

THE VOTE,
MAY 18, 1928.

JOHN STUART MILL ANNIVERSARY.

THE VOTE

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

FRIDAY, MAY 18, 1928

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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THE CHILD ARTIST.

Many men and women have spent a life of toil to achieve the fame which has come to Joan Manning Sanders at the age of 14. Not only has her picture, "The Three Brothers," been accepted by the Royal Academy and "hung on the line," but able critics admit it would be a painting of distinction for an experienced artist.

Miss Joan Manning Sanders is self-taught. She chooses her own subjects and carries out her own ideas without guidance. She finds inspiration for her work in Sennen Cove, the little fishing village at Lands End, where she lives. She often puts the ideas that come to her direct on to canvas. Joan has never been to school; from the days she illustrated history lessons with her governess, her ambition has been to become "a proper artist."

Her first serious work was a series of water-colour pictures for the Church, depicting scenes from the New Testament. Last year, she exhibited at the Newlyn Artists' Society Show, also at Dublin and the Young Artists' Exhibition. The acceptance of a picture by the Royal Academy made her determined to be "on the line" next time. Her success is the crowning triumph of her first year of real hard work. A picture, called "Gracie," has been accepted by the New England Show. Our very best wishes for success to splendid youth talent!



WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

A Prize Essayist.

Miss Doris Stephens, aged 21, has beaten over 10,000 men and women of all ages in securing the prize for an essay, entitled "Why are We Alive?" She previously won the Royal Colonial Institute of Bristol's certificate for an essay on an Empire theme.

Women Ministers on Pilgrim Ship.

Three ordained Congregational women ministers will accompany the Twentieth Century Mayflower Pilgrims to America in June. They are the Rev. Mary Collins, of North Bow Congregational Church, the first woman Congregational minister; the Rev. Edith Pickles, B.A., who succeeded her husband as minister at Stanley Church, Liverpool; and the Rev. Dorothy Wilson, recently appointed assistant minister at Carr's Lane Church, Birmingham.

Woman Officiates at Wedding.

Mrs. Ching, a Wesleyan lay agent, and widow of a Wesleyan minister, recently officiated at a wedding at Grimsby Wesleyan Church. She was assisted by the Rev. A. Stanley Burton.

Woman President of Wesleyan Missionary Society.

The 115th Anniversary Meeting of the Wesleyan Missionary Society was held recently at the Central Hall, Westminster, under the presidency of Miss Elsie Owen, the first woman to preside in the history of this society.

Women Chairmen of Boards of Guardians.

In addition to Miss Busk, who is Chairman of the Amersham Board, the following women have been elected Chairmen of other Boards of Guardians—Mrs. E. Marshall, Bolton; Mrs. M. M. Kenyon, Chairman, and Miss Jane E. Walker Senior Vice-Chairman, Bury (Lancs); Miss Jeffries (re-elected) Ipswich; Mrs. Fix, Northampton; and Mrs. Philip Priestman, Sculcoates.

Woman Vice-Chairman of Byfleet Council.

Mrs. L. R. Stevens, the only woman member of the Byfleet, Surrey, Council, has been elected Vice-Chairman.

Women Police Wanted.

The Canning Town Women's Settlement and the Women's Guild of Empire are agitating for the appointment of women police in the Victoria Dock Road district. Resolutions calling for them have been passed at a number of women's meetings.

Women Police for Watford.

Two women police have been appointed at Watford.

Women Police not Needed in Warwickshire?

In reply to representations from the Sutton Coldfield Women's Citizens' Association, Warwickshire Standing Joint Committee stated that they had carefully considered the points put forward, but they were still of the opinion that the appointment of policewomen in the county was unnecessary.

Women Graduates, Glasgow University.

Principal Sir Donald MacAlister conferred degrees last week on 22 women, one of whom received the degree of Doctor of Medicine with high commendation. Eight were capped Bachelors of Medicine and Bachelors of Surgery, and two received the degree of Bachelor of Law.

Woman Inspector of Schools.

Miss Julia Flynn has been appointed as Assistant Chief Inspector of Secondary Schools in Victoria, Australia. Two other women hold posts in Government service in Australia—Dr. Jean Greig, who is Chief Medical Officer of the Education Department, and Dr. Vera Scantlebury, who is Director of Child Welfare.

Woman Education Officer for Rhodesia.

Miss Mary Waters has been offered a position as Inspector of Native Education in Southern Rhodesia. This is the first appointment of its kind offered to a woman in South Africa. Miss Waters is the author of several books dealing with the native, and she has been studying negro education in America.

A Woman Police Assistant for Berne.

Owing to the pressure of various women's organisations, Mlle. Margrit Ernst, of Bâle, formerly a student at the School of Sociology at Zurich, has been appointed to assist the police.

A Victory for Austrian Women.

Mmes. Franziska Habarth and Ginditta Gentiloma, both belonging to the famous firm of Habarth and Gentiloma, have succeeded, after much difficulty, in gaining access to the Vienna Chamber of Commerce, which, like the Chambers of Commerce in most other countries, had not previously admitted women. It is anticipated that this admission will be followed by admissions in various departments.

Women in the Bolivian Diplomatic Service.

Señorita Elsa Perou Smitt has been appointed Chancellor to the Consulate-General of Bolivia in London. She and Señorita Josefa Saavedra are the first women to receive appointments in the Bolivian Diplomatic Service.

Woman Town Councillor at Riga.

Mrs. Berta Pipin, President of the National Council of Women of Latvia, has again been elected a member of the Town Council of Riga. She is at the head of the Municipal Department for Social Welfare, where her excellent work has gained her much confidence.

A Woman Candidate for the Argentine Presidency

In the Argentine, the Communist Party nominated a woman as their candidate for the Presidency, elections for which took place last month.

Sisters, Attorneys-at-Law.

Lucille M. Jessurun, aged 23, and S. Vivienne Jessurun, aged 21, have opened offices together in Newark, New Jersey, as attorneys. The elder Miss Jessurun is coaching her husband, L. Edward Delaney, for his Bar examinations.

Equal Status for Chinese Women.

At Shanghai, a resolution recently passed at the Chinese Chamber of Commerce Conference encouraged women to join this body, assuring them of equal status.

GRATUITIES FOR WOMEN CLERKS.

Temporary women clerks employed in the Civil Service are to be eligible for a leaving gratuity, if they have completed seven years' service by September, 1928. The Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, who have pressed for this reform for some years, informed a Press representative recently that the gratuity will affect between 2,000 and 3,000 clerks. The gratuity is calculated on the basis of a week's salary for every year of service.

THE VICTORY OF THE PIONEER!

SPECIAL COMMEMORATION FUND.

To-morrow we go to decorate with wreaths for his birthday the statue of John Stuart Mill. All members are urged to rally to Temple Gardens, and to send money towards the League's tribute.

Contributions to our special Commemoration Fund give the best opportunity of honouring this great pioneer by continuing the work of equality for which he fought, and all donations will be most welcome.

E. KNIGHT, Hon. Treasurer.

144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Hyde Park (Prosecutions).

MR. HANNON (U., Moseley) asked the Home Secretary the total number of police officers detailed for duty in Hyde Park daily, and the number of such officers specially employed in relation to the observance of the by-laws and regulations of the park; and if Reports are submitted to the Home Office from time to time on the activities of these officers? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: The average number of police performing duty (including traffic duty) in Hyde Park on each day is 45. They work a tour of eight hours, so are not all on duty at any one time. Their ordinary duty includes the enforcement of the Park regulations, and none of them are specially empowered in relation to those regulations. Reports on their work are submitted to me as required.

MR. HANNON: May I ask whether, apart from these cases that appear in the papers, the conduct of the police in Hyde Park has been above reproach for years past? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: Yes, sir; and I might add that I have no complaint whatever in regard to them, and am satisfied that they carry out very difficult duties with honesty and courtesy.

MR. HANNON asked the Home Secretary the annual cost of police supervision in Hyde Park, and the amount expended upon the special services which relate to observance of by-laws during the hours of darkness; and if he will consider the reduction of these costs by a more efficient lighting system in the Park? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: The total annual cost of all the police employed in Hyde Park, including those engaged on traffic control as well as those patrolling the Park, is approximately £25,000 per annum. My noble Friend the First Commissioner of Works (Viscount Peel) informs me that, apart from the police, there are no special services relating to the enforcement of the Park by-laws. I will consult him as to the adequacy of the present lighting system.

MR. MONTAGU (Lab., Islington, W.): Does the right hon. Gentleman realise that the figure which he has given amounts to over £10 a week for each policeman?

LT.-COM. KENWORTHY (Lab., Central Hull) asked the Home Secretary how many persons have been apprehended by the police for alleged indecency in

Hyde Park during the last 12 months; in how many cases have convictions been obtained; and whether he has come to any conclusion about the need for better lighting after dark? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: During the 12 months ended March 31st, 325 persons were arrested for offences of indecency under the Parks Regulations, of whom 258 were convicted, while 37 others, the charges against whom were found to be proved, were discharged: a total of 295 out of 325 arrested. For prostitution offences, the figures are 242 out of 269. Aiding and abetting prostitution offences, 36 arrests, 36 convictions. Importuning, 2 arrests, 2 convictions. Indecent exposure, 1 arrest, 1 conviction. Rape, 1 arrest, no conviction. Indecent assault on females, 2 arrests, no conviction. Offences of insulting behaviour under the Police Act, 56 arrests, 40 found guilty. For all these various offences taken together, the figures are 616 found guilty, of whom 540 were actually convicted. As regards lights, I would refer to the reply given to a preceding question.

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR (U., Plymouth): Can the right hon. Gentleman tell us how many of the persons charged with indecency were warned before arrest; and does he not think that a warning before arrest, given by a uniformed policeman or policeman, would be more effective, as a way of dealing with this particular subject? LT.-COM. KENWORTHY: Absolutely useless! SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: Of course, it would be exceedingly difficult when a gross offence has been committed, not only against the code of regulations of the Park, but against decency, to say that the man or woman concerned should have been warned, the offence having actually been committed at the time. There are cases which take place in public parks where those who commit the offences are deserving of punishment for what is really an offence against the whole community. As far as the other point is concerned, I propose to refer the general question to the Macmillan Committee on Street Offences.

MR. ERNEST BROWN (Lib., Leith): In how many of the cases were the accused persons legally represented at their trial? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I could not tell that without notice. MR. BROWN: I will put the question down.

JOSEPHINE BUTLER'S CHALLENGE.

Sir Robert Newman, M.P., presided at a Conference on "Josephine Butler's Challenge and the Position To-day," held at the Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, last Saturday afternoon. Mrs. Joyce Pollard, speaking on the subject of "The Traffic in Women and Children," said that this traffic was still far greater than was generally supposed. As preventives against what she described as "human merchandise," Mrs. Pollard suggested that women police should be appointed in every country, and that legislation should be passed raising the age of marriage for girls in this country from 12 to 16. She urged that all who admired the great work of Josephine Butler should do all in their power to put an end to the traffic in women and children by doing their share in stopping the demand and setting up a high and equal moral standard between men and women.

Dr. Louisa Martindale said that all who had read the Report of the League of Nations on this subject could not fail to realise the danger of any form of legalised vice. "Tolerated houses" was no solution to the problem. With regard to the proposed notification and the compulsory treatment of venereal diseases, one difficulty was that it was left to the discretion of the Medical Officer of Health. Other difficulties included the detection of this disease and the varying standards of cure. Dr. Martindale said that there must be wider education of young people as to the results of immorality.

Dame Millicent Fawcett expressed thankfulness that such great progress had been made in regard to stopping the traffic in women and children.

Miss Neilans pointed out that we in this country recognised a class of women as practically outside the ordinary law—the "common prostitute"—and she declared that that must be altered.

WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC.

The Times reports that one of the principal white slave traffickers has been arrested by the police at Lisbon. It was discovered that 20 women and 15 minors were being contracted for Funchal at £1 each.

WOMEN MEDICAL STUDENTS.

At the Meeting of Convocation of the University of London on May 8th, on the motion of Dr. May Kathleen Ruddy, B.S., B.Sc., a member of the Standing Committee, the following resolution was carried *nem. con.*: "That the Senate be asked to take steps to secure that adequate provision is made for the teaching of women students in the Faculty of Medicine."

DR. LEWIN.

We are delighted to say that Dr. Lewin is progressing very satisfactorily. Though still in Colchester Hospital, she hopes to be able to be moved very soon.

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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.

THE PROBLEM OF HOUSING.

MRS. RUNCIMAN'S MAIDEN SPEECH.

We very cordially join in Colonel Fremantle's "very sincere and hearty congratulations on the very delightful, charming and able maiden speech" made by Mrs. Runciman in the House of Commons last Tuesday on the subject of Housing. Mrs. Runciman said that tens of thousands of our fellow-countrymen are still living under conditions which are really intolerable, and she reminded the House of the task of the women, who had to try to make homes under intolerable conditions, that in one of our big industrial towns recently, out of 1,000 confinements which took place, in only 284 cases was a separate room available. In twelve cases, four other persons had to share the same room, and in another case five, while in yet another case even eight persons had no other accommodation. She pointed out that the shortage in houses left by the War had not yet been overtaken, that many well-to-do artisans still had to live under horrible conditions because no other habitation was available, and that very little progress had been made in providing accommodation for the poorly-paid and irregularly employed. She said she was more concerned about what happened to slum dwellers than to slums, that they should be dealt with sympathetically and gradually educated to the appreciation of better surroundings. She acknowledged that money was still dear and that rates were high, but suggested that more might be done by the reconditioning of houses, in the country as well as in London. She thought that local authorities might be stimulated to take further action in requiring landlords to do repairs, and she hoped to see more co-operative building by employers. Could not the great railway companies undertake co-operative schemes of housing for their employees? Was it not possible for the Minister of Health to set up an Advisory Committee or Technical Board, which would give advice to people who were eager to help in providing houses, but did not know exactly how to proceed? Mrs. Runciman said we all realised how many homes are ruined and destroyed by vice and folly. We did not want to add to that number by failing to provide for families who are deprived through no fault of their own of the first essentials of a united and happy life; that is, a decent and respectable home. Cheers were given at the close of this speech. Mrs. Runciman was a scholar of Girton College, Cambridge, and was bracketed with Mr. W. Bateson, first class, in the Historical Tripos. Yet on the evening she made her first speech in the House of Commons, the Cambridge Union Society failed to obtain the necessary two-thirds majority to secure the admission of women for the purpose of speaking at debates. After a discussion on this question lasting over an hour, the voting for women's admission was 136, and against 102. The necessary majority not having been obtained, the motion was declared lost.

MORE WOMEN POLICE WANTED!

Speaking last week at the Annual General Meeting of the North Kensington Conservative and Unionist Association, Sir William Joynson-Hicks, the Home Secretary, is reported by *The Times* to have said in regard to the duty of the police in Hyde Park: "We—and I am speaking as the Minister responsible for the Police Force—are not responsible for the morals of the people of this country. Morality, or the lack of it, is not a crime against the laws of the land, but what we are responsible for, and what it is the duty of the police to see to, is that every man, at any time of the day or evening, can take his wife and children to Hyde Park with the certain assurance that they will see nothing which will offend them, or which ought to offend any man or woman of decency in our country. It is the duty of the police to see, and, so far as they can, to prevent any cases of indecency of any kind which are offensive to the community as a whole." "What I would like," he continued, "is more police. I do not hesitate to say that the Police Force as a whole is undermanned in view of the enormous increase in what may be called scientific crime. . . . I hope the time will come when I shall be able to put before the Treasury a considered scheme for the enlargement of the Police Force of London." We put forward a strong plea for more women police. The more we have considered the Questions and Replies in the House of Commons recently on Hyde Park Prosecutions, the deeper our conviction has become that what is really wanted in Hyde Park is a well-trained body of efficient, uniformed women police with the same powers and status as men police. We feel certain that, with a dozen or twenty such women in Hyde Park, it would be a far safer and more pleasant place for men, women, and children than it is at present, and we should be less likely to hear of notorious Hyde Park Prosecutions. Women police are not only needed in Royal Parks, but in all open spaces, and in the streets of our cities and industrial centres; and the evidence given before the Street Offences Committee has, in our view, overwhelmingly proved the urgent need for the appointment of women police throughout the country.

EQUAL FRANCHISE BILL.

The Government's Equal Franchise Bill had its First Reading in the House of Lords on May 7th, and is down for its Second Reading there on May 22nd. Lord Banbury has given notice of a motion for the rejection of the Equal Franchise Bill, and it is understood that a group of Conservative Peers are planning an attempt to secure the raising of the age from 21 to 25. There are, of course, Die-hards on this question in the House of Lords as well as in the House of Commons, but they are not expected to receive any encouragement from the leaders on either side of the House. As *The Scotsman* points out: "The Commons have always been jealous of interference by the Peers on Franchise questions, and the House of Lords has nothing to gain from putting forward suggestions which, even if a majority could be found for them—an unlikely event—could not be pressed. Indeed, the practice of inserting Amendments not meant to be insisted upon has been one of the elements in diminishing the influence of the House of Lords." In the ordinary course of events, therefore, the Government's Equal Franchise Bill should reach the Statute Book by Whitsuntide, and in that case the Women's Freedom League propose to celebrate the Victory for Equal Franchise at a breakfast at the Hotel Cecil one morning at 9 o'clock after the Royal Assent has been given to the Bill, either just before Parliament rises for the Whitsuntide recess, or immediately after its re-assembly.

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

The approach of a General Election brings again into prominence the question of equal pay for equal work, as between men and women in the Civil Service, and the failure of the present Government to implement the pledges made in regard to this by resolutions of the House of Commons in 1920 and 1921. It will be remembered that the first of these resolutions (May 5th, 1920) endorsed the principle without qualification, while the second added a proviso that, owing to the financial position of the country, the matter should be reviewed within three years.

Attempts in 1924 to obtain this promised review elicited from the then Chancellor of the Exchequer the statement that the matter had been reviewed by the Treasury, and, in view of the enormous expenditure involved, the principle could not be put into practice.

This review appears to have been a purely domestic and internal affair on the part of the Treasury, since no Service or outside organisations or individuals were consulted. Since then, repeated efforts have been made to induce the Government to agree to a full and impartial inquiry by a Select Committee of the House of Commons, representing all parties, but without result. The Government have, moreover, stated that they regard the question as one of high policy, and refuse to allow it to be dealt with by the National Whitley Council for the Civil Service, while Mr. Churchill refuses to receive deputations to discuss the matter, and, in reply to questions in the House, merely refers to the answers previously given. Further progress with the present Government appears therefore to be hopeless, and attention must now be concentrated on securing the support of Parliamentary candidates.

The Civil Service is one of the few remaining professions which does not offer equal pay to both sexes, though even there the principle has been applied in a few special classes. Although in a number of grades the starting pay of men and women is equal, the equality only remains, generally, for a few years, as, in addition to proceeding to a higher maximum, the men often receive larger increments. The differentiation is most marked in the higher grades, where, in some cases, the women's maximum is less than the men's minimum.

Of the ability of women Civil Servants to perform efficiently any duty to which they may be assigned, there can be no question. Tribute has frequently been paid, in official reports, in the House of Commons and in the Press, to the value of the work of the women Factory Inspectors, and there are many other groups of women Civil Servants whose work is equally

meritorious, though not so well known to the general public. At the other end of the scale, the greater efficiency of women on routine work has been admitted in the Anderson Report.

Two stock arguments advanced against the employment of women are their greater rate of wastage (due mainly to compulsory retirement on marriage) and their higher rate of sick leave. On inspection, the first of these arguments proves to be of little weight. In the first place, the high rate of wastage in the Civil Service is almost wholly confined to the lower grades, in which the inequality of pay is much less marked, and, further, the early retirement of these women may be regarded as a financial gain to the Government, since the retiring officer is replaced by a new entrant on a lower salary (e.g., a clerical officer retires after 10 years' service on a basic salary of £135, and is replaced by one on a basic salary of £80). The argument that efficiency suffers by a constant influx of new entrants is not of much value in grades where the work is wholly of a routine character, which are those in which the wastage is greatest.

The sick leave argument is less easy to meet, as the pre-war figures do show a higher rate for women than men, while the Post Office figures for 1924 (for established officers) are as follows: Men (fit), 10.4 days sick leave per annum; men (disabled), 14.9 days; women, 12.7 days. There is little doubt, however, that a good deal of the sick leave of women is due to the strain involved in living on an inadequate income—poor food, with housework and the making and mending of clothes for recreation, and often the care of infirm or invalid relatives for whom outside help is an impossible luxury, results in the frayed nerves, anæmia, and general lowering of vitality to be reflected in the sick leave figures.

A Committee, representing all the Civil Service organisations who include women in their membership, has been set up to work for the application of the principle of equal pay in the Service, and this Committee is pressing for the appointment of a Select Committee of the House of Commons to examine the whole question. Vigorous and well directed spade work is wanted to secure for this the support of as many Parliamentary candidates as possible, and in this we feel sure that readers of THE VOTE will be able and willing to assist. The Hon. Secretary of the Equal Pay Committee referred to above is Miss A. E. Gardner, O.B.E., 13, Arundel Gardens, W.11, who will be glad to give any further particulars to anyone who is interested.

NATIONAL UNION of WOMEN TEACHERS' EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

Four excellent lectures were given in connection with the National Union of Women Teachers' Educational Week-end Conference, at which the chair was taken by the President, Mrs. Elizabeth Tidswell.

The first lecture was given by Professor Winifred Cullis, who urged the necessity for definite health teaching in the schools. She expressed the opinion that the road to health lies through education, and that the maximum good has only resulted from health legislation when it has been supported by education.

The following speaker, Professor J. Emile Marcault, who is Director of the London Section of the Theosophical World University, made a deep impression by his profound lecture on "What do we Educate?" He stressed the point that evolution is individual and not social, and that the social group advances through the work of the geniuses within it. It is not, he said, through the struggle for life, nor through the rebellion of the weak, but through the service of the strong, that we shall build a happy, healthy mankind.

At the afternoon session, Miss de Lissa, the Vice-President of the Nursery School Association, made a forcible plea for the establishment of open-air nursery schools where little children may have the sun,

light, air, and space, which it is impossible for them to get in slums and congested areas, but which are vital for their physical and spiritual development. It is becoming generally recognised that the care of the young child is the work of a specialist, and much trouble in later life may be traced to wrong handling in infancy; but the average harrassed mother has neither the training nor the opportunity for encouraging the free growth and development of all sides of the child.

A vivid description of the life of women in the Middle Ages was given by Dr. Eileen Power, who was of the opinion that, if the test of civilisation is the position of women in the State, the Middle Ages bear the test well. Although woman was not legally a person, she had her full share in private rights and duties. The lady had greater freedom than the lady of the 18th century, and the working woman had an even greater degree of equality because her work was essential to the community. Women were permitted to have holdings, and were responsible for these; they acted as thatchers and sheep-shearers, and followed a great variety of crafts, although their wages were always less than a man's.

The housewife was expected to look after her husband's lands and conduct his business when he was away from home; and the wills and letters of the time bear witness to the great confidence that the men had in their wives. The lady of the house had to supervise all household duties, which included spinning, weaving, dyeing, and so on; and she had also to look after the poultry, dairy, and farm. In addition, she was expected to have a minimum skill in physics and surgery; but there was a great outcry when a woman practised outside her home. In 1322, a lady, aged 30, was prosecuted by the whole medical faculty of Paris because she had set up as a doctor. Her skill was undoubted, for the proof against her consisted of a

long line of people whom she had cured after the men doctors had failed to do so!

Even in those days, men believed that woman's sphere was the home; and Dr. Power very pertinently observed that she did not object to this, so long as she was able to draw the circumference.

Dr. Power said that, in the Middle Ages, women found themselves continually oscillating between the pit and the pedestal; but the evidence shows that actually they were neither on a pedestal nor in subjection. There was a kind of rough and ready equality; and, on the whole, women played an active and dignified part in the activity of their age.

A. M. PIEROTTI.

TEA AND POLITICS-UP-TO-DATE.

WOMEN IN THE MEDICAL SERVICE.

At our Tea and Politics-up-to-date Meeting, held at the Minerva Club on May 9th, Miss Underwood gave an account of the Debate on the Third Reading of the Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Bill. Mr. Snowden moved an Amendment, the purpose of which was to abolish plural voting. He objected that, in the name of equality, this Bill proposed to give two votes to the wife, just as the husband has had two votes hitherto, which would mean that the number of women voters would be considerably increased. Viscountess Astor gave a pithy speech, in which she declared it interested her to hear Members on all sides of the House of Commons declare they have always believed in equality between men and women. Sir John Simon had said, with real truth, that the reason you got this absurdity of a woman voting because her husband had property was that it was based on the fear of what women were going to do. She remarked that no Party has ever been sound on this question of equality, and said that the worst of unsound members of the Conservative Party is that they make so much noise! The Third Reading of the Bill passed unchallenged. This, Miss Underwood acclaimed a victory.

Miss Reeves gave an interesting account of the Conference on Women in the Medical Service, held at Mary Sumner House, on May 8th. The first resolution under discussion was a protest against the exclusion of women medical students from all the London general hospitals except the Royal Free Hospital and the twelve women students received by University College Hospital. Attention was called to the growing demand for women doctors; the part played by women in financing the hospitals; and the deductions made in women's wages towards the upkeep of these institutions.

Dr. Graham Little gave statistics showing the number of beds and the number of students attached to certain hospitals which supported exclusion. He pointed out that there would not be enough men students in the London University to fill these hospitals, hence, students from other Universities would have to be imported.

Mr. Pethick-Lawrence stressed the point that, in the case of medical appointments, sex should not be taken into consideration. The most efficient applicant should be elected to the post regardless of sex. Miss Reeves maintained that, as women hospital patients outnumber

men, women doctors should be in excess of men doctors. Miss Reeves said the fact that hospitals receive grants from Parliament, and are thus to some extent supported by public money, is a point often overlooked.

Dr. Fielding stated that the present opposition is really an economic question. The greater number of men students afterwards become general practitioners, and send patients to specialists, whereas women seldom go into general practice.

Equal opportunity for women with men in hospital services next came under discussion. Local authorities and voluntary bodies responsible for the administration of hospitals, infirmaries, and other medical institutions were called upon to ensure the appointment of women on the Committees responsible for administration. Further, it was urged that men and women should be given equal training facilities; that appointments, both paid and honorary, should be accessible to both; and that marriage should not be used as a pretext for compulsory resignation.

The necessity for the appointment of women on the Visiting Committees of Mental Hospitals was brought forward. It was urged that at least two women should be appointed on all such Committees. Special emphasis was laid on the necessity for women doctors in all Mental Hospitals, and on the importance of such doctors having the opportunity to rise to the highest posts.

Miss Reeves called attention to the unnecessary indignities and inconveniences suffered by inmates of mental institutions owing to the absence of women in administrative positions, and said that, although she could not agree with the remarks made at Leamington recently by the Vicar of Teddington, in the case of mental hospitals, it was essential to have women "to help with the clothes" for the sake of the patients!

The Conference made the recommendation, that benefactors who believe in the principle of equal opportunities between men and women, should concentrate their support on those hospitals which uphold that principle in appointments, management, and training.

In the discussion which followed Miss Reeves' address, the suggestion was made that before subscribing to a hospital, one should write and inquire if women are on the Board of Management.

he be Bishop or Presbyterian, block the entry of women into the ministry," and contends that it is not the laity, but the Church officials, who are opposed to women preachers and teachers.

CAREERS AND TRAINING.

In "Women's Work in Modern England," Miss Vera Brittain reviews practically the whole field of women's industrial, business, and professional activities from handicrafts to aviation. In place of the usual vague generalities characteristic of books which profess to give information on careers, Miss Brittain gives actual facts and figures, names and addresses of training institutions and sources of information, and the range of fees and salaries.

OUR BOOK REVIEW.

Women's Place in the Church: A Reply to the Bishop of Durham. By Eunice G. Murray. Published by the Women's Freedom League. Price 2½d. post free.

This is a reply to Dr. Henley Henson's address to the Durham Diocesan Conference on March 24th last, when he spoke against the admission of women to the ministry of the English Church. Miss Murray makes a spirited attack on the position taken up by the Bishop in regard to this question, and gives a list of causes which Bishops opposed in the 19th century, proving their fallibility of judgment or conscience in matters of social reform. She says: "Let no man, simply through prejudice, convention, or antagonism, whether

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

DARE TO BE FREE. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, May 18th, at 8.15 p.m.

Public Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Chair: Mrs. Marriott. Speaker: Miss Eunice Murray on "Women and the Church," to be followed by discussion.

Saturday, May 19th, at Noon.

John Stuart Mill Celebration. Placing of Floral Tributes by representatives of Women's Organisations on John Stuart Mill's Statue in Temple Gardens.

Wednesday, May 23rd, 4—5.30 p.m.

Tea and Politics-up-to-date. Meeting at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Mrs. Ewen.

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

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Open-air Meeting at Highbury Corner, arranged by the Women's Freedom League. Chair: Mrs. Flowers. Speakers: Mrs. Zangwill, Miss Olive Beamish, and Miss New.

Friday, May 25th, at 9 a.m.

As soon as possible after the Franchise Bill receives the Royal Assent.

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

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

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

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

PROVINCES.

Friday, May 18th, at 7.30 p.m.

Darlington. Josephine Butler Centenary Meeting at the Temperance Institute. Chair: Mrs. Baynes, M.A. Speakers: Mrs. Muriel Matters-Porter, Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., Rev. T. C. Gobat, M.A.

Thursday, May 24th, at 3 p.m.

Bexhill. Branch Meeting, Albany Hotel.

Saturday, May 26th, at 3 p.m.

Portsmouth. Jumble Sale. Unitarian Schoolroom.

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

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

Friday, May 18th, 8.30 p.m. to 12.

British Commonwealth League. Dance at Lyceum Club. Tickets 7/6 each.

Sunday, May 20th, at 7.30 p.m.

John Stuart Mill Dinner at Craig's Court. Tickets 5/-

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

Lecture on Mary Wollstonecraft by Miss Evelyn Sharp, at Essex Hall. Chair: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence. Admission free.

Monday, May 21st.

Speech Club. Debate at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. "The Woman Advertiser." Miss Scott.

Tuesday, May 22nd, at 1 p.m.

Lunch at 17, Buckingham Street, W.C.2. British Commonwealth League. Speaker: Lady MacLaren Brown on "Canada." Tickets 2/-.

Tuesday, May 22nd, at 8 p.m.

Women's International League. Meeting at "Friends' House," Euston Road. Miss Edith Pye will speak on her experiences in China. Miss Emily Balch and Mrs. C. C. Chen (Principal, McTyeire School, Shanghai), will also speak.

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.

BRANCH NOTES.

PORTSMOUTH.

A successful meeting was held on Thursday, May 10th, by kind invitation of Mrs. Brading, at 25, Shaftesbury Road, at 7 p.m. After the usual business was transacted, Mrs. Poole gave an interesting report of the Conference. There was an interval for coffee; then Miss Brown spoke on Politics-up-to-date, giving an excellent résumé of recent events in the political world. On the proposition of Miss Peacock, Mrs. Poole and Miss Brown were thanked for their speeches, and Mrs. Brading for her generous hospitality.

The Jumble Sale has again had to be postponed until Saturday, June 9th, when it will be held at Long's Memorial Hall, at 2.30 p.m. Parcels may be left at 89, Festing Grove, or at the Hall on the morning of the Sale.

(Hon. Sec.) MRS. WHETTON, 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

EDINBURGH.

A Branch Meeting was held at Heriot Hill House, on Tuesday, May 8th, Mrs. Alice Ross, J.P., M.A., in the Chair. Miss Harvey, our delegate to the Conference, gave a résumé of the proceedings. We were all glad to hear of the increase of members of the League, and of the useful work done by the branches. Miss J. H. MANCLARK.

SWANSEA.

A well-attended Branch Meeting was held at 9, Sketty Road, on Monday evening, May 7th, Miss Neal taking the Chair in the absence of Miss Kirkland.

"Should women continue to work for pay after marriage?" was the subject of a paper given by Miss Birchall, who was of the opinion that the best results would be obtained if each individual, including every married woman, were given opportunity for working out his or her own destiny.

After the paper an interesting discussion followed, and the vote of the meeting showed that the majority were in favour of married women being allowed to continue to work for pay.

(Hon. Sec.) MRS. M. OLIVER.

COMMEMORATION OF PIONEERS.

The Women's Freedom League is organising a Commemoration of John Stuart Mill in Temple Gardens, on Saturday, May 19th, on the eve of the 122nd anniversary of his birth. Representatives of women's organisations will meet outside Temple Gardens at 10 minutes to 12, and at noon will form up in procession with floral tributes for his statue, the first to be placed on it being from Dame Millicent Fawcett. We hope our readers will support us in Temple Gardens.

The following evening, Mrs. How Martyn is arranging a John Stuart Mill dinner at Craig's Court, at 7.30 p.m., the speakers being Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, Mrs. Zangwill, and Miss Evelyn Sharp, and the Chairman, Mrs. Mansell-Moullin. Tickets, 5/- each.

On Monday, May 21st, Miss Evelyn Sharp will lecture on Mary Wollstonecraft, at Essex Hall, Strand, at 8 p.m. Admission free.

THE OPEN DOOR COUNCIL.

The Open Door Council, on May 10th, held a well-attended Public Meeting at Caxton Hall. Mrs. Abbott presided, and Miss Boyle, speaking on "Equal Suffrage," urged women "to use their votes to abolish the economic inequalities which at present handicap them in industry and the professions." Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence spoke eloquently on "the mutilation of a woman's life and mind and soul" involved in the denial of her right to self-realisation in both love and work by the decree that she must on marriage relinquish her career; and urged that a further clause was needed in the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, to enable those dismissed on the sole ground of marriage to claim damages. Miss Griffin, of the N.U.W.T., protesting against the proposed attack on Equal Education, warned those who considered a sound education was "not necessary for girls who would probably marry," that it was "very dangerous to advocate a generation of uneducated mothers." Miss Haslett showed the serious handicap which the nightwork restrictions imposed on women engineers on electrical plants. Miss Macmillan spoke on "Weight-lifting," Mrs. Douglas Irvine on "The Lead Paint Act," and Miss Monica Whately moved the resolution condemning those London hospitals which are excluding women students from their Medical Schools.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, May 20th, 1928. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Osbert Sitwell, Esq. 6.30 Dr. W. E. Orchard: "Religion and Life."

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