

THE VOTE.
AUGUST 6, 1926.

WOMAN'S MAGNIFICENT CHANNEL SWIM.

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 1926

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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WOMEN'S PROGRESS IN PALESTINE AND EGYPT.

The women of Palestine were represented at the Paris Congress by Dr. Rosa Welt Strauss, a vigorous and interesting personality, with snow-white hair and luminous dark eyes, who, though she went to Palestine for family reasons in 1919, is an American citizen, and a personal friend of Mrs. Chapman Catt.

"Just before I went to live in Palestine," Dr. Strauss told a representative of THE VOTE, "the Jewish community in that country, which numbers about one-seventh of a total population of 750,000, organised themselves for national representation, and formed a National Assembly or Parliament, which, however, has no executive power, though it deliberates upon many questions. Jewish women all over the country immediately signified their desire for representation equally with their menfolk, and at Mrs. Chapman Catt's desire I founded the Palestine Jewish Women's Equal Rights Association. This Society has branches in Jerusalem, Jaffa, Safed, Tiberias, Haifa, and in the Judean and Galilean Colonies, with a membership of some 1,100 to 1,200 women.

"In 1920, the year after I arrived in Palestine, the first election for the National Assembly took place, when the women fought on the men's ticket, and 14 were elected out of a total of 334 representatives. At the second election, in 1925, the women fought on a women's ticket instead, and a Woman's Party was formed in the Assembly, with 'Equal Citizenship' as its slogan. On this occasion 28 women were successful, 14 of whom were elected by the Equal Rights Association, and 14 by various Labour bodies. Four of these

women also sit on the Executive Committee of the Assembly, with 32 men.

"The Association is now fighting tooth and nail against the unjust enactments of the Rabbinical Courts, which forbid women rights of inheritance and equal guardianship of their children, will not accept their testimony as witnesses, nor permit them to sue for divorce.

The Rabbinical Courts are founded on the old Mosaic traditions, and the women realise they have a very tough job in front of them to break down these old prejudices."

Another interesting delegation from the Near East at the Paris Congress was a little group of Egyptian ladies from the newly formed Feminist Union, Cairo, which was affiliated to the International Woman Suffrage Alliance in 1923, after the Rome Congress. A member of the group, Mme. Fahmy Wissa Bey, afterwards came on to London, where, to a representative of THE VOTE, she gave an interesting description of the Woman's Movement in Egypt.

"The Woman's Movement in my country," said Mme. Wissa, "arose in the first place out of the Nationalist Movement. Early in 1919 the Nationalists made a public protest against the refusal

to let Zaghul Pasha leave Egypt with a delegation for England, and the military were called out to suppress it. The women, full of indignation, determined to make a public demonstration as well, and over a thousand veiled women attempted to march through the streets of Cairo. The soldiers barred their way, and eventually dispersed them; but the experience



DR. ROSA WELT STRAUSS.

was not forgotten, and the women changed from that very day.

"First they organised themselves into societies, and from that branched out into educational, social, and political achievements. To-day in Egypt there are three schools run entirely by women's organisations. One of these is an up-to-date girls' school with some two hundred pupils, who, besides receiving a thoroughly good elementary education, are also being trained on industrial lines, in embroidery, dressmaking, machine-knitting, carpet-making, etc. Compulsory education is our final goal, but we do not want this to come about until we have made village life and conditions more satisfactory for the fellaheen (peasantry), otherwise they would crowd into the cities, causing misery and unemployment, since Egypt is not an industrial country. In addition to our schools, we also run a number of girls' clubs, the members of which take an active interest in public affairs.

"The social work upon which Egyptian women are now engaged comprises the setting-up of dispensaries and centres for child welfare and mothercraft. These are highly necessary institutions in a country with such a high infant mortality as Egypt, where only the absolutely fit can survive. The chief causes of the high death-rate are the dirty Nile water, and lack of sanitation and the simplest hygiene. Except in the cities, there is no proper water supply, and the fellaheen walk miles for water, and even when they obtain it, it is frequently undrinkable. Typhoid epidemics are always occurring.

"Another great menace to healthy living is the increasing drug traffic. Alcohol is forbidden by the Moslem religion, but heroin, morphia, opium, and cocaine are doing more harm than alcohol. The women's societies are organising groups of young men and women to go in and out amongst the fellaheen in the villages and arouse them to these evils.

"Egyptian women are also taking a great and growing interest in politics, and are being increasingly recognised as an important factor in the Nationalist Movement. Our suffrage society, the Feminist Union, works for the abolition of polygamy and divorce, and has already secured legislation which has fixed the legal age for marriage at 16 years for a girl and 18 years for a boy."

WOMAN'S MAGNIFICENT CHANNEL SWIM.

Miss Clarabelle Barratt, the New York swimming teacher, established a new record for women in her attempt to swim the Channel last Monday, being in the water 21 hours, 45 minutes, and swimming altogether nearly 40 miles. Miss Barratt has wonderful stamina and endurance. She is 6 ft. 3 ins. in height, and weighs 15 stone.

She left Dover in glorious weather at 7.50 a.m. on August Bank Holiday, and only abandoned her attempt to swim the Channel at 5.35 on the following morning when 2 miles from Cape Gris-nez. Her failure to complete the crossing was entirely due to fog, which made it impossible to adhere to the tidal table to which Miss Barratt had been swimming with splendid pluck. Extra distance was covered and valuable time lost, as well as the advantage of tides. Miss Barratt was also worried from shipping a good deal, and at one time during the evening the Boulogne steamer for Folkestone suddenly loomed through the fog, so close to the swimmer and the escorting boats that there was risk of them all being run down, until the steamer heard their shouts and altered her course.

Early on Tuesday morning the weather cleared, and Cape Gris-nez could be seen only 2 miles off, but by that time Miss Barratt was exhausted, and so decided to abandon the attempt. The party accordingly returned to Dover, where Miss Barratt was cheered by a large number of early bathers as she jumped ashore and walked off briskly to her rooms. She has not yet decided when she will make a further attempt.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Women and the League of Nations

Miss Freda Bage, D.Sc., Australian woman delegate at the Assembly next September, is the Principal of the Women's College at Brisbane and a member of the governing body of the University of that town. In addition to her University work, Dr. Bage finds time to be an active member of the National Council of Women of Queensland, and represented that Council at the meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Council of Women at one of its meetings at Copenhagen in 1924.

To Swim the Channel?

Mrs. Corson (American), Miss Ederle (American), and Mme. Sion (French) are among the Channel swimming aspirants this year. Miss Mercedes Gleitze, a Westminster typist, was unfortunately obliged to give up her plucky attempt to swim the Channel. She left Folkestone at noon, but had to give up five hours later after having covered nineteen miles. In addition to the choppy seas, Miss Gleitze for some time had to put up with the attentions of a number of porpoises. A woman doctor swam with her for three hours.

Spanish Women's Gratitude.

At a recent Reception in the Town Hall to the Spanish Prime Minister at Laon (Spain), one of the new women Town Councillors made a speech recalling the debt of gratitude which women owed to the Military Director for the new rights given them, and also because of the defeat of Abd-el-Krim, who had brought so much sorrow upon the women of Spain.

Woman Mayor for West Bromwich.

The present Mayoress of West Bromwich, Mrs. Grace Cottrell, has accepted the mayoralty for the coming year. Her husband, the present Mayor, will be Deputy-Mayor, and Mrs. Cottrell has nominated her elder daughter, Miss Aileen Cottrell, as Mayoress.

Woman's Right to Bob.

The Town Council of Landau, Bavaria, recently rejected a proposal to impose a local tax of 50 marks yearly on bobbed heads. The Burgomaster appealed to councillors not to make themselves ridiculous, adding that it was woman's inalienable right to do her hair in the way she wished.

Woman Car Racers.

Five Englishwomen will compete in the Georges Boillot Cup race at Boulogne at the end of August. The meeting is an annual international one, organised by the North of France Automobile Club. The five women drivers are Mrs. Christie, Mrs. Duller, Mrs. Bruce, Mrs. Simpson, and Miss Violet Cordery. It has been decided to offer a special cup for competition by the women.

Woman County Councillor.

Mrs. Price White has been elected to the Carnarvon County Council for the newly-formed Bangor electoral division. She ran on non-party lines, being opposed by the local leaders of the Conservative and Labour Parties respectively. A little over 75 per cent. of the electorate voted.

More Women Veterinary Surgeons.

Miss Ida Roberts, of Liverpool, and Miss O. B. Woodward, of Dublin, have obtained the diploma of M.R.C.V.S. at the final examination of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons held during the last fortnight.

Woman President of Institute of Directors.

Last week, at the Annual Meeting of the Institute of Directors, the Viscountess Rhondda was elected President.

Woman's Long Jump.

Miss M. A. Gunn, Mitcham A.C., broke the world's record at Stamford Bridge, on August Bank Holiday, in the women's open long jump, 18 feet.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Unemployment (Seasonal Trades).

MR. H. WILLIAMS (U., Reading) asked the Minister of Labour whether married women and others who only seek part employment of a seasonal nature for a few weeks in the year are regarded, for statistical purposes, as unemployed persons during the period that their names are registered just prior to the commencement of such seasonal work? SIR ARTHUR STEEL-MAITLAND: Persons registering in this way for hop-picking are not included in the returns prior to the commencement of the season. In other cases there are no express instructions, and the practice may not be uniform, but, probably, those registering would be included in the returns. MR. WILLIAMS: If I were to send the right hon. Gentleman the case of 327 women registered for jam manufacture, would he look into it? SIR A. STEEL-MAITLAND: Yes, I am always ready to look into a case sent me by an hon. Member. SIR JOSEPH NALL (U., Hulme): Is it the practice to allow benefit during the off season in trades which are essentially seasonal? SIR A. STEEL-MAITLAND: No; that is a separate and quite distinct and very intricate question. The question on the Paper is merely whether they are registered as unemployed.

Nursing Homes (Registration).

VISCOUNT SANDON (U., Shrewsbury) asked the Minister of Health whether he has accepted the Report of the Select Committee on Nursing Homes; and, if so, when he intends introducing legislation and taking administrative action to carry out its proposals? SIR KINGSLEY WOOD (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health): I would refer my noble Friend to the reply to a similar question by the hon. Member for North-West Camberwell (Mr. Campbell) on the 22nd July. [Mr. Neville Chamberlain's reply then was: "There has not yet been time to consider the Report, and I am accordingly unable to make any statement."] VISCOUNT SANDON: In view of the appalling state of affairs revealed by this Report, does not the hon. Gentleman consider it a disgrace that the matter should be left as it is a moment longer than is necessary? SIR K. WOOD: Well, in any event, the Report will involve legislation and careful consideration on the part of my right hon. Friend.

Solicitation.

MR. GERALD HURST (U., Moss Side) asked the Home Secretary whether any, and, if so, what, decision has been arrived at as to holding an inquiry into the law relating to solicitation for immoral purposes in streets and public places? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS: I would refer my hon. and learned Friend to the reply given to the hon. Member for Exeter (Sir Robert Newman) on 25th March, and can only say it has not yet been practicable to proceed with this matter. [The Home Secretary's reply on March 25th was: "I am considering the terms of reference and the personnel, but my Department is at present very overworked, so I hope my hon. Friend will not press me too urgently."]

Mental Cases (Certification).

MR. R. RICHARDSON (Lab., Houghton-le-Spring) asked the Minister of Health if he is aware that a communication was recently sent to the Board of Control, by a bench of magistrates, commenting on the lack of a proper scrutiny exercised by that Board into the grounds upon which persons are committed to asylums, instancing the case of a woman who was committed last month, on a doctor's certificate, to Gloucester County Asylum, placed in a padded cell, and, when examined by the doctor in charge, sent home as perfectly sane; and, in view of the fact that the Board has itself admitted in its Report for 1923 that 22 cases committed in the previous year were found to be sane on admission, will he give directions that certification in all these cases should be declared invalid and their names erased from the roll of lunatics, in order to

protect them from the detriment attaching to the stigma of lunacy? MR. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN: The woman in question was admitted to the Gloucester Mental Hospital, on the 9th ultimo, on the authority of an order made by a Justice of the Peace. Copies of the reception documents were received by the Board of Control on the 14th ultimo, with an intimation that the patient had been discharged on the 11th, the Medical Superintendent being of opinion that she was not then of unsound mind. There is no question of any lack of proper scrutiny by the Board, because the patient was, in fact, discharged three days before the documents reached the Board. I should, however, state that, in the opinion of the Board, the facts observed by the certifying doctor at the time of his examination appear to have afforded ample ground for the conclusion that the patient was at the time of unsound mind and in need of care and control. With regard to the latter part of the question, it is erroneous to assume, because symptoms of insanity are not found on admission, that therefore those symptoms were not present at the time of certification, and that the patient was improperly certified. It is not possible to invalidate the certification of the persons referred to in the question. They were sent to mental hospitals under proper legal authority, and on discharge their names were removed from the list of certified patients. I appreciate, however, that some amendment of the law may be desirable to facilitate the provisional observation and treatment, without full certification, of doubtful or transitory cases of mental disturbance, and this will be considered in connection with the recommendations of the Royal Commission, whose Report has just been issued. LT.-COL. FREMANTLE (U., St. Albans): Can the right hon. Gentleman say whether there is any chance of that legislation being brought in next Session? MR. CHAMBERLAIN: I am afraid I am not in a position to make a statement about that just now.

Palestine (Medical Attendance).

SIR GERALD STRICKLAND (U., Lancaster) asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies what provision has been made in Palestine for assistance to British women connected with public service in maternity cases, and has any provision been made independent of doctors in constant contact with ordinary cases of infection? MR. AMERY: I am in communication with the High Commissioner regarding a proposal that a medical officer should be appointed by the Palestine Government whose principal duty will be to attend upon officers of the Government and their families. The hon. Member will appreciate that, considering the small number of British officers and their families in Palestine, it is impossible to appoint an officer whose sole duty would be to deal with cases of the nature referred to.

Infanticide.

VISCOUNT SANDON asked the Home Secretary whether he has any statistics as to the number of infants in the United Kingdom, or in England, killed by criminal and intentional action, at birth or within the first few days; and whether he proposes taking any action, legislatively or administratively, to meet this situation? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS: The numbers of inquests in England and Wales on children not more than 24 hours old, at which verdicts of murder, manslaughter, or infanticide were returned in 1923, 1924, and 1925, were 42, 41, and 44. I am afraid I do not understand what action it is suggested should be taken.

Factories Bill.

MR. H. WILLIAMS asked the Home Secretary when the Factories Bill will be introduced? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: The Bill will be introduced next week. [This Bill "to consolidate, with Amendments, the enactments relating to Factories; and for purposes connected therewith," was presented by the Home Secretary last Monday.]

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EDITORIAL.

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

WHERE IS EQUAL FRANCHISE?

Parliament has this week adjourned until November 9th, on the understanding that Members come up two days at the end of each month to pass the Emergency Regulations if the coal dispute unfortunately remains unsettled. The present Government was returned to power in October, 1924. Since that time it can faithfully be recorded that the question of equal franchise for women and men has occupied no place in the Government's deliberations. Its representatives successfully managed to kill a simple equal franchise measure in the early days of 1925 by a vague promise of a Conference on franchise reform; and the stereotyped official reply to all questions about such a Conference has been, and still is, that no statement can yet be made concerning it. A similar stock reply is given to questions about the reform of the House of Lords. Indeed, both these measures of reform appear to be equally remote, the Government having postponed them until the Greek Kalends. There they will remain, unless public opinion can be sufficiently aroused to compel the Government to deal with them. With regard to the House of Lords, the greatest reform needed is that peeresses in their own right should have, equally with peers, a seat, a voice, and a vote in the Upper House. With regard to the equal enfranchisement of women and men, this question is of the greatest importance to all men and women who believe in representative government, and of vital importance to the women of the country who, while they pay taxes just as men do, and are controlled by the laws of the land at every point of their lives, including the conditions of their livelihood, are still without political power. Under our present inequitable franchise laws, there are in this country nearly five million voteless women over the age of twenty-one—two millions of them being over thirty years of age, whereas practically any man in Great Britain when he has reached twenty-one can qualify for the vote. This is certainly not political justice for women, and it is at the basis of a great deal of the economic injustice from which women suffer. Most of the women in Industry are under thirty years of age, and therefore voteless. Many women in Industry over thirty years of age are also voteless because of our unequal franchise laws. Yet these women have to put up with special legal restrictions upon their work, and they have no political weapon to fight for equality with men in Industry. What are women going to do about this question of equal franchise? It is not intertwined or entangled with men's interests; it is simply buried deep beneath them; and women themselves must rescue it from the oblivion in which the Government would like it to remain. The Women's Freedom League is now prepared to take part in a great campaign, to be inaugurated this autumn, to rouse public opinion sufficiently to compel this Government to pass a simple equal franchise measure during the life of this Parliament, and we call upon every man and woman of good will to help us in this campaign. We want more members, more volunteers for work, and more money to carry on this work; and we appeal to our readers to let us know at once what support we may expect from them.

WOMEN AND THE FACTORIES BILL.

The long-promised Factories Bill has been introduced into the House of Commons by the Home Secretary. Its main purpose is to consolidate existing enactments, and that is all to the good. So are some of the new proposals which deal with factory inspection and protection against accidents; and we sincerely hope that pressure will be brought to bear upon the Home Office to appoint more women factory inspectors. With the increasing number of women in industry, more women factory inspectors are a necessity. But we understand that one of the most important of the new provisions is in regard to the number of hours for women factory workers. The present maximum for women in factories is 60 hours a week, and this Bill is to reduce that number to 48 hours. We should have no objection at all to this reduction if it applied equally to men and women workers; but we strongly object to differential legislation for men and women, which undermines the struggle of women workers to secure equal opportunities and equal pay with men in Industry. This so-called "protective" legislation, which curtails women's freedom by curtailing their hours of work and shutting them out altogether from certain processes in industry, such as lead paint, and all without in any way consulting women, is thoroughly harmful to the real interests of the woman worker. We welcome any movement and any legislation which will enable workers of both sexes to have a fair amount of leisure and the best conditions possible under which they may carry on their work; but we protest most emphatically against hard and fast lines being drawn between the conditions of men's work and women's work. Women keenly resent both their economic and their political tutelage, and claim an equal right with men to political and economic freedom. We suggest to the Home Secretary that the Government would earn women's gratitude if, instead of initiating irritating legal enactments against the liberty of women workers, it would give them equal political rights with their men colleagues to manage their own affairs.

HOUSEWIVES AND UNCLEAN FOOD.

The British Housewives' Association is rendering a national service by inaugurating a campaign for clean food. In the recent hot weather we have seen displays of meat, sugar, and every kind of eatable exposed to all the flies and dust which accumulate in a busy thoroughfare, and it is welcome news that the British Housewives' Association has written to the Minister of Health, drawing his attention to the danger of displaying foods, such as will not be washed, cooked, or re-cooked before being eaten, in such a way that they become contaminated by dust and flies. While acknowledging the work already done by the Ministry to influence the cleaner handling of food, the writers state that "much more remains to be done, especially with regard to the display of breadstuffs and confectionery. Even in the large stores, high-class shops and teashops, comparatively little effort is made to protect goods from contamination by flies"; and they add, "the time has come when the public would welcome the introduction of regulations which would protect them from the dangers of fly and dust infected food."

This matter of the cleanliness of our food is of the most vital importance, and we fervently hope that the British Housewives' Association will continue to press the Ministry to take action to safeguard the public against the dangers of fly and dust infected food. We should also like to see this Association wage vigorous war on behalf of pure and clean milk and against the adulteration of food. Its members' first-hand knowledge of these subjects would be of the greatest value to the Ministry of Health, and their efforts in this direction would earn the gratitude of the British public. A few practical housewives in the Ministry itself, with authority to advise and, when necessary, to act in regard to unclean food and the adulteration of food, would be of the greatest assistance in preventing us from deteriorating into a C3 nation.

THE STIMULUS OF PUBLIC OPINION.

REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON LUNACY AND MENTAL DISORDER.

The Royal Commission on Lunacy, appointed on July 25th, 1924, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Macmillan, K.C., has issued its Report.

Its object was to inquire into the law and administrative machinery relating to persons who are, or are alleged to be, of unsound mind, and to consider provision for treatment without certification, and make recommendations. All this as regards England and Wales.

The Commission consisted of 10 persons, including 2 women, 5 lawyers, and 1 Member of Parliament.

Over 100 witnesses gave evidence, including members of the Board of Control in England and Scotland, representatives of the Lord Chancellor, the Health Ministry, and other Government Departments, of Asylum officials and Poor Law Unions, of Medical and Psychological Associations, County Councils, and Societies for After-care, Lunacy Reform, Mental Welfare, and of the Bishops of England.

Many Magistrates also gave evidence, Medical Superintendents of Infirmaries and Mental Hospitals, 8 men and 5 women ex-patients, one man and one woman ex-attendant, Dr. Montagu Lomax, Dr. Helen Boyle, of the Lady Chichester Hospital; Dr. Maypoth, of the Maudsley Hospital, and several mental consultants. Only 16 of the witnesses were women.

Evidence upon the Scottish system was taken for comparison.

Members of the Commission visited 25 institutions in different parts of the country, and their studies convinced them that there is no clear distinction to be made between illness of mind and body. This modern view changes the keynote from mere detention of the patient to prevention and treatment of the disease.

Science is bringing a new spirit to its work, but "the stimulus of public interest must be provided."

Treatment necessarily, in many cases, involves compulsion and restraint, but they must be used as little and for as short a time as possible, and, wherever possible, replaced by persuasion and consideration. Mental patients must be able, while still capable of regulating their own actions, voluntarily to enter upon the suitable treatment which will restore them to health. "Certification should be the last resort in treatment, not the pre-requisite of treatment." The Commissioners desire to see the treatment of mental disease freed from its present association with the Poor Law, and similar procedure for rich and poor alike. The problem is essentially a public health problem, to be tackled on modern public health lines, as is done with tuberculosis, infectious fevers, and venereal disease, the County or County Borough being responsible. A period of observation and treatment should be possible before recourse to certification, which would then often be avoided altogether by a speedy and complete recovery.

The classification of patients is often very defective, and such numbers as 1,500 or 2,000 patients are too many for a single mental hospital. After-care is insufficient, and there is a great opening for philanthropic work in this invaluable service; public funds should be made available.

The existing code was found to be complete and logical, but "too complicated for the comprehension of those who have daily to administer it." The Commissioners considered that existing safeguards against wrongful certification, if properly observed, were adequate. Unnecessary certification of delirious patients in general hospitals, puerperal cases, and old neglected persons does, however, often happen.

Voluntary boarders are admitted to Scottish Mental Hospitals, to the Maudsley Hospital (London County Council or Guardians), and City of London Mental Hospital (Corporation of the City of London), but to no other English rate-aided hospitals. It is desirable

that a patient should not be certified in the hospital he has entered as a voluntary boarder. This is the rule at the Maudsley.

Some mental hospitals have mental clinics or wards for voluntary patients. These facilities should be greatly developed, both for the benefit of early mental disease at its most hopeful early stage, and to familiarise students and doctors with the best modern methods of treatment.

A number of charges of ill-treatment by nurses and attendants were investigated, but, as would be expected, not with very satisfactory results; but many reforms are advocated to prevent the misery which attends the "isolated instances of brutality, or perhaps more often of rough handling or neglect" which do "occasionally occur." It is suggested that probationers should be admitted up to 35 years of age, and that the kind, motherly, infinitely patient women who cannot pass the difficult medico-psychological nursing examinations, should have a place found for them upon the permanent staff.

Women nurses for men patients, wherever possible, are recommended, and better conditions to produce happier and more efficient nurses. Head nurses should also possess a general training.

The medical staff is insufficient, and study-leave should be possible for the assistant doctors in turn.

Local Medical and Surgical Consultants are a great help in some mental hospitals.

More facilities should be given to women for outdoor occupation on the farms and gardens, and in workshops for handicrafts for both men and women. A special staff occupation officer is suggested.

Dietaries were found to need improvement, especially in relief of monotony; introduction of an evening meal, and attractiveness.

It is noticed several times that in many ways good has resulted from the publication of Dr. Lomax's book, "Experiences of an Asylum Doctor."

It is recommended that the Lunacy Code should be recast to allow early treatment of voluntary boarders in any mental institution, and of involuntary patients under a Provisional Treatment Order without certification for one to six months; that voluntary unofficial visitors should be generally adopted in mental hospitals to act as the friends of patients and relatives; that new hospitals should not take more than 1,000 patients, and should follow the villa system; that personal sanitary details should follow a definite and uniform plan; that at least two members of every visiting committee should be women; that the Board of Control should be smaller, substituting for the present maximum of 15 and the present actual number of 11 Lunacy Commissioners a small body consisting of a lay Chairman, a Legal Commissioner, a Medical Commissioner, and a woman Commissioner, who may be non-technical, with a visiting staff of not less than 15 Assistant Commissioners working under their direction.

LEAD PAINT BILL.

This Bill passed its Third Reading in the House of Commons last Tuesday. Our warmest thanks are offered to Sir Robert Newman and Mr. Gerald Hurst for their efforts to leave out the words "woman or" in Clause 2 which reads as follows:—"On and after the nineteenth day of November, 1927, it shall not be lawful to employ any woman or young person in painting any part of a building with lead paint." In moving that the words "woman or" be left out, SIR ROBERT NEWMAN (U., Exeter) said that "so far as I can make out, there is not a single argument in favour of this prohibition as far as women are concerned . . . I am convinced that the average woman is getting more

and more inclined to resent the tendency that I see growing very strongly indeed to tell them, even though they are over 40 years of age, that they are not old enough to look after themselves.

In seconding this Amendment MR. HURST (U., Moss Side) said: "It seems to me a scandalous thing that this Bill should include a Clause which deprives a number of adults of their livelihood."

MR. HADEN GUEST (Lab., Southwark N.) opposing the amendment said: "On this side we recognise that there are real physical differences between men and women."

CAPT. HACKING, on behalf of the Government, resisted the amendment. He quoted the following opinions by eminent medical men:—

"On the whole, females suffer more severely from plumbism than males."

"Women are more susceptible to poisoning by lead than men."

We all know, however, that doctors disagree; and there are other eminent authorities who could be quoted against those mentioned. Capt. Hacking also stated that the Clause had been inserted because it was one of the points dealt with by the Convention of Geneva.

In Memoriam.

ZANGWILL.—On the 1st of August, at Midhurst, Sussex, Israel Zangwill, aged 62. We heard this news with the greatest regret, and we offer our deep sympathy to his widow and children.

THE CLYDE CAMPAIGN.

Organiser and Speaker: MISS LILIAN LENTON, Wellpark House, Craigmare, Bute. (Assisted by Miss MARY McNULTY.)

The second week of the Clyde Campaign is over—a week of alternate rain and hot sunshine, and in between the showers we have held our meetings, sometimes one and sometimes two daily, and sold our VOTES and literature.

It is a peaceful season, this, if not a lucrative one. Not, as in previous years, is the promenade dense with visitors from Glasgow and other towns, and the grass by the sea covered with picnicking families.

But, although great crowds are not here, our meetings are quite well attended, and apparently awakened interest. Sometimes we see the same faces night after night. It is strange, the ignorance that still prevails. Twice this week indignant gentlemen have assured us that we have a vote if we are 21!

When selling our literature we sometimes meet with interesting incidents. One very pretty young lady, on hearing the words, "Women's Freedom League," said most emphatically that certainly she would buy a pamphlet, and most definitely refused to allow the gentleman accompanying her to pay for it.

Once more we will conclude by saying that we shall be very grateful for any help members or friends can give us, either personal or financial.

WOMEN AND THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

Women scientists are playing a prominent part in this year's meeting of the British Association at Oxford, which opened last Wednesday.

In addition to a number of scientific papers, written either entirely by women or in collaboration with male colleagues, they are taking part in several important discussions, notably those on Educational Training for Overseas Life, in which Dame Meriel Talbot is one of the openers; the Relationship of Vitamin B to Bios, in which Miss Reader and Miss Orr-Ewing will take part; and on Scholarships, in which Miss J. P. Strachey will speak.

On the evening of Saturday, August 7th, Miss Alford is to lecture on the Ritual Dance, of which a demonstration is to be given by members of the English Folk Dance Society.

Among the interesting papers by women scientists are those on Neolithic Culture of the Northern Fayum Desert by Miss G. Caton-Thompson; Recent Progress in Vocational Selection by Miss W. Spielman; the Education of Children under 11 years of age by Miss M. Drummond; and Colour Imagery by Dr. Marguerite E. Bickersteth.

Women's Freedom League.

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Telephone:—MUSEUM 1429. Telegrams:—"DIBSPARD, MUSEUM 1429, LONDON." Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD. President—Mrs. PETHICK-LAWRENCE. Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT. Hon. Organising Secretary—Mrs. WHETTON. General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.



DARE TO BE FREE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS. Saturday, October 9th, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting. Tuesday and Wednesday, November 23rd and 24th, 3 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. Green, White and Gold Fair, at Caxton Hall.

SCOTLAND. July—August. Open-air Daily Meetings at Dunoon, Millport, and Largs. Evening Meetings at Rothesay Pier Head. Speaker: Miss Lenton. PROVINCES. Wednesday, August 25th, at 3.30 p.m. Hastings Branch. Garden Party at "Rossiana," Pine Avenue, Ore. Short Speeches on the Women's Movement and Peace Pilgrimage. Chair: Mrs. Darent Harrison. Music. Recitations. Tea, 4.30.

OTHER SOCIETIES. September 3rd—6th. Fourth Annual Conference of Women Engineers at Leeds University. Thursday, September 30th. British Commonwealth League Conference. October 5th—8th. League of the Church Militant Campaign at Southport. Wednesday, October 13th, at 2.30 p.m. Women's International League. Conference on Arbitration. October 19th—22nd. Annual Meeting and Conference of the National Council of Women, in the Church House, Great Smith Street, Westminster.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE. WOMEN AND SOME PEERS.

Madam,—I was surprised to see in your issue of July 23rd the number of Women's Societies which signed the resolution protesting against the tone of the speeches of Lord Birkenhead and Lord Newton during the debate on the second reading of the Peers' Bill in the House of Lords.

While fully agreeing with the "low-down" tone of the so-called "insult" offered to those who pay his salary, at the same time I feel only too thankful that Lord Birkenhead lost his head enough on that occasion to state OPENLY what nine men out of ten think privately about women! Even the Sunday Times, which pretended to regret the number of "cave men" in the Lords, thought the speech "exceedingly clever," only "too rough" and "too redolent of the smoke room," showing plainly that in the smoke room that is the attitude of men to women!

Besides, I must say that I rejoice that Lord Birkenhead at least spoke the truth, however offensively it was put.

All this is the truth, as all these Women's Societies know only too well, hence my wonder at the protest, merely on account of the vulgarity of the method of its expression.

Lord Birkenhead should be thanked by all women for telling the truth, and, personally, I would far rather hear the truth stated, even in ordinary "smoke room" language, than listen to platitudes which mean nothing, and lead to nothing!

Yours, etc., ALICE HEALE.

[We quite agree with our correspondent, but rejoice that there are now a large and increasing number of men who, alike in the smoking room and in public, recognise that women are human beings just as much as themselves.—Ed.]

WHY WOMEN SHOULDN'T PREACH!

The following letter appeared in The Times of July 20th:— JOHN WESLEY AND WOMEN PREACHERS. Sir,—In 1791 Mr Wesley, then 88 years old, received a letter from a young Irish lady living near Bandon asking him whether it was right for her to preach. Replying, Wesley gave the lady the following sound advice:—"I would advise you not to speak at any place where a preacher is speaking at the same time, lest you should draw away his hearers."

Yours truly, R. W. PERKS.

THE VERY LATEST CHANCE.

On August 10th the Parliamentary and Municipal Register will be closed. Be sure that you are not disfranchised!

THE WOMEN'S INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

The Women's Indian Association has been very active in Madras. Last month it held a public meeting in the Gokhale Hall (1) To support the women mill workers of the Buckingham Carnatic Mills under notice of dismissal; (2) To request the Councillors to pass the resolution for opening membership of the Legislative Council to women; and (3) To call for Social Reform Legislation. Among the speakers were Lady Sadasiva Iyer and Mrs. Cousins. It was stated that many of the women mill workers had to work about 18 hours a day, from 4 a.m. till late at night. The employers had objected to their women workers joining a Union and had therefore served them with notice of dismissal. At the meeting, however, it was stated that these notices had been withdrawn and that the ban against joining a Union had been removed. The two following resolutions were carried unanimously, the first one amidst cheers:—

(1) "That this meeting calls upon the members of the Madras Legislative Council to pass the resolution which comes before them this session, for the removal of the sex disqualification which prevents women from being nominated or elected to the Legislative Council, and similarly, calls on the Legislative Assembly and the Council of State to admit women as members."

(2) "That this meeting calls upon the Provincial Legislative Councils to pass resolutions calling for the raising of the age of consent to sixteen, and calls on the Madras Council to pass a Bill which will make commercialised immorality illegal."

LEAGUE OF THE CHURCH MILITANT.

From the Church Militant for July, we learn that Miss Maude Royden preached to a crowded congregation in Liverpool Cathedral on the first Sunday of that month. The next day for Corporate Communion will be in London on September 25th, before beginning this League's Church Congress campaign. This campaign will take place at Southampton, and promises to be on a bigger scale than has been attempted for some time. The League will have its stall at the Exhibition, a meeting on October 5th, at which Mr. Shoran S. Singha will speak on Race Problems, and another meeting on Wednesday, at which Miss Royden will deal with the question of equality of opportunity between the sexes in all departments of life in Church and State. The Chairman will be the Rev. Canon Raven, D.D. There will also be a third meeting on industrial matters.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE CONFERENCE.

It has been decided to hold a Conference on September 30th to consider matters in regard to the Imperial Conference. Societies are asked to send three representatives to the afternoon and evening sessions. The agenda will cover the following points:—

(1) General summary of the citizen position of women in regard to Overseas settlement. Resolution and appointment of deputation to go to the Imperial Conference, if necessary, on the question of equality of opportunity in (a) administration, and (b) training. (2) Appointment of deputations to go to the Imperial Conference in regard to the Nationality of Married Women within the British Empire. Arrangement of special group deputations to go to separate Prime Ministers in order to get a definite movement forward. (3) Consideration of the Franchise question and of deputations or other methods of approach in regard to (a) disfranchisement of women voters coming from other parts of the British Empire to England; (b) the position in South Africa. (4) Consideration of measures required in regard to reciprocal affiliation orders; consideration of the appointment of deputations or other means of approach. (5) General business.

It is also proposed to arrange that the evening session be opened by a competent public speaker of reputation to discuss the position in regard to control of common policy as between the different parts of the Empire, and to indicate in what way the woman citizen needs still to ask for a further share of control.

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