

# THE VOTE

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

## PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

MISS H. M. KEYNES. WHEN I AM M.P.  
JOHN STUART MILL COMMEMORATION.  
IN PARLIAMENT.  
MISS IRENE SAVIDGE: A Case for Inquiry.

DISINHERITED WIVES.  
VICTORY IN SIGHT.  
THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN PALESTINE.  
JOSEPHINE BUTLER COMMEMORATIONS.

## XXXVI.—WHEN I AM M.P.

MISS H. M. KEYNES, Prospective Labour Candidate for Epsom.

What shall I do when I am an M.P.? It is difficult to answer such a question with any exactness since one's activities will depend so largely upon what problems are before Parliament at the time.

Broadly speaking, I do not believe there are such things as "Women's Questions." Talking of them is a legacy from the old unhappy times when our gallant pioneers were feeling their way with all due caution towards that goal of equality and freedom which one day will be ours, and is a hindrance to the conception of women primarily as human creatures and citizens.

There are, however, and probably will be for some time, questions to which the attitude of approach of men and women is different, spheres of action in which women have yet to attain equality of opportunity, but these questions are further conditioned by the economic circumstances of the women concerned. Belief in the necessity for civil and economic equality between the sexes does not imply the thrusting of women, unorganised and unarmed, into an unequal economic struggle. Moreover, in this struggle the divisions are horizontal as well as perpendicular, and the removal of the former barriers to progress seem to me fully as important as that of the latter. It is, for example, quite as necessary that all girls should have equal opportunities for education, and self-development, as that a girl should enjoy equal opportunities with her brothers.

How far is the numerical preponderance of women in this country likely to affect its conduct, and, indirectly, that of the world? It seems most improbable that, even when far more politically educated and alert than at present, they will so vote as to overwhelm

the male electorate upon any given subject. So far, the feminist contention that a woman can have convictions, and ideals, quite unconnected with the accident of her sex, has been amply justified. But is this altogether desirable? A survey of the modern world would suggest that some sweeping and radical change is already overdue.

The entry of women directly into public life is too recent an occurrence to offer any grounds for a considered judgment, but there is this, at least, to be said: Now, at this time, women come fresh to the tackling of the primary evils of modern life—War and Poverty, and they bring fresh courage, fresh enthusiasm to the fight. With the enfranchisement of women, some of the finest brains in the country have been set free to attack these problems broadly, and with power. If they can but come in sufficient numbers quickly, while their courage and their hopes are high, an



HELEN M. KEYNES

astonished world may yet perceive that the insolvable has been solved; that it is as easy for nations to settle their quarrels in a court of law, as for individuals to do so; and that it is as possible for communities so to organise their resources that all may share equally,



as for a properly constituted family to achieve that condition. Nothing less than this should be the aim of women in Parliament.

Politicians in the past have found it frequently so very difficult to see the wood for the trees. It must be the task of women, politically set free, to fix the mind of Civilisation on these two causes: the abolition of war, and the building, in that security, of a community to which poverty shall be no more than an evil and a fading dream.

#### WOMEN AND THE CHURCH.

It was delightful to have the opportunity of listening to Miss Eunice Murray again last Friday evening at the Minerva Club, when she spoke on "Women and the Church." In presiding over the meeting, Mrs. Marriott, who has had considerable experience as a preacher, said it was prejudice more than anything else which kept women out of the ministry of the Churches. Some people were indignant at the thought of sitting under a woman, and to be married by a woman was in their view as good as not being married at all. We all had to realise, however, that the gift of the spirit of leadership was not confined to the members of one sex, nor could those in search of help, guidance, and comfort only find what they needed in the representatives of one sex. These special gifts were found in some men and in some women, and what we all wanted was that equal opportunities to exercise those gifts, should be given to the men and women who had them.

Miss Eunice Murray said that the exclusion of women from the ministry had resulted in a one-sided representation of Christianity. In Scotland, a woman could secure a theological training and receive her B.D. degree. She could be sent out as a missionary, but she could not be ordained. Yet if she went to China, those whom she converted to Christianity and trained in its precepts could be ordained, whether they were men or women. The question of the ordination of women had been before the General Assembly of the United Free Churches of Scotland in the form of an Overture, and turned down. One minister had objected to women entering the ministry: firstly, because no woman could be trained to serve as a soldier, and, secondly, because it would be quite wrong for men to throw open any further profession to women, seeing that they had so signally failed in those already open to them. Other men had opposed women's entry into the ministry on the ground that if God had meant women to preach, He would have given women voices like those of men! At the same time, it was true that women were training the young men would-be ministers in the colleges in the art of speaking, and how to make their voices heard! Miss Murray pleaded that those women who believed they had a call to the ministry of the Church should be given equal opportunities with men to do that particular work. There were women who felt the need of a woman spiritual adviser; there was no real opposition among the laity to women ministers; the only determined opposition came from within the Church, from its officials, who did not object to women teaching children but to their teaching men.

A discussion followed Miss Murray's address, in which Mrs. Pollard, Miss Rodgers, Miss Raleigh, Miss Reeves, and others took part. Mrs. Marriott said that one very hopeful thing was that there was not at all the same prejudice among young men and young

women against a woman minister as there was among older people. The young people of to-day, both men and women, when they were really interested in any subject, were just as willing to receive instruction in it from a qualified woman as from a qualified man.

The meeting closed with a very warm vote of thanks to Miss Murray.

#### JOHN STUART MILL COMMEMORATION.

Last Saturday, on the eve of the 122nd anniversary of the birth of John Stuart Mill, we had another pilgrimage to Temple Gardens to place floral tributes on the statue of this great champion of the liberties of women, who, more than 60 years ago, when Member for Westminster, moved a woman suffrage amendment to the Reform Bill, his motion being to omit the word "man" and insert the word "person" in the enfranchising clause. Those voting for that amendment numbered 73, and those against 196. Since Mill's time, the House of Commons has certainly moved forward on this question. On May 7th last, it passed the Third Reading of the Government's Equal Franchise Bill unchallenged by anyone!

Dame Millicent Fawcett's tribute was the first to be placed on John Stuart Mill's statue by Miss Eunice Murray, who read the following message attached to it by Dame Millicent to the representatives of women's societies before they entered Temple Gardens:—

"When the anniversary of Mill's birth comes round we realise, even more vividly than usual, what an immense blessing we have had in such a leader. Always clear in thought and in expression, we have never had to puzzle over his utterances trying to guess what he meant by them. Moreover, he never gave us a lead which his followers have had to withdraw. And it is, as he said 60 years ago, through the changed hearts of men that our purposes are to-day in process of being accomplished."

Then followed with their tributes Dr. Knight (Women's Freedom League), Miss Macadam (National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship), Miss Cameron (Kensington and Paddington Society for Equal Citizenship), Miss Emily Leaf (Women's International League), Mrs. Tidswell (National Union of Women Teachers), Miss Robinson (National Union of Teachers), Mrs. Aldridge (Open Door Council), Mrs. Mansell-Moullin (Cymric Suffrage Union), and representatives of the British Commonwealth League and the National Woman's Party of America.

#### MISS ROYDEN'S WORLD TOUR.

On her arrival in Wellington from San Francisco, Miss Royden received a civic welcome, which was attended by the Prime Minister. The Anglican Bishop offered her the parish to herself if she would stay in Wellington.

The announcement that she will preach at St. Peter's Cathedral, Adelaide, in July, has led to protests on the part of the Australian Press.

Canon Wise has addressed a strongly-worded letter to the Bishop, complaining that her appearance would be in defiance of the Book of Common Prayer and the canons of the Church.

It will be remembered that the authorities of Iowa State College invited Miss Royden to address the students while she was in the United States, but cancelled the invitation on learning that she approved of an occasional cigarette for women.

Other issues of the series, "When I am M.P.":—Mrs. HAMILTON, February 17, 1928; Miss F. B. WIDDOWSON, January 6, 1928; Mrs. TOWNSEND, September 16, 1927; Mrs. MASSINGHAM, August 19, 1927; Miss RUBY PART, June 3, 1927; Miss ELEANOR STEWART, May 13, 1927; Mrs. BEATRICE A. BAYFIELD, April 29, 1927; Mrs. PANKHURST, February 25, 1927; Miss MONICA WHATELEY, January 21, 1927; Miss ELISABETH EDWARDS, January 7, 1927; Miss MARY RICHARDSON, September 24, 1926; The Lady RATHCREEDAN, August 27, 1926; Mrs. CECILIA STREETEN, April 2, 1926; Dr. STELLA CHURCHILL, March 12, 1926; Mrs. MURIEL MATTERS PORTER, September 12, 1924; Mrs. ANNE CORNER, August 29, 1924; Mrs. LOUIE SIMPSON, J.P., August 15, 1924; Councillor ELLEN C. WILKINSON, M.A., July 4, 1924; Miss MINNIE PALLISTER, July 6, 1923; Miss C. PICTON-TURBERRILL, September 8, 1922; Mrs. HAMILTON MORE-NESBITT, August 18, 1922; Mrs. BURNETT SMITH, June 30, 1922; Lady CURRIE, April 7, 1922; Mrs. STEWART BROWN, March 31, 1922; Miss HELEN FRASER, March 24, 1922; Lady COOPER, March 17, 1922; Commandant MARY S. ALLEN, O.B.E., February 17, 1922; Miss MARY P. GRANT, January 6, 1922; Mrs. MARJORIE PEASE, J.P., October 28, 1921; Mrs. AYRTON GOULD, October 21, 1921; Dr. ETHEL BENTHAM, October 7, 1921; Mrs. WINTRINGHAM, M.P., September 23, 1921; Mrs. ELEANOR BARTON, August 26, 1921; Mrs. SCOTT GATTY, August 12, 1921; Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY, July 15, 1921.

## IN PARLIAMENT.

#### Hyde Park (Prosecutions).

MR. ERNEST BROWN (Lib., Leith) asked the Home Secretary how many of the persons referred to in his recent statement as having been convicted for offences in Hyde Park, were legally represented at their trials; and how many were condemned without legal defence? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I am not in position to give this information, as it appears to be nowhere recorded. MR. BROWN: Does the Home Secretary think that the conduct of these Courts is satisfactory to the public, seeing that some 615 out of 640 persons, according to his own statement, were convicted? Is there no record as to how many of these persons were unable to be legally defended?

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR (U., Plymouth): Is it not true that many women are summoned and convicted as common prostitutes on the evidence only of the police without any complaints by or evidence from the men alleged to have been accosted or annoyed; and does not this make it very difficult for the police to defend themselves when they make a mistake?

MR. BROWN: May I have an answer to my question?

MR. SHINWELL (Lab., Linlithgow): Can the right hon. Gentleman give the figures as to how many were condemned without legal defence?

SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: No. There is no record kept. I have made very careful inquiries, and I have seen some of the magistrates myself; and I can repudiate any such suggestion as that which has been made by the hon. Member below the Gangway as to the conduct of these Courts. The conduct of these Courts is admirable from every point of view, and every opportunity is given to a defendant to state his case fully. There are a large number of cases in which the persons charged plead guilty, and they do not want to be legally represented, and do not wish their case to be gone into at length. With regard to the supplementary question put by the noble Lady the Member for Plymouth, (Viscountess Astor), that subject is outside the scope of this question, and I would like to remind the noble Lady that there is already a very important Committee sitting examining the very question which she has raised.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS.

On May 16th, LORD HENRY CAVENDISH-BENTINCK (U., Nottingham) secured leave to bring in a Bill "to make better provision for regulating the employment of young persons in particular occupations; and for other purposes connected therewith." The other promoters of this Bill, which was given a First Reading, were Mr. Ammon (Lab., Camberwell, N.), Mr. Briant (Lib., Lambeth, N.), Mr. Morris (Lib., Cardigan), Sir Robert Newman (U., Exeter), Sir Wilfrid Sugden (U., Hartlepool), and Mr. Snell (Lab., Woolwich, E.). Lord Henry Bentinck explained that the object of the Bill was to enable local authorities to regulate the hours of labour for young persons who were definitely outside labour regulations, the Factories Acts, and the Shop Hours Act, such as van boys, errand boys, warehouse boys, young persons engaged in refreshment houses, page boys engaged in hotels and night clubs, and young persons engaged in cinemas. He pointed out that the present state of the law gave opportunities to employers, perhaps more through carelessness than anything else, to work their young employes for hours which were obviously detrimental to their health and welfare. Investigations had been conducted by the Wage-earning Children's Committee, by Miss King, of the Women's University Settlement, Southwark, by Sir Wyndham Deedes, of Oxford House, and Miss Gardner, Secretary of COPEC, and there were cases of van boys working from 6.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m., from 8 a.m. to 8.30 p.m., and from 4 a.m. to 5 p.m.; while page boys had been found working in restaurants until well after midnight, and in night clubs up to 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning. This Bill would enable local authorities, where there was sufficient local opinion on the matter, to take proceedings and to draw up by-laws, which were to be sanctioned by the Home

Secretary, to prevent young people from working such long hours.

#### A CASE FOR INQUIRY.

The case of Miss Irene Savidge, her conveyance to Scotland Yard by two police officers without the opportunity of consulting her friends or solicitors, her five hours' amazing cross-examination there by these police officers without any woman in the room, has aroused the gravest disquietude everywhere, and very specially in the House of Commons. Members of all Parties realised the serious attack on the liberties of the subject which this case involved, and as Mr. Johnston disclosed the methods adopted by the police and the questions asked by them, it was evident that the strictest investigations were absolutely and immediately necessary. The following motion was submitted last Wednesday afternoon by Sir William Joynson-Hicks to the House of Commons and by Lord Hailsham to the House of Lords: "That it is expedient that a Tribunal be established for inquiring into a definite matter of public importance; that is to say, the action of the police in connection with their interrogation of Miss Savidge on the 15th day of May, 1928." The Home Secretary promised to consult with Mr. Henderson and Sir John Simon as to the personnel of the Tribunal, and it is understood there has been great difficulty in securing agreement on this matter. Mr. Mardy Jones pressed for the appointment of a woman as a member. We very cordially agree, and have urged the Home Secretary to see that a woman is appointed. A woman lawyer who would have a knowledge of constitutional law, ought most certainly to be a member of this Tribunal, which is to investigate this special case concerning the liberties of a woman. The Labour Party are likely to ask that Miss Savidge's legal expenses shall be defrayed by the Treasury.

MR. BROWN: I made no aspersions on the conduct of the Court, but on the keeping of the records of the Court. The right hon. Gentleman must admit that the records do not show in how many of these there were convictions without the defendant being legally represented. Is there no power to see that these persons are defended? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: It is quite clear that there is no power of that sort. There is no such thing as a public defender; the person is put into the dock, and asked: "Are you guilty or not guilty?" and very often these cases are settled in half a minute.

MR. HORE-BELISHA (Lib., Devonport): In how many of these cases did the defendant plead guilty? THE SPEAKER: The hon. Member should give notice of that question.

#### Education (Appointment of Teachers).

MR. MACLEAN (Lab., Govan) asked the President of the Board of Education whether the Board of Education has issued instructions to educational authorities to employ male teachers for classes of boys of eight years of age and upwards; and, if not, whether the Board intends issuing such instructions? LORD EUSTACE PERCY: The answer to both parts of the question is in the negative. The appointment of teachers rests with the local authorities and managers, who know the particular circumstances of individual schools, and the Board do not interfere with their discretion in the matter.

#### A Woman Prison Commissioner?

In the Debate last Monday on *Prisons, England and Wales*, Lady Astor asked the Under-Secretary for State, Sir Vivian Henderson: "Has the hon. and gallant Member ever considered the appointment of a woman as a Prison Commissioner? As there are, unfortunately, a good many women prisoners, and as there are many things where a woman would be of some help, will the hon. and gallant Gentleman, when he has an appointment to make, consider offering it to a woman?"

No reply was given.



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### EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

### DISINHERITED WIVES.

#### WOMEN'S ECONOMIC HANDICAPS.

On May 16th, in the House of Lords, LORD ASTOR moved "That a Select Committee be appointed to see whether a change is necessary in the laws governing testamentary provision for wives, husbands, and children based on the experience of Scotland, Australia, and the other portions of the Empire." In this country, as our readers well know, a man or a woman may will away all his or her money and leave the remaining spouse, together with the children, penniless at his or her death. Lord Astor explained that in Scotland this is not possible. In that country the remaining spouse, if childless, has a claim to half of the estate, and if there are children, to one-third of it, another third being divided among the children. Nor is it possible in New Zealand, Australia, or in most of the Dominions where there are special Acts to safeguard proper maintenance and support out of the estate of the testator's wife, husband, or children. Lord Astor cited a number of cases in which women had been left in great hardship because at the husband's death it had been found that all his money had been willed away to someone outside the family. This had happened to women who had helped their husbands to build up a business, and to others against whom no charge could be made except that the husband had found a more attractive woman. During the husband's lifetime he was compelled by the Guardians to pay for his wife's maintenance, but this maintenance stopped at his death. Lord Astor said he believed that England and Wales were the only two countries in the world—certainly the only English-speaking countries—where this sort of hardship and injustice was possible, and he urged their Lordships to consider whether an Inquiry was needed; and, if not, what could be done to prevent the continued occurrence of the cases of manifest hardship and injustice which were possible at the present time.

LORD HALDANE'S view was that the proposal for an Inquiry was unworkable. For one hard case there were a hundred in which the testator in his will acted justly towards the members of his family. He pitied the Committee which was to examine the laws of other countries. It would sit for years and years, and then not get any adequate knowledge. It would find that "the only force which can guide and compel in these matters is the force of public opinion—the force which compels a man, or almost compels him, to do what he ought to do, and to do what he does in the vast majority of cases."

LORD BUCKMASTER sympathised with the intention underlying the motion, but continued: "My idea is that men and women should be socially and economically equal, free, and independent; that it should be no more a matter of surprise that a woman should set out to earn her living than that a man should do so, and that when a woman is left a widow, society ought to be so organised that she should be just as able to protect herself as a man when his wife dies. I know perfectly well that those conditions do not exist to-day. I know equally well that it will be very many years before they are reached; but until that condition has been attained, I think that all we do in regard to these

matters is nothing but tinkering." He considered that the motion would advance matters very little.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (Lord Hailsham) thought hard cases made bad law, and we had to be careful in trying to deal with a hard case not to establish worse wrongs than those which we are trying to cure. In the view of the Government, it would not be profitable at the moment to set up such a Committee as the resolution called for. The societies which were particularly interested in the subject had had, and for the next few weeks would have, their fair share of the Parliamentary time, and he hoped that Viscount Astor would not press the resolution.

VISCOUNT CECIL pointed out that Lord Astor's motion applied to both husband and wife, and made no distinction between the two. If a Select Committee on the subject was not advisable, why should not the Lord Chancellor himself make an inquiry into this matter, or arrange a Departmental Inquiry? It was a little unfortunate that we should have to say that here was an undoubted hardship which everyone must feel, that a woman who had been supported by her husband during his lifetime—and supported, it might be, by an Order of a Court—should have no claim on his estate the moment he was dead, and should be obliged to go to the workhouse and accept poor relief.

LORD MERRIVALE opposed the motion. If there were many hard cases, then he thought the matter ought to be brought to the notice of the Home Office through the Stipendiary Magistrates and the other justices throughout the country.

VISCOUNT ASTOR, in his reply, and in reference to Lord Buckmaster's statements, said that even if we had so altered public opinion that it would be easier for women to support themselves than it is to-day, many cases of hardship undoubtedly occurred at a time of life when it was practically impossible for a woman to support herself. As the Government would resist the Inquiry, Lord Astor said he would not press the matter; but he hoped that the Lord Chancellor and others would feel that a case had been made out for some action at some time.

This discussion on women's economic position in a House of Legislature which refuses membership to women, and in which no woman is allowed to speak, seemed to us as futile as it was grotesque. It would be comic if there were not so much tragedy in the present economic position of married women. Unless the woman has an income of her own, that position is hopelessly precarious. As a married woman, she has no legal claim to any portion of her husband's earnings, income, or salary. He is only obliged to maintain her and need not give her any pocket-money. The Government and local governing authorities refuse to employ a married woman, so that she has no opportunity of providing for her future; and her husband is allowed by the law of the land to leave her penniless at his death, to provide as best she can for their children. No one claims that the disinherited wife is a common figure in the land, but every woman without an income who marries has at present to face the risk of that position, and, as Lord Astor reminded the House: "In 1870, John Stuart Mill, giving evidence before a Royal Commission, said we ought not to give powers liable to very great abuse and then presume that those powers would not be abused." Is it not rather like mockery to describe what the future position of women ought to be, if one does not at the same time try to alter their present intolerable position? Why should not marriage be treated as a partnership and placed on a business footing?

### MORE WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ARRESTS.

The *Daily News* reports from Warsaw that a group of "white slave" merchants were arrested on the Polish-German frontier recently as they were attempting to export to Antwerp four young girls of 16. Investigations have brought to light an extensive and well-organised trade in the emigration of young women from here to South America. More arrests are expected.

## VICTORY IN SIGHT.

Last Monday and Tuesday, Members of the House of Lords discussed the Government's Equal Franchise Bill, and then threw out Lord Banbury's motion for its rejection by 114 votes to 35. On Monday, great gloom seemed to enshroud the Upper House. The new Lord Chancellor (Lord Hailsham), in moving the Second Reading of the Bill, gave a history of its progress in the House of Commons, and quoted numbers of women of various ages, married and unmarried, who would vote under the Bill. Lord Haldane supported the Bill, but there was no enthusiasm for it in his speech. Lord Banbury, in moving its rejection, appeared to be very disgruntled about most things, chiefly that now "everybody who is 21 will have a vote if he or she is not in prison or in a lunatic asylum." He apparently forgot to add "or any Member of the House of Lords." Lord Astor brightened the proceedings with an up-to-date, modern speech, in which he emphasised the fact that citizenship should not be based on sex. On Tuesday, Members were in a more cheerful mood, and Lord Balfour of Burleigh expressed what we were all feeling when he said that "the only

remaining question of interest is to see how many of your Lordships will follow into the Division Lobby the ancient Britons, if I may so describe them without respect, who have put down the motions for the rejection of the Bill." Lord Birkenhead, after explaining that he was still an unrepentant anti-suffragist, wound up the Debate on behalf of the Government. Having begun to descend the slippery slope by enfranchising some women, he considered it was impossible not to complete the journey and enfranchise all women. He advised his fellow Members to approach the subject as practical politicians. He added: "Once you know that the Leaders of all Parties and the organisations of all the Parties are deeply pledged to this change, it is folly to make a recommendation to your Lordships which, if adopted, would cover this House with ridicule." So the women's enfranchisement cause was won in the Upper House, and after the Bill was given a Second Reading there, it was committed to a Committee of the whole House. The House of Lords is known to be leisurely in its business, and the Third Reading may not be taken until well on in June.

## TEA AND POLITICS-UP-TO-DATE.

### THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN PALESTINE.

At our Tea and Politics-up-to-date Meeting on May 16th, at which Miss Reeves presided, Mrs. Zangwill—who has recently returned from Palestine—gave a most interesting address on the position of women in that country.

Mrs. Zangwill stated, the fact that the population of Palestine consists of three distinct races—the Arab, the British, and the Jewish—makes it very difficult to estimate the position of women. She said that to become intimately acquainted with the present life of Palestine, it is necessary to stay not in Jerusalem, but in Tel-avid, which—spiritually—she found the most exciting town in the world. "It gave me a thrill to see Jewish policemen," said Mrs. Zangwill, "but, as a feminist, I wanted to see Jewish policemen!"

Among the Halutzin—the young Jews and Jewesses, many of whom have given up good positions in various parts of the world to return to Palestine—there is no idea of inequality between men and women. The dominant thought of the Palestine Jew is to build up the land, and each one toils at the hardest work for the poorest pay.

Outside Jerusalem, as a result of healthy open-air life, a new type of Jew has come into being. Mrs. Zangwill drew a comparison between the poor physique of the Jews in the East End of London and the physical well-being of the young Jews in Palestine, and said that if a few years of life in the open-air and sunshine could make this difference, what could not humanity achieve! Physical weakness has aided the submission of women; the improved physique of the women of Palestine will be an important factor in their favour.

Hadassah, an American Jewish welfare institution with centres in various districts, is doing useful work towards improving the health and general well-being both of Jewish and Arab communities. Hadassah also finances a school for girls, entrance to which is highly appreciated. Many of its pupils have succeeded in making their way from Russia, where their parents are still living, and greatly prize their chance.

Numbers of the young Jews in Palestine belong to experimental groups, known as colonies. The normal colony is for both men and women, but certain colonies are run exclusively by men; others, exclusively by women. The criticism of the young women who run their own colonies is that in such communities they can do all the work, whereas in the mixed colonies they are confined to the dull work! Their work in a mixed colony may be less arduous, but it is certainly less interesting—chiefly cooking and domestic duties.

In Ein Harod, a colony where there are three hundred adults and one hundred and forty children, the children are held in common. Taken from their parents at birth, they are reared in a boarding school from which there is no holiday. In visiting the maternity hospital—known as the Delivery Station—where these children enter the world, Mrs. Zangwill thought that the women looked less happy than mothers in any other maternity hospital she had ever visited. At the end of the first week, the mother leaves the Delivery Station to return to her usual occupation, and the baby enters the Barracks for Sucklings—the first of the various "Barracks" he has to pass through. Although in Ein Harod infant mortality is low and the health of the children good, Mrs. Zangwill considers the system a failure. Each of the barracks left her with the impression that the children were well, but not so happy as in normal family life.

The position of the Arab women in Palestine is much the same as in any other Mahomedan country; that is, they exist for the pleasure of the male sex. Infant mortality among the Arabs is very high, but is not due to lack of affection on the part of the mothers. The social influence of the Jews is proving beneficial in improving the conditions under which the Arabs live and in raising the status of women. A few years ago, it was a common sight to see an Arab driving a plough, to which was yoked his ass and his wife! Such a thing is now unknown. An Arab proverb says: "The ass is one of the family; the wife is a piece of furniture." As a further illustration, Mrs. Zangwill quoted an instance in which an Arab protested against a man in an omnibus giving up his seat to a woman. The protestor declared it "absurd," and said that, if men went on like that, women would soon think themselves the equals of men!

The Moslem women still look out on to a darkened world, and, if by any mischance, they allow their faces to be seen unveiled, are overcome with shame.

The position of British women in Palestine is much the same as that of the wives and daughters of Government officials in India, except that the climate allows them to keep their children, and to take an active part in social and philanthropic work.

Mrs. Zangwill concluded on the note of idealism. The light she had seen on the face of a girl breaking stones by the roadside in Palestine recalled to her a light that she remembered long ago on the face of a young militant suffragette, for: "Perhaps all who suffer in great causes are kin."



## JOSEPHINE BUTLER COMMEMORATIONS.

### Portsmouth.

The Portsmouth Branch of the Women's Freedom League joined with other local organisations in the Centenary celebrations of Josephine Butler at a meeting held at the Royal Sailors' Rest, Landport, on May 15th. The Bishop of Portsmouth (Dr. Nevile Lovett, C.B.E.), was in the chair, and said that their speakers at the meeting were well versed in the work that Josephine Butler had begun. Mrs. Percy Bigland, of the League of Nations Union, had been engaged with the League's intervention in the question of the White Slave Traffic, and he did not think that the League had done more valuable work than its efforts in this direction. Miss Higson, of the Josephine Butler Memorial House, Liverpool, who was the other speaker, was last met by him in Lahore, India, and he now introduced her as the first speaker, amid applause.

Miss Higson said that six months ago Josephine Butler was merely a name to the majority of the people in the country, but now there were countless hundreds of people in England and overseas who had been charged with interest by the retelling of the story of her life. Magnificent gatherings were being held all over the country as a tribute to her great life, but Mrs. Butler would not have desired a sentimental halo placed round her head. She would have much rather seen the occasion used in furtherance of her work. Mrs. Butler was fired with a passion for justice, and she once said: "We need to maintain a value and meaning of every human soul." To her there were no dregs of humanity—no one was outside the pale. One of the lessons of these Centenary celebrations should be that they should do away with the double code of morality and accept the Christian standard, which should also be impressed upon the young people of to-day. The cowardice of the older people in failing to present the facts of life was sometimes pitiful to behold. It was true that the standard of life to-day was higher than in the past, but big problems still remained, and under the English flag there were those *terrible tolerated areas of ill-fame in India*.

Mrs. Bigland said that the League of Nations had set up an Advisory Committee to go into the question of trafficking in women and girls. They spent two years in the underworld, visiting 112 cities in Southern Europe and South America, and interviewed 5,000 social outcasts. The experts were able to classify unfortunate women into four catalogues:—

- (1) Those who had been unfortunates in their own country, and went abroad willingly.
- (2) Those who were semi-professional in their own country—working at a job in the daytime and seeking adventure at night.
- (3) Girls belonging to travelling troupes and cabarets, and
- (4) Innocent girls, many of whom were lured from their homes in countries like Bulgaria by false marriage, and in many cases by real marriage, to men who soon revealed themselves as traffickers.

Once girls got into strange countries, it was very difficult for them to get out, especially as they were deliberately run into debt, so that their masters could have additional power over them. They were thankful that the licensed house system did not exist in this country. Germany had closed her houses, and so had Geneva within the last year. The business was most rampant in Southern America and the Argentine, and the speaker reminded the audience that without male chastity they could never have female chastity.

The Bishop said that Portsmouth had undergone a big moral improvement in the last 40 or 50 years, and there was splendid rescue work being done by both the Free Church and the Anglican Church authorities. It was the duty of everyone present to become associated with this work, for they could never have a moral England while there were immoral dependencies.

Mr. Fred Parker (President-elect of the Free Church Council) proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers and the Chairman, and Miss W. J. Barton, M.A., who seconded, said that the meeting could not have been

held in a more appropriate hall than that which had been the scene of so much social work by Dame Sophia Wintz and the late Dame Agnes Weston.

### Middlesbrough.

The Middlesbrough Branch of the Women's Freedom League celebrated the Josephine Butler Centenary at a public meeting in the Wesley Hall on May 16th, and tributes were made to the great protagonist of social purity.

In a largely-attended meeting, over which Mrs. Schofield Coates presided, were representatives of the League of Nations Union, the National Council of Women, the National Union of Women Teachers, the Society of Friends, the Women's Conservative, Liberal, and Labour Parties.

Mrs. Muriel Matters Porter said that when Josephine Butler began her teachings, virtually the whole of Christendom was against her. The Salvation Army and a number of Quakers were sympathetic in her campaign against vice, and a valuable part was played by the late Mr. W. T. Stead, who was a famous North-country journalist.

Archdeacon Lindsay said that as a result of the crusade of Josephine Butler and other women who followed her example, the morals of the nation were never higher than now. There was still room to advance according to the ideals of Josephine Butler.

That public opinion should be roused against the traffic in women and other social wrongs, was the plea of Councillor Dr. Minnie Levick, and other speakers were Mrs. Adjutant Ashworth, of the Salvation Army, and the Rev. R. E. Thomas, of St. George's Congregational Church.

### SOLICITING CHARGE DISMISSED.

Last Tuesday, Mr. Graham Campbell, at Bow Street, dismissed a charge against a young woman of being a common prostitute, loitering for the purpose of soliciting in Southampton Row. She was defended by a solicitor. Two police constables swore that they had seen the accused accost men on the previous evening, who appeared annoyed, and that they had known her for some weeks. When asked why she had not been arrested before, one of the officers said that on the last two occasions he saw her she had gone away with the last man she stopped. For the defence, the solicitor said the police had made a horrible mistake. The young woman was of a very respectable character, and was employed within a stone's throw of Southampton Row. He called as a witness a medical man, and, after his evidence, the magistrate stopped the case and said he would not be justified in finding that the defendant was a common prostitute, and, therefore, it was not necessary that the solicitor should call his client. The solicitor, applying for costs, said it was rather hard that his client, who was a woman of very respectable character, should have to spend her wages in bringing forward professional evidence in order to satisfy the Court that she was not guilty of the offence. The magistrate replied that he thought it reasonable she should have an opportunity of bringing medical evidence, and it would be a little hard for that expense to fall on her. He thought he might give 42s. costs in this case. In doing so, he was not making any reflection on the police. It must not be taken that he was doing that, but he thought it was reasonable that she should call a doctor and that the expense ought not to fall upon her.

We wonder why magistrates should be so chary of "making any reflection on the police" when a matter of this kind comes before them? Why is the reputation of the police considered as of so much greater value than that of the victims of their blunders? Once again we urge that the streets must be made safe for ordinary women from the incompetence of the police, and the only way to do that is to insist that no one shall be charged and convicted of soliciting, molesting, or annoying anyone unless the person said to be solicited, molested, or annoyed, appears in Court to substantiate the charge.

## Women's Freedom League.

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

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General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.



### WHERE TO GO.

#### WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

DARE TO BE FREE. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Wednesday, May 30th.

Tea and Politics-up-to-date. No meeting.

Thursday, May 31st, at 6.30 p.m.

Mid-London Branch Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1 (by kind permission of Miss Reeves), to be followed by an Open Meeting at 7 p.m., when Miss M. B. Robertson, welfare worker to Messrs. James Hayes & Sons, Ltd., Camberwell, S.E.5, will speak on "Welfare Work." All Mid-London members are urged to be present, and to note that the meeting is being held at the Minerva Club—not as usual at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Wednesday, June 6th, 4—5.30 p.m.

Tea and Politics-up-to-date. Meeting at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Miss Enid Laphorn, Prospective Liberal Candidate for Hitchin.

Thursday, June 7th, at 3 p.m.

Hampstead Branch Meeting at 7, Gainsborough Gardens, N.W.3.

Wednesday, June 13th, 4—5.30 p.m.

Tea and Politics-up-to-date. Meeting at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Lady Balfour of Burleigh.

Victory Breakfast.

Hotel Cecil, 8.45 a.m. for 9 a.m. Tickets 4/6. Date.—As soon as possible after the Franchise Bill receives the Royal Assent.

Saturday, June 23rd, at 10 a.m.

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

#### PROVINCES.

Tuesday, May 29th, at 7.30 p.m.

Rye. Branch Meeting, Old Mint Tea Rooms (by kind permission of Miss Bolelle), 34, The Mint.

Wednesday, May 30th, at 3.30 p.m.

Bexhill. Whist Drive. Albany Hotel.

Saturday, June 9th, at 2.30 p.m.

Portsmouth Branch. Jumble Sale at Long's Memorial Hall.

#### OTHER SOCIETIES.

Every Wednesday, 4 to 6 p.m.

British Commonwealth League. "At Home." All Overseas Women Welcome. 17, Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C.2.

Monday, June 4th, at 6 p.m.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Meeting at St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho Square, W. Speaker: Commandant Allen, on "Women Police." Chairman: Mrs. Laughton Matthews.

Monday, June 4th.

Speech Club. Debate at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. "That Self-sacrifice is an over-rated virtue." Opener: Miss Reeves. Opposer: Mrs. Montague.

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### OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

May 20th, 1928.

Dear Madam,—I shall be glad if you can publish the following instance of the way in which existing laws for the protection of young girls may be grossly ignored.

A few hours prior to the crowded Josephine Butler Centenary meeting in Liverpool Central Hall, on April 27th, a young man, Joseph Leadbetter, of Parkgate, was sentenced to four months' imprisonment for indecent assaults on girls of 15.

The man was convicted at Neston (Cheshire) Petty Sessions for two months on each charge to which he pleaded guilty. Surely he should have been committed for trial at the next Assizes. In September of last year, the accused met a girl on the Lever Road, Thornton Hough, and asked her the way to Chester and Birkenhead. She told him, but he walked along the road with her. Then he flung her suddenly to the ground and committed the assault, after which he rode away on his bicycle. The girl told her mother, but the police were not able to trace the man until a short time before he was sentenced to two months' imprisonment. The second offence occurred when a young girl was running through a wood. The accused man tripped her up and committed the offence, for which he was sentenced to a second two months' imprisonment, to run concurrently with the first two months. Both girls were only 15.

There was no woman magistrate on the Bench. Mrs. Johnson, the only woman magistrate, was either not on the Bench that day, or she was in the second Court, where the main cases were non-payment of rates.

The man is known to be a bad character. He is married and has four children. I have been told that his wife had to marry him so that their eldest child might be legitimate. He has frightened children. Under existing laws, such a man should surely have been committed to the Assizes, and sentenced to at least three years' penal servitude. If such misrepresentations of justice are common, then we who celebrated Josephine Butler's Centenary will have our work before us. Not only has the girl been seriously ill through shock, but she has to endure being stared at, and pointed out as the girl who was outraged, although in both cases the girls' names have been kept out of the Press.

Probably a dread of publicity causes many other outrages to go entirely unnoticed. And we talk of freedom and safety!—Yours faithfully,

ADELINE I. BROWNSON.

Birkenhead.

### SIX POINT GROUP.

Miss Ada Moore's Tea Party will be held on Friday, June 8th, 4.15 to 5.45 p.m., at the Mary Sumner Hall, Tufton Street, Westminster.

Invitations may be obtained by non-members, and by members for friends, by writing to the Secretary, 92, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

### HOLIDAYS.

The Offices of the Women's Freedom League and the Minerva Publishing Company will be closed from Friday, May 25th, 5.30 p.m., until Tuesday, May 29th, 9.30 a.m., for the Whitsun Holidays.

### MID-LONDON BRANCH.

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**FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.**—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, May 27th, 1928. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Sir Henry Hadow, C.B.E., Mus. Doc. 6.30. The Rev. Dorothy Wilson, B.Litt.: "The Grace of our Lord"

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