

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1927

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.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

PENAL REFORMERS AND YOUNG OFFENDERS.
GLASGOW UNIVERSITY COURT SEATS.
GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR.
POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

TO DIMINISH MATERNAL MORTALITY.
EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN.
WIVES NO LONGER CHATELS!
BOOK REVIEWS.

PENAL REFORMERS AND YOUNG OFFENDERS.

"The Treatment of Young Offenders" was the subject of a Conference, held on October 27th, by the Howard League for Penal Reform. Women's organisations were well represented as well as most societies working for social reform, and the discussions both in the afternoon and early evening sessions were full of human interest, carried on under the very able chairmanship of Mrs. Barrow Cadbury, J.P. Most of the resolutions on the Agenda were carried without any opposition. The first, urging that younger magistrates of both sexes, specially qualified to deal with young people, should be included on the bench of every juvenile Court, was moved by Mr. A. J. Lovat Fraser, Hon. Secretary of the State Children's Association, who said that there were not nearly enough women sitting in the general Courts. He added that the more he saw of public life, the more and more feminist did he become. Nothing astounded him more than the way in which the nation allowed the enormous ability of its women to be unused. Mrs. Rackham, J.P., informed the Conference that there were still 236 benches without a woman magistrate, and that 70 of these were Borough Benches. Yet we still have new lists of magistrates appearing without any women's names, or perhaps the name of one woman with about a dozen or score of men! In the discussion on the advisability of advertising all vacancies for whole-time Probation officers, and of interviewing candidates by Probation Committees, it was pointed out that all candidates must be between 25 and 35, and that this later age limit was often a serious drawback to getting the right kind of person for this important work. The Conference unanimously endorsed the opinion of the Departmental Committee as to the undesirability of imprisonment for lads and girls under 21; but regretted that no alternative method was suggested for dealing with offenders between 17 and 21 other than Probation or Borstal, and urged that greater variety of institutional treatment should be available. In the discussion it was urged that the point to consider was not what was the best kind of punishment, but what was the best kind of treatment for the young offender; that the offence should be taken as a sign of moral illness, and that in any case no one below the school age should be regarded as a criminal.

The Rev. G. Murray (Holloway Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society) said the effect of imprisonment on young people was wholly bad, and that no sentence of imprisonment should be passed on a boy or girl until

there was a medical certificate as to the real reason why the young life went wrong.

The Conference also called for more hostels for lads and girls on probation in large centres of population, welcomed the Departmental Committee's proposal to establish three observation centres for the mental examination of young offenders, and deplored the recommendation of the extension of whipping, agreeing with the dissentient minority of the Committee that whipping ordered by a Court of Law served no useful purpose. Mr. Lovat Fraser strongly denounced the practice of some magistrates who ordered a lad to be whipped and at the same time placed him on probation. He declared that such a practice was wholly illegal, and rendered the probation officer's task with the young offender absolutely impossible.

Throughout the whole discussion speaker after speaker emphasised the need for the individual treatment of young offenders. Mr. Alexander Paterson, a member of the Prison Commission, who gave a short address after the interval for tea, himself sympathised with this view, and rightly claimed that the Home Office had to some extent acted on it. He deplored, however, carping criticism from outsiders, and maintained that all the real reforms in our prison system had emanated from the staffs of our prisons and those intimately concerned with the lives of our prison population. We heartily agree that there has been a great improvement in the conditions of prison life during the last twenty years, but we ask, Would there have been so much improvement if women and men had not shared the common lot of prisoners for the cause of suffrage or as conscientious objectors? Those women and men gave a great impetus to prison reform. We are quite aware that it is very difficult for outsiders to initiate prison reform, because the whole of our prison system and administration is controlled by a handful of men. We ourselves are convinced that there will be no real reform of our prison system, so far as it concerns women, until women are members of the Prison Commission, until there are women governors as well as women deputy-governors of all women's prisons and women's sections of prisons, women inspectors of prisons, and many more women police. What is the use of stressing the need for the individual treatment of girl and women offenders while men alone have the power to decide what this treatment is to be? The Prison Commission, which has practically entire control over the lives of the prison population,

consists of a Chairman, Mr. Maurice Lyndham Waller, and three male prison Commissioners and Directors of Convict Prisons—Mr. Alexander Paterson, Lt.-Col. J. S. Knox, and Mr. C. B. Griffiths. There are one male Medical Inspector and three other male Inspectors of H.M. Prisons—and not a woman among them. Have we not a right to be sceptical about the individual treatment of the girl and women offenders, especially as there is so much greater recidivism among women prisoners than there is among men? With the single exception of the Prison and Borstal Institution at Aylesbury, all women's prisons and women's sections of prisons have male Governors. Surely such an archaism ought to be swept away in this year of Grace! We are quite willing to agree that the improved conditions of men prisoners have been all to the good, because those who initiated them have understood the needs and failings of members of their own sex; but we emphatically protest against the policy of continuing to model women's prisons on men's prisons, and the treatment of women prisoners on what a handful of men think good for them.

We respectfully suggest to the Howard League for Penal Reform that they consider (1) pressing the Lord Chancellor to see that, until the number of women and men magistrates throughout the country is more approximately equal, all new lists of magistrates shall consist of an equal number of men and women; (2) pressing the Home Secretary to appoint women on the Prison Commission, women as governors of all women's prisons and women's sections of prisons, women as inspectors of prisons, and women police throughout the country. We are convinced that genuine penal reform, so far as women are concerned, lies in those directions.

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY COURT SEATS.

FIRST WOMAN'S ELECTION CHALLENGED.

The Glasgow Herald reports that a unique incident occurred at a meeting of Glasgow University General Council last week, when a woman, Miss Helen Rutherford, headed the vote in an election for two vacant assessorships on the University Court—the governing body of the University. As the election was without prejudice to the demand for the poll—and a poll was demanded—the filling of the vacancies will now be decided on the postal votes of the 15,000 graduate members of the Council. If this election had been final—or if the poll confirms it—Miss Rutherford would be the first woman in Scotland to hold such a post.

The vacant assessorships were created by the expiring of the terms of office of Mr. David Murray, LL.D., and Dr. George S. Middleton, LL.D. Both of the retiring Assessors were eligible for reappointment, but Dr. Middleton intimated by letter his retirement from office. Mr. James Buchanan, seconded by Mr. James A. Gordon, proposed the re-election of Dr. Murray. Dr. R. M. Buchanan, president of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, seconded by Mr. Alexander Gemmill, proposed Dr. John Freeland Fergus.

Mrs. Ian D. Suttie proposed, and Miss Maude G. May seconded, the election of Miss Helen Rutherford. Mrs. Suttie said that Miss Rutherford was at present warden of the women's section of Jordanhill Training College. She had been the first woman in Glasgow to carry off first class honours in classics. Her whole career had been associated with the University as student, as honours graduate, as secretary to Professor Gilbert Murray, and as warden at Jordanhill. Thus she was eminently qualified to be a most valuable adjunct to the University Court. On general grounds, Mrs. Suttie submitted two reasons for the election of Miss Rutherford. The first was that one-third of the Glasgow graduates were women, and the second that over one-third of the present students were women. She asked them to consider whether, with a body to be governed in which there was so large a proportion of women, it did not appeal to their sense of the rightness of things that

there should be a woman on the Board which governed. As graduates of Glasgow University, they were frankly of the unbiased spirit which, in Scotland, gave to ability, whatever its sex, its due weight. But that wise and liberal principle might well be carried further for the well-being and progress of the University and their pride in Scottish pedagogy. Miss Rutherford had the social, personal, professional and academic worth and dignity to fill the post. Would it not weigh with some of them that she was a woman?

The vote "without prejudice to the right to demand and proceed with a poll" was then taken and resulted as follows: Miss Helen Rutherford, 184; Dr. Murray, 168; and Dr. Fergus, 85.

It was intimated after the announcement of the result that a postal poll had been demanded and would be proceeded with. This poll has to be completed in 21 days, and suffrages belong to between 14,000 and 15,000 graduates (by examination) of the University who are members of the Council.

When the election had ended, the majority of the 250 members present, consisting mostly of women, left the meeting, and the ordinary business was conducted by a comparatively small group.

LYCEUM CLUB JOURNALISTS.

There was a good attendance at the Monthly Dinner of Journalists at the Lyceum Club last week. The subject for discussion was "Literary White Elephants," which gave opportunity for some amusing tales. An Hungarian journalist, after listening to some of these, rose and said that she thought she now fully understood what a "White Elephant" was, and that in her country they called them "Little Ducks." Chaperones were there called elephants and a particularly keen one a white elephant. She brought a cordial message of greeting from Hungarian women journalists to their British colleagues.

A POLITE DECEPTION.

In the Ministry of Labour Report on the Printing Trades there occurs the following on apprenticeships:—"Printing operations which involve great skill are not usually assigned to women or girls." This is another way of reporting the truth, which is that girls are barred, as girls, from apprenticeship to the skilled sections; so women, as women, are barred from the higher, best paid sections of this most conservative trade.

POSSIBLE WOMAN MAYOR IN AMERICA.

A young woman of 24 is well in the running for the Mayoralty of Concord in New Hampshire. This energetic candidate started to earn her living on leaving school, got enough to put herself through New Hampshire University, where she had a distinguished career in wide activities, and has now, says the *Christian Service Monitor*, startled Concord and its present Mayor by running a close second in a field of four, being only 956 votes behind the present Mayor, who is a democrat, while Miss Jones, the new candidate, is an Independent Republican. Her independence has not only shown itself in her life already, but it seems that throughout the primary campaign she made no pledges, confining herself to recommendations.

OLIVER GOLDSMITH SCHOOL, PECKHAM ROAD.

Sunday, at 7 p.m.

Mr. HARRY SNELL, M.P.

"MOTHER INDIA": Fact or Libel?"

GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR.

GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR.

The Green, White and Gold Fair will be held this year at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Wednesday and Thursday, November 23rd and 24th, and will be opened each day at 3 p.m. On Wednesday, November 23rd, by Mrs. Elliott Lynn; and on Thursday by The Lady Balfour of Burleigh. The Chair will be taken on Wednesday by Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence (President of the Women's Freedom League), and on Thursday by Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P.

STALLS AND STALLHOLDERS.

Hampstead Branch.—Handkerchiefs, Antiques, and White Elephants. Miss Goodliffe, Miss Lyndon, Miss Yibert, Mrs. Ostler and Mrs. Williams.
Mid-London Branch.—Stationery Stall. Mrs. Legge and Members.
Montgomery Boroughs Branch.—Country Produce, Cakes, and General Goods. Miss Alix M. Clark and Friends.
Portsmouth Branch.—Household Goods. Mrs. Whetton, Mrs. Brading and Members.
South-Eastern Branches.—Dairy Produce and Pound Stall. Miss White and Members.
China Stall.—Mrs. Lindus, Mrs. Tanner, Miss M. A. Sidley and the Misses Lindus.
Great North Stall.—Mrs. Mustard and Mrs. Gugenheim.
Literature Stall.—Mrs. Pierotti, Mrs. Victor Duval, Mrs. Sutherland and Miss D. Sidley.
Overalls and Aprons.—Miss Underwood, Miss F. A. Underwood, Mrs. Turriff, Miss Brewer and Miss Charles.
Shilling Stall.—Mrs. Delbanco, Mrs. Jacoby and Mrs. Wilks.
Sweets.
Toy Stall.—Mrs. Knight and Friends.
Underclothing.—Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. Boxall.
General Stall.—Mrs. Lloyd.
"Vote" Stall.—Mrs. Flowers, Miss Barton, Mrs. Evans and Miss Burgoine.

PLEASE HELP!

We want all the help we can possibly have for our stalls. Will members and readers of THE VOTE make a point of sending some dainty or useful article for one or other of the stalls? Among the things that are most needed are gifts for the Stationery Stall, such as note-paper, blotters, pens, pencils, postcards, Christmas cards, etc. The Overall and Apron Stall is always a particular feature of our Fairs; all kinds of overalls are required, with sleeves or without; also pretty little aprons for afternoon use. *Lingerie* of every description will be very acceptable for the Underclothing Stall, and gifts of tea-cloths, dusters, sheets, pillow-cases, towels, tablecloths, pots, pans, etc., are all required for the Household Stall. The Handkerchief Stall is always very popular; therefore many handkerchiefs of every description are required if it is to be well supplied. Will all our readers remember the White Elephant and Antique Stall, and send us the things they no longer want or have room for; everything will be acceptable for this stall. Dolls and all sorts of toys are wanted for our Toy Stall; and cake, jam, butter, tea, eggs, etc., will be most helpful for our Dairy Produce and Pound Stall. We shall be very glad of really nice books suitable for children for our Literature

WOMEN'S LAW SUCCESSES.

The following women passed the Michaelmas examination of students of the Inns of Court, held in Lincoln's Inn Hall on October 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th, by the Council of Legal Education. In this List (I) stands for Inner Temple; (M) Middle Temple; (L) Lincoln's Inn, and (G) Gray's Inn. *Constitutional Law and Legal History—Class 3:* Kathleen Bruce Anderson, M., Dorothy Mary Griffith, M. *Criminal Law and Procedure—Class 3:* Coomee Rustom Dantra, I., Seeta Vadivm Devados, I., the Hon. Sylvia Fletcher Moulton, M., Dorothy Mary Griffiths, M., Marguerite Leslie Harris, M., Dorothy Rae Lever, M., Helen Rushton, M. *Real Property and Conveyancing—Class 2:* Patricia Hackett, I., Margaret Wulphilda Prothero, G. *Class 3:* Enid Rosser, L., Helen Rushton, I., Ruth Elizabeth Sophia Thompson, I., Coomee Rustom Dantra, I., Seeta Vadivm Devados, I. *Final Examination—Class 2:* Hilda Craig Harding, L. *Class 3:* Enid Rosser, L., Marion Alice Warner, G.

Stall, and gifts of china, especially useful cups and saucers, teapots, etc., for our China Stall. Sweets of every kind are much needed; these always sell well, so we require a large supply; and, last but not least, everything will be welcome for our General Stall (the Great North Stall).

Please give us all the help you can. If you cannot do anything else, write to the Hon. Fair Secretary for 20, 30, 40 or 50 handbills of the Fair, and send them to your friends and ask them to come and meet you at the Caxton Hall on one of the days of the Fair; they are sure to have a happy time and enjoy themselves.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

A good programme of entertainments is being arranged, and will include a Display on Thursday, November 24th, at 6 p.m., of Operatic, Classical, and Character Dances by the pupils of Miss Grace Woollacott. There will be music and various other entertainments during the afternoons, and after 6.30 in the evenings. The following have most kindly promised to assist—Miss C. O'Brien, Miss Joan Dunsford, Miss Lilian Foulis, Miss Betty Lowe, Mrs. Sparrow, Miss Annie Stevens, Miss G. Wood, also Madame San Carolo, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., Professor Laubach, and Major Sinkinson.

Character Readings will be given by Miss Wall and Mrs. Gilchrist, Numerology by Miss King, Phrenology by Madame Gena, B.Sc., and Psychometry by Mrs. Thomson.

TEAS AND REFRESHMENTS.

Miss Reeves has most kindly undertaken the Teas and Refreshments, and will be assisted by the staff of the Minerva Club and Branch. Teas will be served in the Lounge from 3.30 to 6 p.m., and Refreshments will be served after 7 p.m.

THE INFORMATION BUREAU.

Mrs. Seymour Pritchard has most kindly undertaken the charge of the Bureau.

Societies and friends taking Stalls:—

The Alliance of Honour (The Women's Section).
Barclay Workshops (For Blind Women).
The British Commonwealth League.
The Canning Town Women's Settlement.
The Dewdrop Curtain Co.
The Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee.
The St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.
The Nine Elms Settlement.
The Town Crier, Ltd.
Miss Burwood (Beads).
The Baroness Halse De Ville (Devon Stall).
Miss Ida Stamm (Veloutine Work).

Tickets—1s. 10d. (including tax) the first day until 5 p.m.; after 5 p.m. and on the second day 1s. 2d. (including tax)—are on sale at 144, High Holborn, or from the Societies and Friends taking Stalls.

All communications and gifts (also applications for Stalls) should be sent to Miss E. Berry, Hon. Fair Sec., at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

Dear Sir,—I went, the other Sunday, to the Parish Church of St. John, Hampstead, and in that stronghold of evangelicism and conservatism, at the Celebration, a woman came round with the alms-bag.

So far as my experience goes, this is unusual in the Church of England (except perhaps in the very "high" churches), or, for the matter of that, in any Christian place of worship, Catholic or Free Church, in the British Isles or even in Europe and America, except France—where women frequently or generally seem to collect alms at High Mass, the privilege, I believe, being given to the one who provides *le pain bénit* for the Sunday.

I have travelled considerably and have always visited the churches of established religions in the different countries, but do not seem to remember women collectors. I have even personally known two women churchwardens, years and years ago, but I don't think they ever ventured to handle the plate.

I met a man much distressed by the innovation, and already seeing in his mind's eye women ordained as bishops, priests, and deacons. He seemed hurt that I was not shocked, only observing: "Straws show which way the wind blows." Wait and see!—I am, yours, etc., M. W. NEVINSON, J.P.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4th, 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.

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

Both Houses of Parliament reassemble next Tuesday. We are assured by the Press that the Home Secretary is already busy with the contents of his new Factory Bill which is to be passed into law next year. We shall once again urge him to consider the removal of all restrictions upon the work of women which are not imposed on that of men. We want to see the best possible conditions for all workers, and we are convinced that leaving conditions as they are for men while refusing to let women work under them not only undermines the struggle of women workers for equal opportunities and equal pay with men but helps to maintain unnecessarily bad conditions for the male worker. Women's economic struggle is as keen as that of men, and special restrictions in any avenue of employment only make it harder for the woman worker.

The Press also tells us that the new Franchise Bill will not be ready before the last Session of this Parliament and that it will only be passed in time for the new voters to get on to the 1929 register. We hope that this is not authoritative. We cannot stress too often or too emphatically the danger of delay. Past experience has taught women that there is no danger so great as delay to the cause of equal franchise. They all remember that in the last Parliament there was a very great majority in the House in favour of equal franchise, but that persistent delay in dealing with the Bill before the House ruined the chances of women voting at the same age, and on equal terms, with men at the last General Election. We are also told that the present Government Bill will contain clauses conferring the municipal franchise upon Companies and disfranchising paupers. These clauses will be certain to arouse opposition in certain quarters, and while they may not themselves wreck the chances of the Bill, they will certainly add to its delay, and it is delay that women fear. We urge, therefore, that as the Government is so fully pledged to the cause of equal enfranchisement of women and men, and has given no such pledges on the questions of the municipal franchise for Companies and the disfranchisement of paupers, its first business next Session should be the introduction and passing into law of a simple equal franchise measure granting the Parliamentary vote to women at the age of 21 and on equal terms with men. With all Parties pledged to that principle, such a Bill need take very little Parliamentary time. Until it is actually on the Statute Book, women are not certain of their chances of voting on an equal footing with men at the next General Election.

The writ for the By-Election at Southend was issued last Tuesday. The nominations have been fixed for November 9th, and the polling will take place on November 19th. There are three candidates—Lady Iveagh, wife of the former member, whose succession to the peerage is the cause of the contest; Mr. Erskine Harper, the Labour candidate; and the Hon. Douglass Meston, the Liberal candidate. We are assured that all three Parties are now working energetically in the constituency. We send our very best wishes to Lady Iveagh for her success at the poll. We do this irrespective of the political party to which she belongs because we believe that there is urgent need for a number of capable women in the House of Commons. With the ever-increasing volume of legislation affecting women equally with men, it is essential that women of all Parties should be in the House to discuss and criticise it, all the more so since women are debarred from doing this in the Upper House.

JUDICIAL SEPARATION: JUDGE'S COMMENTS.

We protest against the increasing practice of judges and magistrates making use of their position to criticise the laws which they are called upon to administer, and more especially when their administration particularly affects women. Last Tuesday, in the High Court a woman sought a judicial separation from her husband on the ground of adultery. Mr. Justice Hill, in granting a decree of judicial separation, with costs, and custody of the child of the marriage, said that it was quite obvious that the husband had been living with a woman, and there was every probability he would continue to live with her. Although the wife had, apparently, no religious scruples about divorce, she refused to divorce her husband, with the probable consequence that he and the woman would have illegitimate children. He added that the law entitled her to a judicial separation; but, some day, perhaps, the law would be altered so that the Court would have discretion to pronounce a decree of divorce, if it thought proper, on an application for relief. We would point out that the husband was clearly the guilty party under the law. Why should his wife be compelled to grant him relief and possibly the opportunity to prove faithless to another woman? We think that women would be very chary of allowing more discretion to Courts in matters which so intimately concern them, certainly while men continue to have practically all the positions and power in those Courts.

MORE WOMEN'S LODGING-HOUSES NEEDED.

Mrs. Cecil Chesterton's book, *In Darkest London—A Study of the Outcast Woman*, has resulted in the establishment of the first Cecil House, in Devonshire Street, where women can get a comfortable and clean night's lodging for the sum of 1/-. Another house will be opened shortly, and the object of the meeting, last Friday, at Wyndham's Theatre, was to get support for further houses. From the chair, Mr. John Galsworthy described life as a battlefield on which there were many casualties, and said that our present Red Cross activities hardly kept up with them. Women, as well as men, fell by the way and must be helped to recover. The Cecil Houses would do this. Sympathetic speeches were made by Miss Sybil Thorndike, the Lord Mayor of London, Mr. G. K. Chesterton Mrs. Cecil Chesterton, Mr. Clarke Hall (the magistrate at Old Street), and Major Cohen, M.P., the Hon. Treasurer. All emphasised the great need for more accommodation for women. We wish this work every possible success, and sincerely trust that the six houses which Mrs. Chesterton hopes to establish will materialise in the near future. They are a very urgent necessity, but even six houses cannot cope with all the women who are down-and-out in London. Why cannot the London County Council, which provides comfortable lodging-houses for men, replete with bath rooms and every modern hygienic appliance, also provide similar accommodation for women? The need for such lodging-houses is not confined to London, but is found in every big town or city. We urge that it is the duty of every local governing authority to make some provision for men and women who are in need of an occasional cheap lodging. If they have the price of a night's lodging, but no more, why should they go to the workhouse, or be compelled to walk the streets as the only alternative? Mrs. Cecil Chesterton has done splendid work in bringing the need for clean, comfortable and cheap accommodation for women so poignantly before the public, and we sincerely hope that public-spirited men and women, not only in London but throughout the country, will take up this matter and make it a care of the locality in which they live. In London every candidate seeking election to the County Council next March should be asked what he or she is prepared to do, if elected, to get the London County Council to provide comfortable lodging-houses for homeless women.

TO DIMINISH MATERNAL MORTALITY.

A meeting of representatives of over 100 organisations of women engaged in political or social reform work was held in the Central Hall, Westminster, on Thursday last week, to consider the question of maternal mortality. Lady Barrett was in the chair and first called upon Sir George Newman, Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, to address the meeting. Sir George explained that he was there to outline the problem rather than to offer solutions. It was not his duty, as representing the Ministry of Health, to discuss details of possible solutions. He held that the ultimate object of the meeting was to form public opinion by the education of the young women of England. The Ministry was in no sense responsible for the resolution to be put. Sir George declared that maternity was not a disease; it was a natural function, obeying the law of nature and not contrary to it; there was something to be said for dealing with every death in maternity as an accident, and making an inquiry into its cause compulsory. He said that while, in general, epidemic and infant mortality the last 25 years had seen a considerable decline, maternal mortality had not shared in it. Of our 750,000 mothers confined every year, 3,000 still died at the time or because of it, and thousands more were permanently injured. Sir George held that a nation is built on its motherhood, that the primary asset of a nation is its mothers, that no nation is wise which does not facilitate, encourage and ennoble motherhood. He gave three points of importance in the prevention of maternal mortality: ante-natal hygiene, maternity homes, skilled assistance at and before birth for every mother.

Lady Barrett, C.B.E., M.D., M.S., Dean of the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women, then read the resolution, which was as follows:—

"This meeting of representatives of Associations in touch with the young women of this country pledges itself to do all in its power to reduce the present unnecessary suffering and death-rate in childbirth.

"It regards it as essential that the mothers should have skilled medical and midwifery services readily available both for pre-natal advice and treatment, and for the time of childbirth.

"To secure this end, it urges an improved midwifery training of medical students and midwives as a matter of the first importance; also such readjustment and extension of the provisions for maternity under the National Health Insurance Act as may be necessary;

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN.

DEPUTATION TO GENERAL CLIFTON BROWN, M.P.

A deputation, in favour of equal franchise, from the newly-formed Newbury, Thatcham and District Branch of the Women's Freedom League was received by Gen. H. Clifton Brown, Member for South Berks, at the Conservative Club last week. Those present were Mrs. Frank Neate, Miss Kathleen Hopson, Mrs. A. Penn, Mrs. Mary S. Hicks, Mrs. St. A. Lee, Mrs. Pike (of Thatcham), Miss May Brown and Miss Dorothy Godwin. Miss Anna Munro introduced the deputation, and various members gave their personal point of view: Mrs. Hicks for the working woman; Mrs. Pike for the business woman; and Miss Godwin as one of the "under-thirties." General Brown said he would prefer that the vote were given to both men and women at 25, but he hardly thought this practical, and in any case he would support the Prime Minister in his pledge to give equal franchise to women. He added that no deputation had interviewed him against the granting of equal franchise to women. Mrs. Neate thanked the Member for receiving the deputation.

together with an extension of the work of the Public Health Authorities and other bodies in the provision of clinics and welfare centres and Health Visitors."

Lady Barrett stressed the importance of remembering always that every child has two parents, and that men require education in this matter as much as women to obtain an enlightened opinion of both fathers and mothers. She said that one purpose of the meeting was to find out why knowledge already gained and available was not applied, was not made actual, why the mother neither sought it nor used it.

Mrs. Barton, of the Women's Co-operative Guild, pleaded for more specialisation in maternity work by doctors and for better home conditions, claiming that mothers face confinement already exhausted by home work and worries. She suggested that sustenance and home help would be more valuable than skilled medical aid. It was the duty of the Ministry of Health to provide, not to wait until public opinion demanded. Mrs. Barton also stressed the importance of both parents being informed and co-operating.

Dr. Marion Phillips, speaking for the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations, said it was a question of national preservation, and urged the extension of insurance benefits.

Members of the audience then were allowed two minutes each and Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P., laid the blame on the inadequacy of unemployment benefit and out-relief. Dr. Ethel Bentham agreed that malnutrition was a leading cause, but blamed more the septic conditions under which confinements so often occurred, owing to housing conditions. Another speaker urged the Ministry to enlist an army of unselfish women to take over the housework of a mother during confinement.

Miss Dolland, from Glasgow, made a forceful appeal for men and women of wider vision to seek election to local authorities, but claimed also that in many cases local authorities are willing to act but are hampered by the Ministry. Another speaker stressed the importance of informing men also, as young wives are so often advised by their young and equally ignorant husbands.

Miss Bondfield saw the meeting as the start of a new campaign to enlist new women who should concentrate on ante-natal work. She supported, as did other speakers, the suggestion that a maternity death should be treated legally as an accident, with obligatory compensation by the one found responsible.

The resolution was carried with one dissident.

WIVES NO LONGER CHATTELS!

Old beliefs die hard, and, according to *The Times*, Mr. H. G. Rooth, the Lambeth magistrate, had a man before him last Saturday who claimed that he had a legal right to chastise his wife. This man was 25 years of age, and a porter at Southwark. A police constable stated he had been called to a house the previous evening and saw the defendant rush to his wife and strike her about the head with both fists. When the witness told the man to desist, the latter replied, "Mind your own business!" and was afterwards taken into custody. The defendant complained to the magistrate that his wife stayed out late at nights, and addressing her in court stated that he was going to chastise her as long as she was his wife. Mr. Rooth, however, declared: "You are not entitled to do that. A wife has ceased to be a chattel to be dealt with as a man thinks fit. She now stands as an independent person with her own rights. Don't think that because you have married a woman, that entitles you to knock her about. It doesn't. If you continue to treat your wife in this way you will find yourself in durance vile. For the insulting behaviour you will be fined 20s. or seven days, and for assaulting your wife 40s. or 21 days' imprisonment."

Well, we are getting on, and things are not quite so bad as they used to be for women.

BOOK REVIEWS.

Report of British Commonwealth League Conference held June 30th—July 1st, 1927. Price 1/6. (May be obtained from this Office.)

The objects of the British Commonwealth League are: (1) To secure equality of liberties, status and opportunities between men and women in the British Commonwealth of Nations, and (2) To increase mutual understanding of common problems. Last summer it held an exceedingly informative conference on (a) the social and industrial condition of women of other than British race governed under the British Flag, and (b) problems of Government. The addresses given at this Conference, with the questions and answers which arose out of them, are recorded in this Report, and all British suffragists who are interested in the welfare of their fellow-subjects throughout the Empire should get a copy. They will find it full of interest from cover to cover. Miss Ho-Tung discussed industrialism in China as it affected women, and Munshi Iswar Saran the same subject in India. Mrs. Rheinallt Jones gave an admirable paper on "The Native Women of South Africa"; Mr. John Harris, Parliamentary Secretary of the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society, dealt with the Slavery of Women and the Relationship of Native Women to White Men; Mrs. Neville Rolfe spoke of Conditions of Women in India, and the following day Mrs. Jinarajadasa spoke on the same subject from a different point of view; Miss Alison Neilans spoke on the Traffic in Women and Children in our Crown Colonies and Miss Hutchings on Coloured Women in Bermuda. Mrs. Ternent Cooke discussed at length native problems in Australia; Dr. Shircore the work of the Medical Services in Tanganyika, and Miss Wrong (of the Student Christian Movement) the Education of Women in British Tropical Africa.

At the conclusion of the Conference, Mrs. Krause drew special attention to the need for woman suffrage in South Africa and described some of the obstacles in its way, and Mrs. Rigo de Righi told of her experiences as a British woman who lost her nationality by marriage with an alien.

Shaken by the Wind—By Ray Strachey. Published by Faber & Gwyer. Price 7s. 6d. (May be obtained from this Office.)

"A Story of Fanaticism" is the sub-title given by Ray Strachey to this powerful story, but it is something besides that—it is a story also of a mother's love and devotion, and a curious study of the effect of mysticism and strong belief on various differing characters, most of them narrow and unversed in the ways of the great world.

The time and place of the drama could be nowhere and nowhere else but in the early nineteenth century in America, when the "young life" was beginning to refuse "to be quieted to the old Puritan standard," and thoughtful minds began to long to understand more of the ways of God, and to wander outside the quiet humdrum of narrow teaching, getting lost in mazes of religious experiment. Of the two sisters whose story begins the book, the one Anna, though a true believer, determines that "It will be all right whatever we do, God doesn't mind much what we say. He knows we're only children," and thus soothes and steadies her conscience, and being married to a broad-minded Doctor she is able to pursue the even tenor of her way. Sarah, the other sister, is less easily satisfied, and is married to a less stable man, one indeed who gives up his business to become an evangelist of the new doctrine of perfectionism, which seems to be putting new life into the old teaching. Alas! the doctrines of sinlessness and the sanctification of the body lead the new converts astray, and Sarah's son and adopted daughter fall under the influence of the strange preacher Rufus, and his two women disciples, whose message embraces the revelation of four secret truths, one of which is direct intercourse with God in the person of Rufus himself.

He and his followers go off to form a farm colony, and, like so many attempts of the kind that have really occurred in history, disaster broods over the enterprise from the beginning. Sarah goes after them to save, if

possible, the girl and lad, her son and adopted daughter, who are entangled by the prophet's eloquence and mesmeric power: but she cannot avert the catastrophe, or even convince the self-deluded Rufus that his teaching is impossible, and, as Sarah phrases it, "they are lost in a dark wood." Sex and religious emotion precipitate the tragedy, and the innocent victim's death overwhelms the community in complete spiritual and material loss.

A strange, dark picture, and out of it all comes to Sarah the message that, after all, "God is great, and we knew Him not."

The book is powerfully written and, though decidedly unpleasant in parts, is a vivid picture of a phase of existence and character now mercifully buried in the past. And yet human nature is strange and easily led away by false lights, when there is enough sincerity and enthusiasm evoked among simple minds.

The picture of Rufus, who hears the Lord speaking in his soul, and his soul crying out in answer, and who is always waiting for a stupendous miracle, is finely drawn, and leaves one in the end uncertain if he is deluded or deluder, evil or partly insane, or a weakly hysterical, and dominated by his one loyal disciple, Silence Thrush, to his own undoing. The reader must choose for himself.

Mother India. By Katharine Mayo. Price 10s. 6d. (Jonathan Cape.)

This book on India has aroused strong feeling and much discussion in India, America, and our own country.

Being dissatisfied with the ignorance of the average American about India, Miss Mayo, in 1925, paid a visit to India to observe "common things in daily human life," to investigate "such workaday ground as public health and its contributing factors."

In India she stayed several months, travelling from north to south and east to west, and talking to British and Indian officials, health officers of all degrees, doctors, nurses, princes, politicians and reformers, visiting hospitals, agricultural stations and cattle farms, animal sanctuaries, schools and Indian homes both rich and poor. The result was a passionate revolt of her mind against a vast welter of agony which suddenly burst upon her view. She found infinite horrors attendant upon child marriage and upon maternity, general cruelty to animals, agricultural methods that defeated themselves, and appalling ignorance of the necessities of common welfare.

All this is set out in her book so that publicity may be a spur to reform. It is no part of her intention to describe the beautiful home-life so often found in India but less accessible to Western eyes; all her energy is concentrated upon the abuses which stand out so glaringly, and against these progressive Indians have been working; some organisations are mentioned, others are omitted; and women in India, we rejoice to know, are organised and most strenuously fighting for the progress of women—their political freedom and social improvement and intellectual enlightenment—such names as Mrs. Cousins, Madame Naidu, Mrs. and Miss Tata, Mrs. Jinarajadasa are familiar to us.

It is well that British people should be roughly stimulated to do their share in helping Indians to uplift their people.

It is especially vital for us to grasp the conditions of our 319,000,000 fellow-subjects, so that we may understand their needs and difficulties and be ready with our sympathy and help.—E. K.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

In response to a general desire among women to hear the opinion of Indian men and women themselves upon the subjects dealt with in the book "Mother India," the British Commonwealth League has arranged a Conference at Craig's Court Restaurant, Whitehall, for Tuesday, November 8th, at 8 p.m.

The speakers will be Dr. Paranjpye (Secretary of States Council for India), Mr. Karindikar (Editor of *The Indian*) and Mrs. S. C. Sen, B.A.

Tickets, 2s. 6d., may be obtained at the Office, 144, High Holborn.

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, November 4th, at 8.15 p.m.

Meeting at the Minerva Club. Speaker: Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington (Member of the Dublin County Council) on "The Women's Movement in Ireland." Discussion invited.

Wednesday, November 9th, at 4 p.m.

Tea and Politics-up-to-date Meeting.

Thursday, November 10th, at 3 p.m.

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

Thursday, November 10th, at 7.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting at Highbury Corner. Chair: M.s. Flowers.

Wednesday and Thursday, November 23rd and 24th, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Green, White and Gold Fair at Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W.

Thursday, November 24th, at 7.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting at Highbury Corner.

Speakers: Mrs. Goodrich, Miss Manby.

Friday, November 25th, at 5 p.m.

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

Saturday, November 26th, at 10 a.m.

National Executive Committee Meeting.

Monday, December 12th, at 7 p.m.

Mid-London Branch. Drawing-room meeting (by kind permission of Dr. Octavia Lewin). Mrs. Bigland on "The Peace Study Conference at Amst rdam," held by The International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship.

PROVINCES.

Tuesday, November 8th, at 7.30 p.m.

Portsmouth. Equal Franchise Meeting in Grand Jury Room.

Speaker: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence.

Monday, November 21st, at 8 p.m.

Wallahey. Public Meeting in the Central Liberal Hall. Speaker: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence on "Will 1928 bring us Democracy?"

Chairman: Councillor Nurse McFall.

SCOTLAND.

Friday, November 4th, at 8 p.m.

Edinburgh Branch Meeting, 44, George IV. Bridge.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, November 5th, at 3 p.m.

Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Debate on "That the hereditary right to sit in the House of Lords should be abolished." Proposer: Mrs. Hilliard. Opposer: Mrs. Carthew.

Sunday, November 6th, at 3.30 p.m.

Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Lt.-General Sir George Maomunn on "War."

Tuesday, November 8th, at 8 p.m.

British Commonwealth League. At Craig's Court Restaurant. A Conference on "Mother India." Dr. Paranjpye (Member of Secretary of States Council), Mr. Karindikar (Editor of *The Indian*) and Mrs. Sen. Tickets 2/6.

Wednesday, November 9th, at 2.30 p.m.

Women's International League. Annual Fair at 13, Kensington Park Gardens.

Friday, November 11th, at 6.30 p.m.

Public Speaking Class. Course B. Miss Lucy D. Bell at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square. Course C, at 12 noon.

Tuesday, November 15th, at 6 p.m.

Women's International League. Lecture at King's College, Campden Hill, W.8, by Mr. Tarini P. Sinha on "Some Aspects of the Social Problems in India To-day."

Tuesday, November 15th, at 8 p.m.

Six Point Group. Debate on "Feminism versus Anti-Feminism," between Professor Harold J. Laski and Mr. Anthony M. Ludovici. In the Assembly Hall, Mary Sumner House, Tufton Street, S.W.1. Tickets 3/6, 2/6, reserved; 1/-, unreserved, from Six Point Group, 92, Victoria Street.

Thursday, November 17th, at 8 p.m.

Women House Painters and Decorators. Protest Meeting against legislative differentiation between men and women. Caxton Hall, Room 13.

Saturday, November 19th, at 2.30 p.m.

National Union of Women Teachers. American Sale. Shakespearean Stalls, at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street. Opened by Miss Lillian Baylis.

Tuesday, November 29th, at 8.30 p.m.

Friends' Settlement Open Forum, Greenleaf Road, Walthamstow. Speaker: Miss Marian Reeves. Subject: "The Modern Woman in National Life."

Saturday, December 17th, at 3 p.m.

Speech Club. Debate between Dr. Marion Phillips and Miss Marian Reeves on "Protective Legislation for Women," at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

BRANCH NOTES.

PORTSMOUTH.

Five societies are co-operating with us in our Equal Franchise meeting on November 8th, viz.: The Portsmouth Women Citizens' Association, The Women's Co-operative Guild, The National Union of Women Teachers (Portsmouth Branch), The National Union of Women Teachers (Gosport Branch), The Women's Labour Section (Northern and Central). Each society will send a representative, who will make a short speech. Mrs. Whetton will be chairman, and Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence the principal speaker. The meeting will be held in the Grand Jury Room, at 7.30 p.m.

The Hon. Sec. would be pleased to receive gifts for the Portsmouth Stall at the Green, White and Gold Fair. (Hon. Sec.) Mrs. WHETTON, 82, Festing Grove, Southsea.

DUNOON.

On Monday evening, October 24th, a very well-attended meeting was held within the Burgh Buildings. The President, Mrs. Robertson May, presiding. The address was given by Councillor Mrs. MacPherson, who in her usual interesting manner briefly outlined the works of some notable women who lived in the last century. As explained from the chair, the work of the League is to use the powers already obtained to elect women into Parliament and on 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; and the President urged that all present should make our meetings known to their friends and others so that they may prove helpful, interesting, and educative, and thereby further the cause of the full emancipation of women.

It was intimated that a Whist Drive would be held in the Rosebery Restaurant on Tuesday, 8th November, at 7.30 p.m. (Hon. Sec.) Mrs. E. SMITH, Olney Bank, West Bay.

OUR TREASURY.

NATIONAL FUND.

| Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1927, to | December, 1926, £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| 1926, £45,273 8s. 3d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| Previously acknowledged... | ... | 340 6 4 |
| Clyde Coast Campaign, per Miss Lennox— | | |
| Mrs. Thomson | ... | 5 0 0 |
| Miss Jacob, B.Sc. | ... | 1 0 0 |
| Mrs. Robertson May | ... | 10 0 |
| Miss Thomson | ... | 10 0 |
| Miss Spriggs | ... | 5 0 |
| Miss McIntyre | ... | 2 6 |
| Mrs. Robertson | ... | 2 6 |
| Mrs. Storrar | ... | 2 6 |
| Collections | ... | 18 17 1 |
| | | 26 9 7 |

Special Emergency War Fund—

| | | |
|-------------|-----|--------|
| A Friend | ... | 8 15 0 |
| Mrs. Angold | ... | 4 0 |
| | | 8 19 0 |

Organisers' Fund—

Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck ... 5 0 0

Equal Political Rights Campaign Fund—

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|------------|
| Mrs. Udney Atkinson | ... | 2 2 0 |
| Miss McHaffie | ... | 5 3 10 |
| "Local Government" | ... | 5 0 0 |
| Miss M. I. Neal | ... | 10 0 |
| Miss M. I. Saunders | ... | 10 0 |
| Mrs. Tizard | ... | 10 0 |
| Miss D. Olive Turton | ... | 10 0 |
| Miss B. B. Fallowfield | ... | 5 0 |
| Miss G. Eileen Trevelyan | ... | 5 0 |
| Anonymous | ... | 4 6 |
| Dr. Buckmaster | ... | 3 6 |
| Miss Octavia Greer | ... | 3 0 |
| Mrs. H. Bridges | ... | 2 6 |
| Mrs. E. Gye | ... | 2 6 |
| Mrs. McMichael | ... | 2 6 |
| Mrs. Mege | ... | 2 6 |
| Miss Archibald | ... | 2 0 |
| Miss Atkinson, per Miss Clark | ... | 2 0 |
| Mrs. C. A. Curtis | ... | 2 0 |
| Mrs. Nye | ... | 2 0 |
| Miss V. Weir | ... | 1 6 |
| E. R. Bacon, Esq. | ... | 1 0 |
| Miss Birch, per Miss Clark | ... | 1 0 |
| Councillor Mrs. Broad, per Miss Clark | ... | 1 0 |
| Miss Jeanie Ferguson | ... | 1 0 |
| Mrs. Gardiner | ... | 1 0 |
| Mrs. A. Hepburn | ... | 1 0 |
| Miss Isaacs | ... | 1 0 |
| Mrs. Millar | ... | 1 0 |
| Mr. F. C. Stokes | ... | 1 0 |
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NOTICES.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED.—Consult **Miss H. M. BAKER**, 275, High Holborn, W.C.1. Income Tax Returns, Repayment Claims of all Descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 0377.

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

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, November 6th, 1927. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Lt.-Gen. Sir G. MacMunn. 6.30. Armistice Sunday: Bishop of Ochrída.—Father Nicolai Velimiróc.

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