

THE VOTE.
AUGUST 13, 1926.

GIRL CHANNEL CHAMPION.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.
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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1926

OBJECT: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the powers already obtained to elect women in Parliament, and upon other public bodies, for the purpose of establishing equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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MISS EDERLE BREAKS ALL RECORDS.

That a woman should have swum the Channel, as eighteen-year-old Gertrude Ederle did so splendidly on Friday of last week, does not astonish us, since it was a foregone conclusion, now that women in all lands are proving their prowess in athletic feats, that sometime, somehow, some woman somewhere would cross those contested waters; but the speed with which it was accomplished—14 hours and 31 minutes, two hours less than Tiraboschi, hitherto the fastest Channel victor—is a world triumph in which we must all rejoice. Only five feet high, but finely proportioned, with wonderful stamina and remarkable swimming speed, Miss Ederle kept up a powerful crawl stroke, moving so rapidly through the water that she was able to catch the third tide when nearing the Kentish coast, a feat in which no previous swimmer has ever succeeded.

Smiling and cheerful, she "kept on going on," her wonderful pluck never

failing, and through high wind, driving rain, and stormy sea, courage and tenacity brought victory.

The story of this magnificent swim is told in the following *Daily News* timed messages, and reads far more thrillingly than any work of fiction:—

Miss Ederle entered the water at 7.0 a.m.

9.9 a.m.—Four miles north of Cape Grisnez and 4.3 miles west, and making good progress. A fresh breeze had sprung up, making the sea choppy, and the sky was overcast, threatening rain,

11.15 a.m., after the first turn.—Miss Ederle was swimming north $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the French coast.

Noon.—Nine miles north of Cape Grisnez; she had covered in all 11 miles.

After swimming for five hours she trod water and floated for 15 minutes, during which she took refreshment. Her sister, Miss Margaret Ederle, then entered the water and accompanied her for a while.

4.45 p.m.—Two miles to the north-west of the Goodwin Lightship and approximately seven miles south-east of Dover. The sea was fairly rough, with a south-west wind and heavy rain sweeping the Channel.

8.45 p.m.—Two miles off the shore at St. Margaret's Bay, drifting northwards towards Deal. Obviously a good chance of reaching the shore if her strength holds out.

9.0 p.m.—Only one and one-seventh mile off the English coast. Tugs accompany her only a few

hundred yards off shore, blowing their whistles and shooting blue flares. Red flares burned on shore to guide the swimmer.

9.20 p.m.—Swimming strongly half-mile from Kingsdown. She has the benefit of the flood tide. If she can last, she will reach Deal.

9.40 p.m.—Landed on the beach at Kingsdown, between St. Margaret's Bay and Deal, and walked ashore. She was not abnormally distressed by her wonderful feat. Her time was 14 hours 39 minutes,



"DON'T LET ME GIVE UP."

AUGUST 6, 1926.

two hours under the record time of the Channel swim.

Three or four thousand people greeted Miss Ederle with frantic cheers, and all the vessels blew their sirens when she came ashore near the lifeboat station in the darkness. At the moment of reaching land she was so stiff that she could not stand; but she quickly recovered herself and walked up the beach. The only untoward event to mar the success of the evening was that she was kept waiting 2 hours owing to Customs formalities, and this in spite of the fact that she was suffering from cramp. There was much adverse comment in consequence, and it was felt that, in the circumstances, there should have been some relaxation of the ordinary regulations.

The *Daily News* gives a list of other women who have made splendid attempts to swim the Channel:—

Mlle. Isovescu, 1905.
Miss Annette Kellerman, 1905, 6 hours 15 minutes.
Miss Lily Smith, London, 1913, 3 hours 13 minutes.
Mlle. Jane Sion, France, 1925, 12 hours.
Miss Ivy Hawke, Surbiton, 1925, 4½ hours.
Miss Zetta Hills.
Miss Lilian Harrison, Argentina, 1924 and 1925.
Miss Gertrude Ederle, America, 1925, 9 hours.
Miss Mercedes Gleitze, London, 1925, and 1926, 9 hours.

Miss Zetta Hills was encased in a rubber suit, and started her swim from Folkestone, but gave up after seven miles. Miss Lilian Harrison fainted in the water, and was helped out by an Egyptian swimmer who was in the boat that attended her. And latest of all was Miss Clarabelle Barrett, the New York swimming instructor, who is 6 feet 3 inches tall and nearly 15 stone in weight. Miss Barrett failed two miles from Cape Griznez, after swimming 40 miles and encountering a dense fog for several hours.

Miss Ederle herself made an unsuccessful attempt last year, giving up when within 7½ miles of the English coast.

Miss Ederle first learnt to swim when she was nine years old, being held up by her father at the end of a rope in New York Harbour, and has been devoted to the sport ever since that day. She first thought of swimming the Channel as a feat impossible for a woman, then thought she would like to try it. She trained steadily for a year, and in one test of her speed and endurance she created a record for the well-known 21 miles swim from the Battery, New York, to Sandy Hook.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Kitchen Assistants.

Last year the Metropolitan Asylums Board attempted to reorganise their kitchen staffs, and decided to replace their cooks and assistant cooks by qualified women called kitchen superintendents and assistant kitchen superintendents, as well as to improve the pay and conditions of service. In the Annual Report of the Board, issued last Monday, it was stated that the demand for qualified candidates still exceeds the supply, but vacancies have been filled at some of the institutions, and it was hoped that a complete and efficient service would in due course be supplied.

Another Woman Licensing Justice.

Miss J. M. Tooke, J.P., is now one of the Licensing Justices for the Borough of Gateshead. She is also on the Licensing Sub-Committee of the Council of the Magistrates' Association. It is important that women should be among the Licensing Justices. One of their duties is to visit public-houses and see that there is separate lavatory accommodation for women, with an entirely different access from that of the men.

Women Teachers for Canada.

Eighteen women teachers left Southampton this week for Canada, where they are to be trained as teachers for Canadian schools with bursaries provided by the Fellowship of the British Empire Exhibition, in conjunction with the Overseas Settlement Committee.

A Public spirited Schoolgirl.

Queen Mary's Prize to the scholar at West Norfolk and Lynn High School who has shown the most public spirit has been awarded, by the votes of her fellow scholars, to Olive Youngs, of King's Lynn. Miss Youngs, who is head girl of the School, gained the Norfolk Senior Scholarship by passing the Cambridge Higher Examination, and will soon enter London University to follow the English course at Westfield College. She plays in the hockey team, and has acted as school librarian and guide patrol leader.

Toc H Women's League.

The Duchess of York has consented to become patroness of the Toc H League of Women Helpers. This league is the women's side of the Toc H movement, and has many groups and branches in this country and some overseas in Canada and Australia. It has also one residential hostel in Great Tower Street, London, which was lately visited by the Duchess of York. Another is shortly to be opened in Kensington.

A Tour of Investigation.

According to a Bucharest report, Queen Marie has definitely decided to go to America late in September for a two months' stay, accompanied by her youngest daughter, the Princess Helena. She has informed the Roumanian Consul-General for America that she would visit the principal towns from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and would investigate women's conditions in charitable and educational institutions.

Six Women J.P.s, but 26 Men!

Six women (in addition to 26 men) have been added to the Manchester City Bench by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. They are: Mrs. Lily Allen (Crumpsall), Mrs. Edith Gladys Fernandes Birley (Didsbury), Mrs. Hannah Maria Mitchell (Clayton Bridge), Mrs. Jane Murphy (Crumpsall), Miss Elizabeth Needham (West Didsbury), Mrs. Frances Gertrude Acland Temple (Bishopscourt).

International University Women.

The World Conference of University Women, which has just concluded its fourth biennial Conference at Amsterdam, has decided to hold the next Conference at Geneva in 1929. Mrs. Ellen Gleditsch (Oslo) has been elected President, and Professor Winifred Clara Cullis, of the University of London, Vice-President.

Woman Quarry Proprietor.

Mrs. Anne Greaves, a Yorkshire woman, who is believed to be the first woman quarry manager in this country, recently attended her first Conference of the Institution of Quarry Managers at Llandrindod Wells. Mrs. Greaves is the sole proprietor and manager of the Weeland Sand Quarries, Hensall, Yorks.

Woman Prize-winner.

The Sir John William Lubbock Memorial Prize, open to candidates at the London University B.A. and B.Sc. Honours Examinations in Mathematics (Part I.), has been awarded to Miss Winifred Ida Sweet (Bedford).

Japanese Women in Mines.

According to the *Japan Weekly Chronicle*, women work at least 12 hours daily in the Japanese mines. The question of prohibiting female labour in the pits in that country is under consideration.

Woman Commissioner for Declarations.

Mrs. T. H. Blake, a land agent of Perth (Western Australia), is the first woman in that State to be appointed Commissioner for Declarations.

Women Librarians.

Women librarians hold the chief positions at Chiswick, Folkestone, Kettering, Lowestoft, Luton, and Worthing.

A Woman's Invention.

The rubber roses which were on sale in London on Alexandra Day are the invention of a woman, Mrs. McGarvie Munn.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Factory Inspection (Bombay).

MR. ROBERT YOUNG (Lab., Newton) asked the Under-Secretary of State for India the number of factory women workers in the Bombay Presidency; whether there are any women factory inspectors; if so, how many; and when were these appointed? EARL WINTERTON: The number of women workers in factories was 72,679 in 1924. One lady inspector was appointed in that year. MR. YOUNG: Has the noble Lord got any influence, and, if so, will he use it to get more women factory inspectors appointed? EARL WINTERTON: I am afraid that the answer to that is that this is entirely a matter for the local government. No doubt they will take into consideration the relevant facts of the case.

Divorce Law.

MR. RAMSDEN (U., Bradford, N.) asked the Under-Secretary of State for India if it is the intention of the Government of India to pass legislation similar to the Indian and Colonial Divorce Bill, so that women in Great Britain whose husbands are domiciled in India may have rights similar to those which will be conferred by the Bill on women in India whose husbands are domiciled in Great Britain? EARL WINTERTON: Legislation with this object would not be within the competence of the Indian Legislature, but would have to be passed by Parliament. There is no intention of extending the scope of the Bill now before this House in the manner indicated.

Legitimacy Bill.

MR. GREAVES-LORD (U., Norwood) asked the Prime Minister whether time will be given to enable the Legitimacy Bill to reach the Statute Book before the end of the Session? THE PRIME MINISTER: I hope that it will be possible to pass this Bill into law before the end of the Session.

Lunacy Laws (Harnett v. Fisher).

MR. R. RICHARDSON (Lab., Houghton-le-Spring) asked the Minister of Health if his attention had been drawn to the recent decision in the Court of Appeal in the case tried in April last of Harnett v. Fisher, from which it results that if any sane person is wrongfully shut up in an asylum for six years he is debarred from redress; and will he at an early date initiate legislation to remove this? SIR K. WOOD (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health): My right hon. Friend is advised that the deduction which the hon. Member draws from the decision of the Court in this case is too wide. As regards legislation, my right hon. Friend can add nothing to the answer given on the 3rd of May to the hon. Member for West Leicester (Mr. Pethick-Lawrence) beyond saying that he has under consideration the recent Report of the Royal Commission on Lunacy Law and Administration.

[On the 3rd of May MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE asked the Ministry of Health whether he had had his attention called to the remarks of a High Court Judge on 27th April, in giving judgment in a recent case, in which he pointed out the hardship created by the existing state of the law, and expressed regret at the decision he was thereby compelled to reach; and whether he contemplates the introduction of legislation to secure that in future a sane man detained in an asylum shall not be effectively prevented from bringing an action until it is too late to succeed? MR. CHAMBERLAIN: I do not at the moment contemplate the introduction of legislation in this matter, but the points to which the hon. Member refers are receiving consideration.]

Wife Desertion.

COMMANDER BELLAIRS (U., Maidstone) asked the Home Secretary in view of the increasing prevalence of wife desertion, in many cases where children are left unprovided for, if he can state what assistance can be rendered to the wife in tracing her husband, more

especially in cases where the local authority refuses maintenance claims until the husband's address is found? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: Such figures as are available do not appear to support the suggestion that wife desertion is increasing. I am not sure I understand what circumstance the latter part of the question relates to; very possibly the point involved is not one for the Home Secretary to consider, but, if my hon. and gallant Friend will submit particulars, I will see.

Poor Law Recipients (Franchise).

SIR ARTHUR HOLBROOK (U., Basingstoke) asked the Prime Minister whether he will consider the desirability of introducing a measure, providing that no person who is in receipt of Poor Law Relief shall be entitled to vote either in Parliamentary or Local elections? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I have been asked to reply. Representations have been received on this subject and have been under consideration, but I am not in a position to make any statement at present.

Fishing Industry (Women).

MR. T. KENNEDY (Lab., Kirkcaldy) asked the Minister of Labour (1) if he is aware that ten months' employment annually in the last five years is being applied as a test for the payment of unemployment benefit to women engaged in the fishing industry; if he is aware that in the present state of the industry this test operates unfairly on the women concerned; and if he can take any steps to remedy this hardship? (2) if he is aware that a number of women engaged in the fishing industry, classed as packers and gutters, are being refused unemployment benefit on the ground that they are seasonal workers; that the women in question at Buckie, Lossiemouth, Fraserburgh, Peterhead and other North-East and Moray Firth centres are not, as a matter of fact, casual workers, but are solely dependent on this skilled work in the fishing industry for a livelihood; that their periods of unemployment are due to depression in the industry through loss of markets; and if he will now see that their claims to unemployment benefit are considered and met? SIR ARTHUR STEEL-MAITLAND: A special investigation was made last year in a number of centres where this industry is carried on, and an opportunity was given to those concerned to make their representations. As a result, I am satisfied that the treatment accorded to the cases in question is justified by the facts. I shall, however, be happy to consider any evidence in support of the hon. Member's contentions, if he will furnish it. The Committee on Unemployment Insurance, under the Chairmanship of Lord Blanesburgh, is directing its attention to the position of these workers.

Education (Health and Welfare Courses).

COL. DAY (Lab., Central Southwark) asked the President of the Board of Education if he will consider suggesting to education authorities the institution of health and welfare courses for the older girls in Council schools, on lines similar to those given at the Bedford College for Women, with a view to the better fitting of such girls for the carrying-out of the duties of later life? DUCHESS OF ATHOLL (Parliamentary Secretary, Board of Education): The subject of health education will be dealt with in a special chapter in the revised edition of the volume of "Suggestions for Teachers," now in course of preparation. COL. DAY: Will it contain a reference to the work of welfare education? DUCHESS OF ATHOLL: I cannot say specifically, but I think my answer covers that question.

F. A. U.

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NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.
To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders,
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Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

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.

HOW TO GET THE VOTE.

We are grateful to our correspondent, "The Torquinian," for his letter on "How to get the Vote on the Same Terms as men." The fearful male and the apathetic female are difficulties in our path, but we cannot understand how men can still think that women, any more than members of their own sex, are likely all to vote in any one way on any political issue. Even the fearful male must recognise that there are women who share the views of his own political party, and that other women are equally keen on the views of opposing political parties. We have to get equal voting rights for women and men by Act of Parliament, and all Members of Parliament are very much alive to the fact that women are not all in any one political camp. There has always been opposition to an extension of the franchise, the franchise of men as well as the franchise of women; and this opposition has come from people who have a rooted dislike of any change in our franchise system, no matter how bad the system may be, and from others who object to sharing what political power they have with those who have no such power. These two classes of opponents belong to all political parties, and they exercise their greatest influence when their own particular party is in power or office. The disfranchised can only meet that opposition by educating public opinion on their demands and by unceasing agitation. In this way the apathetic woman and the fearful male are often converted; but the chief objects of attack must always be politicians through their constituents, because it is only through Parliament that the reform can be won. In pre-suffrage days we dwelt at great length on politicians' broken pledges so far as women's political interests were concerned, and we did not hesitate to draw attention to the political trickery which they used to defeat our cause. This is the treatment usually meted out by politicians to those who are politically weaker than themselves. It can only be corrected by the effective organisation of the weaker ones, so that by united effort they can defeat those politicians at elections. In the autumn we shall do our utmost to revive the old suffrage forces to fight for equal political rights for women and men in this country, and we hope to send speakers to all kinds of societies to discuss this subject with their Members. We quite agree that many more women are necessary in the House of Commons, and we should like to see a woman put up, not only at every by-election during the next two years, but also in every constituency at the General Election. We have to remember, however, that every woman candidate must appeal to both men and women electors for support, and cannot concentrate alone on women's interests. We would, therefore, like to see at every such election a Flying Column of women, who would put before the candidates and the electors the imperative necessity of granting equal political rights to women without further delay.

THE VISITING HOUSEKEEPER.

In various parts of England and Scotland efforts have been made to train and send out women as Home-Helps to families where the mother has been taken ill, and there is no one to look after the children, or undertake the domestic duties of the home. In Toronto, the Branch of the Canadian Red Cross last year opened a centre for the training of Visiting Housekeepers. A writer in *The World's Health* states that these housekeepers receive a weekly salary from the Red Cross, part of which they pay back for maintenance while they reside in the centre during their training. A simple blue uniform and white cap are supplied to them, and a laundry allowance is given. Applications for the housekeepers' services are made to the centre. A trained social worker investigates these. The services are explained, financial arrangements made, and the housekeeper most suitable to the family is sent. Most applicants are required to pay a small fee, this being on a sliding scale adjusted to the family resources. The greater proportion of the work is done in poor families, though middle-class households occasionally also call for help. These housekeepers do not give regular nursing care; but while the mother is ill and unable to work they look after the children, keep the house in order, do the marketing, prepare simple wholesome meals, and carry out the doctor's orders. As a rule they do not sleep in the home, but arrive in time to give the children their breakfast and get them off to school, and remain until the father returns from work and the children have had their evening meal.

The average length of time spent in a home is three weeks, although in some cases one is sufficient.

It is stated that a splendid type of young woman is going in for this work. After a two weeks' probationary period, she is given six weeks' intensive training in the preparation of food, household management, personal and household hygiene, marketing and budgeting, child care, simple nursing procedures, and social work. This is followed by six months' work under supervision from the centre. The writer claims that the trained visiting housekeeper not only saves the State considerable expense occasioned by the breaking-up of homes and the placing of the children in public charities, which frequently happens when there is no one to take the place of the mother during her illness, but it also relieves the well-trained public health nurse of many minor household tasks which are a waste of her time.

HOUSEKEEPING DEGREE.

For women who wish to specialise in household management a special science degree course of four years has been arranged by the University of Bristol in collaboration with the Gloucestershire Training College of Domestic Science. Such degrees are common in the United States, but Bristol is the first provincial University in Great Britain to confer them. We sincerely hope, however, that these courses and degrees will be open to men as well as to women. The Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act may be of assistance to men in this matter. We see no reason at all why men should not study, and teach as well as practice, when proficient, domestic science and household management. Some men would make excellent housekeepers, while no amount of training will give to some women an aptitude and a liking for domestic duties. It is quite possible that in the future a woman lawyer may be wedded to a man who holds high honours in Domestic Science and Household Management, and that might add to the general comfort and happiness of the married couple. In any case the conferring of a degree for these subjects on those who have shown proficiency in them has considerably enhanced their value, and should raise the status of all the millions of women whose daily task consists of domestic duties and household management.

WOMEN OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

By E. A. ALLEN.

The meeting of the British Association at Oxford this year was a memorable one. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales was President of the meeting, and the inaugural ceremony in the Sheldonian Theatre was a most brilliant function. Academic dress had the most picturesque variety, and scarlet and crimson gowns the most vivid colouring. The City had joined the Association in the invitation to the Prince, and mayoral robes and a gold-headed mace were added to the ceremonial magnificence. Throughout the week following August 4th, sectional meetings, public lectures, garden parties, excursions, and visits to the famous colleges of the city made a most crowded and attractive programme.

In the daily work of the Sections, women took a notable place. In B (Chemistry), Miss E. S. Semmens spoke upon "Hydrolysis by Light Polarized by Small Particles"; in Geology, the name of Miss S. M. Hampton was associated with that of Prof. H. L. Hawkins in a paper on "A Revision of the Echinocystoida"; in Geography, Mrs. Ormsby wrote on "Work on the Regional Survey of London"; and Miss G. H. Savory on "The North-West Massif of France." Miss M. A. Murray spoke upon "Excavations at Stevenage" in Section G (Engineering).

In the Section H (Anthropology) there were no less than ten names of women who contributed communications. Of these, that by Miss D. A. E. Garrod attracted, perhaps, most attention. Miss Garrod found the fragments of a human skull in the Mousterian site at the Devil's Tower at Gibraltar, and her paper was the subject of a great deal of interest. The site of this discovery was found by the Abbé Breuil, and Miss Garrod, working with generous grants from the Percy Sladen Trustees, found the skull in June of this year. Other women who contributed to this section were Miss G. Caton Thompson and Miss E. W. Gardner, who spoke upon various aspects of the Fayum Desert, Miss N. F. Layard, Miss R. M. Fleming, Miss E. B. Russell, Miss W. Blackman. Miss Simpson and Miss C. Butler spoke about local surveys and village sites also in the same section. One of the evening lectures, that upon "The Ritual Dance," illustrated

by Folk Dances, was given by Miss Alford again in Section H.

In I (Physiology) there was only one woman's name in the Daily Time-Table—that of Miss S. Cooper, associated with that of Mr. Denny-Brown; in J (Psychology) there were four: Miss W. Spielman gave a lecture upon "Recent Progress in Vocational Selection"; Miss J. Lodge spoke upon "Suggestibility in connection with the Illustration of Warmth Tests," and Dr. Mary Collins upon "British Norms for Pressey's XO Test"; "Colour Imagery" was Dr. M. E. Bickersteth's subject, and in a short paper she connected adult colour imagery with childish environmental experience.

The Section of Botany (K) was a favourite one last year for women speakers, and this year there were five women appearing in its programme. The names of these technical subjects convey little to those who do not know the nomenclature, and a paper upon "The Life-History and Cytology of *Sphacelaria cirrhosa*, var. *aegrophila*" is a jaw-breaker, or, rather, a poser for the typesetter or the typist. This paper was by Miss C. Clint, and other names in this section were Miss G. L. Stuart, Miss C. Pellew, Miss E. J. Cadman, and Miss E. J. Fry.

In Section L (Education) the names of Miss J. P. Strachey and Miss M. Drummond were both well known. These did not exhaust the work of women at the Conference. They joined in the discussions, attended the Sections, and followed the general bearing of the science lectures with the same assiduity and patience as did the men. There was no place where the difference between them was so little emphasised. They were welcomed at all the outings of the meeting, and both old and young were found in large numbers. As there were nearly four thousand members this year, to make an exact count would be a long business, but the count of two or three pages of the members gave 106 men to 96 women. In the Sections of Mathematics and Physics, Zoology, Economics, and Agriculture, no woman's name appeared as a contributor, but the range and interest of those that were announced make one more of many signs that women are taking a proper place in the spread of knowledge and in its extension.

CHINESE WOMEN'S FEET.

Mrs. Archibald Little, the traveller and writer, whose death is announced at the age of 81, earned an enduring place in history by putting an end to the custom of binding the feet of Chinese female children.

The abolition of this torture was mainly her work through the Natural Feet Society, *Tien Tsu Hui* (literally, Heavenly Foot League), which she founded.

This Society was started by ten ladies of different nationalities in 1895, and the record of its remarkable progress, especially amongst the upper classes, may be found in Mrs. Little's various writings upon China.

One of the first tasks of the Society's promoters was to memorialise the Empress Dowager. Then followed the translation of the memorial and the collection of signatures. Considerable time was, of course, wasted before the document was conveyed by leisurely officials into the Imperial Palace, but there is no doubt that it passed eventually under the Empress's notice. One of her first acts after she returned from Sianfu, and at a time when she was specially trying to make friends with foreign ladies, was the issue of an Edict calling on all officials to discourage those under them from binding their daughters' feet.

Meanwhile, drawing-room meetings were held, first for ladies only, when, amongst other matters, missionary lady doctors explained the circulation of the blood, and illustrated the evils of pressure upon the

blood-vessels by means of indiarubber pipes filled with water and artificially constricted. Following upon these semi-private gatherings, came addresses at silk factories to hundreds of Chinese women, and crowded public meetings in all the large cities, where Röntgen Ray photographs were shown of Chinese women's feet bound and unbound. The courageous daring of this last move requires an explanation in order to be sufficiently appreciated. For it may not be generally known that a curious convention has long prevailed in China, rigidly observed by both sexes, to the effect that it was indelicate to mention even the *fact* of having feet!

Every method of advertising that was humanly possible was attempted by the Society. Each Viceroy, or independent Governor of a province, received memorials and letters upon the subject, until all, without exception, issued proclamations against binding. Mrs. Little, the Society's President, had audience with four Viceroys, besides addressing others more indirectly. One of her interviews was at Canton with Li Hung Chang, who, Mrs. Little records, offered but small encouragement to the cause she had at heart, though he, too, would have put out a proclamation if it had not been for the Boxer rising. His shrewd prophecy at the close of the audience has since been fulfilled in a remarkable manner: "If you unbind the

women's feet, you'll make them so strong, and the men so strong too, that they will overturn the dynasty."

Mrs. Little addressed large meetings in seven out of the eight vice-regal capitals scattered over China's vast Empire, and in practically all the important cities on the coast and in the interior. Over a million of tracts, leaflets, and placards were printed and circulated from Shanghai and other notable centres, and communications upon the subject addressed to all the newspapers. Literature was distributed to thousands of men students at the various examination centres, dwelling not only upon the sufferings and hardships voluntarily endured by Chinese women as compared with the freedom enjoyed by their sisters of other countries, but also employing the common-sense argument of the inability of foot-bound women to save themselves by flight during war, or similar emergencies, besides ordinary domestic disabilities.

The success of the movement seems to have been assured from the outset. Within a year of the Society's formation, Chinese ladies of distinction came forward to found a school for girls of the upper classes who had commenced to unbind. At Canton, the home of learning and education, a Chinese Society was formed of 10,000 fathers, who pledged themselves neither to bind their little girls' feet, nor marry their sons to foot-bound girls. An influential branch Society was also established at Shanghai. The leading Chinese periodicals publicly advocated unbinding, and many of the Chinese *literati* devoted their time and talents to composing anti-footbinding tracts. So remarkable was the progress of the campaign that, a few years later, the Society was handed over to Chinese direction, under which it has remained ever since.

A Social Misery.

The brutality of footbinding is recognised by residents and by observant visitors in China, but it seldom comes home in all its grim horror to people outside the Empire. The age of the little victims varies in different parts of China. In the west, binding begins at about six years old. In the east, from five years upwards to seven or eight. It usually takes from three to four years for the feet to be cramped into the fashionable shape, namely, *two-and-a-half-inch* measurement. The width of the foot is reduced by binding the toes (all except the big toe) under the sole, and the length by drawing the fleshy part of the foot and heel close together. To attain this end, the bandages, usually two yards long and about three inches wide, are tightened twice daily, and the bones *beaten* into shape if they prove themselves "refractory." The miseries of footbinding are significantly alluded to in the Chinese saying: "A big bath of tears accompanies each pair of bound feet."

To-day the leaders of the movement are directing their energies towards the poorer classes of Chinese women, who, less fortunate in their lives and surroundings, still entrench themselves behind an ignorant opposition in up-country villages and remote inland districts. This portion of the community is always more difficult to move, especially in China, where the women's chief fear in allowing their daughters' feet to become normal is that no self-respecting Chinaman will wish to marry them, and the mothers have no means of supporting them if husbands are not to be had. A certain amount of pioneer work is therefore still necessary in some of the more remote country districts, especially in the northern and western parts of the Empire.

Much progress has been made during the 30 years since Mrs. Little first started her campaign against footbinding, but much still remains to be done, for Dame Adelaide Anderson, late chief woman Inspector of Factories in Great Britain, who recently concluded an eleven months' industrial tour in China, put it on record only last year that Chinese women still have bound feet almost everywhere outside the treaty ports, although they are fast being brought out of their old-time isolation.

THE CLYDE CAMPAIGN.

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

The Clyde Campaign has entered upon its fourth, last, and, we hope, best week.

From our point of view, as well as from that of the holiday-makers', the week just passed has been a great improvement on its predecessors: for us, well-attended meetings, comparatively good collections, and the sale of hundreds of VOTES and pamphlets; for all, hot sunshine, blue skies, and calm colourful waters.

With the exception of one or two rainy intervals, Phoebus has reigned for the last few days—happily for the competitors in the yachting regatta, who demonstrated their skill at Millport on Friday. A fairer scene could hardly be imagined than the one presented on the day of the race. Reflected in the water was the azure sky, with Millport's red rocks and green hills, while the Peaks of Arran showed dark blue in the distance, and yachts of green, blue, brown, and snowy white sailed bravely across the bay, watched with breathless interest by gaily attired crowds.

Amid these scenes, where the holiday spirit prevails, the Women's Freedom League continues its propaganda, its agitation for justice, the success of which may be judged to some degree by the type of question that is asked, and the remarks that are heard at our meetings, which are both significant and hopeful.

Of course, we still meet gentlemen who mistake us for Pussyfoot's adherents, political parties in disguise, the remainder of De Valera's army, and a few other equally interesting organisations, including a man-hating society.

Again and again we make the old introduction; again and again we repeat the slogan, "Votes for Women!" like an old battle-cry, until we really think some of our "regular" audience must be thorough feminists, if as a result of suggestion alone.

We are hopeful that on our last visits to Dunoon, Largs, Millport, and Helensburgh, the support already accorded us will be increased, and continue long after the campaign is closed; and also that we shall finally convert the elderly lady who agreed with all we said, but who disapproved "of women standing up in the street talking, when there are plenty of men to do it—besides, it's bold." M. M.

MME. DREYFUS-BARNEY'S APPOINTMENT.

Madame Dreyfus-Barney, of Paris, an American by birth, is to be the only woman on a small Committee which has been set up by the Council of the League of Nations to study the question of the Education of Young People in the Aims and Work of the League of Nations. Madame Dreyfus-Barney is a very active member of the International Council of Women. She is the Vice-Convenor of its Peace and Arbitration Committee, where she works in very close co-operation with Mrs. George Cadbury, and she also acts as Liaison Officer between the International Council of Women and the Institute of Intellectual Co-operation at Paris. The first meeting of this small Committee was held recently at Geneva. We are glad Madame Dreyfus-Barney has been appointed to this Committee, but surely more than one woman should have been placed upon it.

OUR LENDING LIBRARY.

"Women in the Factory." By Dame Adelaide M. Anderson, D.B.E., M.A.

"What I Remember." By Millicent Garrett Fawcett, J.P., LL.D.

"Ancilla's Share." An Indictment of Sex Antagonism. Anonymous.

"The Police Court and Its Work." By Henry Turner Waddy.

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Saturday, October 9th, at 10 a.m.

National Executive Committee Meeting.

Tuesday and Wednesday, November 23rd and 24th,

3 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

Green, White and Gold Fair, at Caxton Hall.

SCOTLAND.

DARE TO
BE FREE.

July—August.

Open-air Daily Meetings at Dunoon, Millport, and Largs. Evening Meetings at Rothesay Pier Head. Speaker: Miss Lenton.

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, August 25th, at 3.30 p.m.

Hastings Branch. Garden Party at "Rossiana," Pine Avenue, Ore.

Short Speeches on the Women's Movement and Peace Pilgrimage.

Chair: Mrs. Darent Harrison. Music. Recitations. Tea, 4.30.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

September 3rd—6th.

Fourth Annual Conference of Women Engineers at Leeds University.

Thursday, September 30th.

British Commonwealth League Conference.

October 5th—8th.

League of the Church Militant Campaign at Southport.

Wednesday, October 13th, at 2.30 p.m.

Women's International League. Conference on Arbitration.

October 19th—22nd.

Annual Meeting and Conference of the National Council of Women, in the Church House, Great Smith Street, Westminster.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

HOW TO GET THE VOTE ON THE SAME TERMS AS MEN.

Dear Madam,—The greatest obstacle to this reform is the *fear* that pervades all classes of men, that women will vote as a *sex* against men, and that as there are more women than men, the male sex will be overwhelmed, and that the government of the country will become a petticoat government. The contrary is the fact: women have proved themselves *keener party-politicians than men*. I can supply one striking instance where they have supported a male candidate against a female simply on the grounds of political partisanship.

At the present time, Mr. Baldwin has not the smallest intention of granting women the vote on the only terms that women will accept.

Having ascertained the obstacle to obtaining the vote, let us try and find out the best way of overcoming it—to attack the apathy of a large number of women is not the way. The apathetic woman, although she possesses a female body, has a "soul" which is a feeble reflection of the *male* minds among which she lives, she repeats and believes that "woman's place is the home," i.e., that she is the *humble handmaid* of men, with all that this phrase means. To attack the apathetic woman, and perhaps convert a very few, is like plucking fruit from an evil tree, instead of striking boldly at the tree itself. Concentrate your efforts on removing the fear that dominates men, and the apathetic woman will follow the example of her male surroundings—she will automatically change her views, because she is but a reflection of a male mind. Large numbers of very good women have led sheltered lives, and have no idea of the amount of wickedness and cruelty that underlies the smooth service of our civilisation.

Having decided that the "male fear is the enemy," what are the methods of attack? *Firstly*: Let every feminist of either sex agree to attack as many unbelieving men as possible, and by personal canvassing remove the "fear" described above. *Secondly*: Approach all societies with philanthropic objects and ask them to assist in order that a parliament largely female may be obtained, as a male parliament will never grant the reforms women are seeking. A striking instance of male parliamentary obstinacy is the fact that frequently some woman is assaulted in a railway carriage, yet sixty years of effort has failed to compel Parliament to enact that on every train there shall be carriages reserved for women only. *Thirdly*: Raise a fund to have a woman candidate for every by-election; I reckon this would cost £300 for each election. Send your best speakers, the more controversy you arouse the more the Press will give you a free advertisement of the best character. It ought not to be difficult to raise £300 for each election. Recollect, the more you ask the more you will get. THE TORQUINIAN.

OUR TREASURY.

NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1925, £43,514 4s. 11d.

	£	s.	d.
Previously acknowledged	226	14	10
Special Emergency War Fund:—			
A Friend	6	17	6
Organisers' Fund:—			
Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck	5	0	0
Equal Political Rights Demonstration Fund:—			
Dr. Knight	5	0	0
Mrs. J. G. Hamilton	1	1	0
Mrs. Uday Atkinson	10	0	0
Miss A. J. McGregor	10	0	0
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