

THE VOTE.
JULY 30, 1926.

MARGARET BONDFIELD, M.P.

THE VOTE

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

FRIDAY, JULY 30, 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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THE HAPPY WARRIOR.

"Fall in, Fill up the ranks from which I fell.
What I could not, that shall ye do.

* * * * *

Stronger than tyranny is faith."

A Serbian Poet.

Helen Beatrice de Rastricke Hanson was born at Dorking in 1874, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward P. Hanson. A baby photograph shows an exceedingly bright, eager little face surveying the world with the wise eyes and vivid interest of her grown-up years.

She was educated at private schools, and in public examinations gained a science scholarship at Bedford College; but when still very young the Call of the Mission Field had come to her, and she had determined to devote her life to its service, and to make that service wider she decided to adopt medicine as her profession; so, declining the proffered scholarship, she came up to London, and in 1893 entered the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women as a medical student.

She was a very popular student, alike with staff, patients, and fellow-students, her wise and merry wit and sunny smile being a continual joy. She took the London M.B. in 1901, and three years later the London M.D. and B.S., for a time being clinical assistant at Morpeth and Menston County Asylums. Her first idea had been to work in the dark continent of Africa, but later on the millions of our Indian women fellow subjects, deprived of all medical aid because no woman doctor

was available, appealed to her with irresistible force, and at the end of 1905 she went out under the Zanana Bible and Medical Mission, and took charge of the Mission's Lady Kinnaid Memorial Hospital at

Lucknow, and for a short time of its Victoria Hospital, Benares, and Jampur Hospital.

Having attained the desire of her heart, Dr. Hanson found, to her intense disappointment, that the climate of India did not suit her, and after three years of persevering effort to fight off the insomnia from which she suffered, she was reluctantly obliged to return to England, though she always cherished the hope of one day returning to India or China as a voluntary officer.

In 1909 she became a part-time, later a whole-time, Assistant Medical Officer of the London County Council, and in 1911 took the Oxford Diploma of Public Health.

In the autumn of 1914 she obtained leave of absence, and went out as Medical Officer with Mrs. Stobart's Medical Unit to Antwerp, and shared in the bombardment and evacuation, leaving the city through bursting shells on a London omnibus laden with ammunition. She was then transferred with the unit to Cherbourg, and suffered from a very bad poisoned hand, the result of a post-



HELEN HANSON, M.D., B.S. LOND., D.P.H. OXFORD.

mortem examination. On recovering, in 1915, she went direct to Serbia, via Salonica, and joined the Scottish Women's Hospital Unit until the arrival of Mrs. Stobart's Unit. Here she was one of the heroic band of English and Scottish women who fought and vanquished the typhus epidemic, some hundred of them dying themselves. Then, in answer to an imperative summons home by the L.C.C., just before the Servian retreat, she returned via Bulgaria, then on the eve of joining Germany, Roumania, Russia, Sweden and Norway.

In 1916 the War Office called for medical women to go to Malta to treat our wounded, and she joined the R.A.M.C. as a Temporary Medical Officer, working at Malta and Salonica, and after 1918 at the Constantinople Officers' Hospital, and, returning in the spring of 1920 by way of Egypt and Palestine, seeing all she possibly could of those wonderful lands, she resumed her post at the L.C.C., bringing to the routine work of school inspection all her energy and originality, always trying to prevent ill-health in the children and to give the rising generation a better start in life and greater stamina than their parents.

As a suffragist Dr. Hanson was a great inspiration. A very early member of the Women's Freedom League, she came home from India in the steerage and underwent the miseries of a long third class journey across Europe to save money for the Cause, and risked her professional career by going to prison with the W.S.P.U. in 1911, counting her prison badge one of her most cherished possessions.

Always taking much interest in the work of the Women's Freedom League and THE VOTE, and co-operating with us very willingly in every way, it was to the Church League for Women's Suffrage that she gave her chief support, being one of its first members in 1908, and at one time its Hon. Secretary. After our partial enfranchisement in 1918, this Society became the League of the Church Militant, with St. Margaret as its patron saint, and Dr. Hanson for many years past has been its Hon. Treasurer, her devotion, courage, organising power, and many gifts being invaluable in all struggles and difficulties.

To Dr. Hanson, in the midst of her busy life, death came swiftly by a street accident on July 6th. At the Great Suffrage March on July 3rd she had walked, a radiant splendid figure, in her scarlet robes, at the head of her League. At the Suffrage funeral on July 12th was a great and impressive gathering of relatives, friends, medical women, representatives of Suffrage Societies and of the L.C.C., and girls and women who had known her, a witness to the affection which she everywhere inspired.

The service was conducted by Miss Maude Royden, amid the singing of birds and the scent of limes and new-mown hay, in St. Marylebone Cemetery.

On July 20th, St. Margaret's Day, a Requiem Service was held in St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, the Bishop of Kensington and the Rev. Claude Hinscliff officiating, in thanksgiving for the life and work of Helen Hanson.

With the keenest enjoyment of life, she was intensely interested in all around her; quick in thought, speech, and action, always eager for new experiences, brave with an undaunted courage of body, mind, and spirit, it was impossible for her that Right should not triumph. Her optimism carried weaker hearts with her, from her vivid vitality they drew strength; with the tenderest affection for her family, she was loyal to friends and generous to foes, glorying in her profession, happy in the "selfless service" of Justice and Truth, radiating the joy and gladness which brought comrades to her side.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

High School Girls' Enterprise.

The pupils at Brondesbury High School for Girls have raised £100 to help a schoolfellow to take up a Scholarship at Oxford.

Girl Wins Clifford's Inn Prize.

Miss May K. R. Weston, daughter of a solicitor at Kidderminster, was third in the first class honours list of the Law Society's June Examination for admission to the roll of solicitors, and has been awarded the Clifford's Inn prize. Her ambition is to practise as a solicitor.

Women's Successes at Oxford.

Miss Violet I. H. Young, of Somerville, has been awarded a first in the Classical Greats List; and the Hon. Barbara Buckmaster was one of nine women who were awarded seconds. Only two firsts were awarded in the Final Honours School of English, and one of them went to Miss Agnes M. C. Latham, of Somerville College. There were more women than men in the second class and third class honours. Men had the bulk of the fourth class places.

A Busy Public Woman.

Councillor Mrs. Emma Berry, of Leyland, has recently been appointed a County Magistrate. She was the first woman member of the Leyland Urban District Council. She is on the Sub-Committee of the Lancashire Educational Board, and on the Board of the Chorley Joint Isolation Hospital at Heath Charnock. Mrs. Berry is a manager of Leyland St. James's Day Schools, a member of St. James's Parochial Church Council, the President of St. James's Mothers' Union; she is Chairman of the Leyland Women's Conservative Association, and represents Chorley on the Advisory Committee of the Lancashire and Cheshire Conservative Provincial Division. Mrs. Berry is a member of the Chorley Conservative Registration Association, and is on the Committee of the Leyland Junior Conservative Association.

Turning the Tables.

Hasting's Guardians have appointed a woman medical officer in the place of the male doctor, on the grounds that there are more women and children to be attended to than males. The salary begins at £400 a year, increasing to £500, with furnished house and other emoluments worth jointly £250.

Woman Auctioneer.

Yet another woman auctioneer in London is Mrs. Rose Elizabeth Smethers, who for the past nine years has conducted a furniture sale in Wandsworth Road, where she carries on business in partnership with her husband.

WOMAN MOTOR-BOAT CHAMPION.

The Duke of York's international trophy, which was won by Miss B. Carstairs for Great Britain in the recent international races, was presented to her at a dinner and dance held by the Marine Motoring Association at the Waldorf Hotel on July 12. The Duke of York sent her a telegram of congratulations.

The trophy is a gold model of a motor-boat with a winged figure above it; a bronze copy of the trophy becomes the absolute property of the winner.

Miss Carstairs succeeded in retaining the trophy for this country with a boat built and run by herself, and was seriously challenged by competitors from Canada, France, Germany, and America.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP—ANNUAL REPORT.

This Report displays immense political activity on the part of our sister suffrage Society throughout the year 1925-26. In addition to its political work, the National Union has an Information Bureau, an up-to-date Literature Department, an Edward Wright and Cavendish-Bentinck Library, and runs a Summer School. These, together with the work of its Branches throughout the country, are signs of a vigorous and healthy life.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Teachers (Reduction).

MISS LAWRENCE (Lab., East Ham, N.) asked the President of the Board of Education in how many cases during the past six months he has requested local authorities substantially to reduce their staffs of teachers; and whether he will give the names of these authorities? LORD EUSTACE PERCY: Eighty-four authorities in England and Wales were informed that the Board were not satisfied, on the information before them, that the salary expenditure contemplated in the revised forecasts for this year might not be reduced without injury to the efficiency of the education provided. In 22 instances the Board have received explanations or modified proposals which they could accept. The remaining cases are still under discussion. I do not think that any useful purpose would be served by my giving the names of the authorities concerned.

Nursing Homes.

MR. CAMPBELL (U., Camberwell, N.W.) asked the Minister of Health whether the Government proposes to adopt the Report of the Select Committee on Nursing Homes; and whether he is aware of the urgency and action which is needed in this respect to meet the condition of less well off middle-class families? MR. CHAMBERLAIN: There has not yet been time for the Government to consider the Report, and I am accordingly unable to make any statement on the first part of the question. The second part of the question does not appear to arise out of the Report, and I can only say that there are, in any case, no funds at my disposal enabling me to meet what I understand to be the object of my hon. Friend.

Probation Officers.

MR. SHEPHERD (Lab., Darlington) asked the Home Secretary which areas have appointed probation officers under the Probation Rules, 1926; how many of these are full-time, part-time or voluntary respectively; and to what extent voluntary societies have co-operated under the above Rules? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS: The Probation Rules, 1926, only came into force on the 1st July, and I am not yet in a position to make any comprehensive statement as to what is being done under their provisions. I hope to be in possession of full returns relating to the matters covered by the question by the end of the year, and will then, no doubt, be able to furnish the hon. Member with the information he requires. MR. SHEPHERD: Is the right hon. Baronet satisfied with the general principle of these appointments? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: As the House knows, I had the privilege of introducing the Bill last year, and since then the number of appointments has enormously increased, as I believed it would.

Women Factory Inspectors (India).

COL. DAY asked the Under-Secretary of State for India the number of women inspectors employed by the Government of India under the Factory Acts? EARL WINTERTON: Factory inspectors are appointed by local governments. Definite information regarding the number of women inspectors is not available, but will be obtained.

Maintenance Orders.

MR. M. LIVINGSTONE (Lib., Western Isles) asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies the number of cases brought under the Maintenance Orders (Facilities Enforcement) Act, and the proportion of cases in which it has been possible to enforce payment of the order? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I have been asked to reply. There were only a few cases before 1923, and since 1923 certain figures have been published in the Criminal Statistics. During the years 1923, 1924, and 1925, 398 orders have been forwarded overseas and 73 received from overseas. I have no information of the extent to which the orders are being complied with.

Employment Exchange (Leicester).

MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE (Lab., Leicester, W.) asked the Minister of Labour whether his attention has been directed to the congested state of the women's Employment Exchange at Albion Street, Leicester, involving frequent and considerable overtime for the staff; whether he is aware that this condition has continued for several months; and whether, in the interests both of the applicants and of the health of the staff, he can see his way to terminate as soon as possible this state of affairs? MAJOR HENNESSY (Lord of the Treasury): I have been asked to reply. The Minister is causing inquiry to be made into the position of the Leicester Exchange and will communicate the result to the hon. Member.

House of Lords.

LT.-COM. KENWORTHY (Lib., Central Hull) asked the Prime Minister whether he is in a position to make any statement as to the Government's intentions with regard to the proposed reform of the House of Lords; and whether he proposes to deal with this matter during the lifetime of the present Parliament? THE PRIME MINISTER: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative, and to the last part in the affirmative. LT.-COM. KENWORTHY: Is it intended to introduce this proposed measure in the Autumn Session this year? THE PRIME MINISTER: The words used were "in the lifetime of the present Parliament."

Australian and New Zealand Apples (Prices).

MR. RAMSDEN (U., Bradford, N.) asked the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that Australian and New Zealand apples are selling wholesale at a price of from 6s. to 9s. per case of from 38 to 40 pounds net, a price which, according to the Fruit Report of the Imperial Economic Committee represents a serious loss to the producer, and yet the retail price is about 6d. per pound; and whether he will take any action to prevent retail profiteering? SIR PHILIP CUNLIFFE-LISTER: The Report of the Imperial Economic Committee, to which my hon. Friend alludes, states that it is difficult to make any reasonably accurate estimate of the profit of the fresh fruit retailer in the United Kingdom. I am asking the Food Council to report on this matter when their pending work makes this possible.

WOMEN AND THE WESLEYAN MINISTRY.

On the 20th July, the Wesleyan Methodist Conference at York recommended, by 187 votes to 173, that women should be admitted to the Ministry, with the proviso that they resign on marriage. Six days later, however, the Wesleyan Pastoral Conference at York referred back this recommendation by 204 votes to 149. The following resolution was then carried by a large majority: "That in view of the wide divergence of opinion in the Representative Session, and having regard to the declaration of the Pastoral Session that the serious practical obstacles to the admission of women to our itinerant ministry interposed both by our organisation and tradition do not admit immediately of any complete solution, this Pastoral Session is unable to accept the proposals of the Committee." The President then pointed out that as this resolution was in conflict with that passed by the Representative Session the previous week, the whole matter now falls to the ground, unless it is raised again in another form on some future occasion. It is difficult to understand the attitude taken up by the Pastoral Conference. Women already act as voluntary lay preachers, and their names appear with those of men on the divisional plans. We think it a pity that there is no women's organisation within the Wesleyan body on the lines of the League of the Church Militant.

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FRIDAY, JULY 30th, 1926.

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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.

NURSING HOMES.

The Report of the Select Committee on Nursing Homes, recently published by H.M. Stationery Office, and which can be obtained from Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, for the modest sum of 4d., is well worth women's careful attention. The Committee, which held 14 meetings and examined 36 witnesses, including representatives from the Ministry of Health, the College of Nursing, the British Medical Association, the Society of Medical Officers of Health, the Royal British Nurses' Association, and the Association of Municipal Corporations, considered the following questions: (i.) Whether the general conditions under which nursing homes are conducted render it advisable or necessary, in the public interest, that these institutions should be liable, in some degree, to the supervision of a public body; and (ii.) If the need for some form of supervision be shown to exist, then to what degree and in what manner should this be provided in order to be most effectively exercised. Although it is stated that no considerable number of complaints as to the conduct of nursing homes, apart from those homes devoted to maternity cases, have reached the Ministry of Health and the British Medical Association, the Committee have had abundant evidence of the existence of homes which cater for patients requiring the most varied treatment, and which may even combine the taking in of patients with the letting of rooms to lodgers. The type of building occupied may range from a specially built, properly equipped private hospital to a totally inadequate, frequently insanitary dwelling house. The person, or body of persons, in virtual control of the establishment may be a committee, a medical practitioner, a qualified nurse, or a totally unqualified individual, carrying on the home as a main or subsidiary business proposition. The complaints received by the Committee are dealt with under four main headings:—(1) *Structural*.—Many homes which cater for surgical cases are without any form of operating theatre, and, consequently, operations have to be carried on in the patient's bedroom, with all the attendant difficulties in regard to lighting, heating, ventilation, and adequate disinfection. The kitchen arrangements are inconvenient, and in a certain class of home frequently insanitary and without any proper provision for the storage of food. The lavatory accommodation is often insufficient and insanitary; (2) *Accommodation*.—In a certain class of smaller and cheaper home there is insufficient and insanitary accommodation, both for patients and nurses. The rooms are overcrowded, and frequently in a dirty condition. There are no proper arrangements for the removal of soiled linen, refuse and excreta. The nursing staff have not a sufficient number of beds, and night nurses may have to sleep, not only in the beds, but, owing to the inadequate supply of linen, even in the sheets just vacated by the day nurses; (3) *Staff*.—Matrons are often completely unqualified: there are frequently no qualified nurses, and the nursing is carried on by housemaids. Several cases have been reported where it is alleged that the matron or person in charge is frequently drunk; (4) *Neglect of Patients*.—Owing to insufficiency or lack of qualification in the staff, patients, particularly of the senile chronic type, are left entirely to ad-

minister to their own wants. They frequently develop bed-sores; they are rarely washed; the bed linen is changed at very infrequent intervals, even when soiled; the rooms are verminous; and the food scanty and often quite unsuitable. Elderly and senile patients, practically put away in a cheap home by relations who take little or no further interest in them, suffer great indignities, are very unhappy, and too frightened to make any complaint. In one case no proper provision was made for the removal of a patient who had died from the room in which other patients were still accommodated.

On the evidence given above, and on other evidence noted in this Report, the Committee make a number of recommendations, among which are the following: (1) That legislation to give effect to a scheme of registration and inspection of nursing homes should be introduced at an early date; (2) That the supervising authorities should be county councils and county boroughs; (3) That supervising authorities may well be empowered to delegate their powers to a committee upon which both doctors and nurses shall have some representation; (4) That the duties of inspection shall be carried out by medical officers of health, with the assistance of other technical officers; (5) That inspection shall be limited to the general suitability and organisation of the home, and shall not embrace any inquiry into the medical records or private affairs of the patients; (6) That the definition of the term "Nursing Home" shall be made wide enough to include all types of nursing homes, including maternity homes; but that certain publicly controlled institutions shall be expressly excluded from the scheme; (7) That appeals against the refusal or cancellation of registration may be made to a referee appointed by the Minister of Health.

PENSIONS FOR NURSES.

Some months ago, many letters appeared in our general Press deprecating the scarcity of nurses and the fact that young women were not attracted to the nursing profession. It was stated that the modern young woman preferred occupations which were less disciplined, gave her more free time, and more independent intercourse with the rest of the world; and it was deplored in some quarters that it was no longer her ambition to prove herself a ministering angel in time of sickness. As usual, a good deal of nonsense was written about women's special mission; but the discussion revealed that there were two chief obstacles to women taking up nursing—the long hours of work in hospitals and the poor pay received by nurses, which did not allow the great majority of them to make any provision for old age. It is, therefore, encouraging to learn that definite steps have now been taken by 69 hospitals in London to start a general contributory system of pensions for hospital officers and nurses. According to *The Times*, this scheme is on the lines of the draft which was published by King Edward's Hospital Fund for London last November, in co-operation with the British Hospitals Association, the Hospital Officers' Association, and the College of Nursing, all of which represent the whole country. A provisional Council has been formed, and a provisional Executive Committee has been elected to work out the details and report to the next meeting of the Council. All hospitals are invited to submit any points of detail, any information or decisions for the consideration of the provisional Executive Committee; and any hospital that decides to join the scheme is invited to send a representative to the next meeting, and this representative will then become a member of the provisional Council. We are glad to note that the scheme will include nurses in all branches of the profession as well as those in hospital service. A pensions scheme will do a great deal towards relieving the anxiety of nurses whose salaries are so meagre; but we hope it will not preclude the consideration of higher pay and shorter hours for members of the nursing profession.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

The National Council of Women of Great Britain (often called "The Women's Parliament") will hold its Thirty-first Annual Meeting and Conference in the Church House, Westminster, on 19th, 20th, and 21st October, instead of, as usual, in one of the big provincial towns. This will give a unique opportunity to those living in and around London to be present, and the Council anticipates a record attendance.

This Council exists to promote the welfare of the community, and there is no matter of interest to women citizens which is outside its scope—health, housing, child welfare, industrial questions, Parliamentary Bills, all forms of public service, including especially the work of women magistrates; peace, temperance, education, emigration, women's sports and recreation—are all dealt with, and action is taken by approaching Government Departments or Local Authorities when found desirable. It includes members of all political parties and of very varying religious denominations.

A most interesting programme is being arranged. At the morning business sessions, presided over by the Hon. Mrs. Franklin, President of the Council, resolutions on matters of current interest which have been sent in by its Branches and affiliated Societies will be discussed, while in the afternoons addresses on "Women under English Law" and "The Work of Married Women" will be given. Lady Frances Balfour will speak on the burning question of temperance legislation, and a discussion on the prevention of maternal mortality will be opened by a leading doctor. The need of young people for healthy recreation will not be forgotten, for Mrs. Elliott-Lynn, the woman aviator, has promised to speak on "The People's Games"; the Council's work on International lines will also be discussed. Lady Emmott and Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon will preside at the afternoon sessions. At a special meeting for girls about to leave school or college, to be held on the Wednesday afternoon, Miss Picton-Turbervill, O.B.E., and Miss Bewley, of the Girl Guides Association, will be the principal speakers. The Countess of Selborne will preside at one of the evening sessions, and at the last meeting the President will be in the Chair, while Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland will be the principal speaker. On the afternoon of 20th October the delegates will attend a special service in Westminster Abbey.

The leading Women's Clubs in London are vying with one another in their desire to entertain the delegates, and various excursions to places of interest in and around London are being arranged for Friday, 22nd October.

LONDON HOUSING PROBLEM.

The Chairman of the Housing Committee of the London County Council stated last Tuesday, at a meeting of the Council, that in 1919 the shortage of houses in Greater London was 50,000. To this must be added the normal requirements for the increasing population, which were 17,000 a year! In 1925, for the first time since the war, the normal requirements had been exceeded, 23,547 houses having been built and 693 demolished, leaving a net increase of 22,853, or nearly 6,000 in excess of current requirements. This does not, however, go far to replenish the original shortage, or the shortage which has accumulated since 1919 owing to the added normal requirements. The Council has decided to proceed with the development of the Castlenau estate at Barnes, where 700 houses are to be erected. Another 300 houses are to be built on the White Hart Estate, Tottenham.

BOOK REVIEW.

Agnes E. Slack. By Aelfrida Tillyard. (Heffer.) 7s. 6d. and 3s. 6d. (Can be obtained from this Office.)

On one occasion, in 1883, the late Canon Horsley was addressing a meeting on the great and difficult temperance question. "He made a deep impression," says one of his hearers, "when he described to us the terrible lengths to which men and women will go to get drink. He told us of a mother whose sick child had had a silver tube placed in her throat in order to enable her to breathe. This tube the mother actually took out of the child's throat and sold to obtain drink. The child died." The narrative continues: "Crowds took the Blue Ribbon that night. Agnes Slack was among them."

This incident affords a partial explanation of the vigorous and versatile life Miss Agnes E. Slack has lived, as told by her friend Aelfrida Tillyard. She was a born reformer, and this incident, happening quite early in her life, definitely led her into the temperance crusade.

By no means a woman narrow minded, Miss Slack has taken the greatest interest in every phase of the woman's struggle. Even her temperance work has been definitely moulded by this idea. She has worked for the Liberals on countless occasions, being drawn into the fray through her brother, the late Sir John Bamford Slack. Undoubtedly she is a gifted speaker, a woman of abounding energy and great enthusiasm. For years she was Secretary to the Midland Union of Women's Liberal Associations, and frequently journeyed to London for meetings of the Executive Committee. Besides this, she is a powerful and acceptable preacher, and is the only woman to have occupied the pulpit in Wesley's Chapel in City Road.

Her visits to America, Africa, India, and other countries have been unceasing and highly successful. Her friendships have been numbered by the thousand, extending to all ranks of society, from the ex-Kaiser to the veriest dregs of the gutter, and with one and all she has found common ground by reason of her extraordinary gifts of sympathy and tact.

Some of the testimonials to the value of temperance given in this book are most remarkable. Judge Hess, of Grand Rapids, told Miss Slack, "Many old-timers had never a dollar in hand; to-day they have bank accounts, they pay their bills." Mr. Ranch, of the Public Library of Grand Rapids, said, "In the year following Prohibition, 170,000 more books were taken out, and 650,000 additional readers frequented the reading-room." Such facts as these are significant.

We may close this notice with an appreciation by Mrs. Oberholzer, perhaps the greatest authority on thrift in the United States: "Charming, forcible, spirited, Miss Slack seems to be quite one of us, a strength and a tower in the cause of temperance and prohibition that we trust and admire. I love her!"

D. M. N.

PUBLIC HEALTH POSTS.

From the Medical Women's Federation's *Newsletter* for July we learn that the resolution passed by the Council of the Federation last January was presented to the Council of the British Medical Association by Dr. Christine Murrell and passed by a large majority. The resolution ran as follows:—

"That should any public authority advertise a post open to women at a salary below the minimum of the scale, or below the salary offered to men for the same vacancy, and should women in consequence have refused to apply for or accept such post, no further advertisement for the same post excluding women should be accepted by the *British Medical Journal*."

"That, on promotion from junior to senior posts in the Public Medical Service, every step should be taken to enforce the policy of equality of status and salary for men and women."

CONGRESS OF THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE for PEACE & FREEDOM.

HELD IN DUBLIN, JULY 9-15th.

At the invitation of the Irish Section, the Women's International League has just been holding its Fifth International Congress in the National University, Dublin.

There were 119 delegates present, representing in all 18 different nations. Miss Jane Addams, President of the League, took the chair at all Plenary Sessions. Those who attended cannot fail to have been impressed by the genuine striving towards peace and co-operation manifest on all sides, whether in the private sessions, at the public meetings, or in social hospitality.

The subject of the Congress was "Next Steps towards Peace." This indicates a very wide field to cover. Consequently the real work of the Congress was carried on by three separate Commissions; Plenary Sessions were only held on the first and last two days, and in the evenings. At these Commissions—under the three headings, respectively of (1) Colonial and Economic Imperialism, (2) Relation of Majorities and Minorities, and (3) Arbitration and Disarmament versus Militarism,—the discussions really managed to touch some of the most pressing problems that lie before those who work for lasting peace.

Amongst other proposals raised at Commission I, with regard to Colonial Imperialism, were (A) The revision of the present Mandatory System, and (B) The extension to all Colonies of the standard set up by the League Covenant for Mandatory States.

Regarding the final abolition of Economic Imperialism, one of the questions discussed was the establishment of a European Customs Union, as a first step towards universal Free Trade; another was that of an international control of raw material.

Commission II. emphasises the need for each national section of the W.I.L. to carry on a campaign of Education and propaganda in favour of Arbitration as a principle to which all governments should pledge themselves for the settlement of international disputes.

As steps towards disarmament, it advocated abolition of conscription and of military training both during and under school age, prohibition of poison gases, and the international control of manufacture and traffic in arms.

The Minorities Commission put forward a practical proposal for the appointment, by the Council of the League of Nations, of a "Permanent Minorities Commission," which should investigate all petitions, if forwarded to it in proper form.

National Sections, in countries where Minorities form a compact geographical unit, were recommended to study the possibilities of Federal Government.

A definite scheme was mapped out, whereby sections of the Women's International League might materially help forward the ultimate reconciliation between the Minorities and their Governments in their own countries.

On Monday evening, July 12th, a public Mass Meeting was held. The subject, the same as that of the Congress as a whole, drew a crowded attendance. The speakers, who included Jane Addams, Marcelle Capy, and Mrs. Swanwick, were received with enthusiasm and listened to throughout with marked interest.

An account of the Congress would be most incomplete without a word in appreciation of the generous welcome proffered on every hand by the Irish. All arrangements for the Congress itself seemed to run as smoothly as though by clockwork, an illusion which we all know is only created by tireless human forethought and labour. Social entertainment was contributed by many different Women's Organisations and by the League of Nations Union. In the form of receptions, excursions and sightseeing tours, a most enjoyable relaxation was afforded from the strenuous work of the Congress. All delegates were invited by His Excellency the Governor-General of Ireland to a garden-party at the Viceregal Lodge. Finally the Congress had the opportunity, on the last evening, of attending an Irish Ceilidh.

THE CLYDE COAST CAMPAIGN.

Organiser and Speaker: MISS LILIAN LENTON, St. Kilda, Mount Stuart Road, Rothesay, Bute.

(Assisted by MISS MARY McNULTY.)

Despite bad weather—no day being quite free from rain—we have held six open-air meetings during the past week at Rothesay, Largs, Dunoon, and Millport. Perhaps the largest was the one held on the pier-head last Saturday evening, which lasted over two hours—in fact, until nearly half-past ten, when we closed because of the arrival of gentlemen who had obviously left the public-houses simply because they could remain there no longer. It's at question time that the excitement begins. Strange, the questions one is asked! There was another young man last night who held—and expressed—views similar to some we have heard before at open-air meetings: that women should not be allowed to work for pay so long as there are men unemployed. On being asked if they were to commit suicide, he replied that they should all get married. How could they, *even if they wished?* Certain statistical difficulties would surely arise!

We are a *non-Party organisation*. It says so on all THE VOTES, and on all our literature, and we never have a meeting without emphasizing the fact; but it is almost impossible to make people believe it. In many parts of the country, because of some of our social aspirations, we are accused of being a labour organisation; but here on the Clyde the tables are turned, and they say we are Conservatives. Even the fact that Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence is our President fails to convince some of Scotland's Socialists that we are other than a society supported by "Tory gold" for the purpose of insidiously carrying on propaganda against the workers. However, it must not be thought that our crowds consist wholly, or even principally, of such "doubting Thomases." The great majority are with us. It is most encouraging to note the frequent nods of approval whilst one is speaking, and, further, to see with what readiness donations are handed up with which to pay for the hire of the wagonette.

We shall be here another fortnight after this VOTE appears, holding meetings nightly on the pier-head at Rothesay, and almost daily at the other principal coast towns—Dunoon, Largs, Millport, and Helensburgh. When not speaking, weather permitting, we sell our literature and weekly paper. We shall be very grateful for any help members or friends in the neighbourhood are kind enough to give us.

MISS BONDFIELD'S VICTORY.

Our heartiest congratulations to Miss Bondfield, who headed the poll at the Wallsend by-election last week. The vacancy was caused by the resignation of Sir Patrick Hastings, Attorney-General in the Labour Government in 1924. Miss Bondfield not only retained the seat, but she secured a largely increased majority, receiving 18,866 votes while her Conservative and Liberal opponents obtained 9,639 and 4,000 votes respectively. The total electorate at Wallsend is 35,598, including 15,374 women, and more than 80 per cent. of this electorate voted. The result shows that there is no prejudice against a woman representing the electors in this big industrial centre. The First Woman Member of a British Government is now in opposition, but whatever her position, we can rely upon Miss Bondfield to prove herself a very effective member of the House of Commons, which now has six Women Members—three Conservatives, and three belonging to the Labour Party.

Every one who was at the Congress will return to her native land with the realisation that the hospitality of Ireland can never be over-estimated.

A. I. COIT.

Women's Freedom League.

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

Telephone:—MUSEUM 1429.

Telegrams:—"DISPARD, MUSEUM 1429, LONDON."

Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.

President—Mrs. PETHICK-LAWRENCE.

Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT.

Hon. Organising Secretary—Mrs. WHETTON.

General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

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

National Executive Committee Meeting.

Tuesday and Wednesday, November 23rd and 24th, 3 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

Green, White and Gold Fair, at Caxton Hall.

SCOTLAND.

July—August.

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

OTHER SOCIETIES.

September 3rd—6th.

Fourth Annual Conference of Women Engineers at Leeds University.

Thursday, September 30th.

British Commonwealth League Conference.

MRS. "MA" FERGUSON DEFEATED.

Last Saturday, Mrs. "Ma" Ferguson was overwhelmingly defeated in the contest for the Democratic nomination for Governor of Texas by the Attorney-General, Mr. Moody, and on Monday announced that she would resign office in the autumn in accordance with an agreement with Mr. Moody. As the latter did not secure an absolute majority over all his four opponents, under Texas law a new election would have been necessary if Mrs. Ferguson had not thrown up the contest.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

On July 19th, 1926, the total number of persons recorded on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain was 1,631,300. This total is exclusive of persons who ceased work in the coalmining industry on account of the dispute, and consists of 1,210,100 men, 332,700 women, 43,100 boys, and 45,400 girls. It will be noted that there are now more girls than boys unemployed. Again we would urge the Government to deal seriously with the problem of workless women and workless girls, and in any schemes devised to provide training and work for unemployed men and boys, to include workless women and girls in those schemes.

REPORT OF LUNACY COMMITTEE.

As we go to press we learn that the Report of the Royal Commission on Lunacy, which was appointed under the Chairmanship of Mr. H. P. Macmillan, K.C., on July 25th, 1924, has just been issued. We hope to deal with this Report in the columns of THE VOTE next week.

HOLIDAYS.

The offices of the Women's Freedom League and of the Minerva Publishing Company will be closed from 5.30 p.m., Friday, July 30th, until 9.30 a.m., Tuesday, August 3rd.

LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

We have a new stock of Green, White and Gold Badges, with W.F.L. and Votes for Women on them, price 3d. each. Members who have lost or mislaid their Badges should at once secure others.

The following Women's Freedom League literature is for sale:—

What We Have and What We Want. By Muriel Pierotti... 3d.
British Women M.P.s. By Mrs. Northcroft 4d.
Women in the Ministry. By Eunice G. Murray 1d.
The Pilgrim Mothers. By Eunice G. Murray 2d.

PLEASE SEND US AN ORDER.

The following, published by the National Council for the Abolition of the Death Penalty, are on sale at this Office:—

Do You Consent? by E. Roy Calvert, 1d.; Eight Reasons why Capital Punishment should be Abolished, 1d. each, or 2s. per 100; America and Capital Punishment, 1d.; Ten Different Notes on the Punishment of Death, 1d. each, or 2s. per 100.

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS.

This Committee (to which the Women's Freedom League is affiliated) has just issued its Fifth Annual Report, 1925-26. During the year it has held eight meetings and discussed a great variety of subjects which included the following: National Health Insurance, Equal Moral Standard, Dismissal of Married Women from Employment, Export of Horses for Butchery, Women Police, Equal Franchise, Lunacy Administration, Establishment of Temporary Women in the Civil Service, Administration of the Widows' and Old Age Pensions Scheme, Legitimation of Children, the Report of the Departmental Committee on Sexual Offences against Young Persons, Women Delegates to the League of Nations, the Age of Marriage, Women Magistrates, the Need for Equality of Opportunity for Women with Men in Schemes of Migration within the Empire, Permission to give at Welfare Centres Information on Birth Control, the Report of the Royal Commission on the Coal Industry and Local Option in the Drink Trade. Several Bills before Parliament were considered, and the following supported by groups of the constituent organisations of the Committee: Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Bill, 1925; Adoption of Children Bill, 1926; Juvenile Courts (Scotland) Bill, 1926; Parliament (Qualification of Peeresses) Bill, 1926. Consideration was also given to proposals for a Conference of Women to consider matters in connection with the October Meeting of the Imperial Conference.

On December 17th, an address was given on "Homecroft Holdings," by Mrs. Atherton Smith, who had worked for four years with the Friends' Council for International Service in Vienna. She gave a most interesting account of the scheme adopted there, under which about 20,000 people (5,000 families) had been moved just outside the city, the houses being built by the people themselves and each having a small plot of land sufficient for the production of 30 per cent. of the settlers' foodstuffs; and on February 25th, Mrs. Unwin, of the Women's International League, gave a report on the preliminary organisation of the Peace Pilgrimage, the Societies co-operating, the routes arranged, etc.; and before the ordinary business at the Annual Meeting, on July 7th, Mr. S. W. Harris, of the Home Office, gave an address on the League of Nations Advisory Committee on the Traffic in Women and the Protection of Children.

The Housing Sub-Committee inspected a number of the subsidised houses with a view to drawing attention to the defects of the interior arrangements from the housewife's standpoint. After considerable investigation, an article embodying the results was issued to publications especially interested in Housing, and the following amongst others made comment:—"the Daily Telegraph," the "Yorkshire Herald," the "South Wales Argus," the "British Builder" expressing approval of the criticism. Another subject of inquiry undertaken by the Housing Sub-Committee this year was the hardship attaching to the carrying-out of Slum Clearance schemes. The Sub-Committee co-opted for this inquiry Miss Jeffery, a house property manager of a Crown Lands Estate in London, and presented a Report in April, making various recommendations for mitigating the distress incidental to these clearances. These proposals were to the effect that before any clearance was undertaken a thorough investigation should be carried out to ascertain what families could be moved with least hardship, that Local Authorities should be empowered to rent suitable houses for temporary accommodation, and that more attention and a larger allocation of funds should be given to management of municipal property.

ARE HOME MAKERS "EMPLOYED?"

The following is taken from *The Woman Citizen* (Washington, D.C.) for July:—

"When the millions of American home-women next answer the United States Census man's questions, will he write down on each return after 'Employment' the word 'None'? Not if the General Federation of Women's Clubs knows it. They hold that the assorted business of cooking, sewing, house-cleaning, mending, washing, baby-bearing and child training, buying, budgeting, and ministering to the wants, spiritual and mental as well as physical, of the family groups calls for some recognition. They think their Government ought to consider this home-making business important and dignified enough to warrant the use of a positive word. So they have told Secretary Hoover about it, gained—it appears—his interest, and started a campaign to get local clubs to ask for a suitable label. 'America's Great Unemployed' (a pamphlet by Mrs. Maggie W. Barry, College Station, Texas) is a call for co-operation. Women still labour under the inferiority complex, and home-women perhaps most of all. This one thing, small though it is, would tend to make them rate themselves higher and stress the supreme value of their work."

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MISCELLANEOUS.

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