

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

Campaigns.

During the past month we have had a successful campaign in Montgomery Boroughs, the principal speaker being Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, who has addressed large audiences on "Women in India," and the need for their enfranchisement. Mrs. Naidu has also spoken on this subject at Nottingham, and has promised to speak at our meetings at Margate during the conference of the National Union of Teachers. Mrs. How Martyn, B.Sc., will also speak at them on "Equal Pay for Equal Work."

The Bastardy Bill, 1920.

We are vigorously opposing the Bastardy Bill, 1920, chiefly on the ground that it will continue and accentuate our present unsatisfactory methods of dealing with the unmarried mother. We are urging that unmarried mothers and their children should be dealt with by the Health Committees, or, preferably, by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committees of our municipalities, and *not*, as is now the case, by the workhouse authorities, magistrates, and police courts.

Unemployment Insurance Bill.

We are also pressing that in the Unemployment Insurance Bill now being considered by the House of Commons the contributions and benefits shall be equal for men and women, and that the sex discrimination appearing in these amounts shall be eliminated from this Bill.

Women Justices of the Peace.

Many new lists of men Justices of the Peace have been issued in various parts of the country, and we are asking the authorities that at least one woman should be appointed to sit on every magistrates' bench. We are glad to see that in some cases women have quite recently been appointed as Justices of the Peace.

The Minerva Club.

We have attempted to solve the housing difficulty for some of our members by taking a big house in the Holborn district and turning it into residential chambers for women; and at the next elections we hope that it will contain between twenty and thirty women voters. This building is also the headquarters of the Minerva Social Club, the membership of which is open to men and women who believe in the equality of the sexes, and who are prepared to testify to the faith that is in them by being members of the Women's Freedom League. The object of this social club is to stimulate progressive thought by discussions and debates on political and economic subjects, literature, the drama, music, and art. Now that this club has been formally opened, we hope to arrange monthly dinners to distinguished guests, and we shall use every means to make it the centre of political light and leading in central London.

F. A. UNDERWOOD

(Secretary, Women's Freedom League).

TESTS WOMEN SHOULD APPLY TO LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS.

The following resolution has been drafted by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene for the use of feminist societies as a guide for the critical consideration of proposals made for dealing with prostitution and venereal disease:—

"Whereas it is essential to true morality that justice, as expressed in the laws and regulations of a country, shall deal equally with all persons and shall afford equal safeguards to all accused persons, this meeting declares its strong opposition to all proposals which introduce either separately or collectively any of the following conditions, these conditions being invariably the distinguishing marks of the system of regulated prostitution:

(a) Which make of women, or of any women a special class liable to special penalties, or special health regulations.

(b) Which tend to place women, or any women under police control other than that commonly exercised over all persons equally.

(c) Which permit either police or medical officers to enforce compulsory medical examination of women or of any women for venereal disease.

"This meeting further resolves to warn women all over the world to examine all legislative proposals in their respective countries by these three tests, and if a proposal introduces any or all of these conditions actively to oppose it until both the law and its administration rest on a basis of equal justice and an equal moral standard."

Edinburgh Fellowship for Women Surgeons.

At an extraordinary meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh on March 3, it was resolved that women be admitted to the Fellowship of the College, after examination, on the same conditions and with the same privileges as men.