

THE VOTE.
DEC. 31, 1926.

EVENTS OF THE YEAR.

By D. M. NORTHCROFT.

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 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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OUR OPEN COLUMN.

WOMAN GOVERNOR OF THE NEW B.B.C.

MRS. PHILIP SNOWDEN.

The Governors of the new British Broadcasting Corporation, which will be inaugurated on New Year's Day, consist of four men and one woman. They are the Earl of Clarendon (Chairman), Lord Gainford (Vice-Chairman), Sir Gordon Nairne, Mr. Montague Rendall, and Mrs. Philip Snowden. Mr. J. C. W. Reith, the present managing director of the British Broadcasting Company, is to be Director-General.

Few public women have enjoyed so varied a career as that of Mrs. Philip Snowden. The daughter of Alderman Richard Annakin, J.P., of Harrogate, she was educated at Leeds and Edge Hill College, Liverpool, and trained for the teaching profession. In 1905, she married the Rt. Hon. Philip Snowden, M.P., ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer, who at the time of their marriage was Chairman of the Independent Labour Party.

Mrs. Snowden is a natural-born public speaker, her beautiful resonant voice with its peculiarly attractive *timbre* being a well-marked feature on many public occasions at home and abroad. Her earliest public speech was made at Pembroke Chapel, Liverpool, when, still only a girl in her teens, she pleaded at the time of the South African War, in favour of peace. Since then she has spoken in almost every large town in Great Britain, in 40 out of the 48 American States, from coast to coast of Canada, in every important town of New Zealand, and in cities as far apart as Stockholm and Tiflis, Moscow and Jerusalem.

During the tense years of the Suffrage struggle in this

country, Mrs. Snowden enthusiastically enlisted on the side of the Constitutionalists, and for many years was a member of the then National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and also Vice-President. For over a decade she addressed 200 suffrage meetings yearly. She was a welcome supporter of the Women's Freedom

League in its early days, and warmly received by our audiences.

An equally enthusiastic supporter of the Labour Party, as a member of its National Executive she represented the Party at several International Congresses. In 1920, she visited Russia during the early days of the Bolshevik Revolution, studied the social conditions then existing in that country and formed her own opinions, reporting her views. These opinions she embodied later in a book entitled "Through Bolshevik Russia," which created a great sensation and had a large sale. A second book, written a year later and entitled "A Political Pilgrim in Europe," being an account of her travels in Europe during the two years following the war, has also commanded a steady sale.

It would take a volume to reiterate all Mrs. Snowden's travels, many of her journeys being in somewhat unfre-

quented places. In 1921, she visited the Caucasus as a representative of the Second International, in order to investigate conditions under the Social-democratic Government of the Republic of Georgia. In 1923, she went to Palestine to investigate Zionism. In 1924, she made a special tour of Canada as the guest



Photo by]

MRS. PHILIP SNOWDEN.

[Joan Craven.

of the Overseas Education League. On every such occasion her gifts as a public speaker were brought into prominence.

The public offices with which she is, or has been, associated are almost too numerous to mention. In 1924, appointed a member of the Royal Commission on Food Prices; one of the first members of the Save the Children Fund; an original member of the Executive Committee of the British (now Royal) Institute of International Affairs, continuously holding office up to the present time; a member of the Executive Committee of the Y.W.C.A. Forward Movement, and deeply interested in promoting the Association's latest scheme of a London Club for City Women Workers; a member of the National Council of the Playing Fields Association; a member of the Executive Committee of the Victoria League, and many more.

Of staunch Nonconformist principles, Mrs. Snowden and her husband have closely identified themselves with the Temperance Cause in this country, and may frequently be heard as eloquent apologists on Temperance platforms. We are proud to know that such a gifted and many-sided personality as hers will now be enrolled in the best interests of Wireless, one of the greatest and most far-reaching mental influences of modern times.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Kidderminster Woman Solicitor's Distinction.

The *Birmingham Post* reports that Miss Katherine Ruby Weston, solicitor, of Kidderminster, has been awarded the Gold Medal given by the Birmingham Law Society to the most successful candidate of the year. Miss Weston obtained First Class Honours in the Final Law Examinations for 1926 in June last, and was then awarded the Clifford Inn Prize. Having been placed first in order of merit among the candidates who have passed two-thirds of their term of service with a member of the Birmingham Law Society, she now receives the Birmingham Law Society's Gold Medal, which carries with it the Horton Prize. Miss Weston served her articles with her father, Mr. George A. Weston, of the firm of Messrs. Weston, Fisher, and Weston, of Vicar Street, Kidderminster.

Boxer Millions.

The Board of Trustees, by whom the British Boxer Indemnity Fund is administered, will consist of 11 Trustees, six Chinese and five British, at least one of whom will be a woman. It is expected that Dame Adelaide Anderson will eventually be offered an appointment on the board. She was a member of Lord Willingdon's Boxer Indemnity Inquiry which visited China in the spring, and in 1923-24 she was a member of the Commission appointed by the Municipal Council of the Shanghai International Settlement to consider the question of child labour.

Woman Engineer's Success.

Miss Doris Butler, who was for four years employed by the Metropolitan Vicker's Company at Manchester in their transformer engineering department, is at present acting as assistant to the executive engineer of the Clyde Valley Electrical Power Co., at Glasgow. Her work is mostly connected with the preparation of generating statistics for the company's records with the Electricity Commissioner's returns and West of Scotland electricity schemes.

Woman's Gift for Dietetics.

A gift of £10,000 for the foundation of a Chair of Dietetics at London University has been offered by a woman who prefers at present to withhold her name. Dietetics is the science of the nourishment of the human body, and in an announcement on behalf of the University, Sir William Beveridge, the Vice-Chancellor, said the subject was one for which special provision should undoubtedly be made in London.

Women and Compass Testing.

Women are employed to test compasses for the Royal Navy.

More Magistrates—12 men, 4 women.

Twelve men and four women have been approved by the Lord Chancellor as new Justices of the Peace for the County of Surrey. The women are:—Mrs. Barbara Whiteway Thomas, of Wallington; Miss Florence Mary Douglas, of Dorking; Miss Edith Mary Hoole, of Sutton; and Mrs. Eliza Ferguson Legg, of Sutton. Miss Hoole, although residing at Sutton, will sit on the Epsom Bench, at any rate for the present.

Woman Scientist.

At a trial at Manchester recently, Sir Bernard Spilsbury, the pathologist, mentioned the loss he had sustained by the death of his assistant, Mrs. Bainbridge, who had helped him in many famous criminal investigations during the last few years.

Woman Poster Artist.

Miss Freda Lingstrom has two striking posters on the Underground Station platforms. One is a railway advertisement of Fife and Forfar, and consists of Macbeth's three witches, drawn in grey, red and green, hovering over a cauldron. The other is an advertisement of the Broads, and shows a number of small boats on a white and green sea.

Athletes to Wed.

Miss Muriel Gunn, holder of the women's long jump records, is to marry Mr. Stanley Cornell, one of the founders of Mitcham Athletic Club. Her brother Norman is to wed Miss Dorothy Procter, whom he met at the Women's Olympic Games in Sweden.

Women Decorators.

Four London women have launched a company to carry on the business of decorators and repairers. The company is called Women Decorators, Ltd. The promoters are Miss E. M. Goodhugh, Miss G. E. Almack, Miss W. M. Quinn, and Miss C. M. Middleton.

Women Co-Operators and China.

The Central Committee of the Women's Co-operative Guild has sent to the Prime Minister protests against military intervention in China. It urges the Government to open up negotiations with the Canton Government on the basis of recognising China's claim to full national sovereignty.

Woman's Poster Collection.

Miss Winifred Guy, whose collection representing the poster art of the world was shown at the Whitechapel Art Gallery for three months in 1924 and 1925, is taking the exhibition to Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

A Woman Champion.

Miss Eleanor Mitchell, an Englishwoman, recently won the European championship for typewriting in Paris. Miss Mitchell also won the speed competition.

BOOK REVIEW.

A Hundred Wonderful Years. Being an account of social and domestic life in England from 1820 to 1920. By Mrs. C. S. Peel, O.B.E. (The Bodley Head). 15/- net. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

When this book begins, George III. was still living. No one could travel faster than a horse could move, and, with few exceptions, the common people could neither read nor write. Women were chattels, and children and animals practically unprotected as far as the law was concerned. Then came the development of quick transport and means of communication and the spread of education, and as a result, a revolution in manners, customs and thought. It is not uncommon that a human being should live a hundred years, but the changes which have come to pass in the course of a life lived between 1820 and 1920 are extraordinary, and between those years lies what is perhaps the most wonderful century of England's history. It is the social and domestic life of this intensely interesting century with which Mrs. C. S. Peel deals. A feature of the volume is the unique collection of illustrations depicting typical costumes and scenes at various periods during the century. D. M. N.

PROPOSALS FOR THE REFORM OF THE POOR LAW.

By M. I. NEAL.

These proposals seem to me to have received far less attention from the public than they deserve—for they are wide and far reaching. They involve the total disappearance of the present Boards of Guardians and the transferring of their functions to the County Councils—a plan which, while it will to some extent relieve overlapping, presents also some obvious difficulties.

In considering this question it is necessary to remember how the feeling in regard to the care of the destitute and the sick, the children and the old, has changed since the Act of 1834, which recognised only the necessity of preventing actual death from starvation, and made no provision outside the workhouse for women and children.

By 1907 public feeling had recognised that the community has a duty to the individual as well as the latter to the community, and that poverty is not always the fault of the individual—the old system was to some extent punitive. The later administration aimed at being preventive, and in 1905 it was generally felt that further measures were necessary, and a Royal Commission was set up to examine the whole matter and see what co-ordination was necessary and possible to obviate the overlapping of the various authorities.

Education authorities have practically taken over the charge of children, providing not only schools but medical attention, food, and, in some instances, maintenance.

The Local Health Committee has taken over the sick, and by means of Health Visitors and other officers is engaged in not only curing, but in preventing disease.

The Lunacy Committee have taken over (more or less) the duty of looking after the feeble-minded, once a special object for the Poor Law Guardians. How much and in what directions this branch of the work needs improving, it is hardly necessary to remind readers of THE VOTE.

The Unemployment and Old Age Pensions Acts have also lessened the work of the Guardians, and it appears very desirable that the functions now so divided and overlapping should be concentrated in some way. Whether the best way is that laid down in the "Provisional Proposals for Poor Law Reform" may be seriously open to question, and they should be carefully considered and discussed.

It is proposed to transfer the whole functions of the Guardians as they now exist to the County Borough Councils and County Councils, such Councils to have

the right to co-opt persons from outside their members to assist in their work. This proviso, of course, would enable the Council to utilise the service of members of the existing Boards of Guardians or of their officials, but it should be noted that this is permissive, not compulsory, and no provision whatever is made for the inclusion of women members of any such Committee. Under some Councils we know only too well what that means!

One advantage of the change would be that the area of the chargeable poor would be enlarged. It would be the County or County Borough instead of the Parish or Union, and would reduce the painful cases which have arisen of persons being shifted from place to place when they have become a charge on the rates. Another, that Outdoor Relief would be correlated with Unemployment Pay. A third, that existing Institutions, Workhouses, Hospitals, and Infirmarys now held by Boards of Guardians, and only available for destitute persons, would become the property of the Councils and made "available and acceptable for all classes of the community," and that such Institutions may by arrangement be used jointly by two or more counties.

Of course, the scheme is a large one, and the great mass of work involved over a county area will almost certainly necessitate some decentralisation, and it will be very difficult to prevent the vices of huge bureaucratic undertakings. And, further, if the County Councils are to be the chief authority, there is some risk of friction with the larger local authorities, whose administration they will have to supervise.

Such plans for local administration and decentralisation will need careful working out, and all who have any experience of Poor Law work or Relief work of private or semi-public bodies should give of their best suggestions, born of experience, so that the operation of the scheme may be as smooth and efficient as possible from the beginning. The financial alterations, too, are of some importance. The Treasury's contribution to the cost of the transferred services would be made by block grants spread over a term of years, which would save the endless applications that now have to be made for the sanction of the Department. It would enable more help to be given to the necessitous districts. The point most likely to interest readers of THE VOTE is whether the change in this way will make things easier and better for those who need relief, whether the sick and the aged will obtain better and more efficient care. It would be interesting to have the views of our members who have served on Boards of Guardians on this point.

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN.

We have received the following letter from the

Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee:—
"In view of the statements now appearing in the Press, purporting to express the Government's attitude on the question of the Franchise, the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee feel that it is advisable to state their views on this question. The Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee is an outcome of the Committee which organised the highly successful Procession and Demonstration held in Hyde Park on July 3rd, at which 40 Societies were represented. From the 15 platforms, the following resolution was unanimously carried:—

"That this Mass Demonstration demands an immediate Government Measure, giving votes to women at 21 on the same terms as men."

In demanding equal franchise rights for women with men, the E.P.R.C.C. has always had in mind the age of 21, because as practical politicians they know that it is not really feasible to alter the voting age for men, and are of opinion that any attempt to alter the present voting age will merely lead to postponement of the whole question. It is alleged that the extension of the Franchise to women at 21 would add five million

Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee:—

voters to the Register. We see no objection here. Instead, it occurs to us, as it must to the average fair-minded Briton, that a great injustice is being done in excluding these five million women from the Register. With regard to the contention that women will out-vote the men, we would point out that experience has shown that women have voted as citizens according to the Parties to which they belong, and not as a woman's party opposed to men. The Voters' Register is now only made up in October of each year. Should an election take place before October, 1928, it would be necessary for women to be on the October, 1927, Register if they are to vote. If the Prime Minister's pledge, made at the last election, is to be fulfilled, it is imperative that the Government should act without further delay, and we feel that only an immediate Government measure can now meet the situation."

Yours faithfully,

RHONDDA, *Chairman.*

ETHEL E. FROUD, *Vice-Chairman.*

DAISY D. SOLOMON, *Hon. Secretary.*

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31st, 1926.

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.

EQUAL FRANCHISE IN 1927?

During the last few weeks a good many papers have given considerable space to the discussion of women's chance of equal enfranchisement with men during the life of this Parliament. On February 20th, 1925, Sir William Joynson-Hicks, the Home Secretary, stated definitely in the House of Commons that the Prime Minister's pledge was for equal rights at the next election, and that no difference would take place in the ages at which men and women would go to the poll at the next election; and the Press has been telling us that a Cabinet Committee has been considering how this pledge can be carried into effect. It is pointed out that if men and women vote at the same age and on the same terms as men, there will be more women than men voters. In a democratic country in which women are taxed and subjected to the laws equally with men, and have to compete with men in the professions and in industry, why should that fact hinder the granting of political justice to women? Women in this country have the same need of the vote as men to enable them to protect their own interests. It is curious how Government after Government have provided themselves with excuses to delay dealing with this question. What is a Prime Minister's pledge worth? Women will have an opportunity of finding that out during the coming year. Mr. Baldwin can prove his sincerity in this matter by including an Equal Franchise Measure in the King's Speech at the Opening of Parliament on February 8th. Any later date will be highly dangerous to women's chances of getting on to the Register, which is now, for purposes of economy, only made up once a year, before the next General Election. Our friends in Parliament are urged to bring pressure to bear on the Prime Minister to see that the equal enfranchisement of women and men forms part of the King's Speech; and readers of THE VOTE should use every effort to get into touch with their local Members of Parliament in regard to this matter. In London the Women's Freedom League is organising two constituency meetings to demand the political enfranchisement of women at the age of 21 and on the same terms as men—one at the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, on Thursday, January 20th, at 7.30 p.m., and the other at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C., Monday evening, February 7th. At each meeting the speakers will be residents or voters in the constituency, and the local M.P. will be invited to attend the meeting. He will also be asked to receive a deputation of his constituents on the subject of Equal Franchise. Similar public meetings and deputations ought to be arranged by women in every constituency throughout the country, in order to remind the Prime Minister that women expect him to carry out his pledge to give women equal political rights with men during the life of this Parliament. Politicians of all grades, from the Prime Minister down to members of the rank and file of all political Parties, unfortunately appear to need a good deal of assistance in the redemption of their pledges to the electorate.

"PUBLISHING THEIR DEGRADATION."

Equal Rights, the official organ of the National Woman's Party (Washington), states that in 1848 the First Equal Rights Convention ever held in America passed the following resolution:—"Resolved, That the women of this country ought to be enlightened in regard to the laws under which they live, that they may no longer publish their degradation by declaring themselves satisfied with their present position, nor their ignorance, by asserting that they have all the rights that they want." As the writer of the article points out, at that time American women lacked among other rights the franchise, the right to their own property and earnings after marriage, the right to their own legitimate children, and the right to enter the professions and industry on equal terms with men. Yet women then opposed the Equal Rights movement, believing that the "protection" arranged for them by men was preferable to the power to protect their own interests. American women have now won the right of the franchise on equal terms with men, and British women have won it on unequal and inferior terms to men; but both American and British women, especially married women, are still in a position of legal, political, domestic and economic subjection. The writer in the American paper points out that a few weeks ago the Board of Education, of Newport, Kentucky, ordered all women teachers to wear skirts no higher than 11 inches from the ground, and sleeves sufficiently long to cover their elbows. At about the same time the authorities of the Trebizond Province of Asiatic Turkey ordered women to discard the veil. The writer continues:—"It would appear that the violation of their right even to dress as they please, should arouse all women, everywhere, to a realisation of their need of Equal Rights. But, no; from the United States to Turkey, and back again the other way round, some women can still be found in every land who continue to publish their degradation by asserting that they have all the rights they want."

MORE WOMEN POLICE WANTED.

A letter, signed by the Bishop of Liverpool (Dr. David), the Archbishop of Liverpool (Dr. Keating), Mrs. Herbert Rathbone (Chairman of Committee), and members of the Council of the Liverpool Women's Police Patrols, has been sent to the Liverpool Press, submitting that the experience of the Liverpool women police patrols during the last twelve years has proved the value of their work, and asking for their inclusion with full powers in the police force. The writers state that, in spite of increasing work and the urgent need for development, the efforts made to secure the incorporation of the patrols in the Liverpool Police Force, or a larger grant to enable the work to be extended, have failed. The sense of insecurity thus created hinders the progress of an important piece of social work. The Chairman of the Liverpool Diocesan Board of Moral Welfare (Mr. Kenneth Graham), in another letter to the Liverpool Press, supports this plea for women patrols. He states that his Board considers their work not only highly valuable to the moral welfare of the city, but an urgent necessity for the well-being of its women and girls. He states that the Board has already urged the Watch Committee to increase the inadequate grant at present given, but, so far, without success. The Board, however, is determined to use every means in its power to extend the work of the women police patrols.

EVENTS OF THE YEAR.

By D. M. NORTHCROFT.

The Parliamentary Session opened on February 2nd, but, in spite of the representations brought to bear upon the Prime Minister by our own and kindred women's organisations, no mention was made in the King's Speech, either of the Government's intention to deal with Equal Franchise, or of any other of the reforms closely affecting women, on which the Prime Minister had previously been approached. The Women's Freedom League wrote at once to Mr. Baldwin, expressing its keen disappointment and extreme indignation at the omission of any reference to Equal Franchise in the King's Speech, pointing out that in a country which believes in representative Government, the equal enfranchisement of all its citizens, men and women, was of vital importance, and stating that at the present time there are 4,750,000 of voteless women over the age of 21, compared with only 313,000 voteless men over 21, in this country, and that more than 2,000,000 of these voteless women were over the age of 30.

This fatal omission in the King's Speech, however, acted as an immediate spur towards increased spade work by practically every women's organisation up and down the country, and preparations were quickly in hand for a monster Equal Franchise Procession and Demonstration, to be held in Hyde Park during the coming summer. Equal Franchise Meetings, large and small, were also held at intervals all through 1926, whilst no Women's Conference was held (and this has been a record year of Women's Conferences) without this subject occupying the text of at least one resolution on the agenda, and being carried unanimously.

After the Nineteenth Annual Conference of the Women's Freedom League, held at the end of April, when Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence was unanimously elected President, the League decided to concentrate, in the autumn of 1926, on an intensive campaign throughout the country, on behalf of Equal Franchise, and at the time of writing this campaign is at its height. Questions in Parliament on this subject have been repeatedly put, and towards the close of 1926 no week passed without one or more Members from all three political Parties endeavouring, though vainly, it must be admitted, to force the Prime Minister's hand. Great success, however, attended the Women's Procession from the Embankment to Hyde Park on July 3rd, when over 40 women's organisations were represented, culminating in a mass meeting in Hyde Park, organised round numerous platforms. The Women's Freedom League contingent was headed by Mrs. Despard, our First-President, who, despite her 82 years, actively walked every step of the way, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, our President this year, and our Treasurer, Dr. Knight.

A few days before this Demonstration, women all over the country suffered a temporary set-back in the defeat of the Parliament (Qualification of Peeresses) Bill, introduced by Lord Astor in the House of Lords on June 24th. Not only was this badly defeated, but speeches were made by certain noble (?) Lords, which savoured more of the pothouse than of Parliament.

Other questions much to the fore amongst women during 1926 have been the twin subjects of Peace and Disarmament. A monster Peace Pilgrimage, initiated by the Women's International League, and carried out in joint co-operation with the League of Nations Union, supported by numerous women's organisations, including our own, was successfully inaugurated in all parts of the country, culminating in a mass gathering of the pilgrims in their picturesque blue tabards on June 19th, in Hyde Park. This impressive Demonstration, following as it did the Locarno Conference, and later in the year being completed by the admission of Germany into the Assembly of the League of Nations, cannot but bear good fruit in directing public opinion into a permanent pathway of Peace.

The year 1926 has been pre-eminently a year of important Women's Conferences, both at home and abroad. From an international point of view, the palm must be awarded to the Tenth Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, held at Paris in June, and attended by representatives from over 46 countries. Members of the French Government took an active part in the Paris Congress. At the opening meeting, held in the vast and gaily-beflagged amphitheatre of the Sorbonne, M. Lamoureux, Minister of Education, welcomed the Congress in the name of the French Government, and said that the Congress would be a new victory for the feminist cause, and that the enfranchisement of Frenchwomen was nearer than they expected. He was followed by M. Bellan, President of the Conseil Général de la Seine, who announced that he was a feminist of 30 years' standing. He felt sure that it would be impossible to leave women for much longer outside the Municipal and Cantonal Councils, which deal so closely with women and children. At the great Peace Meeting in the Trocadero, at the close of the Congress, the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies came to speak for the French people, whilst the French Government and the French authorities gave official recognition and official welcome to the Congress in unprecedented fashion. Mrs. Corbett Ashby, women M.P.s, women Councillors and Presidents of Delegations were received by the President of the French Republic, the President of the Senate, and the President of the Chamber of Deputies; and the Municipality of Paris entertained the whole Congress to a wonderful reception at the beautiful Hotel de Ville, when the President assured the audience that the Municipality of Paris was in sympathy with the feminist aims of the Congress. At this Congress the I.W.S.A. changed its title to that of International Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, because of the number of enfranchised countries now included.

At this meeting two new Commissions were set up by the Congress, in addition to the five Commissions already in existence. One of these new Commissions will study on what lines women can best help to secure Peace, and the other will seek to extend the employment of Women Police on definite lines. The presence at the Congress, in full uniform, of Commandant Allen, of the Women's Auxiliary Service of Great Britain, evoked widespread interest amongst the foreign delegates, and was much commented on by the French Press. Commandant Allen addressed a special meeting of Congress delegates on the subject of "Women Police," and received cordial invitations to speak on the same subject in many of the countries of Europe. The unostentatious but eminently satisfactory work carried out for two years in the Occupied Area at Cologne by half a dozen picked policewomen selected from Commandant Allen's Force has brought the subject of Women Police very much to the fore during the last few months, especially in Germany, and we may expect that before long a special impetus will be given to this highly necessary work, especially in view of the Home Secretary's remarks earlier in the year, foreshadowing an increase of the Women Police in the London Metropolitan Police Force.

Other interesting Women's Conferences during 1926 included the Sixth Biennial Conference of the Women's International League, held in Dublin University from July 9th-15th; the Fourth Biennial Conference of the International Federation of University Women, at the University of Amsterdam, from July 27th-August 2nd; the Second Annual Conference of the British Commonwealth League, June 22nd and 23rd, in London; and the Annual Conference of the National Council of Women, in October, also held in London, for the first time for nine years. The British Commonwealth League's Conference was of particular interest this

year, in view of the Imperial Conference which met in London a few months later, when, according to Mr. Bruce, the Australian Premier, women's needs and interests received greater consideration than at any Imperial Conference hitherto held.

The Seventh Assembly of the League of Nations in September was principally noteworthy as witnessing the entry of Germany into the League. Included in the German Delegation was a woman technical expert, Dr. Gertrud Bäumer, one of Germany's most representative women, who spoke most enthusiastically at the Fifth Commission on the satisfactory work of the British Women Police at Cologne, already referred to in this article. Except for Dr. Bäumer's arrival, the little quota of women in the Assembly still remains as small as ever, only six countries out of 55 States members at present including women in their Delegations, whilst no woman has yet been sent in the capacity of a full delegate. The British woman delegate this year was Dame Edith Lyttelton, who has already been once before to the Assembly, having been included in the British Delegation in 1923. She did quiet but very effective work on behalf of women's interests, both on Commissions and in the Assembly. It is felt on all sides, and especially by those women who have had the privilege of attending the Assembly in an official capacity, that women everywhere must first obtain free access to the various Ministries of their respective Governments before they can hope to attend the League in anything beyond a subordinate position.

At home the little handful of women in the House of Commons has been augmented by two former women Members, who had not succeeded in being returned at the last General Election. Miss Susan Lawrence was returned for East Ham in April, with a 1,627 majority, whilst Miss Margaret Bondfield was returned for Wallsend in July, with a majority of 9,027. In view of this magnificent majority, it is safe to hope that Miss Bondfield's seat at least can be regarded as almost a safe one. The list of women Parliamentary candidates increases, even if slowly, the palm as regards numbers being awarded so far to Labour women candidates. After the Municipal Elections on November 1st, the Women's Freedom League issued a special number of THE VOTE, giving the return of practically every woman City and Borough Councillor in England, Scotland and Wales. The results were disappointing, as there has been an increase of only about 30 women Members of Town Councils in the last three years. Three women Mayors were appointed on November 9th. They are Mrs. Cottrell, Mayor of West Bromwich, Mrs. Hatfield, Mayor of Margate and Mrs. Gillett, Banbury. A fourth woman, Miss Alice Hudson, has since been elected Mayor of Eastbourne. The second woman Chief Sheriff since mediæval times has also been elected this year—Mrs. Foster Welch, of Southampton.

In India, women are making a splendid fight to secure admission to the various Legislative Councils. So far only Madras, Punjab and Bombay Presidencies, Assam and Burma have secured for themselves the right to admit women to the Councils by election and nomination. One woman, Mrs. Kamaladeva, of Mangalore, wife of the poet and musician, Harindranath Chattopadhyaya, was the first Hindu woman to stand forth as candidate for election to a Legislative Council, but, unfortunately, she was not successful. Within the last few days, however, we hear from Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, who, with our President, is now travelling in India, that the Punjab has elected a woman to its Legislative Council, and we are hoping to hear further news of the progress now being made by our Indian sisters, after our President's return.

The position of women in the League of Nations, more especially in the Secretariat, having for long been considered very unsatisfactory by women's organisations, the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations sent Mrs. Hoster, a member of their Executive Committee, to enquire into this matter during the summer. An unsatisfactory

state of affairs in the higher branches of administration in the Secretariat was accordingly disclosed, and the attention of the Director-General, Sir Eric Drummond, was called to this question. In the International Labour Office the equality of the sexes would seem far more real, and there is no doubt that M. Thomas, its Head, is an avowed Feminist. In the newly-constituted Institute of Intellectual Cooperation, in the Palais Royal, Paris, set up in January of this year, women so far have secured very little representation on the staff. One woman, however, Mlle. Gabriele Mistral, an eminent Chilian poetess, who was appointed Head of the Literary Relations Section, was unfortunately obliged to resign her position a few months later, owing to ill-health.

Women athletes won conspicuous triumphs in 1926, of which perhaps the most sensational were concerned with swimming the English Channel. Early in August, Gertrude Ederle, an American girl 18 years old, electrified the whole civilised world by swimming these waters in 14 hours 31 minutes, two hours less than Tiraboschi, hitherto the fastest Channel victor, whilst only a week or so later, Mrs. Clemington Corson, a 27-year-old swimmer, of Danish birth and American nationality, covered the same distance in just about an hour longer. Several other women also made very creditable attempts during the summer. Mrs. Elliott Lynn still continues to hold the palm amongst women in aviation exploits, whilst this year Miss H. B. Carstairs' motor-boat "Newg" not only beat the world's record for 1½-litre class boats, but also won two international trophies. At the Women's Olympic Games, held at Gothenburg, in 1926, British women athletes obtained a great triumph, taking first place with a total of 50 points.

Amongst this year's notable deaths, we regret to have to record that of Miss Gertrude Bell, at Baghdad, Great Britain's "unofficial" woman diplomat in the East, and Miss Ellen Key, the noted Swedish Feminist.

Married women's right to work has not yet been won in this country, and the recent dismissal of Dr. Isabel Turnadge, Headmistress for four years of the Twickenham County School for Girls, merely on the grounds that she had a baby son of 8 months, to whom the local education authorities thought she ought to give her whole time and attention, affords sufficient indication of the necessity for further vindication of the important principle of the freedom of the married woman. Equal Pay for Equal Work, too, still requires perpetual reiteration, as has been illustrated lately in the recent unequal scale of payment between the sexes in certain London banks and in the Civil Service.

As regards legislation passed in the interests of women during 1926, the following Bills have now passed into law:—

The Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926, which gives further protection to men against lead poisoning, and prohibits women from employment on buildings where lead is used.

In connection with the passing of the Lead Paint Bill, an interesting Conference of women's organisations was held in London, to consider "What is the real protection of the Woman Worker?" Resolutions were passed asserting that the only policy which both permits of the fullest development of the welfare of all workers and safeguards their individual liberty and responsibility, is that of basing all labour regulations and restrictions upon the nature of the work, and not upon the sex of the worker.

Legitimacy Act, which legitimises the children of parents who subsequently marry, provided that both parents were unmarried when the child was born.

OUR ADVERTISERS

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

1927.

Monday, January 10th, at 3 p.m.

Hampstead Branch. Meeting at 53, Willow Road, N.W.3 (by the kindness of Miss Lyndon).

Thursday, January 20th, at 7.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign Public Meeting in the Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Wednesday, January 26th, at 8 p.m.

Hampstead Branch. Social Gathering at the Isis Club, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue, N.W.3 (by kind invitation of Mrs. Harverson). Speaker: Commandant Mary Allen. Chair: Mrs. Wynne

DARE TO BE FREE.

Nevinson, J.P. All friends of the League will be welcome.

Monday, February 7th, at 8.15 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Minerva Club Branch. Public Meeting at Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, January 5th, at 4-6 p.m.

Hastings Branch. New Year's Party at 1, St. Paul's Place.

SCOTLAND.

Saturday, January 15th, at 7.30 p.m.

Glasgow Branch. Whist Drive and Cake and Candy Sale at the Athenæum.

Monday, January 31st.

Dunoon Branch. Public Meeting. Speakers: Miss Eunice Murray, Bailie Miller, Councillor Mrs. MacPherson. Chair: The Provost of Dunoon.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

January 3rd-7th.

National Union of Women Teachers' Annual Conference at York.

Sunday, January 30th, at 11 a.m.

Hampshire House Discussion Circle, Hogg Lane, King Street, Hammersmith. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood. Subject: "The Aims and Work of the Women's Freedom League."

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

Memoir of the late Dr. Helen Beatrice De Rastricke Hanson.

Church House,
Dean's Yard, S.W.1.
December 20th, 1926.

DEAR MADAM,

The League of the Church Militant is arranging to publish a memoir of the late Dr. Helen Hanson. The Executive Committee of the League, with the full approval of Dr. Hanson's family, has asked me to collect the material from which such a memoir can afterwards be written. To do this I shall need the help of all friends of Dr. Hanson. She had such a full and varied life and came into touch with so many people that I feel sure many of her co-workers must possess letters and know details that would give illuminating assistance to anyone trying to estimate her life and work. I shall, therefore, be most grateful for the loan of anything of this nature. MSS. will be copied and carefully returned. I particularly need dates and facts, as well as impressions, and I should be glad to be put in touch with other friends who might be able to give similar help. Mrs. Hanson has generously lent a number of snapshots and professional photographs, and it is hoped to reproduce several of these in the book. But reproduction is expensive, and the actual form the memoir is to take has not yet been decided. Any who knew Dr. Hanson are invited to assist in the way outlined above, that a fitting tribute may be made to this much-loved and unique personality.

Yours faithfully,
E. LOUIE ACRES.

Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson.

DEAR MADAM,

In your sympathetic and very interesting account of our beloved suffragette colleague, Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson, you have omitted the names of two of her fellow prisoners, Miss Mary E. Gawthorpe and Mrs. Baldock, while it was Miss E. Sylvia Pankhurst, and not Miss Christabel Pankhurst, who, on that occasion, went to prison.

I do hope that some permanent memorial will keep alive the deeds and inspiration of Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson's life. I am proud to remember I was one of her fellow prisoners.

Yours very truly,
EDITH HOW MARTYN.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, January 2nd, 1927. 3.30. Music. Nativity Play by Guildhouse Players. 6.30. Mr. J. Middleton Murry: "Religion and Fear."

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