THE VOTE, DEC. 28, 1928.

DARE TO BE FREE!

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

NON-PARTY.

VOL. XXIX. No. 1,001. (Registered at the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 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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MEN AND WOMEN POLICE.

XXXI.—OUR WOMEN MAYORS.

MRS. M. B. ANDREWES UTHWATT, O.B.E., MAYOR OF SANDWICH.

Sandwich on the Wantsum-a famous port in the time of the Saxons when it was a navigable channel for ships bound for Londonleft high and dry by the sea and robbed of its prestige as one the famous Cinque Ports with a service of five ships to the King, progressively, has shown itself well abreast of the tide by electing a woman as Mayor-thus breaking with a tradition which dates as far back as 1226, when this office first came into existence in that ancient town.

Mrs. M. B. Andrewes Uthwatt, O.B.E., who holds this honour, was the first woman member of the Sandwich Town Council, to which she was elected in November of last year.



THE MAYOR OF SANDWICH.

Her husband, Mr. A. Andrewes Uthwatt, is a Chancery Barrister and a Bencher of Gray's Inn.

In the past, Mrs. M. B. Andrewes Uthwatt took an active part in welfare work in the slums of London. The National Insurance Bill engaged her close attention; she was one of the women chosen to lecture on its workings.

The Minority Report of the Poor Law Commission was another of her subjects. During the war, she became Secretary of the Orders Committee of the Ministry of Food.

Mrs. M. B. Andrewes Uthwatt is Chairman of the League of Nations Branch in Sandwich.

Special Issues of "Our Women Mayors":—XXX. Councillor Miss Justins, Mayor of Stratford-upon-Avon, December 14th, 1928; XXIX. Councillor Miss Robinson, Mayor of Christchurch, November 30th, 1928; XXVIII. Miss Violet Markham, J.P., Mayor of Chesterfield, October 19th, 1928; XXVII. Alderman Mrs. B. M. Drapper, Mayor of Deptford, July 20th, 1928; XXVI. Councillor Elizabeth Lund, Mayor of Pudsey, March 23rd 1928; XXVI. Councillor Mrs. Jenkins, Mayor of Tenby, March 9th, 1928; XXIV. Mrs. Stuart Shaw, Mayor of Lichfield, February 24th, 1928; XXIII. Mrs. John W. Greene, Mayor of Bury St. Edmunds, January 13th, 1928; XXIV. Mrs. Stuart Shaw, Mayor of Lichfield, February 24th, 1928; XXIII. Councillor Miss Hudson, J.P., Mayor of Eastbourne, June 24th, 1927; XX. Councillor Miss Coxon, Mayor of King's Lynn, March 26th, 1926; XIX. Mrs. F. J. Simpson, Mayor of Higham Ferrers, Northampton. February 26th, 1926; XVIII. Councillor Miss Lucy Dales, Mayor of Dunstable, January 22nd, 1926; XVIII. Councillor Miss Edith Neville, M.B.E., J.P., Mayor of Lincoln, December 11th, 1925; XVI. Alderman Miss Smee, J.P., Mayor of Acton, October 30th, 1925; XVI. Dame Catherine Hunt, D B.E., J.P., Mayor of Clochester, March 6th, 1925; XVII. Miss Margaret Wix, Mayor of St. Albans, February 13th, 1925; XIII. Mrs. Eva Hartree, Mayor of Cambridge, January 30th, 1925; XII. Mrs. Ethel Leach, J.P., Mayor of Great Yarmouth, January 16th, 1925; XII. Mrs. M.A. Mercer, Mayor of Birkenhead, December 19th, 1924; X. Miss C. Maude Eve, Mayor of Stoke Newington, November 24th, 1924; VIII. Dame Janet Stancomb-Wills, D.B.E., Mayor of Farckley, Northants, December 15th, 1922; V. Mrs. Ada Salter, Mayor of Bermondsey, December 1st, 1922; IV. Councillor Miss Clara W interbotham, M.B.E., Mayor of Cheltenham, September 15th, 1922; III. Councillor Councillor Miss Christina Hartley, Mayor of Southport, Lancs, Au gust 11th, 1922; III. Mrs. J. M. Phillips, Mayor of Honiton, Devon, July 7th, 1922; I. Mrs. Ellen Chapman, Mayor of Worthing, June 2nd, 1922.

AIRWOMEN.

THE VOTE

BY LADY HEATH (MRS. ELLIOTT LYNN) continued.

What women (who do not fly as pilots) can do is very well shown by Lady Maud Hoare's brilliant example in travelling with Sir Samuel Hoare to India in the inaugural London-Karachi flight last Christmas. The courage of her example in facing not alone the journey, which was the longest a woman has ever successfully undertaken, but in facing all the consequent publicity, cannot be too highly praised. It is happy to note that her country has realised what she did, and she was awarded the D.B.E. on her return. Her preface to Sir Samuel Hoare's new book on the journey is the most readable and interesting article.

The light aeroplane movement arrived at a very opportune moment. Messrs. A. V. Roe pointed the way in 1920 by producing the "Avro Baby," and the De Havilland firm rapidly followed with the "Moth," which became the standard equipment for the subsidised light aeroplane clubs, which were formed in 1925. The first passenger in the first of these clubs was a woman, who later became a successful pilot, and to-day the fourteen light aeroplane clubs in the country are turning out literally dozens of certificated women none of whom have ever even managed to scratch themselves in any kind of accident. Indeed, six or seven starters is no uncommon thing in the "Ladies' Race," which has become a prominent feature in most air race meetings. I wonder if next season we shall see some sort of good-humoured retaliation in "Men only races."

Flying is really absurdly easy, and it is only those who fly themselves who realise this. Just because, of necessity, aviation is "in the air" and aerodromes and machines in flight are away from towns and cities, there is a halo of mystery surrounding it. To the uninitiated 'looping the loop" is an achievement and an adventure, and the lay mind focusses itself on the moment of being upside down, while really looping is merely turning a corner, but doing it in a different direction from the corners we are always turning on the ground, and because of the centrifugal force that keeps you in your seat and your map lying on your knee, in a welldone loop you simply do not realise you are going round till you touch the "wake" of air you left behind you when you were going into the "corner."

In the car one has three pedals, two levers, and numerous dials to look after, as well as watching the sides of the road, hedges, houses, lamp-posts, policemen, cows, suicidally-minded pedestrians-and the other fool round the corner.

In the air, the whole of the three dimensions are one's road, one sees one's corners before one comes to them, and one has but two levers to control, a rudder bar for the feet, and a control column, the joy-stick, for the hands. If the left foot be pushed forward the whole machine will slew round to the left and vice versa for the right. If the joy-stick be pushed forward gently, the machine drops its nose slightly earthwards and runs down an aerial hill; if it be drawn backwards towards one's body, the machine climbs. Banking movements, such as those of a bicycle going rapidly round a corner, are produced by pushing the stick gently over to the right or left. It is these movements and combinations of these only that make up the whole

There are very few dials to use, and these are more to "check things up" than as a guide.

There is a revolution counter, which tells you how many times your engine is turning over each minute, but the accomplished pilot can tell this by the sound of the engine-she can even tell by the note if the machine is climbing or gliding.

There is an air speed indicator to tell one the rate of progression, and to warn one if one is approaching that certain slow speed when the rush of air past the

As well as being a steady and reliable pilot, Mlle. wings becomes insufficient to lift them. There is an Bolland has shown that, as a "stunt" pilot, she has altometer to tell one's height above sea level, and if nothing to learn. In competition with the famous one wants to use it, an oil pressure gauge and a petrol Morave pilot, M. Fronval, she once looped 199 times gauge, which are just like those on a car and looked at as frequently.

Twenty lessons of half an hour each are enough for the average person to learn to fly. At first one thinks, as when tackling the Charleston, "Oh, dear, I shall never do this," but with each succeeding lesson it dawns in upon one that one's nerves and muscles are adapting themselves to the new conditions and that one is really learning to fly. Even going off for the first time is very normal. Instead of your instructor talking to you down the telephones and hinting at movements of the controls, which are duplicated in each cockpit, you imagine he is there, and his instructions come to your mind each moment. You are never sent off alone till each movement is perfect and is automatic. Indeed, I consider one is safer in the first few solo hours than later on when one is beginning to forget what one has been told and is beginning to "fly by the light of Nature." Anyone who can ride a horse, or drive

Then, flying is so safe. During the last two years in England, although Imperial Airways has carried 33,000 passengers, and the instructors at the Clubs tens of thousands, the various small joy-riding and air transport companies tens of thousands more, there has not been one single fare-paying passenger injured, and this is a record that no other form of transport can hope to attain. Why, in Greater London alone, there are twenty-one deaths a week from motors.

Then, flying is so cheap. Over long distances especially it works out at vastly less than rail and boat, because one gets there so quickly that one does not have days and days-with all their attendant mealson the way. If you own your own little machine (as four women in England do to-day), which costs you anything between four and seven hundred pounds, you will find your travelling expenses are less than 2d. a mile.

Then, flying is so pleasant. You need no special clothes, just a loose skirt, a warm coat for cold days, and a small close-fitting felt hat. Helmet and goggles are not really necessary on any of the four types of light aeroplanes in production in England to-day.

You can carry a comfortably large suit-case with you, and you can arrive at your destination much cleaner and fresher than if you came on a dusty or muddy road.

You have been all the while in the clean, clear air, and have not been subjected to the jolting of badlykept roads or badly-laid railway lines, and you have the satisfaction of knowing that every flight you make, as well as being distinctly pleasant, is of some small national value.

Great Britain has in production to-day 185 types of aeroplane, more than any other country in the world. She has engines that are sold to all the rest of the world, and her nation of sailors has produced the finest airmen. But she will never take her rightful position as head of the world of Civil Aviation unless her women back up her men, and help them to make a national

Those women who do not wish to fly themselves can go as passengers, and those who do not even do that can help tremendously by acquainting themselves a little with things aeronautical-by interesting themselves intelligently when the conversation swerves to the subject, and by giving that most tremendous asset, their moral support to its active participants.

There is no thrill in modern aviation—the days of pioneering are over. The airship and aeroplane are as necessary to the ease of life (because they give one so much more time at either end of the journey) to-day as is the telephone or the telegram, but it is up to the woman of the present century to bring the luxury of flight to the level of unconsidered necessity, as is

IN PARLIAMENT.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

MR. BRIGGS (U., Blackley) asked the Minister of Health what was the amount of the grants given last year for maternity and child welfare? MR. CHAMBERLAIN: The amount of the grants for maternity and child welfare paid in the last financial year out of the vote for the Ministry of Health was approximately £1,040,000 including about £16,000 in respect of the training of midwives and health visitors. MR. BRIGGS: Would my right hon. Friend welcome the receipt of further money from the Treasury for these purposes? MR. CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, I should always welcome money from the Treasury for these grants.

MR. MARCH (Lab., Poplar, S.): Has the right hon. Gentleman given notice to any of these maternity and child welfare centres to reduce the amount they are now allowed for expectant mothers? MR. CHAMBERLAIN:

No distinction is drawn.

MR. MARCH (Lab., Poplar, S.) asked the Minister of Health, with regard to the request which he has sent out to authorities to cut down the supplies of milk to expectant mothers and children who are attending the maternity and child welfare centres, whether he has suggested to what extent the cut should be made; whether he has received any protest from any authority upon this matter; and, if so, how many? SIR KINGSLEY WOOD (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health): No such request has been made, but in the case of some local authorities certain suggestions as to procedure were made last March with a view to enabling them to keep their expenditure on milk during the present financial year within the amounts which my right hon. Friend was able to approve for grant. My right hon. Friend has received communications from 48 authorities requesting that these amounts should be increased, and in reply he has explained that the reduction in grant. which is purely temporary, had to be made in order to keep the grants paid by my department for the health services within the amount voted by Parliament.

MR. PALING (Lab., Doncaster): Is it not a fact that at the Minister's suggestion these people definitely cut down the amount that they had previously spent on milk? SIR K. WOOD: I should like notice of that question. Of course, local authorities have power, if they so desire, to spend further money. MR. PALING: Is it not a fact that the Minister suggested that they should cut down the grant? SIR K. WOOD: No; as I have stated, no such request was made.

MR. MARCH: Is it not a fact that if local authorities this purpose. do spend more than is sanctioned by the Minister, these people are surcharged? SIR K. WOOD: I am not aware of any circumstances of the kind.

Electoral Register.

MR. COMPTON (Lab., Gorton) asked the Home Secretary whether in his instructions to registration officers, dated 27th August, 1928, regarding the filling up of the prescribed Form A, it is permissable for such officers to use their discretion in ordering members of their staff to fill in such forms, or whether it is incumbent on the householder, or occupier, to fill in full details regarding the occupants to enable the completion of the new register to take place? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: The form itself states that the occupier, on applying to the registration officer will be given any help needed in filling up the form; but I have not issued any instructions as to the manner in which such assistance should be given. This is a matter within the discretion of the registration officer.

Street Accidents (Children).

MR. DAY (Lab., Central Southwark) asked the Home Secretary the number of street accidents to children for the twelve months to the last convenient date? SIR V. HENDERSON (Under Secretary, Home Office): I can give only the figures for London (Metropolitan Police District and City of London). The figures for the 12 months to 30th September last are-killed 238, and injured 10.877.

Criminal Assaults (Carnaryonshire).

MR. ELLIS DAVIES (Lib., Denbigh), asked the Home Secretary how many criminal assaults were committed on girls in the county of Carnarvon in the year 1927; and whether there is reason to think the crime is increasing in this county? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: There were eight sexual offences against girls under 16, and four against females whose ages do not appear, known to the police in 1927. The figure relating to girls is higher than in previous recent years.

Venereal Diseases

MR. ELLIS DAVIES asked the Minister of Health what was the ratio per 10,000 of the population in England and Wales treated for venereal disease in 1927; and what was the ratio in the County of Carnarvon? SIR KINGSLEY WOOD (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health): According to the returns furnished to my Department, the number of cases of venereal disease dealt with for the first time by the treatment centres making the returns was 21.5 per 10,000 population in England and Wales, and 6.5 per 10,000 population in Carnarvon. The hon. Member will appreciate that these figures include not only cases of recent infection, but also large numbers of cases which had been infected some time before they attended at a treatment centre. MR. DAVIES: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the average of cases in England and Wales exceeds those in the County of Carnarvon by 150 per cent?

Divorce Proceedings (Costs).

MR. DAY (Lab., Central Southwark) asked the Attorney General whether, in view of the fact that the Married Women's Property Act, 1882, gave the wife legal ownership of her own property, and of the equality of the grounds of divorce conferred by the Act of 1923 on wives, he will consider introducing an Amending Act of Parliament which will make the wife, in certain circumstances, responsible for the costs of divorce proceedings? SIR THOMAS INSKIP: The hon. Member does not state the circumstances in which he suggests that the wife should be responsible for the costs of divorce proceedings, nor does he specify the costs to which he refers. If he refers only to the wife's costs, I understand that consideration is being given to the question whether the existing practice leaves sufficient discretion to the Court to award costs in exceptional cases, and whether the Rules should be amended for

Adjournment of Parliament.

Parliament adjourned for the Christmas Recess, Thursday, December 21st, until Tuesday, January 22nd.

CHILD MARRIAGES IN THE UNITED STATES.

It will be remembered that women's organisations in this country have for a long time past been pressing the Government to raise the legal age for the marriage of girls and boys to sixteen years, the present legal marriage age for girls being twelve years and for boys fourteen years. It is extremely rare in Great Britain for any girl to be married under the age of sixteen, although the legal age is twelve. In the United States, however, according to the December number of Life and Labour Bulletin, the census shows that there are now living in that country 350,000 women who were child brides—that is, married before they were sixteen. The majority were not foreign-born, as is the general impression, but native-born, and with native-born parents. In New York State the present law permits the marriage of girls of fourteen, and up to 1926 girls of twelve were permitted to marry. Pennsylvania has recently raised her minimum age for girls from twelve to sixteen. Kentucky has raised the age from twelve to fourteen, and Minnesota, which has had a minimum legal age of fifteen, raised it to sixteen last year.

THE VOTE.

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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 nsuitable MSS. if stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

BETTER NEWS OF THE KING.

We rejoice with the whole country that the King is making good progress towards recovery. For weeks past every one of us, in some small degree, has shared in the great anxiety of the Royal Family in regard to the King's illness, and we have all had special sympathy with the Queen who with splendid courage has gone about the business of the Nation, taking the King's place wherever possible, so that the prevailing gloom might be lightened. Last Friday at Buckingham Palace, the Queen with the five other Counsellors of State who were appointed to act for the King in his illness held a meeting to approve of reports made by Committees of the Privy Council and transact other necessary business. At one end of the table was the Prince of Wales, who presided, and facing him the Queen, the others present being the Duke of York, the Prime Minister, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Lord Chancellor. In addition to these Counsellors of State were four members of the Privy Council, the meeting itself being called, as all Privy Councils are called—"The King in Council," although the King was unable to be present. This was an historic occasion in which the Queen took a memorable part.

DARE TO BE FREE!

The year that is now closing has brought the great victory of Equal Franchise to the women of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. This victory has been achieved after a long struggle-Mary Wollstonecraft pleaded for women's political enfranchisement in The Vindication of the Rights of Women, published in 1792 -but every effort that has been made to secure this measure of justice for women has been assuredly well worth while. During those long years of struggle women have won more than political enfranchisement; all the time they have been winning freedom in many other directions. We realise this more easily when we remember the clothes that girls and women wore in the latter part of the eighteenth century; the education, physical, mental and moral, which they then received; and their entire lack of personal freedom and of opportunities for self-development and any kind of public service. The narrow, restricted life of the majority of women in those days was very different from the life of the mass of women to-day. Next year, approximately 14,500,000 women and 12,250,00c men. by the right of their Parliamentary vote, will have a direct voice in the affairs of their country. Will these women voters be content to cast their votes unquestioningly for the programme of one or other of the three political parties? Or, will they insist upon having a say in the items which appear on the programme? We strongly recommend those who believe in the freedom of women, at once to scrutinise closely the programmes of all political parties, and find out the attitude of those must not hesitate still to Dare to be Free.

parties to the complete equality of women with men in all branches of our national and international life. If women do not make inquiries and subsequent recommendations, they will only have themselves to blame if the parties fail to remember that inequality of opportunities, pay and responsibilities, as between men and women still persists. We are told that the New Year's Honours List may be delayed because of the King's regrettable illness. We are also told that there will be Dissolution Honours for politicians. Whenever the Honours List, or Lists, appear, our chief interest will be the number and quality of Honours conferred on women. Will any woman be made a Privy Councillor? No woman at present holds that Honour, although the Queen, as a Counsellor of State, has the power to summon the Privy Council. Last New Year's Honours List showed that the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, and the King's Birthday Honours List that the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, were made Privy Councillors. On each of those occasions we asked why the Duchess of Atholl, who, throughout the life of this present Parliament, has been the outstandingly competent Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education, should not receive the honour of a Privy Councillorship. Will she receive it in the coming year? The House of Lords has discussed the possibility of its own reform, and the Government wants first to see an agreed measure of reform among all parties. Our view is that before any change is made in the personnel of the present Upper House, it should open its membership to peeresses in their own right. Why should not women electors press for this reform without delay? Which parties will place it on their programme? Which parties will press for the opening of the Diplomatic Service to women, as well as all the higher posts in the Civil Service? Which parties, too, will urge whatever Government is in power to secure the right of British women to retain their nationality, if they wish to do so, when married to a foreigner, in accordance with the resolution of Mr. Harvey, to which the House of Commons gave general agreement on February 18th, 1925? Then there is the question of equal pay for work of equal value for men and women Civil Servants and Teachers. Will not women electors get that important item placed on the programmes of the various political parties? And which parties are going to press for the right of married women to continue in employment in the Government and local governing authorities' services? There is also the question of protective" legislation for women workers. How long are the women electors of this country prepared to let the Government, without consulting women workers, enact laws making special prohibitions and special restrictions in regard to women's work which undermine their whole struggle for equal opportunities and equal pay with men in industry? Women should find out what the parties are going to do on this question. The problem of our streets is of special interest to women. All women's organisations are convinced that we want uniformed women police throughout the country; and the women who really believe in freedom are determined that in this country even-handed justice shall be meted out to all men and women, whatever the character of those men and women may be. For this reason they stand uncompromisingly for two things: (1) The abolition of the term "common prostitute" from our laws; and (2) that no man or woman shall be convicted of street offences on the uncorroborated evidence of the police. Which parties will place those matters on their programme?

Now is the time for all members of the Women's Freedom League to get busy to see that the points in our own programme are translated into the programmes of the different political parties. On all the foregoing questions there will have to be a good deal of change in the present mental attitude of a very large number of people. Women in the past have struck effective blows for freedom; women in the present

OUTSTANDING EVENTS OF 1928.

Equal Franchise Victory.

1928 will go down as a red-letter year in the records of the emancipation of women. On July 2nd, the Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Bill received the Royal Assent—a triumphant finish to a fight for justice which had lasted for more than half a century. Of the leaders who were in the forefront of the battle. Mrs. Despard and Dame Millicent Fawcett rejoiced to participate in the Victory; by the strange irony of fate, that indomitable fighter, Mrs. Pankhurst, passed away on June 14th.

The addition of over five million women to the Parliamentary Register has stimulated the keenness of all parties to attract the women's vote; in spite of prognostications to the contrary, there is no reason why women's votes should not be as evenly distributed as men's. Since women voters are now in the majority, the issue of the General Election is in their hands.

Women Members of Parliament.

The return of Mrs. Walter Runciman who, on March 7th, so splendidly wrested St. Ives from the opposite party, brings the number of women Members of Parliament up to eight. Women Members have much enlivened Debates by their witty and penetrating sallies. By adhering to simple logic, they found the weak points in all the arguments levied against the Equal Franchise Bill, held the exponents of early Victorian views up to ridicule, and although so small a minority, proved themselves a force to be reckoned with. Speeches which have aroused the admiration even of male opponents have been made by several of the women members. Miss Susan Lawrence's brilliant speech on the De-Rating Bill showed her complete mastery of all matters pertaining to local government; on December 4th, Miss Margaret Bondfield established a new Parliamentary record by introducing a Billto provide footwear for children in distressed areas "which was backed by all the women Members not holding office, irrespective of party; and Lady Astor has proved her extreme usefulness from the women's point of view by provoking the remark that if Parliament could get rid of her, it could free itself of women

Women Parliamentary Candidates.

The Labour Party takes the lead with 28 prospective Women Parliamentary Candidates; the Liberal Party have 16, the Conservative Party 7, and the Communists 1. We hope to see many more women standing before the General Election—also for seats where they have a more hopeful prospect of success.

The Josephine Butler Centenary.

By a remarkable coincidence, in the year that Josephine Butler's work received centenary commemoration, the Edinburgh Corporation Bill, which, had it succeeded, would have reintroduced the evil principle of compulsion, which she spent her life in abolishing, became the subject of heated controversy. The defeat of the Bill was largely due to the vigilance of women. Never has man or woman, so bitterly reviled in the past, received greater tribute from a more enlightened generation than Josephine Butler in 1928.

Street Offences Committee Report.

The Report of the Street Offences Committee-at each sitting of which a member of the Women's Freedom League was present—issued on December 11th, was not sufficiently fundamental to satisfy the more far-seeing members of the public. The provisions of the Public Places (Order) Bill, introduced by Lady Astor in the House of Commons in 1925, supply the most effective and satisfactory means of dealing with Street Offences.

The Royal Commission on the Police.

The Royal Commission appointed to enquire into the general powers and duties of the police—an outcome of

the Savidge Tribunal enquiry—has already given much evidence to prove the urgent necessity for the appointment of women police. The presence of Dame Meriel Talbot and Miss Margaret Beavan are a constant gratification to the women at the Commission.

Once again the New Year's and King's Birthday Honours Lists were disappointing to women. Why should the lesser honours only be conferred and even those inadequately? Has no woman, except Florence Nightingale, rendered service of sufficient value to her country and to humanity to justify the award of the Order of Merit? We want to see women members of the Privy Council and women members of the

League of Nations.

The Ninth Assembly of the League of Nations gave a good opportunity to women delegates to put forward their point of view. Two important recommendations passed by the Plenary Assembly—one that "care should be taken that the nomination of members, both to the governing body and the superior staff, be made without distinction of sex, and to correspond to the international character of the institution," and the other in connection with the report of the First Committee on Progressive Codification of International Law-proved the influence of the women present.

Miss Forchhammer (Denmark) was made vicechairman of the Fifth Committee (Social Questions). and Dame Edith Lyttelton rapporteur on the Opium Question-in which capacity she showed herself a master of procedure. Mrs. Hainari (Finland), as rapporteur on the Traffic of Women and Children, emphasized the need for an enquiry in those countries where no investigation has as yet taken place.

Notable Achievements.

The year has been phenomenal in successes scored by women. The choice of Miss Elizabeth Scott's design for the Memorial Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon; the award of the Nobel Prize to Madame Undset, the Norwegian novelist; the conquest of the Channel by Miss Ivy Hawke and Miss Hilda Sharp, and the Straits of Gibraltar by Miss Gleitze; Lady Heath's flight from the Cape; and Dr. Dorothy Jordan Lloyd's new Alpine Record: are but a few from a long list of notable achievements.

Medical Women.

It is lamentable that in the year which registers the greatest victory women have achieved in the history of the world, so retrogressive a step should have been taken as the exclusion of women medical students from all the London general hospitals, with the exception of the Royal Free Hospital, and the twelve women received by University College Hospital—and this at a time when there is a growing demand for women doctors!

The event of the year in the teaching profession was the triumphant fight of Mrs. Doris Bent, the young Lancashire teacher who was asked to resign her post on marriage. The National Union of Teachers fought the case on the lines that marriage is not an "educational ground" on which a teacher can be dismissed from a non-provided school-in justice the same ruling should cover any school. Equal pay for equal work is still the main plank of the National Union of Women Teachers.

Women in the Legal Profession.

The number of women qualifying for the law is increasing. It is only five years since women were first qualified to practice and their steady work proves the futility of the remark made at a meeting of the Law Society this year that women had not yet made a mark in the legal world.

Women Police.

The case for women police has been well established both by the findings of the Street Offences Committee and in the evidence given at the Royal Commission on the Police. Not only have witnesses testified to the efficiency of women police, but the public have been awakened to their necessity. This question has now received too much attention to again recede into the background.

Women Civil Servants.

Although seven years ago the Government accepted the principle of equal pay for equal work in the Civil Service, Women Civil Servants are still suffering the injustice of unequal payment. It has been suggested in THE VOTE that the question of Equal Pay for Equal Work should be made an Election issue.

Women in the Churches.

There are now twenty-one women in the Free Church Ministry in the United Kingdom. The question of the ordination of women in the Church of England, although brought forward by the League of the Church Militant at the Church Congress at Cheltenham, has made little, if any, headway.

International Feminism.

Considerable progress has been made in the woman's movement in various parts of the world. The protest at the gate of Rambouillet by members of the International Committee at Paris, proved not only to the plenipotentiaries signing the Kellogg Peace Pact, but to the whole world, that women are very much in earnest in demanding their rights.

In the East, the women of Turkey have made enormous strides, but are still denied political recognition; equality of the sexes is a tenet of the New China; a Women's Franchise Union has been formed in Ceylon; in South Africa, although the Woman Suffrage Bill has again been defeated, it was for the first time received in a serious spirit and discussed as a question of practical politics; the women of France-still disenfranchisedhave determined to adopt militant tactics; the woman's vote was said to be the determining factor in the return of Mr. Hoover as President of the United States.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Dame Ethel Smyth's New Honour.

On the evening of December 17th, Dame Ethel Smyth, had the honour of being the first woman to conduct the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. The concert consisted entirely of work of her own composition

Woman Verger's Long Service.

Mrs. Oliver, who served as verger at St. Augustine's Church, Haggerston, for 31 years, has recently retired.

Distinguished Greek Woman Scientist.

The Bulletin (International Council of Women) states that Dr. Angélique G. Panayotatou was appointed to represent the Greek Government, together with two men doctors, at the International Congress for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene which took place in Cairo from December 15th to December 22nd this year. Dr. Panayotatou is a distinguished scientist and was the first woman Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Athens. This is the first time that Greece has been officially represented by a woman at a Scientific Congress.

Rumanian Royalty and Feminism.

Last week the premises of the Feminist headquarters in Rumania were opened at Bucharest in the presence of Queen Marie and Princess Helena, the young King's grandmother and mother respectively.

Actresses in China and Japan.

The Christian Science Monitor reports that actors and actresses in Peking have petitioned the Nationalists for permission to play together in the theatres of the city, contrary to the age-old custom which has kept them apart. The new Peking Mayor, Ho Chikung, has replied that this departure is so unusual that he must have some time to consider the proposal. For centuries actresses have been forbidden to play in the same theatres with actors, in North China as well as in Japan. Even to-day in Tokyo, the leading theatre declines to employ actresses, women's parts being played by men. The theatres of Shanghai and Tientsin departed from this custom several years ago, but Peking has always observed the ancient practice.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1928.

American Women in Education.

The Bulletin further tells us that in the United States of America very few girls' schools are under the direction of Headmasters, and that the higher educational institutions and women's colleges are to a great extent presided over by women. In 1916, only 24 women's colleges had women Presidents, now, at any rate in the Eastern States, the majority are under the management of women. A woman is head of a division of the Bureau of Education, and there are seven women employed as State Superintendents of public instruction. In forty cities there are women superintendents of schools, and 900 women have similar district and country

MEN AND WOMEN POLICE.

Readers of The Vote will be interested in seeing the following comparative numbers of men and women

			Men.	Women.	
Metropolitan Police Force			19,371		50
England and Wales-	-				
Boroughs (123)			18,632	***	61
Counties (60)	11.00		18,119		
Scotland	***************************************	ove	r 6,000		15
			-		
	Totals		62,122		159

MRS DESPARD'S (VICTORY) BIRTHDAY FUND.

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE. DARE TO BE LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, January 14th, at 3 p.m.
Hampstead Branch. Meeting at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.
Friday, January 18th, at 3.30 p.m.
''At Home'' at Pitt's Restaurant (close Main Entrance Kew

Gardens), Kew Green. Speakers: Mrs. Bigland on "Women at Work in the League of Nations," and Miss F. A. Underwood on "The Work of the Women's Freedom League."

Saturday, January 26th, at 10 a.m.
National Executive Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn,

Thursday, January 31st, at 4.30 p.m. Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Mrs. Cannon. Subject: "Social Conditions in India." Tea, 4 p.m.

Saturday, April 13th, at 10 a.m.
Women's Freedom League Twenty-Second Annual Conference, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W.1.

PROVINCES.

Monday, December 31st, at 3 p.m.
Ashford Branch. Christmas Party at Hempstead Street Hall, OTHER SOCIETIES.

Tuesday, January 1st-Saturday January 5th. National Union of Women Teachers. Annual Conference. Sessions to be held in the Pavilion, Brixton.

Saturday, January 5th, at 5.30 p.m.

The New Education Fellowship. Public Meeting at the Central Hall, Westminster. Speaker: Sir Michael Sadler, President of the English Section of the New Education Fellowship. Subject: "Examinations."

Tuesday, January 8th, at 8 p.m.
Fabian Society (Women's Group). Meeting at Caxton Hall.
Lecturer: Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P. Subject: "Women in

Thursday, January 10th, at 1 p.m.

Open Door Council. Luncheon at Pinoli's Restaurant, Wardour
Street, W.1. Speaker: Mrs. Abbott. 2/6 each.

Monday, January 28th, at 8 p.m.
Union of Women Voters, at 55, Chancery Lane (Room 25),
London, W.C.2. Miss Marion Scott, A.R.C.M. (founder of Society of Women Musicians), "Is there equality of opportunity Women Musicians?

Friday, February 8th, at 2.30 p.m.-5.30 p.m.-8 p.m. National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Conference on the Education of the Citizens, in the Great Hall, University College, under the Chairmanship of the Duchess of Atholi.

Friday, February 8th, at 7.30 p.m.
National Council of Women. Meeting in the Music Room, Werneth Park, Oldham, by kind permission of Dame Sarah Lees. Speaker: Miss M. I. Neal. Subject: "Equal Opportunities for Women and Men.

Monday, February 11th, at 8 p.m. Union of Women Voters, at 55, Chancery Lane. Mrs. Cecil Chesterton, "Women Dramatists and Dramatic Critics."

Chesterton, "Women Dramatists and Dramatic Critics."
Tuesday, February 12th, at 8 p.m.
Fabian Society (Women's Group), Meeting at Caxton Hall.
Lecturer: Miss Evelyn Sharp. Subject: "The Growing Pains of Emancipation." Chairman: Mrs. J. B. S. Haldane.
Wednesday, February 22nd, at 8 p.m.
Character Builders Association, 45, Lancaster Gate, W.2.
Speaker: Miss Marian Reeves. Subject: "Protective Législation as it Affects Women."

tion as it Affects Women

THE

INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE NEWS

(Jus Suffragii)

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CONFERENCE ON THE EDUCATION OF THE CITIZEN.

A Conference on the Education of the Citizen has been arranged by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, and will be held in the Great Hall, at University College, on February 8th, during the afternoon and evening, under the chairmanship of the Duchess of Atholl.

There are to be three sessions; the first starting at 2.30, and dealing with the education of the child at school, at which the Duchess of Atholl will, herself, take the Chair. The second session starts at 5.30, dealing with the education of the juvenile out of school, with Dr. Cyril Norwood in the Chair. The third cassion starts at 8 o'clock dealing with the education of the adult. on starts at 8 o'clock, dealing with the education of the adult,

session starts at 8 o'clock, dealing with the education of the adult, with Mr. Albert Mansbridge in the Chair.

Various organisations connected with different aspects of education in citizenship will be represented, including Women's Organisations, the League of Nations Union, the B.B.C., boys' and girls' schools, the L.C.C. evening institutes, the Parents' National Educational Union, Educational Settlements and Clubs, and the Joint Council of London Juvenile Organisations. The object of the Conference is to obtain information as to the work being done at present and to co-ordinate the experience of those engaged in the teaching of citizenship. The species will be engaged in the teaching of citizenship. The speeches will be followed by a discussion.

Further particulars and tickets may be had from the Secretary, N.U.S.E.C., 15, Dean's Yard, S.W. Tickets are 2/- for each session, or 5/- for the three sessions, including tea.

"PROTECTIVE" LEGISLATION.

Although we have had Factory Acts since 1802, the new Factories Bill, which will not come until the new Parliament, will be the first measure bearing on factory legislation on which women will be consulted. The new women voters, many of whom are seriously affected by "Protective" Legislation, will have an opportunity to

Discussing the question of "Protective" Legislation in "Pearson's Weekly," Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., said:—

I came across a case the other day of a man who employs men, boys and women during most of the year, but when the cold weather comes, employs only adult men because it is cheaper than putting

In cases like this it looks as though women will have to start protecting men.'

MARRIAGE A FAULT?

When it was discovered that the laundress at Gateshead Workhouse had married one of the attendants in the same institution she was given a month's notice, and this despite doubts expressed by some of the members of the Board as to whether marriage was really so serious a fault as to merit so severe a penalty

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 odd numbers already sent.

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