Catholic Citizen

Organ of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance (formerly Catholic Women's Suffrage Society), 55 Berners Street, London, W. 1.

Yol. XIII, No. 2.

15th FEBRUARY, 1927.

Price Twopence.

Daughter of the ancient Eve,
We know the gifts ye gave and give;
Who knows the gifts which you shall give,
Daughter of the Newer Eve?
—Francis Thompson.

Nursing in Haiti.

By TESSA DE ALBERTI.

Haiti with its brilliant sun, purple mountains, blue seas and tropical trees, would seem, to the stranger passing through, a little paradise. In the midst of this "paradise" is situated the Haitian General Hospital, where the poor sick of Port-au-Prince and surrounding villages are cared for.

and surrounding villages are cared for.

The hospital has a bright and cheerful aspect, with its large grounds, trees and rose gardens, long low buildings, nine in number, painted green and white, each building is surrounded by galleries or porches from which you can gaze on the hills.

Catholicism being the religion of the country, a little chapel, with a miniature grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, is tucked away among the trees. Until 1916, when the American occupation came to Haiti, French nuns were the only nurses to care for the sick. They are still in charge, and co-operate in every way with the Americans working in the hospital, untiring in their self-sacrifice and zeal.

Since the occupation great improvements have been made. The Haitian Government has replaced the old dilapidated shacks with new modern buildings, a large research laboratory has been added. This is apart from the hospital one, where the native work is carried on, and a new and expensive X-ray machine has been installed.

An American naval doctor is at the head of the administration. The doctors employed in the actual care of the sick are Haitians, bright, intelligent men, many of whom have studied abroad.

The bed capacity of the hospital is 500,

although there are frequently many more; the dispensary treats daily from 100 to 110 patients outside. Several rural clinics have been established in far villages, and are visited weekly by doctors from the general hospital. These clinics are usually held in the school house or the parish priest's house; in some places a house is rented for that purpose. The doctor's visit is announced from the pulpit at Sunday Mass. Other small hospitals have been

opened in various parts of the island. These

also are in charge of French nuns. Our

graduates from the Haitian General Hospital

are employed in these outlying districts.

The machinery being started, it was necessary to find operators, and as the hospital grew, and the outside world began to appreciate the excellent service it rendered the country, it was decided in 1918 to open a training school for native girls. The school at first was under the direction of naval nurses, but in 1920 these were replaced by American Red Cross nurses, who come under the Haitian Government,

and form part of the service d'Hygiene. The duties of these American nurses are to instruct and supervise the pupils. The training school started with 20 probationers; owing to the lack of education and social background, it is impossible to demand the same standards as those of our American schools. French is the language of the educated Haitian, and a fair knowledge of it is required. All lectures and instructions are given in French. Creole is spoken by the natives, and is usually what is heard amongst the patients. It is a patois, with a mixture of French, having a vocabulary of 600 words. The first graduates may not have been quite up to par, but like all pioneer work, it takes time and patience, and to-day we find a much better type of girl in training. Amongst the present class we have some promising pupils. Who can tell but what some day a Florence Nightingale may come forth, and then indeed our work will not have been in vain.

For 1922 the American Red Cross donated ten thousand dollars towards a nurses' home. A two-storey building was erected at the end of the hospital grounds, with lecture hall and demonstration room. The home is well equipped with every convenience and comfort for the pupils, many of whom have never known a home.

Haiti is a young republic, handicapped in many ways, especially by the ignorance and barbarous superstitions of the majority of the population. Yet it has made strides towards civilisation. One of its great achievements is the Haitian General Hospital of to-day, a progressive and up-to-date institution, one that would do credit to any city.

What Does the Government Mean to Do?

Great indignation is felt by women at the omission in the King's Speech of any mention of a Bill to enfranchise women at 21 on equal terms with men. Women demand immediate legislation to ensure that the Prime Minister's pledge that women shall vote on equal terms with men at the next election, shall be honoured. No Government, however powerful, can afford to flout public opinion.

Equal Political Rights Campaign.

- 1. On Wednesday, February 23, Miss Butler-Bowdon is organising a meeting for the Alliance in the East Fulham Constituency. It will be held in the Fulham Town Hall at 8 p.m. Miss Butler-Bowdon in the Chair. Speakers will be Councillor Miss Packer, Mr. Victor Duval, Miss Gladys Waldron. We hope that all members in the neighbourhood will do their utmost to attend and will bring their friends.
- 2. At the Public Meeting organised by the Women's Freedom League, held at the Minerva Café on January 20, Miss Butler-Bowdon spoke on behalf of the Alliance. In supporting the resolution she showed that no state in which women had not the same political rights as men was a true democracy, and that we should only get the best results when men and women were equally free to co-operate in working for the Nation's good. As a result of the meeting on February 1, Sir James Remnant, M.P. for Holborn, received a deputation of members of his Constituency and belonging to the Societies co-operating in the meeting. Miss Mary Wall was our representative.
- 3. Under the auspices of the Women's Freedom League a meeting will be held at the Hampstead Town Hall on Thursday, February 17, at 8 p.m., when Mr. Joseph Clayton will speak on behalf of St. Joan's Alliance.
- 4. St. Joan's Alliance has written to the Prime Minister asking that a measure giving votes to women at the age of 21, and on the same terms as men, shall be included in the King's Speech.
- 5. We are also co-operating with the N.U.S.E.C. in the Mass Meeting to be held in the Central Hall, Westminster. on March 3. Particulars in our advertisement column, when our member, Miss Monica O'Connor, will have the honour in moving a vote of thanks to the speakers.

A block of 2s. 6d. seats has been reserved for members of the Alliance at the rate of 1s. Members should write at once for these to Miss Barry.

Notes and Comments.

As an outcome of the Equal Franchise Office was appointed in an acting capacity, Meeting, organised by St. Joan's S.P.A. at Marylebone on December 6, a deputation of his constituents was received by Sir Douglas Hogg, the Attorney General, on January 13. Councillor Mrs. V. M. Crawford introduced the deputation and demanded the inclusion of a measure giving votes to women at 21, and on the same terms as men, in the King's Speech. Mrs. Crawford laid emphasis on the urgency of immediate legislation if the Prime Minister's pledge for "Equal Political Rights at the next election" was to be fulfilled. Dr. Elizabeth Jacobs, as an 'under thirty," showed up the absurdity of a state of affairs in which she, who had the responsibility both of motherhood and of a large medical practice, was yet denied the right to vote. Sir Douglas Hogg, in reply, said that he did not know what the Government was going to do, but that the subject of the alteration of the franchise was under consideration, and that, therefore, as a member of the Cabinet, it would be improper for him to make any statement.

Other representatives who went on the deputation were: Miss Florence Barry, St. Joan's S.P.A.; Dr. Octavia Lewin, Women's Freedom League; Miss Nancy Lightman, National Union of Women Teachers; Miss Helen Ward, National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship; Mrs. Robert Young, Young Suffragists (all are residents of Marylebone).

Mrs. Pankhurst has been adopted as Unionist candidate for the Whitechapel Division of Stepney. Mrs. Pankhurst joined the Conservative Party some time ago, and published her reasons for so doing in various articles. The constituency is represented by Mr. Gosling in the interests of Labour.

Opportunity, that excellent organ of the Federation of Women Civil Servants, gives the following account of two interesting appointments:

"It is gratifying to comment on two recent appointments to Higher Clerical Officer. The first is that of Miss V. Brunt, the second woman to gain promotion in the Customs and Excise Department. It will be

more or less on trial, to supervise a mixed staff. We congratulate her that she has made good to such an extent that another woman has been appointed in the same branch. Only those women who have been the first women of their rank to work in a man's branch can realise the tact and efficiency required to make good, when day in, day out, their work, manner and character, are veritably under a microscopic scrutiny.

The second gain is the appointment to a substantive instead of an acting post as Higher Clerical Officer of Miss D. Thorn, of the Ministry of Pensions. The Federation of Women Civil Servants early last year sent a strongly worded protest to the Ministry of Pensions against the continuance of acting appointments which could not now be justified by any rush of temporary work, and it is satisfactory to note that with this last appointment every permanent woman now in the Ministry holds a substantive post."

* * * * The Vote, January 21, contains an interview with Miss Monica Whately, Prospective Labour candidate for Hythe. Miss Whately's programme includes: the political, social and economic emancipation of the people, better housing accommodation, more schools and more school space, more teachers and smaller classes, work for everyone, the adoption of the recommendations of the Sankey Coal Industry Commission, the spending of less money in preparations for war, and more money in housing and social services and, of course, equal franchise. This is the 27th interview with women candidates for Parliament which The Vote has given us. * * * *

Dom Gilbert Higgins, C.R.L., in renewing his subscription to the Alliance wishes that "This year may see the removal of all the political injustices under which English women are cramped. St. Joan is a name of power and an augury of victory."

* * * * We offer our hearty congratulations to Father T. J. Walshe on his appointment as Domestic Prelate to his Holiness Pope Pius XI. Father Walshe is one of our oldest friends, and we shall remembered that as a result of our agitation always remember with gratitude his services to last year the first woman Higher Clerical the society in its early and perilous days.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen":

55 BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W.I. Tel. Museum 4181

Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society.

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The Evolution of Woman.*

gift to women; he lived to finish it, but the life and teaching of Jesus of Nazareth, not to see it published. Women who fight we breathe a new atmosphere, filled with for equality have lost a valiant champion in the spirit of love, with a divine enthusiasm Mr. Johnson, who grew up a feminist, and for all mankind. Here there is no distincfought with Josephine Butler for the abolition of sexes, for were not male and female tion of State Regulation of Vice. It was created in the image of God, the children when the Committee which is now known as of the Heavenly Father, whom Jesus came the Association for Moral and Social to bring back to their spiritual home?" Mr. Hygiene, were endeavouring in 1887 to Johnson, like many others, finds that the secure the abolition of State Regulation of equality implicit in Christ's teaching was Vice in the Crown Colonies, after the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts in Great Britain, that Mr. Johnson came into the movement. Dr. Helen Wilson, President of the A.M.S.H., writes of the great service rendered to the cause by Mr. Johnson ever since that date. It was he who drafted the Public Places Order Bill, of which we spoke last month. "This Bill," says Dr. Wilson, "was the expression of his conviction that it is only by equal laws, embodying individual liberty and individual responsibility, that a higher social order will be attained."

Mr. Johnson has given us in The Evolution of Woman, a survey of the position of woman throughout the ages. We have East, and the new status which began

* The Evolution of Woman. By G. W. Johnson, C.M.G. Robert Holden & Co., 8/6 net.

This book is George W. Johnson's last with the Christian era. "When we come to unacceptable to men, and thus the emancipation of women has been retarded, yet slowly and gradually women have benefited by the Christian doctrine of human equality.

The chapter on the first feminists is particularly interesting, with its account of Christine de Pisan (1363-1429), who "was the first woman to grasp, and partially to expound, the foundation principles of feminism, namely, that every woman should be allowed to develop her personality and to exercise her faculties to the full, and that to this end she should be gradually freed from all shackles which hinder that development and prevent that exercise."

For though the idea of a general revolt on the part of women against their subjecchapters on Greece, Rome, and the Ancient tion did not arise until the middle of the nineteenth century, throughout the ages and in all countries the voices of isolated women were raised from time to time in protest

against the assumed moral and mental in- that women's co-operation with men was feriority of their sex. Other chapters deal with women in Industry, in the Medical Profession, and the fight for higher education, etc., in which latter Mr. Johnson points out that the convents gave women their first opportunity to show their capacity for culture and for doing useful work in the world, other than mere domestic duties. While in an earlier chapter he quotes a recent German writer as saying: "It was indeed the Bride of Christ who won for women the freedom of professional life."

There is also an excellent chapter on "One Moral Standard," but the whole book is of great interest, and we hope it will be widely circulated. It is fittingly dedicated: "To the Memory of my Mother, and to my Wife, from whom I learnt the value and beauty of comradeship." A bibliography adds to the usefulness of this history of woman's evolution.

L. DE ALBERTI.

International Notes.

No woman, so we learn from Stri-Dharma. secured election to the Legislative Councils at the recent elections in India, although several put up a very gallant fight. Women voted in surprisingly large numbers, and thanks, no doubt, to this fact, all the men who have proved themselves champions of the women's cause, secured election. The Madras Government has done a graceful and popular thing by nominating a woman to the Madras Legislative Council. Srimati Muthulakshmi Ammal, who thus becomes the first Indian woman Councillor, is a busy medical practitioner and has always been a prominent suffragist.

The Féminisme Chrétien de Belgique reports very fully the stimulating lecture on Feminine Honour that the Abbé Viollet gave recently in Brussels on behalf of the Belgian Suffrage Society. The Abbé is one of the staunchest feminists among the French clergy, and his lecture was full of keen observation and wise advice. He referred to the double code of morality as the great scandal of past generations, and declared essential for the curing of the many social and moral evils of our time.

* * * * The Mouvement Féministe (Geneva) publishes a brief sketch, with excellent portraits. of the five English women M.P's. It also reports that Melle Radziwill, whom we had the pleasure of meeting in Paris last June, has been promoted to a higher position in the League of Nations secretariat.

Women officials, we learn, have penetrated even into the Vatican. Signora Ocipioni, who has been appointed a sub-librarian, is a recognised authority on incunabuli and ancient texts.

In the Correspondance Internationale of the B.E.I.F., we are glad to note in some impressions of a recent congress at Bordeaux, that Melle de Valette states emphatically that, however desirable it is that women should give up work on marriage, "the legal interdiction of the work of married women would be worse than the evil." Such a law, she thinks, at least where France and Belgium are concerned, would be a hindrance to women marrying and a temptation to immorality. * * * *

It appears that the China Kuomintang Congress recently adopted resolutions in favour of Equal Rights as between men and women in law, politics, economics and education.

V. M. C.

Equal Franchise.

St. Joan's S.P.A. has issued an excellent leaflet, drawn up by Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell, giving ten reasons for working for Equal Franchise. It is to be had from the Office, 55 Berners Street, W.I., price 2d. per dozen, or 1/- per 100. We ask members and readers to write for copies and to distribute them. We also urge all our readers to write at once to their M.P., asking him to urge the Prime Minister to bring a Government Bill, without delay, giving votes to women at 21 on the same terms as men.

£46 0 10

Whist Drive.

A Whist Drive will be held at the Minerva Café, 144 High Holborn (one minute from the British Museum, and Holborn Tube Stations), on Thursday, February 24th, 7-45—10-30. Tickets 2/6 each, including refreshments, from the Office, 55 Berners Street, London, W.I.

Dinner at the Rendez-Vous.

St. Joan's S.P.A. gave a dinner at the Rendez-Vous on February 1st to welcome Lady Laughton and Mrs. Laughton Mathews, recently returned from Japan, and Dr. Henderson Ruthven and her sister Miss Henderson, visitors from South Africa. Mrs. Mathews, in a charming speech, gave a description of certain aspects of Japanese life, touching on such things as the people's romantic love of flowers, and in a more serious vein on the deplorable position of Japanese women. We are glad to say Mrs. Mathews promises us an article on Japanese women.

Dr. Ruthven dealt with the question of women suffrage in South Africa, the difficulties to be overcome, and the hope of ultimate victory. The chairman, Mrs. Crawford, expressed the pleasure of the Alliance in welcoming home two of our most valued members, Lady Laughton and Mrs. Laughton Mathews, and of having the opportunity of meeting distinguished suffragists from South Africa. Votes of thanks to the speakers were moved and seconded by Miss Fedden and Miss Donovan. We shall remember the evening as a most enjoyable one.

A Dangerous Precedent.

It is reported in the British Press that after the end of this year women are to be excluded in Italy from teaching literature, philosophy, and history in the higher schools attended by boys. We will not attempt to analyse the motives which have led to this strange prohibition. Still less do we wish to criticise the fascist régime, a question which does not come within the province of a non-party paper. We do, however, beg our Italian colleagues, whatever their political views, to do all in their power to resist this attack, and all attacks, upon the liberty of women in any shape or form.

L. de A.

The National Union of Women Teachers.

The N.U.W.T. held its Annual Conference in York last month. The Union is a true feminist body, which is always to be found in the thick of the fight for equality. A demand for equal franchise figured at the first public Session, as a measure of justice long overdue. The Woman Teacher, organ of the Union, gives a full account of the Annual Conference, in the numbers for January 14th and 21st. We have always admired the Union's persistent demand for equal pay and opportunities for women teachers with those enjoyed by their men colleagues; and the fight it has put up against the dismissal of married women teachers. The President, in her address, related how when parties of French women teachers were visiting this country they expressed astonishment at the absence of married women teachers in our schools. When they were told that few Local Authorities allowed married women to be employed, one said, "But why not? What have they done?" It appears that there were several married women amongst that group of French teachers.

The Conference was given a civic welcome by the Lord Mayor of York, who was accompanied by the Chairman of the York Education Committee, the Dean of York Minster, Councillor Mrs. Crichton, and Mrs. Edwin Gray, J.P.

Memorial to the Prime Minister.

The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship sends us the text of a Memorial which has been presented to the Premier signed by 130 members of Parliament, urging him to take the first opportunity to carry out his pledge to give equal voting rights to men and women before the next General Election.

We suggest that, to honour his pledge, Mr. Baldwin must *make* the opportunity immediately.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH. Hon. Secretary: Miss N. S. Parnell, B.A., 45 Falkner Street, Liverpool.

The Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Branch was held on January 3 at 78 Bedford Street, by kind invitation of Mrs. Gordon. The Secretary's report showed that the year had been one of great activity for the Branch, and the Treasurer was able to announce a balance of £14 4s. 7d. (£8 10s. being the proceeds of the Jumble Sale). The elections to the Committee resulted as follows: Chairman—Mrs. Murphy; Vice-Chairman—Mrs. Johnstone; Trea-surer—Miss F. Servis; Paper-Secretary—Miss M. McCurdy; Hon. Secretary—Miss N. S. Parnell; Members of Committee—Miss P. Hall, B.Sc., Miss Crawford, Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. Parnell. After the elections Miss Barry once again stimulated our enthusiasm by giving us a review of the Alliance's interests and activities in 1926, and brought home to all present the need for working for Equal Franchise. A series of resolutions was then passed dealing with equal political rights, equal moral standard, equal pay and opportunities, women police in Liverpool, arti-ficial birth control. Everyone then partook of the refreshments kindly provided by Mrs. Gordon, and the meeting concluded.

We are very much gratified to hear that that staunch friend of our cause, the Rev. T. J. Walshe, has been made a Domestic Prelate by His Holiness Pope Pius XI. We wish the new Monsignor ad multos annos.

Hon. TREASURER'S NOTE.

We are grateful to those who paid their subscriptions last month. It is hoped that others who have not yet done so will be mindful of our request that they may be paid promptly, and if possible increased, in view of the intensive campaign for Equal Suffrage which will be carried on this year.

The profit derived from the Dance on January 5, organised by Miss M. O'Connor, was £8 1s. 2d. The next event will be a Whist Drive on February 24th.

G. JEFFERY. SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS. January 1st to 31st.

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de Alberti, Miss L			1	1	(
de Alberti, Miss T				2	6
Bearman, Miss				5	C
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Bennett, Dr. Victoria					
Russe Miss			1		C
Busse, Miss				2	6
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Butterworth, Miss				10	C
Carroll, Miss				2	6
Catton, Mrs. Levden				17	6
Cockshutt, Miss				2	6
Cole, Miss A. M. F.		•••			-
Crawford Mrs V M				2	6
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Currie, Lady				2	6
Donovan, Misses B. and	K.			10	C
Dorman, Miss A. L. P.				5	0
FitzGerald, Miss Eleanor			2	7	6
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Gadsby, Miss B		2	0
Gorry, Miss		2	6
Gunning Mrc		1	
Hall, Miss Hayes, Mrs		2	
Hayes, Mrs		2	
Hill de Héring, Miss C		2	
Hill, Mrs. Scott		1	
Hutton, Mrs		3	
Hynes, Miss S		2	
Liveing, Mrs		1	
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Martin Miss	•••	2	
Marston, Mrs Marston, Mrs Martyn, Miss Mason, Miss M. F. Merrifield, Miss F. de G Morrison, Mrs. N Murphy. Miss A. M. E.		7	
Mason, Miss M. F.	1	2	
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Morrison, Mrs. N		2	
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Quinian, Miss M		1 0	0
Radclyffe, Miss		2	6
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* Catholic Citizen.

Annual Meeting,

The Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 19th, at 3 p.m., in St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho Sq. Speakers will be Mrs. Smiley, Miss Barclay Carter, Miss Christopher St. John, and Mrs. Laughton Mathews.

After the business meeting is over Mrs. Abbott will speak on restrictive legislation for women.

The business meeting is open to members of the Alliance only, but at 5 p.m. the public may be admitted. Tea may be had for 9d.

LUNACY REFORM

Following the recent Report of the Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Disorder a

PUBLIC MEETING

will be held in the

CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER, on Tuesday, February 22nd, at 8 o'clock.

Speakers: Lt.-Col. Lord Henry Cavendish Bentinck, M.P.; Mr. G, K. Chesterton; Dr. Octavia Lewin; Rt. Hon. Sir Henry Slesser, K.C., M.P.; Mr. Edward G. Smith. Chairman: Mr. R. Möntgomery Parker (Chairman of the National Society for Lunacy Reform.

All are Cordially Invited to Come and show their Interest in this Important and Urgent Ouestion. . . .

For further particulars apply to National Society for Lunacy Reform, 32-33 Avenue Chambers, Southampton Row, W.C.

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The Monthly Organ of
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National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship
15 DEAN'S YARD, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.

A MASS MEETING on EQUAL FRANCHISE AND WHY IT IS NEEDED

will be held in

THE CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER, On Thursday, March 3rd, 1927, at 8 p.m. Speakers:

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH,
MISS MARGARET BONDFIELD, M.P.

Further particulars as to other Speakers, including a prominent Liberal, will be announced later.

Chairman:

MISS ELEANOR RATHBONE, J.P., C.C., M.A.

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St. Joan's Social & Political Alliance.

THE FIFTEENTH

ANNUAL MEETING

(for members only) will held on

SATURDAY, MARCH 19th, 1927, at 3 p.m.

At St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho Square.

SPEAKERS:

Miss Barclay Carter, Lic. ès. L; Mrs. Laughton Mathews, M.B.E.; Miss Christopher St. John; Mrs. Smiley, M.A.

Chairman: MRS. V. M. CRAWFORD.

At 5 p.m. the Meeting will be open to the public for Address by MRS. ABBOTT on
"Restrictive Legislation for Women."

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN. Public Meeting

(Organised by St. Joan's Social & Political Alliance) on

Wednesday, February 23, at 8 p.m. at the FULHAM TOWN HALL, FULHAM RD.,

(opposite Walham Green Station).

To demand an immediate Government measure giving Votes to women at 21, and on the same terms as men.

Speakers: Mr. Victor Duval, Coun. Miss H. A. Packer, Mr. J. Palmer, Miss Gladys Waldron.

Chairman: Miss E. Butler-Bowdon.

5 Million Women Still Voteless. Women of Fulham, come and demand Your Political Rights.

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