m. "Departmental, Morality."

*Wednesday, February 15, at 6 p.m.—*National Union of Women Teachers. Mr. Hayes will lecture on "Phonograph" in University College, Gower Street.

*Wednesday, February 15, at 8 p.m.—*Women's League of Union, Oak Room, Kingsway Hall. Speaker: Miss Gladys Harrison. Subject: "A Royal Democrat."

NOTES AND COMMENTS.**Registered Unemployed.**

Last week we recorded that on January 17th there were 1,925,936 persons wholly unemployed. On January 24th they numbered 1,915,700, showing a decrease of 10,236. The number of unemployed women is now 333,600, and of unemployed girls 47,800; the number of unemployed men and boys being 1,467,400 and 66,900 respectively.

Votes for Indian Women.

From Delhi the *Times* correspondent reports that the National Assembly has by a majority of more than two to one passed a resolution favouring the granting of votes to women at the elections for the Assembly in those provinces which already give the same right to women in the elections for the Provincial Council. The immediate effect would only apply to Madras and Bombay. We congratulate our Indian fellow-suffragists on this victory.

Labour Women's Conference.

The National Conference of Labour Women will be held at Leamington in May. Miss Margaret Bondfield will be in the chair, and in a circular inviting the attendance of delegates, Mr. Arthur Henderson remarked that "the importance of the women's vote in the next General Election cannot be over-estimated," and expressed the hope that this Conference will further rouse the interest of working women throughout the constituencies. The policy of the Labour Party, with special reference to women's interests, will be discussed, as well as such subjects as Motherhood and child endowment, housing, unemployment and infant welfare.

Employment of Married Women.

Representatives of forty-five women's societies (among which was the Women's Freedom League), in conference at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, last week, passed a resolution protesting against the dismissal by local authorities of women employees of any and every grade on account of their marriage. They declared that such dismissals constitute an interference with the private affairs of a woman employee which is not exercised in the case of a man employee, and that it tended to lower the whole standard of women's general and professional education and their position and value in industry.

Hard Labour for Girl Mother.

A labourer's seventeen-year old wife was last week at the Lincoln Assizes found not guilty of the murder of her infant son, but guilty of neglect. The child's death, it was alleged, was due to starvation. Accused's counsel submitted that the worst that could be said was that the girl was guilty of an error of judgment, but not of wilful starvation or neglect. She was only a poor ignorant girl. Justice Horridge, in sentencing the girl to six months' hard labour, said he was determined that women should know they could not neglect and cause suffering and pain to defenceless children. We hold no brief for any one who causes suffering to a defenceless child, but consider that this seventeen-year old mother was herself little more than a child, and that six months' hard labour for ignorance and probable poverty is itself a form of cruelty.

London Milk.

The Medical Officer of Health for the City of London in his report for the seven weeks ended December 31st, says:—"In previous reports I have directed attention to the fact that of 54 samples of milk collected at railway stations within the City boundaries, 12, or 25.0 per cent. of 48 which were completely examined, were shown to contain the tubercle bacillus." The results were so disconcerting, he adds, that a further series of 24 samples have been examined during the last three weeks. Of these, three were shown by inoculation experiment to contain tubercle bacilli. This represents 12.5 per cent., a proportion far too high.

Guardians' Election.

Last week polling took place for the election of a representative to fill the vacancy in one of the wards on the Kingston Board of Guardians. There were 7,000 persons on the electorate, but the two candidates only polled 685 votes between them. When it is remembered that the Guardians are responsible for the welfare of so many poor old people, the training and education of so many children, whose parents—when they have any—are unable to provide for them, and so many sick and infirm people of both sexes, it is very disconcerting to reflect that less than seven per cent. of the electorate take the slightest interest in their election. F.A.U.

WOMEN TEACHERS' DEMONSTRATION.

All readers of *THE VOTE* who share the Women Teachers' indignation at the cuts in education should join the Demonstration in Trafalgar Square, on Saturday, February 18th, at 2.45 p.m. A Deputation will go direct from Trafalgar Square to Downing Street, to present to the Prime Minister the first list of signatures to the Petition, protesting against The Economy Policy in Education which is being pursued.

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LONDON UNIT (N.U.W.T.) Educational Conference. On Wednesday, February 15th, at 6 p.m., in University College, Gower Street, W.C. 1. Mr. A. E. Hayes will lecture on "Phonograph." Admission free to all interested in this subject.

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