

## "CHAIRMANSHIPS FOR WOMEN."

# THE VOTE

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

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1925

**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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COUNCILLOR MISS EDITH NEVILE, M.B.E., J.P., MAYOR OF LINCOLN.

Miss Nevile is the daughter of the late Canon Nevile, and belongs to the Nottinghamshire Branch of the Nevile family, which is a younger branch of the ancient family of Nevilles of Raby Castle, Co. Durham. For many years she has been connected with rescue and preventive work in the city of Lincoln, and was one of the visitors appointed by the Home Office for women prisoners, until these ceased to be sent to Lincoln Prison.

Miss Nevile has twice been President of the Lincoln Branch of the National Council of Women, and for three years acted as Chairman of the Women's Advisory Sub-Committee at the Lincoln Labour Exchange. She was also for some years a Poor Law Guardian, and has been Chairman of the Children's Homes Committee, Boarding Out Committee, Nursing Committee, Unemployment Relief Committee, and ordinary Relief Committee. During the war she was Chairman of the Women's Sub-Committee of the Lincoln City Relief Committee, besides being on the main Relief Committee and a Ward Committee. For this work Miss Nevile was awarded the M.B.E. She was also one of the two women on the County of Lincoln Military Appeal Tribunal.

Her work on the Lincoln Town Council includes the Chairmanship of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, and Membership of the following Committees:—Finance, Housing, Health, Watch, Insurance, Superannuation, Library, Committee for the care of the mentally defective, Education Committee and three sub-

Committees of the Education Committee. Miss Nevile has been Chairman of the Children's Care Committee since 1908.

In addition to this wonderful list of Municipal duties, Miss Nevile is a Governor of the Girls' High School, Lincoln, and Christ's Hospital, and also of South Park High School, and Municipal Technical School, Lincoln. She is a member of the Lincoln District Nursing Association Committee, of the Board of Management of the County Hospital, and a Trustee of the Bromhead Nursing Association.

Miss Nevile is also a very keen co-operator, and for the last 15 years has been a member of the central branch of the Women's Co-operative Guild at Lincoln. She takes a great interest in the welfare of the movement and of the Guild, acting as a speaker on many occasions.

Miss Nevile was first elected to the Lincoln City Council in 1919, and in 1923 was re-elected by a large majority. She is still, however, the only woman member of the Council.

Lincoln has had a Mayor longer than any other city in England, and Miss Nevile is the first woman to hold this ancient office, following

in the footsteps of 600 men Mayors. Lincoln's Mayors are invested with an ancient thumb-ring as well as with a staff of office. Their uniform is a particularly interesting one, and includes 4 swords, the earliest of which was given by Richard II. The Mayor of Lincoln also has the title of "Right Worshipful."



Photo by]

[Topical Press.

MISS EDITH NEVILE, M.B.E., J.P.



## "CHAIRMANSHIPS FOR WOMEN."

During the last week the Press has recorded some outstanding successes on the part of business women. Mrs. Mary Ellen Finch, of Paddington and Great Titchfield Street, who died recently at Penzance, at the age of seventy-nine, was the widow of the founder of a firm of wine and spirit merchants. Throughout her married life she took an active personal interest in the business, and was daily at the office in Great Titchfield Street, while her husband devoted his time to the outside interests of the firm. The business was converted into a private limited liability company, and on the death of Mr. Finch, nine years ago, Mrs. Finch became its managing director, and worked regularly at the office for five days each week and until one o'clock on Saturdays, until within six weeks of her death. She left estate of the gross value of £14,914.

The Hon. Mrs. Richard Norton has taken up the position of manager of the New Gallery Kinema. We have always believed that women were very suitable for this kind of work, despite the fact that the Chief Constable and the Hull Corporation Licensing Committee decreed last August that the management of cinemas is a man's job, because it is preferable to have a man as manager to act in emergency, such as fire or accident! Our heartiest good wishes for a successful career to Mrs. Norton!

Another successful business woman is Mrs. W. E. Allen, widow of the late principal of Messrs. David Allen and Sons, printers and poster experts. Last Saturday she opened a new wing of the firm's factory at Wandsworth. Since the death of her husband, and during the schooldays of her three sons, Mrs. Allen has gradually rebuilt and extended a business which suffered a great set-back during the war, when the Government requisitioned its printing factory at Harrow, so that the business had to be re-established at Wandsworth. In a short speech last Saturday, Mrs. Allen said:—"As I look at this latest

extension of our productive capacity, I feel that our pride and confidence in our ability to reconstruct our business out of the ashes left by war have been more than justified; they have been richly rewarded."

The most brilliant recorded success last week is, however, that of Mrs. Thomson-Price, our old member and former colleague on the National Executive Committee and Vote Directorate. On the death of the late Chairman of Messrs. Slaters, Ltd. (Mr. W. E. Catesby), last April, Mrs. Thomson-Price, who had acted as Deputy-Chairman of the Company for over nine years, was unanimously elected to the chairmanship, and last Friday presided over the thirty-first ordinary general meeting of Slaters, Ltd., held at the Cannon Street Hotel. Her speech, in presenting a most gratifying report and balance sheet—the net profit for the year after charging income tax was £26,269 2s. 10d.—was in every way admirable, showing a complete and clear grasp of every detail, and was full of sound common sense for the present and buoyant hope for the future. "Patronise your own property," she told the shareholders, and urged them to send a good share of their Christmas orders to Slaters. She also said, "I am strongly in favour of judicious development. In a business such as ours, to stand still is to go back." Nearly two columns were given to this speech in the *Financial Times* last Saturday, and in an editorial, headed "Slaters' Success," the writer says: "Congratulations must be extended to Mrs. Thomson-Price for the able manner in which she discharged, for the first time, the duty of presiding over the annual meeting of Slaters' shareholders. Her thoroughly matter-of-fact survey of the Company's activities fully justifies the decision of her co-directors to promote her to the important position to which, with the shareholders' hearty approval, they have appointed her. Her success, we have no doubt, may give rise to a new agitation among investors with the inspiring slogan, 'Chairmanships for Women.'"

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

### Women Champion Typists.

For the third year in succession Mlle. Odette Piau has won the European typewriting championship, the contest for which has just been held in Paris. In virtue of the fact that she had previously won the championship twice, Mlle. Piau now becomes entitled, in addition to receiving the prize of 2,500 francs for this year's victory, to become the permanent owner of the handsome championship cup. Mlle. Piau is a French girl employed by the League of Nations at Geneva. The third place was taken by an English girl named Mitchell. Forty competitors entered for the competition, from England, France, Belgium, Switzerland, and Spain.

### Women's Long-Service Records.

Mrs. Anne Benson, who is 76 years of age, has worked for 66 years with the firm of Messrs. Samuel Laycock & Sons, Ltd., hair-seating manufacturers, of Sheffield; whilst Mrs. Jordan, of the same city, has worked for over 61 years with Messrs. Joseph Bassett, Ltd., of Duke Street. A third woman, Miss Ann Simpson, has also worked 60 years with another Sheffield firm. All three, by a strange coincidence, attended the same dame school in Sheffield.

### Woman Factory Inspector Appointed.

Miss F. I. Taylor has been appointed inspector of factories in charge of Birmingham East district.

Special issues of "Our Women Mayors":—XVI. Alderman Miss Smea, J.P., Mayor of Acton, October 30th, 1925; XV. Dame Catherine Hunt, D.B.E., J.P., Mayor of Colchester, March 6th, 1925; XIV. Miss Margaret Wix, Mayor of St. Albans, February 13th, 1925; XIII. Mrs. Eva Hartree, Mayor of Cambridge, January 30th, 1925; XII. Mrs. Ethel Leach, J.P., Mayor of Great Yarmouth, January 16th, 1925; XI. Mrs. M. A. Mercer, Mayor of Birkenhead, December 19th, 1924; X. Miss C. Maude Eve, Mayor of Stoke Newington, November 28th, 1924; IX. Miss Ethel Mary Colman, Lord Mayor of Norwich, January 11th, 1924; VIII. Dame Janet Stancomb-Wills, D.B.E., Mayor of Ramsgate, January 4th, 1924; VII. Councillor Mrs. Alderton, J.P., Mayor of Colchester, November 9th, 1923; VI. Miss Beatrice Cartwright, J.P., Mayor of Brackley, Northants, December 15th, 1922; V. Mrs. Ada Salter, Mayor of Bermondsey, December 1st, 1922; IV. Councillor Miss Clara Winterbotham, M.B.E., Mayor of Cheltenham, September 15th, 1922; III. Councillor Miss Christina Hartley, Mayor of Southport, Lancs, August 11th, 1922; II. Mrs. J. M. Phillips, Mayor of Honiton, Devon, July 7th, 1922; I. Mrs. Ellen Chapman, Mayor of Worthing, June 2nd, 1922.

### Mrs. Trachy Refused.

The Crown Officers of Jersey have refused Mrs. Caroline Trachy's nomination as a deputy to the States, or local Parliament. Mrs. Trachy, who declares that 70 per cent of the Island electorate want her to represent them, means to fight this refusal, and as a protest has asked Jersey women not to vote at the coming election.

### Italian Women Voters.

The Italian Senate has passed the Bill granting women the right to vote in municipal elections, but there is a Bill before the Chamber suppressing some 7,500-9,000 municipal councils in Italy, which will materially lessen women's voting power.

### Woman Crack Shot.

In a recent rifle-shooting competition on the City ranges of the Stock Exchange Rifle Club, Miss D. Pain, of the Sun Rifle Club, beat all male competitors, and won the first prize. She secured 39 points out of a possible 42, and her nearest opponent, Mr. A. E. Baumer, secured 34.

### More Women Parliamentary Candidates.

The Labour Party in the Wrekin Division of Shropshire, meeting at Wellington last week, selected Miss Edith Picton Turbervill as their candidate for the next Parliamentary election.

## IN PARLIAMENT.

### Jury Service.

MR. W. BAKER (Lab., Bristol, E.) asked the Home Secretary, in view of the existence of the Parliamentary suffrage without qualification as to financial means (*no mention was made of furniture!*), if he will introduce a Measure throwing open jury service to all classes of the community irrespective of financial means? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS: I could not propose legislation of the kind suggested.

### Ministry of Health (Writing Assistants and Typists)

SIR WALTER DE FRECE (U., Blackpool) asked the Minister of Health whether he is aware that there is considerable dissatisfaction among members of the writing assistant and typing grades employed in his Department owing to the small number of promotions which have been made in these grades recently, having regard to the number of open recruits and transfers from other Departments appointed to the clerical class in connection with the recent increase of work; and whether he will give sympathetic consideration to the claims of all suitable writing assistants and typists for promotion to clerical posts arising out of the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act? SIR KINGSLEY WOOD (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health): My right hon. Friend has no reason to believe that there is any considerable dissatisfaction among the staff as to the number of officers promoted to the clerical grade from the writing assistant and typing grades. During the last five years 56 officers have been so promoted, and my right hon. Friend has recently arranged for a further number of officers of these grades to be placed on clerical duties to test their fitness for promotion. MISS WILKINSON (Lab., Middlesbrough, E.): May I ask the hon. Gentleman why it is there is such a considerable disproportion between the number of men and women appointed to posts under the Widows' Pensions scheme? I understand the proportion is something like 91 to 16. May I ask him why? SIR KINGSLEY WOOD: That is another matter, and I should like the question to be put on the paper.

### Juveniles.

MR. H. WILLIAMS (U., Reading) asked the Minister of Labour if he can give an estimate of young people seeking employment who have not yet secured their first job; and the corresponding figure for a year ago? SIR ARTHUR STEEL-MAITLAND: I am afraid that I am not in a position to give the estimate for which my hon. Friend asks. An inquiry, however, made in June last, indicated that, of the 33,311 boys and 27,010 girls then registered for employment, about 3,200 boys and 5,600 girls had not had employment since leaving school. Most of them had left school quite recently.

### Infants (Medical Welfare).

COL. DAY (Lab., Central Southwark) asked the Minister of Health if he is aware that no provision exists for the medical welfare of children over two years of age and under five years; and, in view of the danger of children between these ages being exposed to the risk of preventable diseases, will he cause arrangements to be made to close up the present gap? MR. CHAMBERLAIN: No, Sir. The arrangements made under the Maternity and Child Welfare Act do not exclude any category of children below school age, and my Department loses no opportunity of impressing upon the local authorities in charge of maternity and child welfare schemes the importance of maintaining a continuous supervision over children up to the age at which they attend school.

### Major Hills returns to Parliament.

All suffragists are delighted with the return to Parliament of such an old friend and champion of the women's cause as Major W. J. Hills, who was elected at the Ripon by-election last Monday.

### Adjournment of Parliament.

*The Times* states that present anticipations are that the business of the present Session of Parliament will be brought to a close on Wednesday, December 23rd, and that the next Session will be opened on Tuesday, February 3rd. F. A. U.

### WOMEN AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

#### Married Women Teachers.

The following account of the Poole Town Council meeting appears in the *East Dorset Herald*, Dec. 3rd:—

The Town Clerk reported that the hearing of the appeal to the Court of Appeal in the case of Short v. the Poole Corporation had resulted in the decision of Mr. Justice Romer being reversed and judgment entered for the Corporation with costs.

Councillor Johnston complained that the married women teachers employed by the Council had been dismissed forthwith, with the result that head teachers were at their wits' end as classes were without teachers. He thought the teachers concerned might have been retained until there were others to take their places. It was nothing short of scandalous. The only people at present available for the vacant posts were, he understood, married women teachers from other places. He moved that the teachers be temporarily retained and the posts advertised (laughter).

The Deputy Mayor: You cannot reverse the Court of Appeal judgment. I cannot allow that proposition to go forward.

Councillor Johnston: You do not consider the children who are without teachers, of course!

The discussion was ruled out of order.

At Durham County Education Committee held last week a resolution was received from the County of Durham Labour Women's Advisory Council, which had been passed at their Annual Conference at which 256 delegates were present, representing 166 sections, and which deprecated that marriage should be a disqualification against the employment of women teachers, and called for the removal of the disqualification at the earliest possible moment.

#### Women Police.

The Chief Constable of Newcastle-on-Tyne, who was lately appointed to this post, has advertised for a policeman between the age of 25 and 35.

At a recent meeting of the Bournemouth West Branch of the British Women's Temperance Association a resolution was passed that women police should be appointed for Bournemouth, "believing that their services would be of great value to the town." This resolution was sent to the Mayor.

#### Nottingham Guardians.

Miss Scattergood, a member of the Nottingham Board of Guardians, has been co-opted a member of the Nottingham Education Committee. Miss Scattergood has had experience as a teacher, so should be admirably fitted for the position.

#### More Women Borough Councillors.

By-elections to fill vacancies caused by the elevation to aldermanic honours of councillors have resulted in Mrs. Dorothy Thurtle (Lab.) being elected for the Wenlock Ward to the Shoreditch Borough Council, Mrs. Rose Andrews (M.R.) for the Forest Hill Ward to the Lewisham Borough Council, and Mrs. M. A. Manchester for the Lower Holloway Ward of the Islington Borough Council.

#### Mayoral Robe in Rags.

MRS. ALBERTON, Colchester's first woman Mayor, pleaded with the Council last week to buy a new mayoral robe. She said that during her year of office she wore "thirty-year-old rags," and felt very shabbily robed. A committee of the council is to decide whether a new robe is necessary.



## THE VOTE.

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NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—  
To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.  
To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders,  
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Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."  
Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

### EDITORIAL.

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

### WOMEN POLICE.

Last Monday the Home Secretary received a deputation organised by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, and consisting of representatives of twenty-four women's organisations (among them the Women's Freedom League) on the subject of women police. The object of this deputation was to support the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, Amendment Bill, which was introduced in the House of Commons the following day by Miss Wilkinson. This would impose on watch committees of borough councils the statutory duty—they already have the statutory power—of appointing women police. In introducing the deputation, Miss Rathbone pointed out that extremely slow progress had been made in the appointment of women police. Miss Wilkinson, M.P., Lady Astor, M.P., and Lady Rhondda urged the necessity of appointing women police; and Commandant Allen advocated the appointment of a woman inspector of constabulary at the Home Office. In his reply, Sir William Joyson-Hicks said that it was a question of what was best to be done. He had increased the number of women police in London, and he had nothing but good reports of their work. The difficulty was that they had the Baird and the Bridgeman Committees, both recommending the extension of women police, but also recommending that the matter should be left, and must be left, in the hands of the local authorities. Local authorities were elected freely by the people, and the way to get them to have women police was for women to use their votes in the municipal elections, and see that proper councils and watch committees were appointed. They had only 89 women police throughout the country, and 46 in London. When any local authority applied for permission for women police, the Home Office invariably agreed. He would like to see a large increase of women police throughout the country; and would not oppose the Bill which he thought should be given a first reading; but he did not quite know if it was desirable to act forcibly in the way proposed.

Last Tuesday afternoon Miss Wilkinson moved in the House of Commons "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to amend Section 191 of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882." She said that the Bill's intention was to make it compulsory for municipal corporations to appoint women police; and it was proposed to add to the words: "a sufficient number of fit men" (already in the Act), the words "and a sufficient number of fit women to be borough constables." She said that already two Departmental Committees of the Home Office had sat on this question, and both of them had reported unanimously in favour of women police. In spite of that fact only 89 women outside London had been appointed. She thought the reason was that the appointment of

women police was left entirely in the hands of the Watch Committee, whose minutes could not be debated or discussed in the city council, and therefore the watch committee tended to become the most reactionary part of the city council. She had no criticism to make of the present police force, but even if all policemen were perfect, it would still be necessary to have women police. She urged that prevention of crime was very much better than punishment. In our police courts there was an enormous field for the work of women in connection with certain offences with regard to children and women. It was a most appalling thing that children and young girls who come into the hands of the law should be dealt with by the ordinary routine of the law. Much of this work should be in the hands of women because they and they alone can bring just the qualities necessary for dealing with their own sex and with the children. There was an urgent need for policewomen in our large towns. The Bill was given a First Reading. It is backed by Mr. Arthur Henderson, Sir John Simon, Lady Astor, Mrs. Philipson, Mr. Lansbury, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Trevelyan Thomson, Major Sir Richard Barnett, Sir Robert Newman, Sir Henry Slesser, and Capt. Wedgwood Benn. We warmly congratulate Miss Wilkinson on her success with this Bill, and we are convinced that if she can secure facilities for it either this, or next, Session, and the Government Whips are not put on against it, the Bill has every chance of becoming law. Every Member of the House of Commons must agree that if local authorities were given the option of carrying out or refusing to carry out regulations in the matter of health, education, or other public services, very few of the reforms in these services would be in force at the present day. Legislation alone is responsible for the ordinary decencies of life, as we know them. Parliamentary legislation is never in advance of public opinion; but the actions of local governing authorities are, unfortunately, frequently very far indeed behind it.

### EQUAL FRANCHISE AND P.R.

Last Wednesday the *Westminster Gazette* had an article on "Our Unequal Franchise." The writer was kind enough to say that "on the face of it, the demand of the women for the Parliamentary vote on the same terms as men is an entirely just one"; but he considers that our present electoral machinery is an even greater anomaly; and that the British franchise must remain unequal until some system of Proportional Representation is established. He therefore commends this matter to our attention. In the past the Women's Freedom League has supported Proportional Representation. We have passed resolutions in its favour at several of our conferences; we have advocated it in our paper; and in London and in the country we have organised a great number of meetings in support of a system of Proportional Representation. When, however, an equal franchise Bill was turned down early this year in favour of the Government's proposed Conference on our franchise laws, and the *Westminster Gazette* exulted in that fact, and we began to understand that the question of equal franchise would probably be linked up with other questions such as Proportional Representation, the Women's Freedom League, because it is first and foremost a woman suffrage society, and intends to secure the Parliamentary vote for women at the same age and on the same terms as men, ceased to take further interest in the question of Proportional Representation, and has since concentrated all its efforts on Equal Franchise. Surely the *Westminster Gazette* must understand that we cannot even consider supporting anything that is likely to stand in the way of Equal Franchise. We have had long and bitter experience of losing heavily on franchise Bills which were loaded with other matters besides equal franchise. So Equal Franchise—First! for the Women's Freedom League! When we have secured that, we shall be quite willing to consider other aspects of electoral reform.

## CIRCULAR 1371.

This Circular to Local Authorities, issued by the Board of Education, has rightly met with a storm of indignation. The Circular states that "the Board have decided that they can reasonably, and without detriment to the development of essential educational services, limit their grant to Local Education Authorities, and ask them, in this national emergency, to make corresponding economies," and "the Board propose to adopt a policy of block grants, and to ask Parliament to pass the necessary legislation for this purpose."

In the Appendix, the basis of Grants is, briefly, as follows:—

(1) A sum equal to the grant payable for 1924-5 on Elementary Education, less one per cent.

(2) A sum equal to the grant payable for 1924-5 on Higher Education.

These sums will be reduced by—

(a) 30s. for each child on the register on 31st March, 1925, under the age of five years;

(b) a sum apportioned to each authority for higher education in respect of the super-grant to Local Education Authority Training Colleges;

(c) a sum similarly apportioned in respect of half the cost of aid now being given by the Board to day students at Training Colleges and University Training Departments, and to students in training for the teaching profession at Universities.

### Part-Time Attendance under Six.

The Circular states that "the deduction under (a) is proposed on the ground that national funds are at present bearing an undue proportion of the expenditure involved in the full-time attendance at school of very young children. The Board are not, indeed, to be understood as pronouncing a general opinion in regard to the admission of children under the age of compulsory school attendance, a question which must depend largely on local social conditions. It is a matter for consideration, however, whether the practice of part-time attendance of children up to the age of about six might not be extended, in which case considerable savings might be effected.

Opposition to the above proposals was expressed last Saturday by the Executive Committee of the Association of Education Committees by the unanimous adoption of the following resolution:—"That this Executive of the Association of Education Committees of England and Wales deplores the issue of Circular 1371 by the Board of Education, as destroying the existing percentage grants system, upon which the present settlement of the recent teachers' salaries question rests, and as being inequitable in its working, and disastrous in its effects upon the maintenance and development of education. This Association calls for the withdrawal of the Circular, and expresses its willingness to co-operate with other associations of local authorities and the Board of Education in an examination of the working of the grants system, and in exploring the possibilities of any improvements of that system."

### Educational Protests.

The London Head Teachers' Association have arranged a special meeting to take place at Church House this week "to protest against Circular 1371 of the Board of Education, and the reversal of the Government's policy on education," the principal speaker being Mr. C. P. Trevelyan, M.P., who was President of the Board of Education in the Labour Government.

The National Union of Women Teachers has issued a circular stating that it entirely disagrees with the view expressed by the President of the Board of Education that the policy of the Board, as stated in Circular 1371, is in the interest of educational reform. The Union regards the new proposals with the greatest apprehension, and urges Members of Parliament and

of local educational authorities to exert all their influence to secure the immediate withdrawal of this Circular. Dealing with the "under-fives" question, the Union declares:—

"It is frequently stated that the problem of the under-fives is a social question rather than an educational one. Looked at even from this point of view, the fact remains that the Government has failed to secure adequate housing and other suitable conditions of life for these young children, with the result that school, in many areas, is still the best and safest place for thousands of these little mites. Those authorities who have appreciated the need to provide accommodation in their schools for children under 5 will be the hardest hit by the deduction of grant; yet obviously these are the very areas which, being poor and already overrated, are least able either to provide adequately for the excluded children in their own homes, or alternatively to bear the cost of an additional 30s. per child. In one of the poorest of the Greater London areas it is estimated that there are more than 3,000 school children under the age of 5."

### A Real Educational Loss.

The Union emphasises the value of medical examination of young children, and points out that in 1924, 38 per cent. of the entrants in London were found to require medical treatment. It further states "that whereas it may not be a serious matter for the children of the well-to-do to have their school life delayed till after the age of 5, the proposal represents a very real educational loss to those children whose school life will abruptly terminate at the age of 14—and these form the large majority of the future representatives of our race. Upon the scientific training of the little children in our Elementary Schools rests the whole structure of education in this country: this can neither be withdrawn nor curtailed, as the Circular suggests, without serious injury to the whole fabric."

With regard to the Training of Teachers, the National Union of Women Teachers says:—

"We deplore the proposal to transfer to the rates moneys hitherto paid out of taxes towards the cost of certain students in training. The proposal is particularly ill-timed, coming as it does just at the moment when all educationists are convinced of the need of an advance in the matter of the training of teachers. The Committee, in their Report on the Training of Teachers in Public Elementary Schools, show that they realise the need for a continuity of policy in this as well as in other educational schemes. The Committee points out that:—"The administrative action of the central authority reflects the policy of the government in power, for the function of a department is to translate policy into action through day-to-day administration. The practical consequence follows that, when from time to time changes of policy occur, they necessarily find expression in this way. But the effects of alternations of policy at short intervals are so obviously inconsistent with readily maintaining a regular and adequate supply of teachers, that it is not perhaps out of place for us to anticipate what we are going to say more fully later, and to venture to deprecate changes of policy, wherever originating and however expressed in action, which tend to encourage and then to discourage a supply of new entrants."

### No Economy on Education.

It seems to us grotesque that Education, the Cinderella of our public services, should be the first to be addressed on the subject of "this national emergency." What we want is an extension of nursery schools for the accommodation of very young children, who are the nation's greatest asset; and we earnestly hope that this country, with no uncertain voice, will tell the President of the Board of Education that the one thing we cannot afford to do, if we are to hold our own among the nations of the world, is to economise on education.



## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League was held at 144 High Holborn, W.C., Saturday, December 5th, those present being the President (Miss Anna Munro), in the Chair, the Hon. Treasurer. (Dr. Knight), Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., (Middlesbrough), Mrs. Dexter, Miss Haugh, B.Sc., Mrs. Juson Kerr, J.P., Miss C. Neal (Swansea) and the Secretary. Apologies for absence were sent by Miss Morton, M.B.E., Miss M. I. Neal (Manchester), Miss Spriggs (Edinburgh), and Mrs. Strickland (Hastings). It was reported that Miss Alix M. Clark was seriously ill. The Committee expressed its great regret, and sent its sincere sympathy to her, together with its best wishes for an early recovery.

The Committee considered and passed Reports from the Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Organising Secretary (Mrs. Whetton), and the Secretary, and from the Political, Literature, and VOTE Sales Departments. It was gratified to receive so many reports from our branches, which showed considerably increased activity among them; and the hope was expressed that all our London members would rally to the support of our Mid-London Branch, and help to make its Equal Franchise Meeting, to be held at Caxton Hall, Tuesday evening, January 19th, a huge success. Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., has promised to speak at this meeting. Members who are willing to speak on Equal Franchise in Hyde Park, Sunday mornings, in the New Year, are asked to communicate with Mrs. Flowers, Hon. Sec. Mid-London Branch.

At the conclusion of a report given by Dr. Knight on the Green, White and Gold Fair, Miss Munro, from the Chair, moved a very hearty vote of thanks to Miss E. Berry for all the work and skill she had exercised in the organisation of this Fair. This was carried with acclamation.

Since the last meeting of the Committee, Mrs. Dexter and Mrs. Mustard have attended meetings of the Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations; Miss Underwood, meetings of the Parliamentary and Legislation Sectional Committee, and, together with Dr. Lewin, of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Women; Dr. Knight, Mrs. Northcroft and Miss Underwood, of the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations; Mrs. Dexter, a meeting convened by the Six Point Group to consider Miss Wilkinson's Bill on Women Police; and Mrs. Mustard, Miss Sparkman and Miss Janet Gibson, a Conference convened by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship on Women and Health Insurance. Mrs. Dexter represented the Women's Freedom League on the deputation to the Home Secretary, arranged by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, to urge him to institute an Inquiry into the Solicitation Laws and the State of the Streets; and she also represented us on a deputation this week to the Home Secretary, organised by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, on the Need for Women Police.

From the political department, correspondence was reported with the Home Secretary on the need for an adequate number of women on the proposed Inquiry into the Laws of Solicitation and the State of the Streets; with the Minister of Health and the Financial Secretary to the Treasury in regard to the inadequate number of higher grade appointments given to women in the administration of the Widows' Pensions Act, and with the Secretary for Scotland re the appointment of only one woman compared with six men on the recently appointed Juveniles Employment Committee.

From the Literature Department good sales were reported of our pamphlet "What We Have and What We Want"; and readers are invited to help this department by sending orders for it at once. It is a most useful pamphlet to send to one's friends at home and abroad, and only costs 3d.

THE VOTE Sales Department reports the steady sale of our paper THE VOTE. Who will help us to increase its circulation by sending us a year's subscription to send

this paper to his or her friend? The subscription is only 6s. 6d. a year (inclusive of postage), and we would see that it is regularly dispatched from our Vote Office.

The Committee fixed the date of our next Annual Conference for Saturday, April 24th; and the dates of the next Committee Meetings for January 30th, March 20th, and April 23rd. F. A. U.

## WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES.

## Wembley on Tour.

The idea of taking Wembley on tour originated in the mind of Mrs. G. H. Atkinson, who is acting as organizer. The exhibits, which have been temporarily housed in one of the Dominion buildings at Wembley, left London last week, and the four great railway systems have arranged to run the exhibition from town to town by special trains. No fewer than 26 great cities are to be visited before the end of 1926, beginning with Southampton. The whole of Wembley will be represented, with the exception of Palestine and Cyprus.

## Manchester Soroptimists.

Manchester is to have its own Soroptimist Club, an association of professional women formed on similar lines to a Rotary Club. Many have been organised in America, and Paris possesses one, while in England Soroptimism is represented at present by the Soroptimist Club of Greater London. The idea of Soroptimism is to admit to membership one representative of each profession, with the object of helping one another in business.

## Frenchwomen Barristers' Celebration.

Frenchwomen barristers have recently celebrated, at the Sorbonne, the 25th anniversary of the recognition of their right to be called to the Bar. In 1920, thanks to the united efforts of MM. Raymond Poincaré, Paul Deschanel, and René Viviani, what is known as the Viviani law was passed, and the Bar was thrown open to women. Since then some 150 women lawyers have graduated in Paris.

## American Women in Banks.

There are over 30,000 women employed in banks in America, and five women bank presidents. The national association of bank women held its second congress last autumn in Chicago.

## BOOK REVIEW.

*Athletics for Women and Girls*; How to be an Athlete, and Why. By Sophie C. Elliott Lynn, A.R.C. Sc.I., Vice-President Women's Amateur Athletic Association. Price 2s. 6d. net. (Robert Scott.) May be obtained from this Office.

A very pleasing frontispiece shows our author surrounded by a galaxy of sports cups and trophies, badges and medals. Mrs. Elliott Lynn (see last week's VOTE with portrait and sketch of this pioneer air-woman) has written an excellent treatise on the various forms of athletics in which women now join, including short, middle, and long-distance running, relay racing, cross-country running, walking, the high and long jump, the hurdles, throwing the javelin and discus, and putting the shot. Valuable advice as to dress and equipment and the precautions necessary to secure the greatest benefit from these life-giving sports, instead of the injury to health that may result from carelessness and ignorance, are followed by technical instruction in the various forms of exercise, the correction of common faults, and hints which will improve the athlete's form. Most interesting photographs of athletic action illustrate the letterpress and prevent any misunderstanding; good and bad style is set forth in the photographs, so that the difference between them can be seen at a glance.

We strongly recommend this little book to younger or older girls and women, to teachers and parents, and all interested in the welfare of women and the progress of the nation. E. K.

## 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.

1926.

Monday, January 18th, at 3 p.m.

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

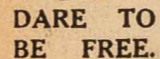
Tuesday, January 19th, at 7.30 p.m.

Mid-London Branch. Public Meeting on Equal Franchise, in the Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Speakers: Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P. Other speakers to be announced later.

Monday, January 25th, 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: Mrs. Wynne Nevinson, J.P. Subject: "Some Amendments to Unjust Laws for Women." Chair: Mrs. Sudd Brown. All friends will be most welcome.



DARE TO BE FREE.

## PROVINCES.

Monday, December 14th, 6.30 to 9 p.m.

Ashford Branch. Dance and Supper at the Hempsted Street Hall.

Thursday, December 17th, at 3 p.m.

Portsmouth Branch. Public Meeting at 2, Kent Road. Speaker: Miss E. F. Maynard. Subject: "The Commonwealth of India Bill."

## OTHER SOCIETIES.

Friday and Saturday, December 11th and 12th, 11—7.

Society for Women's Service, Women's Service House, 35, Marsham Street, S.W. Christmas Sale.

Saturday, December 12th, at 5 p.m.

Saturday Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Miss Bourchier. Subject: "Charles and Mary Lamb."

Monday, December 14th, at 5.45 p.m.

Six Point Group, 92, Victoria Street, S.W. Speaker: Viscount Astor. Subject: "The Liquor Control Bill." Chair: Dr. Jane Walker.

Thursday, December 17th, at 8 p.m.

The Drama Study Circle. Public Lecture at Keat's House, Keat's Grove, Hampstead. Speaker: Miss Emma Goldman. Subject: "Maxim Gorky and Leonid Andreev."

1926.

Monday, January 4th, at 5 p.m.

Conference of Educational Associations University College, Gower Street, W.C.1. Speaker: Walter S. Rowntree, B.Sc., F.L.S., F.Z.S., M.R.I. Subject: "The Childhood of the Race" (illustrated by Lantern Slides). Chair: C. W. Kimmins, M.A., D.Sc.

## OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

## Widows' Pensions.

DEAR MADAM.—I would very much like to accord my approval of the letter on "Pensions at Last," by M. Halley, in this week's issue of THE VOTE. It is really a scandalous pension scheme.

I am, yours sincerely,

ANNIE MCGROUTHER.

[Miss M. I. Neal will reply next week to the above letter, and to Mrs. Halley's letter in our issue of Dec. 4.—ED.]

## WOMEN JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

Twenty-five men and five women have recently been added to the Commission of the Peace for the County Palatine of Lancaster by fiat of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, dated December 1, upon the recommendation of the Lord Lieutenant. The names of the women are: Miss Anne Peatfield Bradbury, of Haslingden; Miss Mary Fairclough, of Leigh; Miss Ann Hayes, of Leigh; Mrs. Emma Sadler, of Widnes; and Mrs. Ethel Yearsley, also of Widnes.

The Lord Chancellor has approved of the addition of twenty-one men and one woman (Mrs. Ethel Maud Payne, of Epsom) to the Commission of the Peace for Surrey.

## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

The offices of the Women's Freedom League and the Minerva Publishing Company will be closed from Wednesday, Dec. 23rd, 5.30 p.m., until Monday Dec. 28th, 9.30 a.m.

## WOMEN JURORS.

The Daily News reports that, holding that an accused man's right to object to being tried by a woman juror had been ignored, the Lord Chief Justice and Justices Shearman and Sankey, in the Court of Criminal Appeal last Monday, quashed the conviction of a man, who at the Surrey Sessions was found guilty of house-breaking at Surbiton, and sentenced to four years' penal servitude. They ordered a new trial of the charge. It was explained that when women were being called as jurors the accused man objected, saying he wished to have no women on the jury. When he was asked if he objected simply because the juror was a woman, he said he did, and the Chairman of the Sessions said the objection could not prevail and ignored it. The Lord Chief Justice: He may have said, "I do not like the expression on that person's face" (Laughter). The Court ordered that the new trial should take place, accused to remain in custody.

We view with apprehension this decision to quash the conviction for the reason stated. We have always held that, if an accused person objected to any one woman juror, her place should be taken by another woman juror. Would a conviction be quashed in the case of a woman who objected to any men jurors? We think that the Court should have made this clear. We hope that some woman who finds that her case is to be tried by a predominately male jury will object to every man on it. Then we shall see what decision the Court of Criminal Appeal will give.

## GOVERNMENT POOR LAW PROPOSALS

The Ministry of Health have sent a White Paper setting out the Government's proposals for the reform of the Poor Law to the local authorities, together with an intimation that the Ministry will be glad to receive constructive suggestions after these proposals have been considered. The principal changes outlined are:—The abolition of Poor Law Guardians; their powers in regard to setting to work and relief of the poor; the apprenticeship of poor children; emigration and vaccination; being transferred to county and county borough councils. The registration of births, deaths, and marriages is to be transferred to electoral registration officers acting for counties and county boroughs. It is not proposed to revise and restate the existing powers of boards of guardians, but it is proposed to pass a Poor Law Consolidation Act. A separate section of the White Paper deals with the proposals as they would apply to London. This notes that there is contemplated a concentration in the London County Council of a general responsibility for the administration of the health services in the hands of the Metropolitan Borough Councils. The London County Council would also undertake the execution of the services at present maintained by the Metropolitan Asylums Board, which would cease to exist, its staff, property, and liabilities being transferred to the London County Council. The Metropolitan Common Poor Fund would also be abolished.

## WOMEN AND ELECTRICITY.

Interest of women in Scotland in regard to the uses of electricity for domestic and remedial purposes has increased so rapidly that it has become necessary to form a GLASGOW AND DISTRICT BRANCH of the Electrical Association for Women.

At the inaugural meeting, held in the City Chambers, the Lady Belhaven and Stenton (who herself has an all-electric home) was elected as President of the Branch. Lady Paxton and Mrs. M. W. Montgomery are Vice-Presidents, and among other distinguished names on the Committee are Baillie Mrs. Bell (of Glasgow), Baillie Miss I. Kerr (of Greenock), and Mrs. W. Blair Smith (of Paisley).

At its first meeting the Branch enrolled over 50 members, and the Committee has already drawn up its first programme of activities, which include a visit to the Darnock Power Station and a lecture on "Home Lighting."

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**F**ELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, December 13th. 3.30 p.m. Music. Lecture. John Lee, Esq., C.B.E. 6.30 p.m. Miss Maude Royden: "Locarno: A Spiritual Change."

## TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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