

THE VOTE.  
DEC. 3, 1926.

WOMAN - BAITING.

# THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXVII. No. 894.

(Registered at  
the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 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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## A WORLD-RENOWNED FEMINIST.

CHARLOTTE PERKINS GILMAN.

It's now some fifteen years since Mrs. Charlotte Perkins Gilman, the famous American Feminist, first launched upon society in her own country a book which created almost as great a furore in the New World, as John Stuart Mill's "Subjection of Women" had roused in the Old World some few years previously. Her

book, "The Man-made World," was dedicated "with reverent love and gratitude to Lester F. Ward, sociologist and humanitarian, one of the world's great men; a creative thinker, to whose wide knowledge and power of vision we are indebted for a new grasp of the nature and processes of society, and to whom all women are especially bound in honour and gratitude for his Gynæocentric Theory of Life, than which nothing so important to humanity has been advanced since the Theory of Evolution, and nothing so important to women has ever been given to the world." This epoch-making volume was followed by several others, most of these being valuable contributions to the Woman's Movement. "Women and Economics," which has been translated into German, Dutch, Italian, Hungarian, Russian and Japanese, is a

clever and forcible presentation of the necessity for a greater extension of industrial employment to women—"a work on economics that has not a dull page," according to the *Boston Transcript*; "Human Work," which followed, placed its author at once in the front rank of students and elucidators of the problem of

social economics. "The Home," a fourth volume, as its title testifies, struck at everything that was conventional and meaningless with regard to the relationships between the sexes. Mrs. Gilman has to her credit, in addition, several bright novels, and stories for girls. One of these, "What Diantha Did," though written

before the war, touched on the present controversy on domestic service and offered a solution of the problem for both mistress and maid in a southern California town.

Alice Park, our member and frequent contributor, visited Mrs. Gilman at her home in Norwichtown, Connecticut, after her journey round the world, and, at our Editor's request, begged hard for an interview for *THE VOTE*. This, however, was not granted, but, instead, there arrived at our office the other day the following charming letter, which provides, perhaps, the latest news of this famous Suffragist:—

DEAR EDITOR,—I never give "interviews," but cheerfully send my latest picture—about 64, I think. For news—I'm very busy with my autobiography, almost done. We live now in a particularly beautiful old town, called "The Rose



MRS. CHARLOTTE PERKINS GILMAN.

of New England." There is a good-sized garden, in which my husband and I work in the spring and summer, we two elderly amateurs doing everything except the plowing. The vegetable part is about 9,000 square feet, and keeps us busy. We raise about 30 kinds of vegetables.



Magazine articles I write from time to time, and lecture as wanted, making one lecture each winter to California, to visit my daughter and grandchildren.

My health is good, and enough of early physical culture remains to enable me to do the "travelling rings" in the gymnasium—five and return.

I watch with interest the efforts of women to remove their remaining disabilities, but should be far prouder of them, if, as a clan, they were able to contribute any distinctive wisdom to our present problems.

Yours cordially,

C. P. GILMAN.

#### WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

##### Women Councillors.

Mrs. Carteret Carey, O.B.E., who is the only woman member of the Windsor Town Council, was elected just over 12 months ago. Her husband, Major-General Carteret Carey, C.B.E., Governor of the Military Knights of Windsor, was also elected a member of this Council at a by-election on November 27th last.

Mrs. Lumsden was elected at a by-election at Lyme Regis to fill the vacancy caused by the elevation of another member to the aldermanic bench. She is the second woman to be elected to the Lyme Regis Council.

##### Women Lawyers.

For the first time on record a woman barrister, Miss Joan Clarkson, appeared last week in wig and gown before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. She was briefed in an appeal from New Zealand, which concerned an assessment on Income Tax. Miss Clarkson was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple at the beginning of last year. She is a member of the Midland Circuit, and it is understood that she has been briefed in a similar appeal to be heard by the Judicial Committee this week.

Mlle. Juliette Veiner is the first woman to have the honour of addressing the annual meeting of the French Bar Association.

##### Spanish Women's Rights.

The Madrid Correspondent of *The Times* states that, although the conditions under which the proposed Spanish National Assembly will be convoked have not yet been announced, it is probable that women will be eligible for membership of the Assembly, in conformity with the Marquis de Estella's general policy of granting extension rights to women.

##### Another Woman Member of Parliament?

Miss Hilda Dutch, the youngest member of Westminster Council, is said to be a likely Conservative candidate at the next election. For some years she has been a Poor Law Guardian and a City Councillor in Westminster.

##### Chinese Woman President?

The *Central News* reports that Mrs. Sun Yat Sen, widow of the late Sun Yat Sen, founder of the Chinese Republic, may be the first President of a new Cantonese Government. The appointment is to be made under the provisions of the equal suffrage programme.

##### Woman Electricity Chairman.

The *Daily Mirror* says that Alderman Mrs. S. E. Hammer has been elected Chairman of the Hackney Electricity Committee. She is the first woman to hold such a position, and has done much to foster the use of electricity in the home.

Chief Inspector Champneys, describing details of the work of the W.A.S., appealed for support for the Bureau of free advice and information, opened at the special request of Mr. Clarke Hall, and conducted at headquarters all the year round, and gave instances of many sad and even desperate cases that had been assisted; for the splendid work carried on all night by two W.A.S. constables at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields; and for the Damer Dawson Memorial Home at Hythe for unmarried mothers and their babies.

#### WOMEN POLICE.

Members, friends and associates of the Women's Auxiliary (Police) Service assembled in considerable numbers last Tuesday, at a delightful "At Home," at the Forum Club, given by Commandant Allen and her officers. Tea, music and speeches were the order of the day, and a most enjoyable afternoon resulted.

Superintendent Goldingham sketched the wonderful progress now being made by the Woman's Movement all over the world, and referred to the species of opposition which Englishwomen especially were encountering owing to their having penetrated furthest upon the pathway of development. This opposition arose from two sources: antiquated notions regarding women's work in the world, and a direct animus against all women in public life. These prejudices had recently come to a head in a virulent pamphlet from the pen of Captain Henderson Livesey, M.P., which attacked women and women's organisations in general, and the Police and their Commandant in particular. Such arguments as were advanced therein against women who "unsexed" themselves by choosing public work were easily refuted when we remembered the heroic life work of Elizabeth Fry and Florence Nightingale, and its enduring effect upon posterity. It seemed providential that Police Work first originated in England. It had developed concurrently with the life of the people, and no other police force in the world was founded on such a broad humanitarian basis. British women police, therefore, had a goodly heritage at their back, and a high standard to live up to.

Commandant Allen, who was enthusiastically received, traced the origin of the Force from its pioneer days in 1914, commensurate with the outbreak of war, its indispensable services to the Government in policing Cologne, and its present high standing, not only as an up-to-date school for supplying fully trained policewomen to local authorities at a moment's notice, but as the model which Europe was imitating in the international movement for Women Police. People had sometimes objected that the Force was not itself an "official" body, but its services to the Government during the war and at the present moment were essentially "official," though it received no financial assistance whatever from the State. Reference was also made by Commandant Allen to the work of the W.A.S. during the General Strike in May, when, at almost a moment's notice, her Society placed a trained body of women at the disposal of the Government. Public support was needed, not only for the national, but also the international work of the W.A.S., which had received considerable impetus lately, first at the Paris Congress last June, when a strongly-worded resolution in favour of the promotion of women police in all countries had been passed by the International Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, and secondly at an International Conference in Berlin, later in the year, when the speaker was invited to represent the women police of this country, and, in fact, was the only woman police representative present.

Sergeant King, of Henley Police Court, a trained policewoman of the W.A.S., of ten years' standing, and a fully sworn-in constable, gave most interesting particulars of her work at Henley during and after the war, and related how, when her chief was absent, she was placed in full charge of the police station over all the men, and how she had also done traffic duty in war time, and found it both interesting and dangerous. Sergeant King emphasised the need for training the right kind of woman, who should not be under 25 and have had experience both of life and humanity. Though it was not yet realised, policewomen were most needed in country villages and rural districts.

Dr. Sloan Chesser referred to the investigation into prostitution, which would probably occupy the next ten years, and the important rôle of the policewoman in its prevention in the future. She prophesied a great forward movement amongst the police forces during the next decade.

## IN PARLIAMENT.

##### Parliamentary Franchise.

MR. GEORGE THORNE (Lib., Wolverhampton) asked the Prime Minister if he is now in a position to inform the House when a Speaker's Committee is to be set up to consider the question of electoral reform and equal franchise for men and women? THE PRIME MINISTER: As I have already stated, all questions connected with equal franchise are under consideration by the Government and I am not in a position to make any statement in regard to it. CAPT. WEDGWOOD BENN (Lib., Leith): When will the Prime Minister be able to make a statement? MR. G. THORNE: Is it not the case that the statement to which the right hon. Gentleman refers, specifically related to equal franchise? My question also refers to electoral reform. Is that matter also under the consideration of the Cabinet? THE PRIME MINISTER: The question about equal franchise is the question which I have answered. MR. THORNE: My question refers to electoral reform also. THE PRIME MINISTER: I am sorry that is not included; perhaps my hon. Friend will put that question down. CAPT. BENN: Can the right hon. Gentleman say when we may expect a decision to be announced? THE PRIME MINISTER: No, sir. MISS WILKINSON (Middlesbrough, E.): Is the Prime Minister bearing in mind the very definite pledges given on this matter? THE PRIME MINISTER: I quite sympathise with hon. Members who always take the liveliest interest in other people's pledges. I shall bear that in mind.

##### Income Tax.

COL. DAY (Lab., Central Southwark) asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in view of the fact that a bachelor in receipt of an income of £500 pays £50 10s. in Income Tax, as does a spinster in receipt of a similar income, and that such a couple marrying would be assessed on the joint income to the amount of £31 10s. additional to the first sums, he will consider legislation with a view to removing this additional taxation on married persons? MR. CHURCHILL: The suggestion underlying the hon. Member's question involves the adoption of a course under which a husband and wife would receive individual personal allowances and be taxed at a rate or rates determined by their individual incomes and not, as at present, by their joint income. The Government are unable to adopt a policy involving this result.

##### Food Council.

MR. R. MORRISON (Co-op., Tottenham, N.) asked the President of the Board of Trade whether he proposes to introduce legislation giving further powers to the Food Council? SIR PHILIP CUNLIFFE-LISTER: No, sir.

##### Foundling Hospital Site.

MISS WILKINSON asked the President of the Board of Trade whether he has received applications for the removal of Covent Garden Market to the site of the Foundling Hospital; and whether, in view of the fact that there is no adequate open space in this crowded neighbourhood and that this land has been dedicated to the use of children, he will withhold his consent? SIR KINGSLEY WOOD (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health): I have been asked to reply to this question. My right hon. Friend the Minister of Health has not received any application in this matter, but he observes that notice has now been given for a Private Bill, and the matter will therefore come before Parliament. MISS WILKINSON: Will the hon. Member's Department give full consideration to the fact that this is a very crowded area, and that there are no playgrounds for children within acres of this particular place? SIR K. WOOD: No doubt my right hon. Friend will have regard to that and other relevant facts.

MR. SMITHERS (U., Chislehurst) asked the Minister of Health, in view of his recent communication to the London County Council as to open spaces in London, whether he will consider the advisability of sending a further communication calling special attention to the

Foundling Hospital site? MR. CHAMBERLAIN: I do not propose, as at present advised, to take any action, since the question of the uses of this site will come before Parliament in the Private Bill, of which notice has been given.

##### Factory Inspection (Medical Officer's Resignation).

MR. RHYS DAVIES (Lab., Westhoughton) asked the Home Secretary if he will state the reason why the Chief Medical Officer of the Factories Department of the Home Office has resigned his post? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS: The Senior Medical Inspector of Factories, having reached the pensionable age, applied to be allowed to retire, giving as his reason that he did not wish to be concerned in the administration of the Lead Paint (Protection Against Poisoning) Bill; and I acceded to his application. MR. DAVIES: Is it not a fact that the pensionable age has nothing at all to do with the resignation, and that it concerns mostly the point that he was at Geneva when this Convention was adopted, and he feels now that, having carefully negotiated the Convention, his honour is in question? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I do not know about his honour. He had reached a pensionable age. He did retire because he did not agree with the views which I have taken and the Government have taken with regard to this matter.

##### Farm Work (Child Employment).

MR. MAXTON (Lab., Bridgeton) asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he has given his approval to a by-law of the Kincardineshire Education Authority, permitting children of 10 years of age to be employed in farm work? THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. William Watson): The answer is in the negative. The position is that the Kincardineshire Education Authority applied to my right hon. Friend for sanction to the deletion from their by-laws for the employment of children of the minimum age at present laid down therein for seasonal employment, namely, 12 years. After correspondence with the authority, he intimated that he would, in view of the considerations which they urged, be prepared, with reluctance, to sanction a by-law prescribing a minimum age of 10 years for seasonal employment, subject to review in the event of advertisement of the proposed by-law revealing a serious body of objection to it. The proposed amendment of the by-laws will now require to be advertised with an intimation that objections may be addressed to my right hon. Friend within 30 days by any person affected. MR. MAXTON: Am I to understand that the reply is not in the negative, but in the affirmative, and that the Secretary of State for Scotland is prepared to sanction the employment of children of 10 years of age, provided there is no local objection raised? THE LORD ADVOCATE: I do not think there is any quibble in it. The question is, whether he has given his authority, and the answer is that he has not given his authority. It is conditional on there being no objection to the proposed alteration. MR. MORRISON: With respect to the last words in the answer, which say that objection will only be considered from people whose interests will be affected, will the Lord Advocate say exactly how far that limits the class of persons who may object? THE LORD ADVOCATE: It is clear that any person affected may object.

#### OUR LENDING LIBRARY.

- "What I Remember." By Millicent Garrett Fawcett, J.P. LL.D.
- "Ancilla's Share." An Indictment of Sex Antagonism. Anonymous.
- "The Police Court and its Work." By Henry Turner Waddy.
- "The Poor Man's Court of Justice." By Cecil Chapman.
- "Life's Fitful Fever." By M. W. Nevinson, J.P., LL.A.
- "In Darkest London." By Mrs. Cecil Chesterton.
- "Athletics for Women and Girls." By S. C. Elliott Lynn. May be borrowed from the Literature Department at 6d. per week.



## THE VOTE.

Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.  
Offices: 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10th, 1926.

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

### EDITORIAL.

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

### WOMAN - BAITING.

In certain circles this autumn woman-baiting appears to be more or less a fashionable pastime. Young men at University and other Debating Societies have urged with all their youthful eloquence, "That this House disapproves of Women"; "That the increasing proportion of Women at Universities constitutes a menace"; "That Women's Colleges should be levelled to the ground"; and "That Women have more than come into their own." The speeches and decisions of these young men are, of course, quite harmless, but women should take some warning and be prepared to defend at all costs the positions they have already won, and to equip themselves for fresh contests, because the young men who have recently delivered themselves of these anti-woman sentiments know both consciously and subconsciously that subtle support can be found for these sentiments among a good many older men. Only the other week, following the lead of an ex-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, a statutory limitation was placed on the number of women students at Oxford. Apparently all male students in this country who want to go to Oxford are at liberty to do so, and men students of all other nationalities and from all ends of the earth are to be welcomed at this University. Women students alone are to be restricted in their numbers, because of the fear of Oxford becoming overcrowded! Then a few days ago a London Medical Officer of Health publicly attacked women's rivalry with men in business, advocated a permanent "strike" of all women doing routine work in shops, offices and factories, in order that men's position could be improved and that a greater number of them would be in a position to afford marriage—and apparently secure the services of an unpaid housekeeper! He gave his unasked-for opinion on the limitations of women's temperament, extolled the married state, and assigned to women the empty title of Queens of the Hearth. Apparently this gentleman considered that women should have no control over their own destiny; they were to withdraw themselves from all competition with men so far as paid jobs were concerned; to sit with folded hands on the chance of some man asking them to marry—what they were to do if no man did so is not recorded; and then for the rest of their lives give the whole of their time and thought to looking after one man; to have no legal claim to any proportion of their husband's earnings or income, and to risk being left penniless at their husband's death. Why, we ask, were women endowed with any intelligence and energy at all if they could be brought to acquiesce in such a fate? Another gentleman, not belonging to the medical profession, has been telling members of the Leicester Rotary Club that married women in business to-day are paying a very heavy toll in sickness, and adds: "I cannot help thinking that if we were a wise nation we should not let women work." He should, of course, have added "for money," to explain his meaning. Women must really teach these men to mind their own business and not to interfere in women's affairs, and the best way they can do this is to secure, first of all, equal political rights with men, and their equality with them in every other branch of our national life. When men realise that they have to treat women as equals, they will have to abandon the false position which their self-imposed dictatorship gives them.

### WOMEN POLICE.

We congratulate the Devon Council of Women in securing an influential deputation to the Standing Joint Committee at the Castle of Exeter, to urge the importance of engaging women police. They asked for the appointment of four policewomen, as a first step, and suggested that they might be stationed at Exeter, Barnstaple, Torquay and Tiverton, from which stations they could go into the area around as required, the approximate cost to the county being estimated at £500 a year, or one-twentieth of a penny rate. It was pointed out that policewomen would be of particular value in escorting women prisoners, in investigating sexual cases, in patrolling parks and open spaces, especially in seaside towns, and in inspecting cinema halls in small towns. One of the members of this deputation emphasised the importance of keeping the country roads in a good moral condition. The country roads were quite as important as the streets of cities, and more difficult to deal with. It was very desirable that a mobile force of policewomen, with the powers and status of constables, should be appointed for the county. The women should receive the same training as the men, and such women would increase the efficiency of the police force. Unfortunately, it was known that the Chief Constable was strongly opposed to the appointment of policewomen. He stated that there was a police matron at every police station, and from his point of view she did all that was required so far as women prisoners and young girl or child victims were concerned. The deputation was received quite sympathetically, and some members of the Joint Committee were in favour of this innovation. After considerable discussion, it was resolved that the matter be left to the Finance and Housing Sub-Committee to report. We sincerely hope that the Standing Committee will decide to appoint women police, and we also hope that the number will not for long be limited to four women. The prejudices of Chief Constables ought certainly not to be allowed to stand in the way of this much-needed reform.

### AN INDIAN WOMAN'S CANDIDATURE.

Shrimati Kamala Devi Chattopadhyana, the first Hindu woman candidate for the Legislative Councils in India, who stood for election to the South Kanara Rural seat in the Madras Legislative Council at the recent elections, has been defeated, but she obtained 4,461 votes, as against 4,900, which her opponent secured. Mrs. Cousins, Hon. Secretary to the Women's Indian Association, writes that this is indeed a great victory for the women's cause, considering the short time she had to work up her constituency. The disqualification of sex had been removed only a couple of months before the election nominations were made, and she had only one month to work up her constituency, as contrasted with the five months and several years of public service in which her opponent had been nursing the constituency. Kamala Devi is an exceptionally gifted woman of only twenty-five years of age. She stood independently of any Party, and in a speech made in the open-air to more than 2,000 men and women, declared that although she would certainly, if elected, take a keen interest in all matters which related to women, she would aim also at getting a thorough knowledge of all the general questions which came before the Council. *New India* reports that over 20 women volunteers divided the work of canvassing and personally saw the women voters. They also remained all day at the polling stations, directing the women in recording their votes. At least 80 per cent. of the women voters of the constituency came out to vote. Among her helpers, too, were men of all ages, including some well-known Mohammedans. Kamala Devi is said to have won the hearts and the imagination of all who came in contact with her. We wholeheartedly hope that it will not be long before she is again able to stand as a candidate, and that she will then become a member of the Legislative Council.

## PUBLIC LODGING-HOUSES FOR WOMEN.

The promotion of Public Lodging Houses for Women owes its origin entirely to that poignant account of the homeless woman, which Mrs. Cecil Chesterton incorporated in her book, "In Darkest London" (reviewed in our issue of April 9th, price 5s.). This book recounted her own experiences when, disguised as a "down and out," she spent some weeks discovering by many unpleasant adventures the paucity of women's lodging houses, as compared with men's hostels, in this city. Its simple statements and strong human appeal won instant success; and already the first of the "Cecil Houses" is well on its way towards completion.

The first public meeting was held on October 31st, at the house of Sir Philip Sassoon, in Park Lane, and was attended by some 300 people. Since that date over £2,000 has been received and the premises acquired for the first hostel at 35, Devonshire Street, Theobald's Road, W.C. At a second public meeting at 29, Dover Street, W., last Monday afternoon, presided over by Lady Lawrence, Mrs. Cecil Chesterton again spoke on behalf of her scheme, describing how it was proposed to open the first hostel with 44 beds in the New Year, where, for 1s. per night, a comfortable bed would be provided, a cup of tea, hot bath, accommodation for washing clothes, and a comfortable sitting-room. Provision would also be made to enable the hostel to serve as a channel of communication to obtain employment for workless women. Once acquired, the hostels would become self-supporting. Of the total sleeping accommodation in London licensed by the London County Council, only 9.42 per cent. was available for women. The type of woman for whom such hostels were most needed included, as well as "down and outs," domestic servants up from the country seeking situations, women street pedlars,

country witnesses at the Law Courts, who frequently found themselves obliged to remain in London longer than they had expected, etc. The hostel would be non-sectarian and no questions would be asked. In conclusion, Mrs. Chesterton said they intended to go on creating hostels until the present disparity between men's and women's lodging accommodation had been bridged.

Miss Rose Schuster made a powerful and touching appeal on behalf of the "underworld" and its inhabitants, and described the immense difficulty both sexes, but women more especially, experienced in returning to normal life once they had made a false step and sunk to the lower strata. These "Cecil Houses," she said, would form a link between that terrible whirlpool which sucked in the fallen and desperate, and the world of decent living, which many now find it impossible to regain for want of a kind word and disinterested assistance.

Mr. D. G. Somerville (Hon. Financial Adviser) observed that even 44 beds, the small number with which they proposed to begin in the first hostel, represented 16,000 nights' rest for women in London in one year. The Committee which had been started in response to this appeal acted entirely in an honorary capacity, with the exception of a small clerical staff and the housekeeper who would be in charge of the hostel. Neither was it desired to make any profit out of the scheme. It was hoped in time to create a chain of similar hostels in all the big provincial industrial centres, as well as to obtain four hostels for London.

Lady Lovat (Chairman of Committee) announced that H.M. the Queen had only that morning sent £100 towards the cost of the hostel.

## WOMEN AND WORLD PEACE.

An interesting account of International Work was given at a recent conference on "The Seventh Assembly of the League of Nations," convened by the Women's International League at the newly erected Friends' House in the Euston Road.

Mrs. H. M. Swanwick, editor of *Foreign Affairs*, who presided at the afternoon session of the Conference, gave a brief survey of the work of the Seventh Assembly, of which she said the feature of outstanding importance had been the admission of Germany into the League, and added that the inclusion of this unarmed country amongst the other States members of the League would help the question of Disarmament enormously, for with an unarmed Germany now within the League there could no longer be two standards of security. Another special feature of this year's Assembly had been the friction between the Council and the Assembly. Otherwise there only remained to record a certain amount of useful humdrum progress. The Seventh Assembly had shown marked determination to get on with the question of Education in League principles, and a Conference on this subject would probably soon be held, at which she, the speaker, would like to see the attendance of parents as well as teachers.

Mrs. Swanwick paid a cordial tribute to the work of the little handful of women in the Assembly, especially to Dame Edith Lyttelton, British substitute delegate, who had shown herself very progressive and helpful on many matters, also to Fru Larsen Jahn, Norwegian substitute delegate. Dr. Gertrud Bäumer, the German substitute delegate, was an excellent choice on the part of Germany, a cultivated and able woman, who did excellent work in the Assembly. The courageous eulogy she paid to the success of Commandant Allen's British women police in the occupied area of Cologne would be of great help in furthering the world-wide movement for women police. One interesting item in this year's Assembly had been the request of Austria, Germany and Poland to the International Labour Office to formulate a scheme for

assisting the masses of unemployed in their respective countries on similar lines to schemes already in operation in connection with the thousands of refugees rendered homeless by the war. This request, however, had been vehemently opposed by the British Empire *en bloc*.

Mrs. Kathleen Innes, in discussing the entry of Germany into the League and the present constitution of the Council, described the speeches of Herr Stresemann and M. Briand in some detail, and then compared the present constitution of the Council, with its five permanent seats and nine non-permanent seats, with the situation in 1919, when the five Great Powers wanted to be alone on the Council, but decided that four non-permanent members should also be included. In 1922 the non-members were increased from four to six, and were now nine.

Miss K. D. Courtney said the discussion on Arbitration in the Seventh Assembly had been very disappointing. Much good work had been carried out in this direction by individual countries, but very little had been done by the League itself, and nothing at all by Great Britain. In 1925, the Assembly had been faced with the turning down of the Protocol, but a resolution was then passed, instructing the Council to inquire into the various Treaties of Arbitration and prepare a Report for the 1926 Assembly. This Report showed the existence of 71 Treaties or Guarantees, and affirmed that Arbitration was making great progress all over the world, except in Great Britain. Their chief work, therefore, would be to get into touch with the Dominions statesmen and make them understand that this country generally was ready to come into line with other countries on this matter. Disarmament, at present, was said to depend on security, but people must be made to think differently on this point. There were many complications about Disarmament, but none was insuperable. If people really wanted Disarmament they could get it.



## EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN.

## CHELSEA MEETING.

An enthusiastic meeting was held at Chelsea Town Hall on Wednesday, December 1st, to demand equal political rights for women with men. This meeting was one of the "constituency" series initiated by the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee, and was organised by the Six Point Group. The speakers were all Chelsea women and represented different political parties.

The chair was taken by Lady Rhondda, who said that there was a period after the war when people talked as if all the legal disabilities of women were swept away. Now they realised it was not so; women had not yet secured the equality they sought. Some five million women were still voteless, mainly of the wage-earning classes. The labour market was not safe for women without a vote.

Miss Harley Bacon, speaking as a Conservative woman, said that measures intimately affecting women were now being passed, while no opportunity was afforded the women concerned to give their opinion in the matter. The opposition to the complete enfranchisement of women was inexplicable to her.

Dr. Ethel Bentham, of the Labour Party, said this was a question above Party politics. Women asked for the vote, not so much as a right as a chance to fulfil their duties. The younger women who were disenfranchised were in the best period of their lives when they were doing their most original work, and it was necessary that they should have the vote.

Miss Ada Moore said their aim was justice for all. No Government that did not recognise the woman's point of view could be said to be based on justice. They would like to see peeresses in the House of Lords.

Miss Ursula Williams, who spoke for the Liberals, dealt with the anomalies of the present franchise. A resolution, demanding Votes for Women at 21, was passed with four dissentients.

## MARYLEBONE MEETING.

A well-attended meeting, organised by St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, was held at the Swedish Hall, Harcourt Street, Marylebone, last Monday evening, presided over by Mrs. Crawford, who explained that the question of women's equal enfranchisement with men was one of urgency, and women wanted to see an Equal Franchise Bill in the King's Speech at the opening of Parliament next February. She insisted that this Bill should ensure that women should have the Parliamentary Vote at the age of 21, and deprecated the suggestion of any change in the age of voters which could only lead to a first-class political quarrel, which would block equal franchise. From the Chair she moved: "That this meeting demands an immediate Government measure, giving votes to women at 21, and on the same terms as men," which resolution was carried unanimously at the end of the meeting. Miss Griffin, speaking on behalf of The Young Suffragists, said that if we wanted women to wake up and take a real interest in the affairs of their country, we should give them a share in the responsibilities of citizenship; and if we wanted an A1 nation, we must have A1 mothers, and therefore the young women should have the first call on the ear of Members of Parliament. Dr. Octavia Lewin (Women's Freedom League) directed attention to the position of the young married woman who had no vote to protect her own interests. As soon as a woman married it was thought quite proper to throw her out of any work she was doing and compel her to devote her whole time and thought to looking after one man! And when she had an income, that income was lumped together with her husband's and taxed at the higher rate. Young married women needed the vote to protect them against the worst results of man-made laws. Miss Nancy Lightman (National Union of Women Teachers) pointed out that many women over thirty could not get the vote, whereas they would do so if they were men. She

claimed that it was the inalienable right of all adults to help make the laws which they had to obey. Miss Adeline Bourne (Actresses' Franchise League) appealed for a good collection, reminding those present that they always had to pay for anything they wanted. Miss Helen Ward (National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship) said that women who wanted the vote would have to make a good deal more trouble in the country before they got it. We were already running a grave risk of having this question left unsettled at the next Election. It was necessary to bestir ourselves in every possible way to bring this matter to the Government's attention.

All the speakers were residents in the Marylebone district.

## In Memoriam.

MRS. BAILLIE-WEAVER.—The death at Wimbledon, on November 26th, after a long illness, of our old member and constant supporter, Gertrude Baillie-Weaver (widow of our staunch friend, Howard Baillie-Weaver, an active member of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage, who died last March), brings a keen sense of loss to all suffragists.

Mrs. Baillie-Weaver was a very early member of the Women's Freedom League, and always exceedingly kind and helpful in every way, sharing in demonstrations and meetings, speaking and writing. With a very pleasing, magnetic, gentle personality and high courage, her sincerity was quickly recognised, whilst her clear and logical mind made her a forcible, persuasive speaker, easily convincing her hearers of the justice of our cause.

As "G. Colmore," the well-known author of some 20 novels, including "Suffragette Sally," she has delighted a large circle of readers. Her first story, "Concerning Oliver Knox," came out in 1888, her last one, "A Brother of the Shadow," was only published last month. For us she wrote many welcome short stories in THE VOTE, "Mr. Jones and the Governess," etc.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Baillie-Weaver were untiring workers in the cause of animals, founded the National Council for Animals' Welfare Week (whose Annual Fair she was to have opened on November 30th), and shared in all movements for humanity, justice, peace and internationalism.

## BOOK REVIEW.

*Painted Fires.* By Nellie L. McClung. (Fisher, Unwin.) 7s. 6d. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

This is one of the best stories Mrs. McClung has ever written, and shows considerable advance on some of her earlier work. The story centres around Helmi, a Finnish girl, and an immigrant to Canada. Her innocence and ignorance bring her into all sorts of exciting situations, some of which are actually desperate at times, though her chequered career has a happy ending. Amidst all the trials and tribulations which Helmi has to endure, the author brings out the inborn kindness and generosity of all sorts and conditions of people in her Canada, which she knows so well. There is a thrilling description of a down-town opium den which Helmi enters on what she innocently believes to be merely an errand of mercy, and which is raided almost at the same moment by the police. This unfortunate circumstance proves the beginning of her adventures, pleasant and unpleasant, but chiefly the latter, until all comes right at the end. It is a curious coincidence that both Mrs. McClung and her intimate friend, "Janey Canuck," otherwise Judge Emily Murphy, should both be adepts at describing the opium traffic, for it is well known that Mrs. Murphy's novel, "The Black Candle," written as a consequence of her magisterial experiences of the drug traffic, is the classic work on opium smuggling, and has even been recommended by League of Nations officials as the truest description of this nefarious traffic.

## Women's Freedom League.

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

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General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

## WHERE TO GO.

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

## LONDON AND SUBURBS.

1927.

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

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

Thurs. day, January 20th, at 7.30 p.m.

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

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

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

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



DARE TO BE FREE.

Nevinson, J.P.

All friends of the League will be welcome.

## PROVINCES.

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

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

## SCOTLAND.

Monday, December 13th, at 7 p.m.

Edinburgh Branch. Whist Drive in the Philosophic Institute, 4, Queen's Street. Tickets 2/- each, from Miss Manclark, 71, Comiston Drive; or from the Organiser, at The Quest, Liberton.

## OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, December 11th, at 2.30 p.m.

No More War Movement. Great International Fair at the Guildhouse, Ecclestone Square. To be opened at 2.30 p.m. by Miss Lind-af-Hageby. Admission 1/-.

Saturday, December 11th, at 3 p.m.

Saturday Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Debate: "That this Meeting approves of the principle of the Safeguarding of Industries Act." Proposer: Mr. T. H. Batty. Opposer: Speaker from the Eighty Club.

Monday, December 13th, at 6 p.m.

Six Point Group, 92, Victoria Street, S.W. Speaker: Miss Vera Brittain. Subject: "Equal Political Rights."

Tuesday, December 14th, at 9.30 p.m.

Women's National Liberal Federation. Ball at the Hyde Park Hotel. Tickets: 25s. each, from Hon. Sec., W.N.L.F., 72, Victoria Street, S.W.

## BRANCH NOTES.

## ASHFORD.

The following resolution was passed unanimously by members of our Ashford Branch at a meeting held Friday, November 26th: "This meeting urges the Ashford Urban District Council to sanction housing accommodation similar to that granted by military authorities for urgent cases of overcrowding, of which there is ample evidence." The *Kentish Express* reports that this resolution was received by the Council at its meeting last week. In reply to questions, the sanitary inspector stated that at Barrow Hill he found six families living in a large eight-room house, all except one family having children. In one room there was a man, his wife and five children, whilst another child had now been born. He could not find other accommodation. Nobody would take a family with six children. The total persons in that house numbered twenty-seven. In another of the houses there was a family on the top floor, another on the second, two families on the ground floor, one of which had left, and another family in the basement and a room at the top of the house. The Housing Committee recommended the purchase of pieces of land at Beaver, and that the surveyor submit a scheme for the erection of houses thereon.—This recommendation was adopted.

## EDINBURGH.

On Monday, December 13th, there will be a Whist Drive in the Philosophic Institute, 4, Queen's Street, commencing at 7 p.m. Tickets, 2s. each, can be obtained from Miss Manclark, 71, Comiston Drive; or from the Organiser, at The Quest, Liberton. Profits are to go to the funds of the Edinburgh Branch of the League.

## GLASGOW.

There was a members' meeting on Tuesday, November 30th, to discuss a Cake and Candy Sale, to take place about a week before Christmas, but it was decided by those present that there was not time to organise this properly, so a Whist Drive and Cake and Candy Sale combined was suggested for January 15th. The Committee will meet next Saturday to consider this proposal. (Organiser) LILIAN LENTON.

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

## Judge and Women Jurors.

The *Rugby Observer* reports that Mr. Justice Greer, addressing the Grand Jury at Warwick Assizes recently, said he would like to congratulate the High Sheriff upon the courage he had shown in summoning ladies to take part in their deliberations. This was not done as often as it should be. "They have to take a large part in the public and political life of this country," said his lordship, "and it is desirable they should also take their share in the administration of justice in order that they may acquire a knowledge of crime and punishment, which is indispensable to the right exercise of political privileges." The following women were among the members of this Grand Jury: Dame Lucy O'Hea, Mrs. Mary V. James, and Mrs. Ann Evelyn Dewar.

## Women in Industry.

From a random glance at a list supplied by the Information Department of the Central Bureau for the Employment of Women in London, we see that women are going in for accountancy, architecture, pharmacy and dispensing, factory inspection, engineering (civil and electrical), medical electricity, salesmanship, surveying, veterinary work, printing, public health work, property management, dentistry, domestic economy, estate agency, photography, chiropody, confectionery and cake-making, institutional housekeeping, all branches of nursing and teaching, and house decoration.

## Recorder and Women Jurors.

The *Daily News* reports that Sir Ernest Wild, K.C. (Recorder of London), speaking at a luncheon on "Peculiarities of the Jury System," and alluding to women jurors, said: "I was at first doubtful whether women would desire to serve on juries, though I had no doubt as to their competence. I stand now in a white sheet, as I am convinced that they are a great adjunct to the administration of justice, and especially to criminal justice. But women jurors make it very much harder for men offenders—we know that." (Laughter.)

## Equal Pay for Equal Work.

*John Bull* says: "Boxmakers feel resentment that some employers are dismissing men and employing women in their places. Equal pay for equal work would end the trouble—in fact, it's the only way."

## State of Parties.

According to *The Times*, the official grouping of the Parties is as follows: Unionists, 414; Labour, 156; Liberals, 40, including the Speaker; and the following five Independents: Mr. Austin Hopkinson, Dr. Graham Little, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Mr. Saklatvala, and Mr. Scrymgeour.

## CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS.

The Consultative Committee has been discussing a wide variety of subjects already this autumn.

At its October meeting representatives of 26 organisations supported a reasoned resolution urging the Government no longer to delay in fulfilling its promise to abolish the present inequalities in the Franchise law, showing that, with the present once-a-year revision of the Parliamentary Register, women could not take part in the next General Election on equal terms with men unless an Equal Franchise Bill were passed during the 1927 Session. There was also wide support for a resolution asking the Government to give facilities for the remaining stages of the Legitimacy Bill; while 20 Societies supported a detailed resolution asking for specific amendments to the Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Bill, which, as it stood, was generally regarded as a miserably inadequate measure. An interesting address and discussion on the question of Institutional Feeding closed the proceedings.

In November, industrial matters absorbed the attention of the Committee, and a very interesting account of the new Factory Bill was given by Miss Constance Smith, O.B.E., who detailed the proposed improvements and deplored the retrograde provisions in regard to welfare matters and—especially—hours of labour, pointing out that the 10-hour day of the Bill was the standard of the long-ago days of 1847.



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**FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.**—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, December 12th. 3.30. Music. Lecture. The Rt. Hon. Viscount Grey, K.C. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden: "The Suffering of the Innocent."

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**OF INTEREST TO WOMEN CITIZENS.**—The Edward Wright and Cavendish-Bentinck Library contains sections on current political and social problems, including the Woman's Movement, Family Allowances, and League of Nations. Book Boxes of 20 books available for Study Circles.—Apply Librarian, N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster.

**THE WHITE CROSS UNION** are holding a "New Life" series of Practical Talks at Paddington Town Hall, on Thursdays, the next being on December 16th, at 7.30 p.m. Speakers: Princess Karadja and E. Geraldine Owen. Subject: "Life and its Possibilities."

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