

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

NON-PARTY.

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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 IN THE MINISTRY.

By EUNICE G. MURRAY.

There is no doubt that from its very foundation Christianity made a profound appeal to women. They embraced it with enthusiasm, finding in it a channel for spiritual self-expression hitherto denied to them in any of the earlier religions; in this fact lies one of the reasons for the immediate diffusion of Christianity. It was the time of a free outpouring of the Spirit, unhampered by the rules, regulations, and rituals, which were to accumulate as the centuries passed on, and before the men of the Church had been able to fix and formulate their views on the relative spiritual values of men and women, and to definitely place the living woman on a lower spiritual plane.

There can be no doubt that there is in women an enormous spiritual force, repressed, almost undiscovered to themselves, yet ready to rush out like a mill-stream when barriers are removed—a spiritual force which, once recognised and used, will develop in intensity and power, in such a way that no man may say what it may not accomplish.

For a moment let us consider the position of the Christian Church as we know it in this country, looking at it judicially without prejudice. Can we honestly say that its position and the results it achieves are so promising and hopeful that its leaders can afford to neglect a chance of securing such an influx of spiritual force? There is but one answer that any honest-minded person could give.

It is a curious and arresting fact that almost all the opposition which women are receiving in their efforts

to enter the Ministry comes from men themselves in the Ministry, and yet these men must know and feel that, speaking broadly, the results obtained from their work are so poor that the Church to-day is fast losing her grip on the conscience of the people, and this comes not from any religious indifference of the people, as the clergy would fain have us believe, or from an inordinate love of Sunday golf, or from opening some place of amusement, but merely as a simple case of cause and effect. In these days of universal education, and free access to good libraries, the mass of the people have learnt to think out visions for themselves, they ponder on the life and teaching of Christ, and they compare these with the teaching and practice of their spiritual leaders as representative of Christ, and they realise that the primary and greatest function of any Church is to act as a channel through which the inspirations of God can flow to the souls of men, and only those of optimistic temperament and not too clear vision of realities can regard the Church as fulfilling this great function.

It is an axiom easily proved by the study of history that all civilisations in which women are forced into a condition of spiritual inferiority sooner or later tend to pass into decay and disintegration, and none can gainsay us when we declare this to be probably due to the fact that, when woman is hampered and debarred from the development and use of her full spiritual force, the force of materialism, which seems to increase in power with the advance of civilisation, gains the upper hand, and so



MISS EUNICE G. MURRAY.

after a certain point decay sets in, for it is indeed a true saying that "Man shall not live by bread alone," and if this be true of nations and great civilisations, is it not likely to be equally true of such organisations as the Churches?

The great need of the female spiritual element has been long recognised by the great religious organisations, such as the Roman Church and some of the Eastern religions—using the word "great" in the sense of antiquity, or of great masses of adherents. In the Roman Church the mother of Christ holds a place in the hearts of the people very close to that held by the Christ himself, whatever may be the real position theologically. In many Eastern religions female gods occupy as important a position in the minds of the faithful as do male deities.

In these few lines the usual Pauline objections to women entering the Church are omitted, nor is an attempt made to show that St. Paul wrote for other days and times, our contention being that, in refusing women the right of ordination, men are taking upon themselves a great responsibility—they are deliberately robbing the Church. The Church is sorely in want of the spiritual force that women, and women alone, can give. It is not the fault of women that the inspiration of the early Church has failed; for men, not Christ, have refused them their rightful place in the Church, and the message that they can give has not been given through the channel of the Church—the flame that they could have kept bright has become dim because no woman was there to tend it.

Of all Churches, the Protestant one has given the poorest place to its women, and is not the Protestant Church to-day more than any other requiring a great awakening? It must, if it is to be a force, throw off inertia, prejudice and convention, and step forth with a clear call, and woe be to the man who dare, not through love of the Gospel of Christ, but through convention or antagonism, block the way to the entry of women to the Ministry.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Woman Appointed to Empire Marketing Board.

Mrs. F. Cottrell, of Bournville, has been selected to serve on the Publicity Committee of the Empire Marketing Board. She is the only woman on this Board. For several years Mrs. Cottrell has been a director of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and she was a member of the Birmingham City Council from 1916 until she retired in 1922.

More Employment for Women.

The Rock Investment Company has recently purchased from Messrs. Crosse and Blackwell their Brans-ton factory at Burton-on-Trent for the manufacture of artificial silk. It is expected that 2,000 operatives, mostly women and girls, will be employed at this factory.

Woman Rancher.

The daughter of Mr. Baker, a well-known planter in the Federated Malay States, is taking charge of a 12,000-acre sheep and cattle station in the Raglan district of New Zealand.

First Woman Doctor in Bolivia.

Señorita Amelia Chopita is the first woman in Bolivia to obtain the Degree in Medicine and Surgery.

No Women Magistrates.

At the Quarter Sessions, Chelmsford, last week, four men and no woman were sworn in Justices of the Peace for Essex.

Women's Progress in Spain.

The *News Service* of the International Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship states that the New Labour Code grants a limited right to a married woman to dispose of her own earnings; and that the Spanish Academy has altered its rules to provide for the admission of women.

First Women Members of the National Institute of Arts and Letters, U.S.A.

This *News Service* reports that the National Institute of Arts and Letters of the United States has for the first time admitted women to membership. Four authors—Edith Wharton, Margaret Deland, Agnes Repplier, and Mary E. Wilkins were chosen as the first women members.

Woman Estate Agent and Auctioneer.

Miss E. D. Clarke, who has had considerable experience in the auction room with a big City firm and has been for some years chief clerk to auctioneers, has set up business on her own account. She is said to be the only woman estate agent and auctioneer in London.

Ban on Women in Paris Theatre Removed.

M. Heriot, Minister of Fine Arts, has decreed that the parterre of the Comédie-Française, from January 15th, must be open to both men and women alike. Thus is abolished the last of the tradition that it was hardly respectable for ladies to be seen in any part of the floor of the house. The parterre corresponds to our pit.

Ghent's Woman Alderman.

Mlle. Boonants, a woman journalist, has been elected by the Communal Council of Ghent as its first woman alderman. Mlle. Boonants is on the staff of *Het-Volk*, a Christian Democratic Flemish journal, published in Ghent.

Women in Ward Clubs.

It has just been decided by Sir H. D. Kimber, president of the Langbourn Ward Club, one of the 26 ancient Ward Clubs of the City of London, composed of professional and business men, that women are free to join the club.

A Woman Writer's Thoughtfulness.

Miss Annesley Kenealy made provision for the benefit of her fellow writers, by arranging for the endowment of a single-bed ward at the Royal Free Hospital, for the exclusive use of women writers, "In Memorial of Elizabeth Kenealy, the mother of many writers," and for grants and pensions for necessitous women writers.

The Modern Business Girl.

Miss Grace Stanley, daughter of Lord Ashfield, and Miss Helen Robertson, daughter of Field-Marshal Sir William Robertson, aged 19 and 21 respectively, are getting an insight into business by working in Broadway, Westminster, at the head offices of the Underground, London General Omnibus and allied companies, of which Lord Ashfield is chairman.

Women Farmers.

In this country there are over 19,000 women farmers and 100,000 women, apart from farmers' wives and domestic servants, who are definitely engaged in agricultural work.

In Northern Ireland.

The Belfast Women's Advisory Council sent a deputation to the Minister of Home Affairs, asking the Government to adopt the Guardianship of Infants Act and the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Act, both of 1925. The Government refused.

Equality at Last.

At an Oxford Street bargain sale, a well-dressed man and a woman were heard having a bitter fight over the same piece of material, the gentleman maintaining stoutly that he had "seen it first."

OLIVER GOLDSMITH SCHOOL, PECKHAM RD.

Sunday, January 16th, at 7 p.m.

Miss ALISON NIELANS

on
"THE OUTCAST WOMAN AND THE LAW."

Questions invited.

ROUND ABOUT THE EDUCATION CONFERENCES.

The first week in the New Year is chosen by innumerable education societies for the holding of their Annual Conference, and we give below some of the views of our educationists:—

The *National Union of Women Teachers* at York strongly urged the raising of the school age to 15; the reorganisation of training colleges and of training departments of universities to provide a specialised training of at least one year, and that future entrants to the training colleges should have obtained the degree of a recognised University; and the withdrawal of the suggestion of extending the list of unqualified teachers in schools. It was pointed out that there were at present 9,926 supplementary teachers, whose qualifications were that they were eighteen years old, and vaccinated. A unanimous demand was made that the attendance of women jurors and magistrates should be compulsory, as for men, whatever type of case was under consideration. A resolution was passed, calling upon local authorities to take steps to raise the tone of film shows, or to exclude children from all but those specially approved for them by the local education authority; and another resolution protested against "the inhumane treatment" of animals in sport, in public entertainment, and in the methods of their slaughter for human consumption; and urged the passing of laws to abolish these practices.

The *Incorporated Association of Headmasters* held its 35th Annual General Meeting in the Guildhall. The President, Mr. R. F. Cholmeley, strongly criticised the commercial cinema, the chief victims of this industry being the immature minds of the children of the West.

In addressing the *Private Schools Association*, Dr. C. W. Kimmins spoke of the splendid work achieved in nursery schools in America, and regretted that the American example could not be followed here because of lack of money.

Sir Rennell Rodd addressed the *Modern Languages Association* on "The Urgent and Growing Need of a Knowledge of Modern Languages." He had come to the conclusion that the average young man of 18 turned out by the educational systems in foreign countries was better equipped in general knowledge and precision of thought than 80 per cent. of the boys who left our public schools.

Mr. Henry A. Cole, addressing the *Ling Association and Teachers of Swedish Gymnastics*, said that while the physical training of girls in secondary schools was in good hands, the same could not be said of the boys' secondary schools. They could not expect a poorly educated man, good though he might be at his practical work as drill instructor, to keep pace with the higher intelligence and the wider general knowledge of the average secondary schoolboy. He insisted that one of the needs of the future was the provision of more playing-fields and the better utilisation of existing ones.

Miss Reta Oldham, at a meeting of the *Association of Assistant Mistresses*, described the movement towards an international organised interchange of secondary school teachers. Miss Oldham dealt with the advantages to teachers of throwing themselves into the life of another nation and studying its problems.

At the Annual Conference of *Educational Associations*, Mr. J. Howard Whitehouse, dealing with "Creative Education," said that by creative education he meant that form of education which, whether it consisted of manual or other activities, would attempt to enable a child to realise his own personality. He

declared that the raising of the school age was an urgent necessity which brooked no delay. It was the basis of all reforms.

Addressing the *Historical Association*, Professor Pollard said that historical education was not intended to be a mass of facts, but an intellectual training. History was the one thing that in the future might humanise education. If democracy was to have real education, that education would have to be humanised by historical study.

"Emancipation" was the subject of the address to the *Association of University Women* by Professor Winifred Cullis. By "Emancipation" she meant relief from the disabilities and restrictions imposed by the artifices of man and not by the necessities of nature. Despite the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, the Government would not have married women, however qualified, in all sorts of positions in its service. With such an example, it could hardly be expected of the community generally that they should allow the same opportunities in life to women as to men. A woman's capacity for doing things was injuriously affected by this atmosphere.

Speaking at a meeting of the *Training Colleges Association*, Mr. H. Ward, late Chief Inspector of Training Colleges, suggested that the universities might send their lecturers and teachers to the training colleges to conduct courses of an advanced kind, or that there might be an exchange of lecturers between the universities and the training colleges; and also that universities might co-operate in the examination of training college students.

Two of the main questions discussed by the *North of England Education Conference* at Liverpool were "What is Efficiency in Education?" and "Are we on the right lines in dealing with the thousands of children leaving school who cannot find employment?" Mr. F. T. Baker, of Nottingham, asked if it would not be better to limit the education of the workers' children? If they did not, how were they going to check the industrial unrest and discontent in the minds of the growing generation? Professor E. T. Campagnac said that efficiency in general was the ability to achieve a desired end in the education of the young. The desired end was, in Locke's words, "to implant virtue, wisdom, breeding, learning." Mr. Heathcote said that the tests which the business man applied were accuracy, intelligence, loyalty, a capacity of self-education, and the will and ability to translate will into action. Mr. Roberts, of Birkenhead, advocated a combination of the raising of the school age, the development of the apprenticeship system, and the lowering of the Unemployment Insurance age, as the practical means required for dealing with the terrible problem of juvenile unemployment.

At a meeting arranged by the *National Union of Commercial Travellers*, Mr. F. Heywood said that in future a much wider view of commercial education would have to be taken. Economics would form the central subject in the curriculum, and principles rather than details would have to be taught.

At the Annual Meeting of the *Mathematical Association*, Professor M. J. M. Hill said he feared teachers taught too much by rule and too little by principle, and he suggested that in every lesson a few minutes should be spared to go back to first principles, for wherever those had been fully grasped the desired facility would follow at once.

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN.

PUBLIC MEETING, MINERVA CAFÉ,

144, HIGH HOLBORN, THURSDAY, JAN. 20, 7.30 P.M.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 14th, 1927.

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.

WOMEN FIRST!

"POLITICS CONCERN EVERYONE."

The Prime Minister had a heart-to-heart talk with his supporters at Worcester last week. In describing his position, Mr. Baldwin said that it was the loneliest job in the world, because a Prime Minister cannot share his ultimate responsibility. He was like the captain on the bridge, and had to consider the course of the ship. He must try to look far ahead, with much knowledge that was hidden from most of the people of this country. Above all, he must possess his soul in patience, and harden himself to be indifferent to the daily criticism, and so on. No doubt it sounded very delightful when he was among his personal friends, but if a British Woman Prime Minister had said all this, would not the Daily Press have had huge headlines about the Sentimentality of Woman and her consequent Unfitness for Government? We do not grudge Mr. Baldwin any measure of sympathy he may get from his friends, but was he not making a rather too special appeal for it? Earlier in his speech he declared: "Things do not stand still. A new generation of voters comes along every few years, and the constant process of education has to be kept up to date every year." But he said nothing about a further extension of votes to women! He continued: "Politics nowadays concern everyone," yet he did not seem to remember that there are five million women in this country over the age of 21, whom politics concern, but who have no political power. Mr. Baldwin had a good deal to say about men who take on the physical fatigue of fighting a Parliamentary seat, and who undertake work in Parliament, and if they succeed in getting a minor office, are completely cut off from earning their own living "on any considerable scale"; and he appealed to his Party in the constituencies to help pay the election expenses of men candidates, because "the bulk of men who fight seats are poorer men than they were 30 to 40 years ago!" The Prime Minister appears to have forgotten that there are also women candidates, and even women in Parliament—that there is, in fact, a woman in his own Government! Speaking of the Government, Mr. Baldwin said: "I think we have done more in the time to redeem our election pledges than any Government which is in my recollection. It is not possible to say whether we shall be able to carry out literally every pledge we gave. We have been thrown a little out of our stride by the events of last year, which have taken up, and must take up, a good deal of Parliamentary time which might have been allotted to other work." Does this mean that the Prime Minister, the Captain on the Bridge, is about to cry "Women Overboard!"? When the Home Secretary, on February 20th, 1925, succeeded in getting Mr. Whiteley's Equal Franchise Bill defeated in favour of a considered scheme of franchise reform being brought before Parliament at a later date, he said: "The Prime Minister's pledge is for equal rights, and at the next election. I will say quite definitely, that means no difference will take place in the ages at which men and women will go to the poll at the next election." The Women's Freedom League calls upon the Government to carry out this pledge literally, and in order to ensure this being done, to include a simple equal franchise measure in the King's Speech at the opening of Parliament on February 8th.

PROTECT THE CHILDREN!

The Montreal Cinema disaster, in which 76 children, all between the ages of 5 and 17, were killed, is one of the most appalling of modern times. The whole theatre was crowded, mostly with young people, to see a new piece, the gallery being packed almost entirely with children. The fire first appeared in the centre of the gallery, where the smoke rapidly grew in volume. The people downstairs were advised by the attendants to leave by the exits, which they did without confusion. Upstairs the children made a frantic stampede to the narrow spiral staircase, 30 feet long from the gallery to the street. Swinging doors formed an additional hindrance, and nearly all the victims were stifled and crushed to death on the staircase in a wild rush for safety. Although in Canada the law enacts that children attending these cinemas shall be accompanied by adults, most of the children killed had no older person with them, and 75 per cent. of them were there without their parents' consent. Nothing more dangerous than a spiral staircase in the event of a panic can well be imagined, and there seem to have been no attendants to look after the children and prevent them being caught in a veritable death-trap. In London, means of exit are under the supervision of the London County Council, but we think that the immediate attention of the L.C.C. should be drawn to the necessity for an adequate number of competent adults in every theatre, whose business it is to look after the thousands of children who so often go alone to cinema shows. There are cinema theatres in every provincial town and hamlet in this country, and we call for immediate legislation to enforce the provision of a sufficient number of safe exits in every one of them, and also of attendants to look after the safety of the children in case of panic. There should be such an attendant for every 30 or 40 children who go to cinema shows unaccompanied by adults. Cinema theatres must receive an enormous revenue from the pence of the hundreds of thousands of children who regularly attend them, and the management of every such theatre ought surely to be held responsible for securing every possible safeguard for the lives of these children.

KACHIN SLAVERY ABOLISHED.

The Governor of Burma this week met over 100 Kachin chiefs from "The Triangle," between Mali Hka and the N'Mai Hka rivers and the hill tracts of unadministered territory, and explained to them that slavery must cease in The Triangle and other areas of the Kachin hills. Mr. Barnard and other officers would visit these localities without delay and arrange for the release of slaves and pay compensation. The slaves would then become free men and women for ever. The slaves must be released, and slave raids must cease, as in all other countries. About 5,000 slaves will be released.

UNEQUAL FRANCHISE LAWS FOR MEN AND WOMEN.

In all countries where women are politically enfranchised, women have the vote at the same age and on the same terms as men, except:—

Great Britain and Northern Ireland, where practically any man can claim a Parliamentary Vote at the age of 21, but no woman can claim it under the age of 30, and then only on unequal terms with men.

Hungary, where men over 24 years can vote, provided they have completed the elementary school course, and women over 30 years of age, if they have three children, or earn an independent income, or have a diploma from an institution of higher education, or are wives of secondary school or college graduates.

Newfoundland, where men vote at the age of 21, and women only after they have attained the age of 25.

In no country is the disparity of age between men and women voters so great as it is in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

MISS LILIAN BARKER AND THE NAUGHTY GIRL.

Last week the Press reported that at a meeting of the Child Study Society, presided over by Mr. Clarke Hall, the problem of the delinquent girl was discussed. Mr. Clarke Hall said that the delinquent girl presented a more difficult problem than the delinquent boy, and he urged the need for direct Home Office inspection of homes for girls. He referred to three girls who had escaped from a home. They were dressed in the ugliest and coarsest materials imaginable. Those who had been looking after the girls in the home had evidently thought that this sort of costume was useful in diminishing the inherent vanity of the female mind. "But," he added, "that is surely bad psychology. Humanly speaking, there is no greater protection for a girl than her own sense of self-respect, and if you make a girl a figure of fun to herself and her companions owing to the costume she wears and the way she goes about, you are destroying the sense of self-respect. Those three girls ran away largely because they could not endure to look such frights. I am sure that was meant well on the part of the Homes, but I am also sure it is unwise to trust to the eccentricities of individual managers of particular Homes, about which you know nothing."

Miss Lilian Barker, Governor of the Girls' Borstal Institution at Aylesbury, said she had had a lot to do with naughty boys, and naughty boys were an awful problem, but it was simple compared with the problem of naughty girls. When she first went to Aylesbury she tried love, and she believed in love, and she gave them lots of it; but she soon realised that love was not enough. It was necessary, of course, in a large measure, but common sense and very strong discipline had also to be exercised. Some of the girls were very violent; they all came from bad homes, and revelled in the liberty of the streets. Bad housing and no housing were the root of the girls' misfortune, and no problem of penal reform could be satisfactorily solved without the question of housing being settled and a system established for giving some technical

training to the girls. All the girls in the Borstal Institution were poor and friendless, and not one of the girls had been a Girl Guide.

In a subsequent interview with a representative of the *Evening Standard*, Miss Barker said that the weekly dances, the holidays at the seaside, and other amenities which the girls had enjoyed since she had become Governor at Aylesbury, had certainly not been abandoned. They were far too useful in helping and developing the girls. But strong and rigid discipline was enforced. Newcomers were often sullen, defiant, and even violent—smashing up things, keeping everybody awake at night, etc. She had consulted the girls themselves about punishments, which were not things inflicted on them, but always merely privileges withdrawn. For sins against the community, such as violence, and anything likely to cause trouble to someone else, the offenders were punished by banishment from the community's social life. For other offences the girls were deprived of something personal. They were put on a less agreeable diet, for instance, though it was always a plentiful one. "Now come and see whether we have resorted to really harsh measures," said Miss Barker, "or whether we are still humanitarians!" When they reached the girls' workroom the *Evening Standard* representative states: "Rosy-cheeked, smiling maidens greeted Miss Barker wherever we went, and preparations for a fancy dress dance next Tuesday, at which all the costumes will be made of coloured paper, were in evidence."

Miss Lilian Barker is the only woman Governor of a woman's prison and Girls' Borstal Institution in this country. What she has achieved more than justifies our old demand for women governors of all women's prisons and women's sections of prisons; and once again we urge that all the medical officers in women's prisons shall be women, that there shall be women inspectors of prisons, and, above all, that there shall be women as well as men on the Prison Commission.

NEWS FROM INDIA.

The following items are taken from the December issue of *Stri Dharma* (the official organ of the Women's Indian Association):—

Woman Nominated to Madras Council.

The Madras Government has nominated a woman to its new Legislative Council, Srimali Muthulakshmi Ammal, M.B., C.M., who is a busy private medical practitioner. She takes an active interest in all spheres of public work, especially where the welfare of women and children is concerned. She is a prominent member of the Women's Indian Association, went on the deputations to Lord Willingdon and the Law Member asking the Legislative Council to be thrown open to women; and she represented the Women's Indian Association at the Paris International Congress of Women last May-June.

Women's Conference on Education.

This month the All-India Women's Conference on Educational Reform is taking place at Poona. Throughout India women have been preparing for the past nine months to bring about this historic gathering of responsible women, who will be the representatives of women in their Provinces. The organisers of the 14 Constituent Conferences already held report extraordinary enthusiasm among the women at the meetings.

Medical Aid for Women.

The Governor of the Punjab, in a recent address to women medical students, said that there are now in India seven Medical Colleges, over 3,600 State, public and aided hospitals, with an annual record of over 38,000,000 attendances. In the Punjab they are adding 375 dispensaries to their already existing 666

hospitals and dispensaries, which will give one for each ten square miles of area. Over 2,000,000 women had been treated last year. It was part of the Government's programme, he added, that there should be a woman's hospital at the headquarters of each district, and a woman's section at each of the tahsil hospitals which are now to be provincialised, each under a qualified woman doctor. The services were wanted of many Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons—all women. In India more women students were wanted, who would take the medical course in the Colleges, and, as an incentive, there should be more Medical Colleges for Women, not one only, in Delhi.

An Indian State's lead in Social Reform.

The Social Reforms Act was promulgated by the Maharajah of Bharatpur, on November 16th, to come into force on January 1st, 1927. The Act enables widows to contract a second valid marriage, and their children to inherit property. Another clause lays down that all marriages or remarriages contracted between persons who have not attained the age of 14 in the case of women, and 16 in the case of men, may be declared void in a Court of Law, and all persons knowingly abetting in marriages contrary to the above age limit, shall be liable to imprisonment and fine.

The Children's Protection Bill.

Sir Hari Singh Gour will again champion his Children's Protection Bill in the Assembly. Last year, the Government agreed to raise the age of consent for girls from

12 to 13 inside, and 14 outside marital relations. Sir Hari Singh Gour, however, is seeking to raise the age to 14 inside, and 16 outside marital relations.

Ths Children's Aid Society, Madras.

This Society, which was started a year and a half ago, chiefly owing to the efforts of Mrs. Hume Stanford, Hon. Magistrate for the protection of children who come before the Children's Courts, has now a fine home for delinquent children while they are awaiting trial, and forms a shelter for them until they can be placed under proper care. The Society is now taking a house, which will be made a certified school for girls. There is an influential Committee directing the activities of the Society, and much valuable work awaits the members when the Children's Act is working fully and when minor girls can be taken away from brothels.

BOOK REVIEW.

English Women in Life and Letters. By M. Phillips and W. S. Tomkinson. (Oxford University Press.) Price 10s. net. (Can be obtained from this Office.)

This most interesting book deals with two centuries of English women, after a preliminary chapter which goes as far back in history, or rather literature, as Chaucer's Prioress and Wife of Bath. The heroines of contemporary fiction are described, as well as those of real life, and we hear in turn from Margaret Paston, dear Dorothy Osborne, and Mr. Pepys, who describes his treatment of his wife Elizabeth in very lively fashion. The idle ladies of fashion, their card playing, dancing, hairdressing, and almost entire lack of education, are contrasted with the blue-stockings of the eighteenth and later centuries, Lady Jane Grey and Queen Elizabeth not being forgotten in this connection, though Lady Mary Wortley Montague and sweet Fanny Burney have a larger share of interest.

Again, the cruelly hard life of the country and serving women from Stuart times until our own, their lack of protection and opportunity, which caused too often their fall into despair and vice, so that they became the woman criminal of the Moll Flanders type, is well recounted, even the tortures of the unfortunate old women who were accused of witchcraft are not forgotten; while, dealing with the criminal women, Elizabeth Fry and her reforms, and other philanthropists and what they effected in education, nursing, and reformation, are the subject of several chapters. The account of the women nurses of these truly dark ages makes one rejoice at the thought of Florence Nightingale's work.

The industries and trades of women, either in coffee houses, as street sellers, or in mines and factories, are described, and the two professions alone open to women, teaching and nursing, are illustrated from the life of Charlotte Brontë's, Mrs. Gaskell's and Dickens' novels. The illustrations from beginning to end are delightful, whether they show us the truly terrible costumes and hairdressing of our ancestresses at Court Ball or at "the Bath," the ancient hornbook for children, their copies, or the witchfinder and his victims, they are entirely fascinating, and the book is full of them. Start with the enticing frontispiece of a young lady of fashion invited to make her choice between virtue and folly, such a one as Pamela or Clarissa, and you will not wish to lay down the volume till you have reached the truly horrible picture of a woman toiling in the mine, in the last chapter.

Just one point I would like to criticise, which somewhat mars the accuracy of the whole, namely, that "ancesses" and their "rewle" were quite distinct from the nun in her cloister, but, apart from this small slip, it would be difficult to find a fault. Let us who enjoy freedom in most things, and the Vote, read and rejoice that we are no longer "cribbed, cabined and confined" within the sometimes cruel limits of man's pleasure and judgment. In those times only the rich woman had any chance at all for an independent life, and even that only within circumscribed limits.

J. M. T.

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN.

Bradford.

The Bradford Branch of the National Council of Women is asking the four Members of Parliament for the city to receive deputations, with a view to urging the introduction of a measure for Equal Franchise for men and women.

London.

The Women's Freedom League is holding a Public Meeting in the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, Thursday, January 20th, at 7.30 p.m., "to demand the inclusion of a simple franchise measure in the King's Speech, granting the Parliamentary Vote to women at the age of 21, and on the same terms as men." The speakers will be the Rev. W. C. Roberts (Rector of St. George's, Bloomsbury), Sister Annie (West London Mission), Miss Rodgers (League of the Church Militant), Miss Margaret Harvey (Women's National Liberal Association), Mrs. Godfrey (London Labour Party), Mrs. Howson (Women's Co-operative Guild), Mrs. Lawry (Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries), Miss Butler-Bowdon (St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance), and Miss Godwin (Young Suffragists). The chair will be taken by Dr. Knight. Sir James Remnant, M.P. for Holborn Division, has been invited to attend this meeting.

We are also organising a similar Public Meeting on behalf of the equal political enfranchisement of women with men, at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C., Monday, February 7th, at 8.15 p.m. Mr. J. W. W. Hopkins, M.P. for the S.E. Division of St. Pancras, will be invited to attend this meeting.

The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship are organising a Mass Meeting on Equal Franchise in the Central Hall, Westminster, Thursday, March 3rd, at 8 p.m. Among those who have promised to speak are Miss Margaret Bondfield, M.P., and Lord Balfour of Burleigh.

THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM

The King has sanctioned the following promotions in and appointments to the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem:—Knight of Justice (from Knight of Grace), *one man*; Dames of Justice (from Dames of Grace), *two women*: Lady Knowles, O.B.E., and Lady Yate; Knights of Grace, *three men*; Dames of Grace, *four women*: The Hon. Gwendolyn Brooks Marshall, Lady Forester, Mrs. Kimmins, and Miss A. C. Rennie; Commander (Brother), *one man*; Commander (Sister), *one woman*, Lady Hoy; Officers (Brothers), *nineteen men*; Officers (Sisters), *six women*: Mrs. Bucknill, Mrs. Adams, Lady Malcolm of Poltalloch, M.B.E., the Marchioness of Exeter, Lady Constance Butler, and Lady Gainford.

Whitaker tells us that this Order had its origin in Jerusalem and Acre, as an international lay confraternity for the relief of Crusaders. The work of the British Order is the control of St. John's Association Ambulance and Brigade, and of the Ophthalmic Hospital, Jerusalem. The Order is conferred for services in the cause of humanity throughout the Empire, and is open to both men and women. There are five classes:—Bailiffs and Dames Grand Cross; Knights and Dames of Justice and of Grace; Commanders of both sexes; Officers of both sexes; Serving Brothers and Sisters. These distinctions are notified in the *London Gazette*, but do not confer any rank or title. The ribbon of the decoration of the Order is black.

DAME ELLEN TERRY.

We rejoice to learn that Dame Ellen Terry is recovering from her severe illness, and we send her our heartiest good wishes for complete restoration to health and strength.

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.1.

Telephone:—MUSEUM 1429.

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Thursday, January 20th, at 7.30 p.m.
Equal Political Rights Campaign. Public Meeting in the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. See Notice.

Wednesday, January 26th, at 8 p.m.
Hampstead Branch. Social Gathering at the Isis Club, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue, N.W.3 (by kind invitation of Mrs. Harverson). Speaker: Commandant Mary Allen. Chair: Mrs. Wynne Nevins, J.P., L.L.A. All friends of the League will be welcome.

DARE TO BE FREE.

Monday, February 7th, at 8.15 p.m.
Equal Political Rights Campaign. Minerva Club Branch. Public Meeting at Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

Friday, February 11th, at 5.30 p.m.
Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday, February 11th, at 8.15 p.m.
Reception to Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1, informal dinner at 7.30 p.m. Tickets 3/6.

Saturday, February 12th, at 10 a.m.
National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Tuesday, March 8th, at 7.30 p.m.
Equal Political Rights Campaign, Public Meeting at the Labour Hall, Highbury Grove. Speakers: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, and others.

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, January 26th, 4—6 p.m.
Bexhill Branch. Whist Drive at the Albany Hotel.

Monday, February 7th, 4—6 p.m.
Hastings Branch. Whist Drive at the Glenroyde Hotel (by kind permission of Mrs. Sparkes).

Thursday, February 24th, at 8 p.m.
Hastings Branch. Public Meeting in the Ball-room at the Queen's Hotel. Speaker: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence.

SCOTLAND.

Saturday, January 15th, at 7.30 p.m.
Glasgow Branch. Whist Drive and Cake and Candy Sale at the Athænum. Tickets from Miss Lenton, 8, Burnbank Gds., 2/6.
Monday, January 31st.
Dunoon Branch. Public Meeting. Speakers: Miss Eunice Murray, Bailie Millar, Councillor Mrs. MacPherson. Chair: The Provost of Dunoon.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Sunday, January 16th, at 6.30 p.m.
St. Andrew's Hall, Glasgow. Speaker: Miss Eunice Murray.
Saturday, January 22nd, at 3 p.m.
Speech Club. Debate: "That in the opinion of this meeting Fox-hunting should be abolished." At the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

Thursday, January 27th, at 8 p.m.
Kingsway Hall, W.C.2. Debate: "On the Menace of the Leisured Woman." Between Lady Rhondda and Mr. G. K. Chesterton. Chairman: Mr. G. Bernard Shaw.

Friday, January 28th, at 8 p.m.
Demonstration for Equal Franchise (organised by the N.U.S.E.C.), in the Central Hall, Edinburgh.

Sunday, January 30th, at 11 a.m.
Hampshire House Discussion Circle, Hog Lane, King Street, Hammersmith. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood. Subject: "The Aims and Work of the Women's Freedom League."

February 1st—4th.
Conference at London School of Economics, Houghton Street, Aldwych, W.C.1 (arranged by League of Nations Union), on "Systems of fixing Minimum Wages."

BRANCH NOTE.

HASTINGS.

Mrs. Darent Harrison gave a delightful New Year's party at 1, St. Paul's Place, St. Leonards, last week. After a very dainty tea, an enjoyable entertainment was given by the following:—Miss Miriam Prelooker sang and played in a very cultivated manner; she also ably accompanied others. Miss Nornie Prelooker played and recited charmingly. Miss Gracie Callender, who won the silver cup for elocution at the Hastings Musical Festival, more than won the admiration of her hearers, and her sister, Miss Irene Callender, very kindly sang two songs remarkably well. Mrs. Jaakof Prelooker made a short speech of thanks at the close of a very enjoyable afternoon. Will members please remember the following dates:—Monday, February 7th, 4 to 6 p.m., Glenroyde Hotel, Hastings, a Whist Drive, by kind permission of Mrs. Sparkes. Thursday, February 24th, 8 p.m., a Public Meeting will be held in the ball-room at the Queen's Hotel, Hastings. Speaker, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, Bexhill, Albany Hotel, Wednesday, January 26th, 4 to 6 p.m., Whist Drive.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

"Public Lodging Houses for Women."

3, Fleet Street,
London, E.C.4.
1st January, 1927.

DEAR MADAM,—The answer to Mrs. Greenwood's query as to whether a woman should be admitted to a public lodging house "without any questions" must depend on the point of view. If you consider that woman *quâ* woman is entitled to the rights commonly ceded to man, it must be apparent that she should be equally immune from interrogation. At a man's public lodging house, whether run by a municipal body or under private ownership, on payment of the charge, the would-be lodger is admitted—provided he is not obviously and unpleasantly drunk. Cecil Houses (Inc.) propose to admit woman on precisely the same terms.

The argument that an inquisition should be held into the morals of a woman, for fear she might contaminate younger and purer specimens, holds equally good in regard to man. You will find in common lodging houses all sorts and descriptions of men—casual workers, unemployed, itinerant vendors—you will even find male prostitutes, but in the case of the man it is sufficient that he can pay the price of his bed. Why, therefore, is a sex bar to be put up in the case of women?

The suggestion that a good young girl was lured from domestic service owing to the stories of a gilded life upon the streets imparted to her in a common lodging house, is curiously unconvincing to anyone who has frequented these places. Anything less gilded than the poor lodgers cannot be imagined, and any girl who would take such statements as credible would be, I suggest, open to the suspicion of mental deficiency.

Your paper, Madam, has always been the champion of equal rights for men and women. You claimed that to withhold the vote from us was an irrational proceeding. But, having attained some measure of recognition of woman's political rights, it is surely an anomaly to enforce the sex disqualification on the social plane.

At the present moment the sleeping accommodation in women's lodging houses is hideously inadequate. It comes somewhat as a blow to find that when we seek to remedy this deficiency we should be reproved because we want to regard woman as a human being, with the same rights and privileges as man.

Yours faithfully,

A. E. CHESTERTON.

JOTTINGS ABOUT WOMEN.

Turkish Veil Ban.

The decree enforced at Trebizond, forbidding Moslem women to walk in the streets with their veils, is being extended to include the whole country, even in the Eastern vilayets. The latter are generally considered the most conservative, and have lately shown considerable opposition to the Western reforms.

Women and Business.

Women of all classes are members of the new Ladies' Venture Club, formed in South-West London to encourage better moral standards in business and to promote the interchange of ideas. Mrs. W. W. Homan, wife of a member of the Clapham Rotary Club, was the initiator; and Miss Ivy Hill, head of a private nursing home, is the president. The club has no official connection with the Rotary movement, but the organisation is based on similar lines. It is the third of its kind in the country and the first in London.

Women and Church Ministry.

An interesting reference to the place of women in the Church was made by Lady Frances Balfour when opening a Glasgow Church Bazaar recently. After an interesting reference to Crown Court Church, London, Lady Frances spoke of the place in the Church occupied by women 50 years ago and at the present time, and added that she thought, in the great dearth of ministers, it could hardly be long deferred that those who had the power and the vocation should be called to higher work.

Domestic Trade Union.

Domestic servants are to be organised into a trade union. An eight-hour day and a 48-hour week, a minimum wage of 21s. a week for maids who live in, with no deductions for breakages, and a fortnight's holiday with board wages—these are the chief points in the programme of the Domestic and Hotel Workers' Union.

Whitehall Charwomen.

The Government are to be asked to appoint a committee of inquiry into the conditions of work of the charwomen who clean Government offices. The Office of Works is accused of under-paying and overworking these women, for, in order to economise, they are now held responsible for cleaning 2,500 superficial feet per head instead of 2,000 superficial feet. They are also required to clean walls, to which they object. Questions are shortly to be asked in the House of Commons as to the number of vacuum cleaners used in Whitehall in order to assist these charwomen to carry out their increased duties. Civil servants complain that many offices are now allowed to be in a "filthy condition."

TO BRANCH TREASURERS.

Please let me have a note of the receipts and expenditure of your branch, for inclusion in the Treasury List.—E. KNIGHT.

FRIDAY,
JAN. 14,
1927.

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FAMOUS FOR ITS 1/6 LUNCHEON. 10/6 First Fifty Members Join. The Owls Club in the 16th-century "Wig & Pen," 230, Strand. Open till midnight. Very cosy Writing Room, etc., for people of literary and kindred pursuits. Excellent Devonshire cooking. Founded by H. & F. Ames.—Apply Secretary, Owls, 230 Strand.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, January 16th, 1927. 3.30. Music. Lecture. G. A. de Zoyza, Esq., of the Buddhist Mission. 6.30. Maude Royden.

MISS CONSTANCE CONNOLLY, 37, Norfolk Street, W.C.2. Specialises in circularising, printing, duplicating, and verbatim reporting. Rapid Secretarial Course for Gentle-people.

PUBLIC SPEAKING.—Lectures, classes, and private lessons. Saturday Speech Club.—Miss LUCY BELL, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Tel.: Museum 4791.

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN CITIZENS.—The Edward Wright and Cavendish-Bentinck Library contains sections on current political and social problems, including the Woman's Movement, Family Allowances, and League of Nations. Book Boxes of 20 books available for Study Circles.—Apply Librarian, N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster.

MISCELLANEOUS.

CLOTTED CREAM, 3/- lb., post free. Furnished House to let at NEWQUAY, 5 rooms.—Apply SELSEY, St. Stephen's, St. Austell, Cornwall.

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