

THE VOTE

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1928

OBJECTS: To use the power of the Parliamentary vote, now won for Women upon equal terms with men, to elect women to Parliament, and upon other public bodies; to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes; and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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MADAME HALIDÉ EDIB.

THE NEW TURKISH WOMAN.

Mme. Halidé Edib, who was the first member of her sex to speak at the Institute of Politics, which held its eighth annual session in Williamstown, Mass., last month—on which occasion she shared the platform with men representatives from all parts of the world, including England, Belgium, Germany and Italy—is one of the most remarkable women of the Moslem world.

Born in 1885, Halidé Edib had the misfortune to lose her mother at the age of four. Her father, a secretary of Sultan Abdul Hamid, placed her in the care of her grandparents. Her early education included instruction in English and French. When she was eight years of age she was sent to the American College for Girls at Constantinople, but an uneventful career was not for Halidé. The Sultan was opposed to a Turkish girl receiving higher education and issued a special imperial order that she was to be withdrawn. Thus at nine years of age Halidé Edib found herself thirsting for the knowledge of which she had had a taste, and denied appeasing her desire by the age-long customs of her country. But things were moving towards a new order even in Turkey. She was afterwards allowed to return to the college, and in 1901 took the B.A. degree. Not only is Halidé Edib the first Moslem woman to whom the American College in Constantinople has awarded a degree, but she has so far remained its most famous graduate. Her marriage, at the age of sixteen, to Salih Zeki Bey, the most distinguished mathematician of

Modern Turkey, was not a success, and a divorce was obtained nine years later. Her first novel, "Ruined Temples," was published the same year. She followed it up in 1911 with "Handan," a very popular novel, and, in 1912, received signal success with "New Turan," a semi-

political novel written on her second visit to London. The constitutional revolution of 1908, which removed the strict censorship of Abdul Hamid, gave Halidé Edib her opportunity, and her writings which have continued to pour out in an unbroken sequence are known wherever the Turkish tongue is spoken.

In 1916, Halidé Edib married Dr. Adnan, Director-General of the Health Department. A year later she became Professor of Western Literature in the University of Istamboul. Although authorship and study have the first claim on Halidé Edib, during the war she was drawn into the political arena, and, as an extreme Nationalist, in 1920 when many of the leaders of her party were arrested, escaped from Constantinople, hidden beneath charcoal bags on an ox cart guided by Anatolian irregulars. She sought refuge in Angora, but when exiled four years later, made her home in London. Halidé Edib has two sons, one at the London School of



MADAME HALIDE EDIB

Economics, and the other at the Columbia University. Halidé Edib, who is regarded as Turkey's greatest feminist and symbolic of the new womanhood of Turkey, holds a definite political creed. Autocracy she strongly condemns; democracy she considers the most hopeful system of government which has so far evolved.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Another Woman Parliamentary Candidate.

Mrs. C. M. Wadham, a member of the Lewisham Board of Guardians, has been adopted as prospective Labour candidate for West Lewisham Parliamentary Division.

Woman Auctioneer at Fair.

Miss Maud Coltman, of Nottingham, was a very successful auctioneer at Peterborough Ram Fair, and obtained high prices. She is the first woman to hold the hammer at the Fair.

147 Girls for Australia.

Last Saturday 147 girls from all parts of the country left St. Pancras on their way to Australia where they are guaranteed domestic work immediately on arrival. Miss Cox, senior woman officer at Leeds, who has been appointed by the Ministry of Labour to investigate conditions of employment for women domestics in Australia, is travelling with these girls.

Woman Fire Chief in London.

According to *The Star*, in the 'forties a woman might have been seen, equipped in top boots and helmet, directing operations at the fires of the day. She was Widow Smith, and commanded the firemen of the united parishes of St. Martin's and St. Michael's.

Woman as Representative of Canadian Government.

Mrs. Mary Dignam, Vice-Convenor for Arts and Letters of the International Council of Women's Standing Committee on Press, who will be one of the representatives of that Council at the Popular Arts Congress in Prague this Autumn, has been appointed Hon. Representative of the Canadian Government at that same Congress.

Woman Mayor in Saxony.

Elizabeth von Wilcke has been elected Mayor of Uhyst, in the district Kamenz in Saxony.

Russian Woman Doctor's Discoveries.

Dr. A. J. Smirnof-Zamkoff, a Russian woman doctor, and a member of the Anatomical-Pathological Faculty of the University of Ukraina, is reported to have made important discoveries with regard to the causes of scarlet fever.

Woman Director of a Museum in Warsaw.

Madame Czajkowska, who has specialised in popular Arts and Ceramic, is the Director of the Arts and Crafts Museum in Warsaw.

Woman Delegate to Religious Peace Conference.

Miss Bapsy Pavry, daughter of a Parsee high priest in Bombay, is the only woman delegate to the Universal Religious Peace Conference, which takes place at Geneva this month.

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN.

Wednesday, October 24th, has been chosen by the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee as the day on which to celebrate the Equal Franchise victory.

A Luncheon will take place at 1.15 p.m., at the Hotel Cecil. The Viscountess Rhondda, J.P., will preside, and short speeches will be given by Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence on "Real and Paper Opportunity"; Miss Alison Neilans on "An Equal Moral Standard"; Mrs. Abbott on "Restrictive Legislation"; and Miss Doris Stevens, Chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Women, on "International Feminism." Dame Millicent Fawcett has promised to be present at this Luncheon, tickets for which are 5s. each, and should be secured early from the Women's Freedom League Office.

The same evening, the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee will hold a Reception in Caxton Hall, Westminster, at 7.30. The chief arrangements for this Reception will be in the hands of young women. There will be short speeches by young women, who will deal with political questions from their own particular viewpoint. Tickets for this Reception, which include light refreshments, are 2s. each, and can be obtained from the Women's Freedom League Office.

WOMEN AND KENSINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL.

The Kensington and Paddington Society for Equal Citizenship have decided to put forward their own candidates for the Kensington Borough Council Election in November next. Six Independent candidates—five women and one man—have been chosen to contest St. Charles Ward in North Kensington. They are standing on a non-party ticket, and are pledged to give full support to equal opportunities for women with men; to the right of married women to work for pay; and to the programme of the Society. The names of these candidates are Dr. Constance Beach, Miss Beaumont, Lady Horsley, Mrs. Houston, Dr. Arthur Kenward Matthews, and Lady Maurice.

Help is asked for their candidature, and on Monday, October 8th, at 5.30 p.m., there will be a meeting for all who can give assistance in canvassing or in any other way at 184a, Ladbroke Grove (by kind permission of Mrs. Guthrie). Members of the Women's Freedom League who can offer to do clerical work, canvass between October 15th and 31st, lend a car during the election or on polling day, are asked to communicate at once with the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. West, 9, Moreton Gardens, S.W.5, and to attend the meeting on October 8th. We send our best wishes for the success of these candidates.

ANOTHER WOMAN HOUSE MANAGER

According to *The Scotsman*, the Housing Committee of Glasgow Corporation have made a suggestion that a woman house manager be appointed for Germiston rehousing scheme at a salary afterwards to be fixed. The duties will be to collect the rents weekly by visitation, to prevent the houses from deteriorating, and insanitary conditions from arising by supervision and report; to maintain and improve the amenities of the scheme; and to encourage a community of interest among the residents, and a cordial relationship between the tenants and the Corporation.

THE WORK OF WOMEN ENGINEERS.

According to *The Times*, Miss C. Haslett, Director of the Electrical Association for Women and Secretary to the Women's Engineering Society, speaking last week at a Conference of the Industrial Welfare Society, held at Balliol College, Oxford, said that the woman technician had not found her road an easy one, and in many cases she had realised that her only chance of success was to form companies of her own, raising the necessary capital, and striking out in a direction where initiative and the pioneers spirit were needed. Recently a group of women engineers had realised that the great problem of rural electrification offered possibilities for the employment and training of women. Already a number of small villages had been wired, the necessary plant and mains installed, and churches and small factories had been provided with electrical power. A significant fact was that these companies had taken on a number of industrial apprentices, this being almost the first chance for a girl with an engineering bent to become properly apprenticed in the same way as her brother.

The Sixth Annual Conference of Women Engineers, which will open at Bristol University on September 21st, promises to be of special interest. Members are journeying from all parts of the country, including Leeds, Yorkshire, Rugby, and a large contingent from London. Invitations to the Conference have also been accepted by many eminent engineers and industrialists. Various Government Departments will also be represented at the Conference. Miss Frances Weaver, B.Sc., is reading a paper on "A Brief Review of Metallurgical Progress." The presidential address will be given on the opening evening by Mrs. L. A. Willson, M.B.E., who is a director of Smith, Barker and Willson, lathe makers, Halifax.

A MAGISTRATE'S TASK.

A ring at the telephone. "This is D— of T—, relieving officer. I should like you to see a patient, if you can, at H—. It is a woman." An arrangement is made for 10 a.m. the next day. This is no uncommon occurrence for the only woman magistrate in an industrial area, and that woman a county J.P. The magistrate shrinks rather from the task, which is the examination of a mental case at the poor law hospital, but it is a magistrate's duty, and surely better for a woman to interview a woman patient than for one of the many men magistrates.

On arrival next morning the magistrate hears about the case from the doctor. The poor woman has been "in" since the day before, but nothing can be made of her. She is not violent, could not be. She merely lies and stares about, but cannot sleep. What is her history? Mother of five children; her age forty-three, but she looks nearly sixty. Her husband has been unemployed five years. The magistrate must judge whether or not the woman must be sent to the mental hospital (lunatic asylum). She tries to converse with the patient, but gets no response. The doctor has had the same experience. There is no doubt the woman is tired. She is overstrained with the constant domestic effort and money worries. She needs rest, mental and physical. Surely the lunatic asylum is no place for her? The doctor agrees. She needs freedom from worry and careful nursing for a few months, and then she will be well again. But where can she get this treatment? In her own home she will not recover, as the worries would be ever present and she would possibly soon die. Can the doctor find room in the hospital for a little while? He will try, as she is certainly no case for the lunatic asylum, but his powers are limited, and every bed is required for cases which could not be disposed of in the mental hospital. So the form is not signed this time.

Can the magistrate see another case in the same room? This is an elderly woman, who is not silent and who wants to go home. The history is similar, but this time the woman has become voluble and is in a highly nervous state, at present unable to control herself. Still, the lunatic asylum is scarcely the place for her, as she is alive to everything about her. She needs quietness and a cessation of domestic and financial worry. It is arranged to detain her in the Institution for a few days, and she can then be seen again.

The doctor is young and has only recently taken up practice, but he has already seen several such cases, due, in the main, to the difficult times through which working-class families are passing in the stricken industrial districts. He pities the unfortunate woman and is surprised only that more do not break down. He would like to give many of them a periodic rest in pleasant surroundings, where these tired and tired mothers could be nursed back to mental and physical health. The stigma of the lunatic asylum should not be for them.

The magistrate returns, pondering over a possible solution. Reforms come so slowly, but with more women magistrates and others also in close touch with these problems, the solution can be found and the right treatment applied.

A. S. C.

WOMAN DELEGATES TO INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.

The Bulletin, the organ of the International Council of Women, gives the following list of Women Delegates to the Eleventh International Labour Conference, which took place in Geneva last May and June:—

Government Delegates: FRU BETSY KJELBERG, Chief Woman Factory Inspector, of Norway; FRÖKEN KERSTIN HESSELGREN, Chief Woman Factory Inspector, of Sweden, and Member of the Senate.

Technical Advisers: FRAU ELSE LÜDERS, Ministry of Labour, Germany; FRAULEIN MARGARETE WOLFF, of the Women Home Workers' Trade Union (German Trade Union Confederation); MRS. R. A. ROGERS, Winnipeg, Canada; FRU KIRSTEN GLOERFELDT-TARP, of Denmark, Factory Inspector; THE HON. MARY

WOMEN SUFFRAGISTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

We have just received the Conference number of *The Flashlight*, the quarterly organ of the Women's Enfranchisement Association of the Union of South Africa, will a full account of the proceedings of the Association's Twelfth Annual Conference. In her presidential address, Lady Steel said that the latest defeat of the Woman Suffrage Bill, when it seemed to be on the point of reaching the Statute Book, decided the executive to call this Conference. She pointed out that it was due to the education of public opinion that the Woman Suffrage Bill, introduced by General Byron last Session, was received in a different spirit from that with which it was greeted on previous occasions, when it was received with jeers and laughter. This time it was taken seriously, and discussed as a question of practical politics. Lady Steel declared that the friends of woman suffrage in the Legislative Assembly did their utmost to get the Bill on the Statute Book last Session, and would have succeeded had not the Government sent out a Whip against it, thus securing its defeat, and added: "The alacrity with which people hastened to offer help when it was dead was most astonishing," and explained this exhibition of zeal by stating that a General Election was at hand, and men wanted women to do the spade work again as they had done for years! She described the action of the Legislative Assembly in defeating the Bill as neither biblical, Christian, democratic, nor natural; and the Legislative Assembly itself as "an abortion, an incomplete thing. There is no use in pretending that it is anything but a frozen image set up by men, to which we are expected to do honour. It is an anachronism, and the sooner it is replaced by something modern, the better; it ought to be representative of the people and not of a sex." Lady Steel maintained that in asking for the vote women were asking for the right to serve their country and humanity.

Despite the defeat of this Bill, women suffragists are not disheartened. They are pinning their faith to a promise given them by the Prime Minister, that he will introduce a measure, but not as a Government measure; they rely on a statement he has made that, although it will not be a Government measure, all the usual pressure would be brought to bear on the members of the party to carry the measure. At the conclusion of her report, the Parliamentary Secretary, Mrs. Lyon, said: "General Hertzog is a man of his word. If he gets into power in 1930, we shall have the vote, and doubtless, if the South African party get in, they couldn't do otherwise than do what the more conservative party definitely promised to do. All that is left for us to do is, in the words of General Smuts, "Educate public opinion."

There was a militant spirit abroad among the delegates, some of whom wanted to work definitely against any Government in power until women secured the vote; to pester Cabinet Ministers and members of the Government on the lines of the militants in this country in pre-suffrage days, but eventually the Conference decided on "an active policy of presentation of our claims."

We send our heartiest good wishes to the Women's Enfranchisement Association for a speedy victory of the cause of woman suffrage in South Africa.

ADA PICKFORD, M.A., Appointed Member of the Aerated Waters Trade Board (England and Wales) and of the Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (England and Wales); MISS MARGARET BONDFIELD, J.P., M.P., Chief Woman Officer of the National Union of General and Municipal Workers, and Member of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress; MADAME LETELLIER, Departmental Inspector of Labour (France); MISS BRIGID STAFFIRD, Superintending Officer, Department of Industry and Commerce (Irish Free State); MISS G. J. STEMBERG, Doctor of Law, Director in the Ministry of Labour, Commerce and Industry (Netherlands), and MADAME EUGENJA WASNIEWSKA, Deputy, Poland.

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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.

POLICE AND PUBLIC.

THE DANGER OF UNCORROBORATED EVIDENCE.

Last Friday, two London policemen, John William Clayton and Charles Victor Stevens, both aged thirty, were found guilty at the Old Bailey of conspiring to prefer a false charge against Helen Adèle, a twenty-one years' old girl, and, by committing wilful and corrupt perjury in support of their false charge, to pervert the course of public justice. They were each sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment in the second division. This case, following so closely upon others in which the methods of the police were publicly criticised, aroused intense public interest. Helen Adèle was charged at Clerkenwell Police Court, on July 6th, with insulting behaviour near a Holloway garage. The two constables said she was having an altercation with a man who made off, and was using abusive language. The girl denied the charge, refused to give her name and address, was kept at the police station for the remainder of the night, and, when charged in Court, told the magistrate that she went to a cab in the garage to sleep, and found Clayton in it. He made advances to her, which she resisted, and she threatened to tell the constable's superior officer. To prevent her from carrying out this threat, or to discredit her if she carried it out, the constable arrested her on a false charge, and Stevens supported this charge. The magistrate dismissed the case, saying he thought there was a case for an inquiry. The Public Prosecutor, with the help of Scotland Yard, took up the case, and made a thorough investigation, with the result that the two constables, who had been suspended at once, were prosecuted. Mr. Percival Clarke, Mr. G. D. Roberts, and Mr. Anthony Hawke appeared for the prosecution, and Sir Henry Curtis Bennett, K.C., Mr. St. John Hutchinson, and Mr. Derek Curtis Bennett were for the defence. After an absence of thirty-three minutes, the jury, consisting of eleven men and one woman, returned a verdict of *Guilty*, and the judge, in passing sentence, said: "I think it right to say that I agree with that verdict. I believe it to be a true one, and it means that you two men have disgraced the uniform which you wore. . . . You have used the power entrusted to you for the public good to attack that wretched girl who felt herself in your power, as no doubt she was." It is perfectly true, as Mr. Justice Humphreys said, that a verdict of guilty in this case could not mean a verdict of condemnation of the Metropolitan Police Force, and that out of a body of something like 18,000 to 20,000 men, it would be absurd to suppose that there might not be some members who were unworthy to be in the Force. At the same time, no one can deny the fact that the public are seriously perturbed about police methods. The cases which led to the appointment of the Street Offences Committee, the evidence given at that Committee, the appointment of the Savidge Case Tribunal, the Debates on the Reports of that Tribunal in both Houses of Parliament, the appointment of the Royal Commission on Police Powers and Procedure, which is meeting informally this week to discuss arrange-

ments for the forthcoming inquiry, and the comments in the House of Commons on the appointment of a new Commissioner of the Police in the near future, all reflect uneasiness on the part of the public that everything is not well in regard to the relations between the Police and the Public. With regard to the police trial at the Old Bailey, two things stand out with striking clearness—we must have more women police; and there must be no conviction, on the uncorroborated evidence of the police, of any man or woman charged with insulting behaviour, abusive language, or any similar offence. Once again we remind our readers that, in 1870, John Stuart Mill, giving evidence before a Royal Commission, said we ought not to give powers liable to very great abuse, and then presume that those powers would not be abused.

THE NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

Women's organisations in this country are unanimous in their demand that a British woman who marries a foreigner should not automatically lose her nationality; and a Resolution to that effect received general agreement in the House of Commons early in 1925. The Under Secretary of State for the Home Office, however, informed the House at the time that it was impossible to pass legislation on the subject until the assent of the Dominions had been obtained for it. The Resolution was forwarded to the various Dominion Governments, but although the matter has been discussed at the Imperial Conference, nothing has been done, and under the present law a British woman loses her nationality on marriage with an alien. Now and again the Press concerns itself with special cases and shows up the absurdity and injustice of our law. Last week it reported that Mrs. Scully, wife of an American now in Scotland, and the daughter of Sir William Simpson, has discovered that she belongs to two countries. Here she is deemed to be an American. In America she is supposed to be British, and at Inverness she was charged for failing to register as an alien. Until 1922, American nationality law was the same as the law in this country; but by the Cable Act, of September 22nd, 1922, all British women who have married Americans since that date remain British in the eyes of the American law, and they can only become American citizens by applying for naturalisation after twelve months' residence in the United States. American women who marry foreign husbands remain American citizens in the eyes of American law, so that if an American woman marries an Englishman she has two nationalities—American and British, whereas if an Englishwoman marries an American and continues to live in England, she has no nationality at all. By English law she is an alien, being the wife of an alien, and must register as such. But she cannot be naturalised as an American, even if she wants to be; she must have lived for twelve months in America before she can apply for naturalisation. Our present law perpetuates the pernicious doctrine that a wife is merely the chattel of her husband, and the law must be altered. Women must insist that a British woman has the same right as a British man to retain or to change her nationality, and that she should no more automatically lose her nationality if she marries an alien than a British man should lose his nationality on his marriage with a foreign woman.

WOMEN AND THE MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT.

A correspondent sends us the following extract from the Report of the Machinery of Government (of which Lord Haldane was Chairman), issued January 6th, 1919: "The absence of any substantial recourse to the services of women in the administrative staffs of departments, and still more in the intelligence branches, has in the past deprived the public of a vast store of knowledge, experience and fresh ideas, some of which would for particular purposes have been far more valuable than those of even the ablest men in the Civil Service."

THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS.

BY MARIAN BERRY.

The Elections for Borough Councils in November next will be of special importance in view of the impending changes in Local Government administration and the proposed transfer of the work of relief to the County and County Borough Councils. In addition to the usual elections in provincial towns, London Boroughs will also elect their local councillors for the ensuing three years.

In several places women local government electors are in excess of the men voters, and it is surely the duty of the women, and particularly of organised women, that an adequate number of women should be nominated and returned to Borough Councils. At present 334 women are members of 162 Town Councils in England and Wales, but there are still 113 Councils without a single woman representative. In London women are serving on all the 28 Borough Councils, but of the 1,915 members only 145 are women. The position is worse in Scotland, as only 44 women are serving on 31 of the 225 Borough Councils.

Many readers of THE VOTE are already members of local government authorities and are fully aware of the work that awaits women on these bodies. Borough Councils, and in particular those that have the status of county boroughs, have immense powers for the betterment of the community. These authorities deal with Public Health, Education, Housing, the care of the insane and of the mentally deficient, and in the future the work of assisting the destitute and infirm will be added to their duties. On the administrative side, many women are included on the various staffs, and women councillors are needed to safeguard their interests and to see that they receive equality of treatment and opportunity of service. At a recent meeting of the Leicester Town Council, Miss Fortey, in moving an amendment to the report of the Joint Board for Corporate Officials dealing with examination of junior entrants to corporation service, that there should be no difference in the regulations in regard to the employment of the sexes, said: "I see no reason why, at some future date, a woman should not be sitting in the place now occupied by the Town Clerk." This

comment caused one of the men councillors to exclaim fervently "The Lord help us!"

The assistance that women can render on a Housing Committee is a commonplace. The other day the Annan Council were considering the erection of 20 additional houses, and the woman member, Miss Steele, pointed out that there might be an improvement in regard to the grate supplied to the new houses. She suggested that the grate with oven and boiler should be placed in the living-room so that the heating of water, the warming of the room and the cooking of food could be carried on with one fire, which would be a more economical provision for a working man's dwelling than the present arrangement.

One hundred and twenty-one provincial boroughs are police authorities and maintain their own police forces. The administration is in the hands of a "Watch Committee," of which only elected councillors are members. Women are members of nine Watch Committees—apart from those boroughs which have elected women as Mayors—and in 33 boroughs—outside the Metropolis—women police are employed. In 21 boroughs policewomen have powers of arrest. The work of a Watch Committee is of great importance, as matters relating to moral and social questions come before the members. In addition to the control of the police, the Committee "regulates the traffic, and carries into effect the powers of Borough Councils under the Prison and Inebriates Acts. It is responsible also, through its police force, for the inspection and supervision of public-houses, common lodging houses, picture-palaces, suspicious literature and objectionable postcards; and for the maintenance of street order and decency." Such work, together with that for maternity and child welfare, makes a special appeal to women. More municipal maternity homes, crèches and nursery schools are wanted, and all who desire the well-being of the future generation should not lose the opportunity afforded by the Municipal Elections of supporting those candidates who will work for social reform on a sound basis.

WOMEN IN THE ASSEMBLY.

Miss Forchhammer, Denmark's Woman Delegate to the Assembly of the League of Nations in Geneva, was elected Vice-President of the Fifth Committee, which deals with social questions.

Last week, in the Fifth Committee, according to *The Times* report, M. Larousse, the French delegate, expressed doubt as to many of the conclusions in Part II of the League Report on the White Slave Traffic. He regretted that the mental condition of prostitutes and others engaged in the traffic had not been the subject of examination, as such an investigation would almost certainly show such people to be mental degenerates. Female criminality, too, had often been said to be less than male criminality, but probably there would be no great difference if crime resulting from prostitution was also included. The Latin countries had often been criticised for their attitude towards the White Slave question. In the case of France, this was probably due to the fact that people all over the world benefited by French liberty, and made France the hunting ground of their trade. A Bill concerning additional measures to stop the trade was, however, being discussed. Dame Edith Lyttelton (Great Britain's delegate) said she failed to understand how the mental condition of the victims affected the question. The exploitation of mental degenerates was surely no less a crime on the part of the exploiter. If the evils of prostitution were to be added to the criminal records, then should they not be added to the records of men as well as women? It took two to make a prostitute. Dame Edith Lyttelton pleaded for very strong legislation against those who lived on the vices and weakness of other people.

In the Fifth Committee also, Dame Edith Lyttelton criticised some of the remarks in the report on the

traffic of opium and other dangerous drugs. The British delegation, she said, did not agree with the statement that the manufacture of harmful drugs went on unrestricted. While the situation over the world was still appalling, in Great Britain and in Switzerland, at any rate, the manufacture was not increasing. Dame Edith appealed to all countries to support the new work of control under the Geneva Convention now coming into force, and repeated that Great Britain would do everything possible in its power to support it.

The Times further reports that the campaign for economy gave the Italian delegate to the Fifth Committee, M. Cavazzoni, an opportunity for criticism. In this case, it took the form of a dig at the British delegation, which, in the Fourth Committee, had put forward an appeal for the reduction of the budget by 2,000,000 gold francs, yet in this Committee was pressing for an opium inquiry which had been estimated to cost 400,000f. This, he said, seemed to be a contradictory attitude. Here, however, M. Cavazzoni obtained but little support. The British delegate, Dame Edith Lyttelton, who asked that the principle of such an inquiry should be discussed before the financial aspects, emphasised in her report the very serious effect of the opium traffic on the life of the Far East and the urgent necessity for an unbiased statement on the whole situation being laid before the world. In this she was seconded by Sir James Parr (New Zealand), who pointed out that Great Britain had confessed that, in the administration of her great Colonies and Dependencies in the East, good order and good government were seriously endangered because she was unable to cope with the increasing smuggling of opium. Sir James Parr was supported in turn by the Dutch delegate,

M. Van Wettum, and several others. Dame Edith Lyttelton said that Great Britain would be prepared to pay one half of the expenses for those portions of the inquiry made in territories in which she was particularly concerned.

The Fifth Committee adopted the report on the traffic in women and children, and it decided to submit to the Assembly four resolutions, concerning (1) the continuation of the activity of the Traffic in Women Committee; (2) the possibility of extending the enquiries of the special body of experts to countries not yet visited; (3) the examination by Governments of the possibility of abolishing the system of licensed houses, in the light of the report of the special body of experts; (4) the importance of the employment of women police.

The *Daily News* reports that:—
"The question of sex equality in the composition of League of Nations delegations was brought up at a meeting of the First Committee, which deals with legal and constitutional questions, including amendments to the Covenant.

The committee recommended Governments to include a woman delegate in their delegations at the codification of the international law conference at the Hague in 1929. Mr. Loahoi, the Chinese delegate, supporting the recommendation, declared that the Chinese Nationalist Government recognised complete sex equality as an essential principle, and had already appointed women to administrative and diplomatic posts."

BRITISH WOMEN TEACHERS IN JUGO SLAVIA.

A party of women teachers—members of the National Union of Women Teachers—had a very delightful holiday this August in Jugoslavia.

The Government arranged for the reception of the party in each of the chief towns of the many States which form the kingdom, as well as the various visits to some of the villages, and made arrangements for their welfare and entertainment. Wagon Lits with attendants were placed at their disposal for the entire journey through the country. They visited Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Dalmatia, and Montenegro, and then had four days' sail up the Adriatic.

They were very impressed by the spirit of enterprise and culture everywhere apparent, and were entertained by many delightful people. At Belgrade the Minister of Education gave a banquet in their honour, at which the English Minister (Mr. Kennard) and the English Consul, with many other distinguished visitors, were present.

The women of Jugoslavia have not the franchise, but the party met and talked with many professional women, who are very keen on obtaining it and have organisations for that purpose. In the teaching profession they found, however, that they have "equal pay."

This delightful land is a democratic one, and the lowliest peasant can, and does, rise to a position of trust in the State. Education is compulsory for four years, and there are opportunities for all who wish to pass on to the higher grades.

The peasants throughout the land are of great interest; they are hard-working, clever, artistic, and almost entirely self-supporting. The women spin, dye and weave their own materials, and make their beautiful costumes. These are of very great variety and artistically of great beauty. Men and women work together in the fields, and it is no uncommon sight to see a woman minding the cattle, with a distaff in her hand, weaving her thread at the same time.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina traces of the Turkish occupation for centuries are everywhere apparent—mosques, with their minarets and the "call to prayer" four times a day, booths, with handworkers in copper, silver, leather, etc., veiled women and other interesting customs.

The beautiful places on the Dalmatian coast and the four days' boat trip completed this unique holiday.

A. S.

BOOK REVIEW.

Delphos—The Future of International Language. By Sylvia Pankhurst. (Kegan, Paul.) Price 2s. 6d.; and *Is an International Language Possible?* By Sylvia Pankhurst. (Morland Press.) Price 6d. (Both can be obtained from this Office.)

Delphos is a very readable book on this question of an international language, and women—there is an increasing number of them—who have attended international Conferences, will read it with very special interest. This book insists upon the logical necessity of interlanguage, gives a history of various attempts to establish an international language, and a picture of the future when it is learnt as a matter of course by all children in our schools.

Is an International Language Possible? is the text of a lecture delivered by Miss Pankhurst before the Annual Conference of the Société Internationale de Philologie, Sciences et Beaux Arts, held in London, July, 1927.

THE VICTORY GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR.

Our Annual Christmas Present Fair is to be held at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 13th and 14th. There will be many attractive stalls for useful and Fancy Articles. Will every reader of THE VOTE send some gift for one or other of the stalls, and in this way help to provide the stalls with suitable Christmas Presents.

The Stalls mostly in need of help are Overalls and Aprons, Household, Handkerchiefs, Antiques and White Elephants, Stationery, Underclothing, Toys, Sweets, Dairy Produce, Cakes, and the Shilling Stall.

Posters, Handbills, and Tickets will shortly be ready at the office. Volunteers are needed for giving away handbills at meetings, getting posters placed, etc.

All contributions and offers of help should be sent to the Hon. Fair Secretary, Miss E. Berry, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Tuesday,
November
13th.

3-9
P.M.

Wednesday,
November
14th.

3-9 P.M.

Green, White & Gold

DELPHOS

The Future of International Language.

By E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

Published by Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co.,
Broadway House, Carter Lane, E.C.4.

"TO-DAY AND TO-MORROW
SERIES." 2/6.

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

DARE TO BE FREE. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Thursday, September 27th, at 3 p.m.

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

Friday, September 28th, at 7.45 p.m.

Women's Freedom League. Rally at Caxton Hall, Westminster. Short speeches by Officers, Executive Committee and London Branch members on "The Immediate Work of the Women's Freedom League. Questions and Discussion to follow.

Saturday, September 29th, at 10 a.m.

National Executive Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Monday, October 1st, at 3 p.m.

Hampstead. Branch Meeting at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

PROVINCES.

Friday, September 21st, at 3 p.m.

Rye. Branch Meeting at the Hempsted Street Hall. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood. Subject: "The Future Work of the League." Chair: Mrs. Miles.

Wednesday, October 24th, at 8 p.m.

Bexhill. Councillor Mrs. Meads will speak on "The Work of a Woman Councillor," at the Albany Hotel, Sea Road. Chair: Miss Thornton (Sec. Bexhill Sisterhood).

Wednesday, November 7th, at 3.30 p.m.

Bexhill. Whist Drive. Albany Hotel, Sea Road.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Tuesday, September 25th, at 1 p.m.

British Commonwealth League. Luncheon at 17, Buckingham Street, W.C.2. Speaker: Dr. Grace Boelke (of Australia) on "A Pilgrimage to Macedonia and Gallipoli." Tickets 2/- each. Bookings not later than Monday, 24th.

Thursday, September 27th, at 7.30 p.m.

New Education Fellowship Conference to discuss the formation of a National Council for Parent Education and Child Study, at the Friends' House, Euston Road, N.W.

Monday, October 1st, at 6 p.m.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Open Meeting at St. Patrick's Clubroom, Soho Square, W.1. Speaker: Miss Fedden on "The Nationality of Married Women." Chairman: Mrs. Laughton Mathews, M.B.E.

Saturday, October 6th, at 3 p.m.

Saturday Speech Club. Lecture by Miss Lucy Bell on "Chairmanship and Procedure."

Monday, October 8th.

British Commonwealth League. Jumble Sale at "The Quest," 58, Clarendon Road. All goods to be sent to the "Quest" marked "Jumble Sale, B.C.L."

October 15th to October 19th.

National Council of Women. Annual Meetings at York.

Wednesday, October 24th, at 1 for 1.15 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee. "Victory-and-After Day." Luncheon at the Hotel Cecil. Chairman: The Viscountess Rhondda. Tickets 5/- each from Women's Freedom League Office.

Wednesday, October 24th, at 7.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee. "Victory-and-After Day." Reception at Caxton Hall.

"IS AN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE POSSIBLE?"

By E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

Published by the Academia Pro Interlingua (British Section)

6d. post free from the Morland Press, Carey Street, London, S.W.1, and A. Hodson, 36, St. Peter's Hill, Grantham.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

Mental Patients.

Dear Madam,—During the course of the last ten years I have, now and again, taken engagements as "Companion-help," or Assistant Nurse, in private houses and homes where mild mental cases—or, as they are usually termed, "nerve patients"—are taken, and can fully corroborate the statements made in your article in THE VOTE of August 24th, on "Fair Play for Mental Patients."

The demand for these private nursing homes has increased since the war. The new Garden City type of house is too small to accommodate all those who were formerly looked after by relatives and who are incapable of keeping a home for themselves.

Many such people are not penniless. Some have incomes of £200 to £400 or more, but the greater part of these incomes is absorbed in the fees of private establishments—usually kept by retired nurses—to which they have been consigned by anxious relatives. £3 3s. weekly is the very lowest charge—often £5 5s. and more—for patients who have very little the matter with them—perhaps some slight ailment or eccentricity that would make them unacceptable as residents in a private hotel.

Nurses are seldom good caterers, and very often the food served would not be tolerated in the commonest and cheapest boarding-house patronised by trippers. Inferior meat, rice puddings made without sugar and three parts water, pastry a week old, stale cakes, scanty supplies of fruit, butter, jam, and marmalade—such was the diet offered to guests paying £3 3s. to £6 6s. weekly. In any particular case, if the patients grumbled at the food or refused it, their relations and doctors are informed that their refusal to eat was a sign of failing mentality! If the assistants protested, they were accused of "interfering with the patients" and dismissed without a reference.

Needless to say, these private homes are run with the smallest staff available, and a "nurse-companion" may find herself responsible for the greater part of the housework.

An acquaintance of mine, who keeps a private school, tells me that if she takes a child under the age of seven as boarder, that child must be registered and is inspected. In other words, no one is allowed to make an undue profit, or "exploit" a child entrusted to their care.

"Nerve" cases—usually people of seventy years or over suffering from nothing more than the gradual approach of age (a fate we must all come to sooner or later)—should surely be entitled to some protection from the law.

I believe it might be possible to organise cottage or villa homes for "nerve" cases—cheerful homes provided with books, magazines, and wireless. Possibly the residents might each take a share of the housework, or a proportion of the residents might be "lay sisters," as in a community.

These homes should be managed by a central authority, and the staff paid a living wage, with regular times "off duty"; for there is a tendency for the workers in these places to become patients themselves if run down in health through overwork.—Yours, etc.,
"OLIVIA TWIST."

Women's Titles.

Madam,—As a man and a subscriber to THE VOTE, may I suggest that your journal should discontinue the use of the titles, "Miss" and "Mrs."? There are no such titles for married and unmarried men. Your readers are not interested in the personal relations of the women named in your columns. A progressive woman's journal should set the example of using only the names of the women and discarding these medieval badges of domestic slavery, "Miss" and "Mrs." Even in the Bible we read of Abraham and Sarah, not of Mrs. Abraham. Whatever name a woman chooses to be known by, there is no necessity of prefixing "Miss" or "Mrs." to it.

I also desire to enlist your active sympathy for another cause. It is high time that the author of "Adam Bede" and other immortal novels should be called by her real name in all books dealing with literature (also "George Sand" and other great women-writers). It is surely barbarous and meaningless to use the masculine pseudonym, "George Eliot," in these days. I think that this change is overdue. What do your readers think?—Yours fraternally,
HAR DAYAL, M.A.

TO "THE VOTE" READERS.

Vols. No. 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 14 of "The Vote" are urgently required by the Women's Freedom League. The gift of any or all of these volumes to Headquarters would be much appreciated. Many thanks for numbers already sent.

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