

THE VOTE.
APRIL 17, 1925.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE NEXT WEEK.

THE VOTE

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 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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A WORLD DEMAND FOR EQUALITY.

By JOAN GRAYSON.

Well-known Englishwomen prominent for their feminist activities are the first women in any country to become official members of the newly formed International Feminist Movement, initiated recently in London by Alice Paul, leading Feminist leader of the United States. This movement, aimed to present the strictly feminist point of view at all international gatherings of an official character, will bring the women of all countries together in a sort of world committee of women, where questions pertaining to their position in world affairs will be considered. The formation of this committee is particularly timely, since it comes simultaneously with President Coolidge's announcement that he proposes to call an International Disarmament Conference in the near future. "At this Conference, where social and political world questions as well as the question of disarmament will be discussed," said Miss Paul, in speaking of the International Movement she is sponsoring, "we in the feminist movement feel that it is imperative that women proceed immediately to form a world committee to raise the status of women internationally. American women have been working to secure equal rights for men and women in 48 states. Now that our nation is beginning to take a more prominent part than ever before in international affairs, we feel that the time has come for American women to work with the women of other countries to secure equal rights for women not only in the United States but for the women of the whole world.

"The best opportunity for working to raise the status of women internationally is that offered by international gatherings representing all countries, such as that which President Coolidge states he will call. We, in America, find that English women are of the same mind as American women on the importance of combining, in order to press forward the claims of women at every international meeting, and are entering enthusiastically with plans for the drafting of a charter of the liberties of women the world over. This charter they propose putting before every international gathering of nations that assembles. There is no country in the world in which women are a really articulate and powerful part of the community, and the releasing of this great latent power of women will do more, we believe, than any other one thing to bring

about peace among nations. It is most important that any international assemblage, especially any called to consider the question of peace, should bestir themselves to promote the movement for the universal freedom of women—and should act upon the matter."

The Englishwomen heading the British section of the International Feminist Movement are: Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, noted lecturer on the woman movement, who, with her husband, was one of the principal financial backers of the militant suffrage campaign, and is at present one of the leaders of the Peace Movement; Lady Rhondda, who made a valiant fight last year to make women peeresses eligible to a seat in the House of Lords, and who has recently organised a committee of peeresses who are working for women's admission to the House of Lords. She is leader of the Six Point Group, one of the most vigorous and active feminist movements in England, and is known as England's greatest business woman, being the director of more than 30 companies.

Others heading the committee are Elizabeth Robins, novelist and writer of many books on the feminist movement; Chrystal Macmillan, a well-known woman barrister in Britain, who pleaded the cause of suffrage before the House of Lords, and who is now fighting for a Bill in Parliament granting women the right to retain their own nationality on marriage to a foreigner; Dr. Elizabeth Knight, Hon. Treasurer of the Women's Freedom League; Dorothy Elizabeth Evans, so well known as the Secretary of the Women's International League; and Elizabeth Abbott, who is such a vigorous fighter against the "protection" of women in industry.

Others who have been consulted, and who have given their endorsement to the work, are Lady Astor, M.P., Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., and Rebecca West, novelist and critic.

Two prominent American women now living in England, Mrs. Curtis Brown, President of the American Woman's Club in London, and Mary Borden, novelist and wife of General Spears, recent M.P., are heading the American committee here which will endeavour to raise funds to finance an active campaign.

Following the very cordial interest evinced in the plan here, Miss Paul will return to Paris shortly to

confer with Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont, President of the National Woman's Party. The dream of an International Feminist Movement originated with Mrs. Belmont, and it was first proposed by her at the last Woman's Party Conference held in Washington. At that time she urged the organisation to broaden its scope, and to work for equality on an international scale in place of a national scale.

While visiting Mrs. Belmont in January, at her villa on the Riviera, Miss Paul decided before returning to America, to consult leading European and British feminists on the question of working internationally for the points they were at present working for nationally. On arriving in London, where she had come to make arrangements with Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, for the affiliation of the National Woman's Party with that organisation, she found such whole-hearted response, that plans were immediately made for the formation of the International Committee. Groups in other countries will be chosen during the spring and summer months, which will co-operate with the newly-formed group in England. Miss Paul is planning to visit Switzerland first, and will then go to the other countries to enlist support from leading feminists before the coming Disarmament Conference.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

American Suffragists Disband.

The formal dissolution of the National American Woman Suffrage Association is to take place in Washington on April 23. At a luncheon following the business meeting, Mrs. Ida Husted Harper will present a brief history of the association, Mrs. Helen Gardener will pay a tribute to suffrage leaders of the past, and the "old days" will be described by Mrs. Harriet Taylor Upton, Miss Alice Stone Blackwell, and Miss Mary Garret Hay. The final speech will be made by Mrs. Chapman Catt.

Woman Pharmacist.

Miss Queenie M. Jenkin, at the Pharmaceutical Society's examination held recently, was successful in passing Part II of the minor examination at her first attempt. She has thus become a fully qualified Pharmacist at the earliest age possible.

Spanish Women's Progress.

Spanish women are slowly seeking higher education. During the academic year that ended in 1923 there were 363 women students at the Madrid University, as compared with 60 in 1917. They are good students, and their work is much more brilliant than that of the men, according to the university authorities.

Japanese Women and Temperance.

A gain of 1,000 new members by the Japanese Women's Christian Temperance Union is reported. The total membership of the Japanese Union is now approximately 7,000, with Mme. Ochimi Kubushiro as its corresponding secretary. A temperance education campaign, intended to reach every school child in Japan, has been launched.

Miss Bondfield's New Work.

Miss Margaret Bondfield has been asked to investigate the conditions of girls working at Army camp canteens. The invitation has been given by the London headquarters of the Navy, Army, and Air Force Institutes, under whose auspices the canteens are run.

Woman Historian.

Miss Kate Rosenberg, a clever young historian, and sister to Miss Rose Rosenberg, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's secretary, has written a book, "How Britain is Governed," which is a concise but very readable study of our Constitution. Lord Haldane contributes a preface.

Spanish Woman Councillor.

Viscountess de Llanteno is the first woman in the history of Madrid to become a member of the Municipal Council.

The Willesden Portia.

Miss Winifred V. Rush, who is known as the Willesden Portia, is seeking election to the Willesden District Council as an independent candidate for the Harlesden Ward, with drastic economy as the main plank in her programme. By reading up Acts of Parliament and reports of test cases she has acquired a legal knowledge which has enabled her to represent her father successfully in court cases concerning his property.

Belgian Woman Engineer.

Mlle. Massart, who attended the British Women's Engineering Conference in 1924, and who was the first Belgian woman to qualify as an engineer, has been elected a full member of the British Women's Engineering Society. She is technical assistant to a firm of patent agents in Brussels.

Texas Mothers' Competition.

The Texas Congress of Mothers is offering cash prizes for the best posters made by pupils of the elementary schools on the subject of humane work. Each school is allowed to submit two posters, which will be exhibited at the convention to be held by the mothers at Greenville, Tex., on April 15th and 16th.

Women Barristers in Partnership.

Mrs. Julian Tenison Woods (formerly Miss Mary Kitson) and Miss Dorothy Somerville, two women members of the legal profession in Adelaide, have decided to enter into a partnership which will be the first of its kind in Adelaide and, it is believed, in Australia. Mrs. Woods was the first woman to be admitted to the Bar in South Australia.

Scotswoman President.

The Educational Institute of Scotland, which is now preparing for the World Federation of Education Associations at Edinburgh, in July, has a woman President, Miss Mary Tweedie. This is the second time the Educational Institute of Scotland has chosen a woman as its Head.

More Women Governors?

North Carolina, for the first time, will have a woman candidate for Governor in 1928. Miss Julia Alexander, lawyer and member of the State General Assembly, has announced her intention to run for the Democratic nomination in that year. The prospective candidate is the second woman to be elected to the Legislature in this State.

I.W.S.A. Congress, 1926.

It has been decided to hold the Tenth Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance in Paris, in 1926. The actual date has not yet been decided, but it is hoped that it will be possible to arrange that it shall fall within the Easter vacation.

Women and the Irish Elections.

In the recent Irish Elections, only one woman member was returned for the Northern Parliament, Mrs. Dehra Chichester. Formerly there were two, Mrs. Chichester and Mrs. M'Mordie, who for five years was Lady Mayoress of Belfast.

Women's Enfranchisement in Newfoundland.

The hopes of the Newfoundland Women Suffragists have been fulfilled, as the Bill giving votes to all women of twenty-five years and older was passed unanimously by the Upper House of the Legislature. South Africa is now the only one of the British Dominions which has not Women's Suffrage. One by one, all the others have followed the example first set by New Zealand in 1893.

Aircraft Ban to Women.

The International Commission for Air Navigation has decided that women are still to be excluded from the crews of aircraft used in public transport.

Woman Deputy Registrar.

A woman of 23 has been appointed first woman deputy registrar of marriages for Wigan.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Drunkennes.

MR. GROVES (Lab., Stratford) asked the Home Secretary the number of convictions for drunkenness, male and female, in the Metropolitan Police district for the calendar years 1923 and 1924? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS replied that the total figures for 1923 were 23,414 males and 6,610 females; for 1924, they were 23,512 males and 6,536 females.

Prison Libraries.

MR. GOODMAN ROBERTS (U., Flint) asked the Home Secretary if he would publish information as to the nature and extent of prison libraries, and the extent of the use of library books by prisoners; if there was any provision in the prison regulations for the discretionary issue to prisoners of superior mental qualifications of a greater number of volumes than those ordinarily supplied? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS replied that prison libraries might no doubt be greatly improved if more money were available, and gifts of suitable books for the prisoners would be welcomed from any quarter; but, so far as he could judge, the books they had were fairly adequate for meeting the prisoners' usual requirements. Complaints from prisoners were not common, but there had been a number of complaints from prisoners of an altogether exceptional type, who found the prison libraries not at all in accordance with their taste. Obviously, public moneys could not be properly used to cater for tastes which ran in the direction of abstruse mathematics, advanced science, or the less familiar oriental languages. The answer to the last part of the question was in the affirmative. MR. ROBERTS then asked if the right hon. Gentleman would undertake to furnish the House with information as to the number of books in the different prison libraries? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS replied that he himself inspected one a month ago. It contained about 5,000 volumes. The library was not at all bad. He would be only too glad if any hon. Member would like to go and inspect those libraries.

Labour Office Conference.

MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE (Lab., Leicester, W.) asked the Prime Minister if he had appointed the delegates to the next Conference of the Labour Office of the League of Nations, and if he had decided to include a woman among them? SIR ARTHUR STEEL-MAITLAND (Minister of Labour) said he had been asked to reply. The delegates to the forthcoming International Labour Conference had not yet been appointed. The possibility of including a woman among them would be borne in mind. CAPT. WEDGWOOD BENN (Lib., Leith) asked if it was the intention of the Government to appoint a woman as a fully-accredited delegate to the International Labour Conference in May, and received the same answer.

Married Women (Nationality).

MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE asked the Home Secretary if he had now communicated to the Governments of the Dominions the Resolution, passed by the House on 18th February, relating to the nationality of married women; if he accompanied any such communication with a recommendation urging its acceptance; and if he had received any replies? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS replied that the Resolution had been communicated to the Dominions by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. He understood that in communicating it his right hon. Friend followed the practice usual in such a case, and left the record of the proceedings to speak for itself. The answer to the third part of the question was in the negative.

Mental Institutions (Women Visitors).

SIR ROBERT NEWMAN (U., Exeter) asked the Minister of Health if he was aware that over 30,000 women patients of unsound mind were detained in borough and county mental hospitals where there was no lady member on the visiting committee; and if he proposed

to take any steps to make it compulsory, if necessary by legislation, that in all those public institutions where women of unsound mind were detained there should be some of their own sex on the visiting committees? MR. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN replied that the hon. Member was no doubt aware that a clause was included in the Mental Treatment Bill which he prepared and had introduced in another place in 1923, requiring that two members at least of every visiting committee should be women. The importance of the presence of women on visiting committees was fully recognised, and the matter had already been brought to the notice of the Royal Commission on Lunacy.

National Savings Committee (Women Clerks).

MAJOR BROWN (U., Hexham) asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if there were any women in the National War Savings Committee performing the same work as men and receiving equal pay, and any women performing the same work but paid at a lower rate; and what was the reason for the difference? MR. GUINNESS (Financial Secretary, Treasury) replied that men and women clerks employed by the National Savings Committee were paid the regulated Civil Service scales for their respective grades. Those were not the same for men as for women. The question of differentiation between the sexes was overlooked when the present scales for local commissioners and assistant commissioners were laid down.

Milk (Legislation).

MR. LAMB (U., Stone) asked the Minister of Health if it was his intention to introduce an Amending Milk and Dairies Bill prior to the coming into force of the Consolidation Act of 1915? MR. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN replied that he did not propose to introduce a Milk and Dairies Bill in the present Session.

India (Mining Industry).

Replying to MR. HAYDAY (Lab., Nottingham, W.), EARL WINTERTON (Under Secretary for India) said that the daily average number of persons employed in the Indian Mining Industry for 1923 was, in round numbers, 147,000 adult males, 80,000 adult females, and 7,000 children under the age of twelve years. The employment in mines of children under 13 had since been prohibited.

MR. HAYDAY further asked the number of fatal accidents in the Indian mining industry for the years 1922 and 1923 respectively, showing the number of adult males, adult females, and children of both sexes between the ages of 10 years and 18 years, respectively. EARL WINTERTON supplied the following table:—

Fatal Accidents in Mines Regulated by the Indian Mines Act.

Year.	Males.		Females.	
	Over 18 years of age.	Between 10 and 18 years of age.	Over 18 years of age.	Between 10 and 18 years of age.
1922	197	18	19	7
1923	266	30	50	40

Office Workers.

Replying to CAPT. GARRO-JONES (Lib., Hackney, S.), SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS said it was not the intention of the Government to introduce legislation on behalf of office workers. Offices were subject to various provisions of the Public Health Acts, and overcrowding and other insanitary conditions could be dealt with under those powers.

Bills Secure Third Reading.

The Report Stage was concluded of both the Guardianship of Infants and the Summary Jurisdiction Bills, and these passed their Third Reading, April 8th. F. A. U.

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EDITORIAL.

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

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The Eighteenth Annual Conference of the Women's Freedom League will be held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, Saturday, April 25th, at 10 a.m., the chair being taken by our President (Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P.). London members are looking forward with great pleasure to this opportunity of meeting members of our League from Scotland, Wales, and the Provinces, and to hearing their views on the Resolutions and Amendments appearing on our Conference Agenda, as well as on the Reports for the past year submitted by the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Organising Secretary, the Secretary, and by the Political, Literature, and Vote Sales Departments. Non-members of the League are not admitted, but every member of the Women's Freedom League has a right to be present at this Conference, and we hope that all members who are in London on April 25th will make a special effort to avail themselves of this right. Only branch delegates, members of the National Executive Committee, and officials have a right to take part in the discussion of the Agenda; and only delegates may vote on resolutions and amendments, and for the twelve members of our National Executive Committee. The Agenda itself is an interesting one. In the first Resolution, the chief objects of the Women's Freedom League are reaffirmed—equal suffrage, although there is a special Resolution dealing with this subject in consideration of the defeat of Mr. Whiteley's Bill and the Government's proposed Conference; equal opportunities and equal pay for women and men throughout all branches of our national life; equal guardianship of children; provision of work and training for unemployed women; appointment of women prison commissioners, women governors, women deputy-governors, and women medical officers in all women's prisons, and women inspectors of prisons; women police; and the raising of the age of consent. Other Resolutions call upon the Government immediately to put into force the provisions of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act; to expedite a Bill to enable British women to retain their nationality on marriage with a foreigner; so to amend the law that it is not possible for a husband to leave his wife penniless; to assess the incomes of husband and wife separately; to raise the school age to 16; to make better provision of housing accommodation; to grant widows' pensions on a non-contributory basis; to reduce the age to 65 for old age pensions; to make such provision that no child shall be born in prison; to compel railway companies to provide compartments reserved for women on all trains; to abolish capital punishment, and to stop the traffic in worn-out horses. There is also a Resolution protesting against the attempts being made to exclude women from Courts of Justice and Enquiry, which by law and custom are open to the public, and another demanding that every Bench should have women magistrates.

Many of these resolutions have amendments; and it is interesting to record that one branch has expressed the opinion that certain resolutions which do not concern the primary aim of the Women's Freedom League, which is to secure the equality of the sexes, are out of order; we have asked our branches to consider this point of view, so that their delegates may be prepared to discuss it at the Conference. We feel sure that there will be ample opportunity for a very helpful interchange of views on April 25th.

At 5 o'clock, at Caxton Hall, we invite friends as well as members of the League to hear Miss Isobel Goddard speak on "Family Endowment," and to join in the general discussion following her address. At 8 o'clock, the same evening, we are having a Dinner at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1, when we propose to honour an old and valued member of the Women's Freedom League, Miss Emily Phipps, B.A., Editor of the *Woman Teacher*, to offer her our warm congratulations on being called to the Bar, and to give her our heartiest good wishes for her success. The following afternoon (Sunday) a Reception will be held at the Minerva Club to delegates, members, and friends of the Women's Freedom League, and we very much hope that our London members and friends will seize this opportunity of becoming better acquainted with our members from a distance, and give them a very cordial welcome.

FRENCH WOMAN SUFFRAGE BILL.

On April 7th, the Chamber of Deputies debated the Bill which proposes to give women the right to vote in municipal and cantonal elections, and after passing an amendment lowering the age limit from 25 to 21, carried the Bill by 300 votes to 183. This Bill, which also confers upon women the right to be elected to municipal and cantonal bodies, was introduced on March 31st by M. Flandrin. Supporters were found on both sides of the House, but the Government did not show it much favour. M. Emile Borel, a Radical, on the first day of the Debate, said he was in favour of woman suffrage and a large participation by women in public affairs generally; but he considered that a certain political education was desirable before women obtained the vote. Therefore, the effects of the Bill should be made anticipatory by a provision that women now under 25 years of age should be able to vote when they reach that age, but that those women who have already attained mature years without having had the prospect of political responsibility before their eyes should be excluded. Further, women councillors should be elected solely by women, and men councillors by men. This may, of course, have been his idea of being helpful or logical! Two days later, anti-feminists in the French Chamber had a regular field day. They talked about kisses for a woman's hand; the sentimental character of women; old maids, priests, and handsome candidates; inequality of the sexes; designs by nature; biological facts, etc., and so forth, and, in general, proved, like their prototypes in this country, that they themselves had very doubtful qualifications for a vote of any kind. However, the Bill secured a majority, and we sincerely hope that it will pass into law without further delay. French suffragists have had many disappointments. The principle of the full franchise was passed by the Chamber on May 20th, 1919, by 329 votes to 95. Delay followed delay, and on November 21st, 1922, the Senate turned the measure down by a majority of 156 votes to 134. French feminists then decided to try to secure the advance of their cause by stages, beginning with the municipal vote. We send our most cordial greetings to all French suffragists, and we earnestly hope that we shall have the opportunity of offering them our warm congratulations on having secured full suffrage for women when we have the opportunity of meeting some of them at the tenth Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance which is to be held in Paris next May.

EXPERIMENTAL SCHOOLS.

By "AN ENTHUSIAST."

The present is certainly the age of the child, and all progressive educationists are putting unlimited thought into the question of producing a system of education which will really educate the child all round.

There are, and of course must be, numerous types of experimental schools, for as no two children are exactly similar, and no two teachers, no two truly educational schools can be alike. The one I am about to describe is, I believe, dissimilar in many points.

The school is a large one, with anything from 400 to 500 children ranging from the ages of three to eight years. The district is an extremely congested one, with no kind of open space besides playgrounds for a couple of miles round. The children are not of the poorest, but of a boisterous and difficult type to deal with. The teachers have to cope with marked irresponsibility, boisterousness, and inattention, and this is how they are endeavouring to do it.

Each child is treated as an individual, and put in command of herself or himself. That is, each child controls her own action in walking in and out and about school, all traces of "follow my leader" having been removed. When the child needs something, she (or he) must get up and get it; when she wants help, she must come to the teacher and ask for it; when the solution of a problem is arrived at, if the material with which it is worded is not self-corrective, the child must take it to the teacher to be judged.

Thus the child is learning to be dependent on her own efforts, to be responsible for her own actions, and to be obliged to pay attention to her own work, while incidentally she is learning to walk about orderly.

Further, the child is given a great deal of freedom of choice. She is allowed an hour and a quarter straight off, each day, for the three R's. She may choose which she will do first; where she will sit, stand or lie, to do it; how long she will spend on each,

with the reservation that she completes a specified minimum in each of the three subjects. This minimum will vary from child to child.

Such a method teaches her unconsciously many valuable lessons in judgment of time and effort.

To further increase her independent thought, at another period, each day she is also given a choice of subjects. Three quiet subjects are proposed to her, from which she may choose one, e.g., looking at picture books, recitation, story. Another group proposed at a second period would be active subjects, e.g., dancing, acting, brick-building, or sand-building. Some children will choose the same subject in each group each time it is proposed, but that matters little, for the child is having what she wants, and the principle of quiet attention or personal activity is the *raison d'être* of each of the subjects. At the end of the day, periods of quiet rest are given, when the child makes the conscious effort of keeping hands, body, feet and tongue still, thus gaining control over them. Periods of listening and of making quiet movements, etc., also form part of the training.

Although the child is treated as an individual, it is never forgotten that she is an individual of a social group, and to inculcate a correct attitude, group work is taken with such subjects as singing, drill, dancing, story-telling, acting, etc., etc.

Freedom of place and position is allowed in hall assemblies and in classrooms, and for the older ones a certain amount of freedom, in school hours, in using a well-stocked library. With all this attempt at character working, there is no lagging behind with the intellectual attainments. The results, at the age of seven years plus, compare very well indeed with those of the group system, whereas the initiative, the naturalness, the brightness, the enthusiasm of the pupils is much more marked.

GERMAN WOMEN PROFESSORS.

Professor Dr. Winternitz, of Prague, has contributed to *Stri-Dharma* the following account of the activities of German women professors:—Twenty, or even ten years ago, nobody would have thought it possible that there would be as many women professors and lecturers in German Universities as there are now. Dr. Rhoda Erdmann has been appointed as Professor at the medical faculty of Berlin University. She has been assistant at the Institute for infectious diseases in Berlin, afterwards lecturer of biology at Yale University, since 1919 director of one of the departments of the Institute for cancer research in Berlin, and lecturer in biology. Dr. Lise Meitner is professor of physics at Berlin. Dr. Paula Hertwig lectures on biology and geology at the University of Berlin. Dr. A. M. Gertrud von Petzold is lecturer for English at Frankfurt University. Dr. Margarete Bieber is professor of classical archaeology at the University of Giessen. Dr. Charlotte Lenbuseher lectures on socialism and political economy at the University of Göttingen. In the same University, Dr. Emmy Noether, an eminent mathematician, is professor of mathematics. Dr. Betty Hiemann is lecturer on Sanskrit at the University of Halle. Her special subject is Indian philosophy. The University of Leipzig also has a woman lecturer for Sanskrit and comparative philology, Dr. Charlotte Krause, who makes a special study of Indian vernaculars. Dr. Matilde Baerting is professor of pedagogics and sociology at the University of Jena. In the same University, Dr. Anna Siemens lectures as honorary professor on pedagogics, especially on the education of women. At the University of Tübingen, four ladies are appointed as lecturers, one for French, two for English, and one for rhetorics.

WOMEN AND PIONEER HOUSING.

The Women's Pioneer Housing, Limited, held their fifth Annual Meeting on March 31st, at their offices, 92, Victoria Street, Mrs. Ralph Durand, the chairman presiding. In proposing the adoption of the report, Mrs. Durand dwelt on the great success which the Society had achieved since its inauguration, pointing out that the four houses converted into flats for the use of women tenants, during 1924, brought up the total number of Pioneer Houses to 13, representing 100 flats and 150 tenants. She also informed the meeting that already two more houses had been purchased since the end of the financial year.

The satisfactory nature of the balance sheet was also dealt with. The year's working showed a net profit of £194, which, added to the balance in hand from the Profit and Loss account, 1923, £148, leaves the substantial sum of £343 for payment of dividends. The meeting received with approval the explanation that for the first time the Committee of Management had, in 1924, found themselves in a position to pay all publicity and development expenses out of income.

The reverse side of the picture was also presented. In 1924, thirty flats were provided, but applications for 400 were received at the office. This led to a discussion on the best means of securing more capital. Now that the full six per cent dividend has been paid to shareholders for the last three years, and that the Society's work has passed from the experimental stage to having proved that open flats can be provided at economic rents, the Committee are encouraged to invite the attention of thoughtful investors. The interest paid on loan stock is 5 per cent., and dividends on shares are limited to 6 per cent. Lady Rhondda, J.P., has joined the Committee of Management, and Miss Gertrude W. M. Leverkus, A.R.I.B.A., has been appointed Architect to the Society.

NEW IDEALS IN EDUCATION.

Speaking recently at the Montessori Society in London, on Education in post-war Europe, Miss Emma Goldman, writer and lecturer, quoted Goethe's dictum, "Pre-digested food is administered here," with regard to pre-war methods of Education. "Education," she said, "consists in bringing out, not in knocking in. Unless Education demonstrates respect for the physical, mental, and moral qualities of the child, it fails, and only produces automatons and parrots."

In Germany, to-day, many interesting educational experiments were being carried on at Hamburg, Dresden, Tuebingen, etc., founded on Tolstoyan methods. In two schools in Hellerau and Dresden, attended by 550 and 600 children, attempts had been made to get rid of the old dreary classrooms, and set desks, and provide instead restful living rooms, artistic decorations, and an harmonious atmosphere. This new arrangement had resulted in much better discipline. The subconscious mind of the child no longer revolted against the school as a species of prison, and the teacher as gaoler. Only about two hours per day were spent indoors, most of the instruction taking place by means of excursions to organised industries, factories, museums, forests and mountains, where the child's curiosity was the key to its learning, and it absorbed knowledge much more quickly and vividly. It had also been found that reading and writing were more quickly attained by these objective methods, that geography could be instilled best by contact with the outside world, as well as the inter-relation of industry and mutual co-operation, and the value of labour to the human race.

In Russia also a number of new educational experiments had been tried, but here the system had been poisoned by officialdom. The dogmas of the old Czarist regime had only been exchanged for the dogmas of Communism, which were stamped instead upon Russian education. Preconceived theories of whatever kind, if forced upon children, are bound to warp the child's mental growth. In Russia, to-day, there was only one public opinion—officialdom. The latest report from the Minister of Education in Moscow stated that whereas 63,000 schools existed in 1912 in Russia, there were to-day 14,000 schools less, although conditions were now more favourable to teaching. Scarcity of teachers was the chief cause, which Miss Goldman attributed to the senseless persecution of the Russian intelligentsia during the Revolution.

JAPANESE WOMEN'S PROGRESS.

According to the *Japan Year Book* (Tokyo) we learn that the field of breadwinning for Japanese women is still very limited, especially in the professions. The proportion of women teachers in the elementary schools is about one half of the men teachers, and at present these women teachers are paid about one-half or two-thirds less than their male colleagues. Kindergarten work is described as being "practically monopolised by women," such teachers numbering in all, in 1920, 1,970, which included some foreigners. Japanese women doctors, we are told, now number about 700 in Japan, with 33,534 nurses, and 33,348 midwives. Some of these women doctors are in the service of the Japanese Government, or with private wealthy individuals in China, Siam, and other countries in the Asiatic Continent, and are in receipt of very high salaries. With regard to the legal status of women in Japan, fundamentally, men and women are treated equally in the Civil Code, persons of both sexes below 20 years of age being considered minors and protected by law. Single women of full age, that is over 20, enjoy as much freedom as men. It is the married woman who suffers the greatest disabilities.

MOTHERS' PENSIONS.

On April 1st, Mr. Kelly (Lab., Rochdale) moved the following Resolution in the House of Commons, and it was seconded by Lt.-Col. Watts-Morgan (Lab., Rhondda, E.):—"That in view of the urgent necessity that, wholly apart from the Poor Law, pensions adequate for the proper upbringing and maintenance of children should be provided by the State for all widows with children or mothers whose family breadwinner has become incapacitated, this House calls for the introduction this Session of the required legislation."

As an Amendment, Sir Henry Curtis-Bennett (U., Chelmsford) moved, and Sir Geoffrey Butler (U., Cambridge University) seconded the following:—"This House, while approving the principle of a scheme of state-aided pensions for widowed mothers, is of opinion that this should form part of a general extension of the insurance system upon a contributory basis, and that legislation for this purpose should be introduced during the present Parliament."

Mr. Geo. Thorne (Lib., Wolverhampton), Mr. Sutton (Lab., Clayton), Mr. Clynes (Lab., Plating), and Major Hore-Belisha (Lib., Devonport) supported the Resolution, and Lady Astor (U., Sutton, Plymouth), Mr. Ford (U., Edinburgh, N.), and Mr. Guinness (Financial Secretary to the Treasury), on behalf of the Government, supported the Amendment.

The Amendment was carried by 274 votes to 153.

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN.

Sir Geoffrey Butler moved the Second Reading of the Adoption of Children Bill, on April 3rd, in the House of Commons. Sir Henry Slesser (Lab., Leeds, S.E.), in seconding it, said that, broadly speaking, there was scarcely another country in the world, either a foreign country or a British Dominion, where there was not statutory recognition of the legal relation between the child and the adopted parent. Mr. Gerald Hurst (U., Moss Side) supported the Bill with reservations; Commander Kenworthy strongly objected to legalising the handing over by parents themselves of their own children to other people, making that an irrevocable act, and giving the adopters all the privileges of parenthood with regard to the children. He looked upon that as a dangerous precedent, and as one among many tendencies which must be stopped if we were to preserve the whole structure of family life. Lady Astor whole-heartedly supported this Bill. Mr. Hayday (Lab., Nottingham, W.) hoped the Government would not too hurriedly endorse it. Mr. Locker-Lampson (Under Secretary, Home Office) urged that the Second Reading should not be pressed, but that they should await the Report of the Committee appointed to deal with the subject of child adoption, and then the Government would bring in a Bill based on its recommendations. Mr. Rhys Davies (Lab., Westoughton) and Sir Thomas Inskip (the Solicitor-General) also urged this course. Eventually the Debate was adjourned.

In Memoriam.

MRS. H. WORRALL.—We deeply regret to record the death of Mrs. H. Worrall, Th Bank, Newtown, one of the most active members of our Montgomery Boroughs Branch. Mrs. Worrall was well known for the enthusiastic part she took in all public work, being a Red Cross nurse, a member of the Primrose League from the time of its initiation, a member of the War Memorial Committee and Women's Freedom League, and a hard-working supporter of the Newtown Parish Church. She had endeared herself to a large circle of friends by her cheerful disposition, kind sympathetic manner, and whole-hearted support of any worthy institution.

Women's Freedom League.

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

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Wednesday, April 22nd, at 8.
Hampstead Branch. Public Housing Meeting at the Friends' Meeting House, Heath Street, Hampstead (near Hampstead Tube Station), to call upon the Borough Council to provide additional accommodation for Working Class Families at a moderate rent. Speakers: Miss Thurton (Rural Housing and Sanitation Association) and Miss Homfray. Chair: Lady Smith, J.P. Admission free.
Friday, April 24th, at 2.30.
National Executive Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.



DARE TO
BE FREE.

Saturday, April 25th, at 10.

Annual Conference at Caxton Hall, Westminster. Address by Miss Isobel Goddard, on "Family Endowment," at 5 p.m., to be followed by a discussion. Dinner to Miss Phipps, B.A., Barrister-at-Law, at 8 p.m., at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C. Tickets 3/6, from Miss Reeves, Minerva Club.

Sunday, April 26th, 3.30—5.

Reception at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C., to Conference Delegates, Members and friends of the Women's Freedom League.

Monday, May 4th, at 3.

Hampstead Branch. Members' Meeting at 16, Denning Road, Hampstead.

Thursday, May 21st, at 6.30.

Mid-London Branch. "At Home" at the Kingsway Hall, W.C. to raise Funds for Mrs. Despard's Birthday Gift. Speakers: Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., and others who will be announced later.

PROVINCES.

Saturday, April 18th, at 3.30.

Hastings Branch. Annual Meeting at 44, Warrior Square.

Wednesday, April 22nd, at 4.

Baxhill Branch. Whist Party at the Albany Hotel (by kind permission of Miss Skinner). Tickets 1/- Tea 9d.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Monday, April 20th, at 5.45.

Six Point Group, 92, Victoria Street, S.W. Speaker: Miss E. Picton-Turbervill. Subject: "Women in the Ministry."

CONFERENCE HOSPITALITY.

Will delegates to the Conference who require hospitality please write to this Office, 144, High Holborn, and not to Mrs. Pierotti, who is away from home, and the house shut up? If letters have already been sent to Mrs. Pierotti, will the senders write again to us?

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION.

A lecture arranged by the Women's Electrical Association, on behalf of the Worcestershire Federation of Women's Institutes, was given by Miss Partridge recently, at the Shire Hall, Worcester, on "Electricity in the Home." A tremendous amount of interest was displayed in the schemes for rural electrification which are now being carried out by the Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Staffordshire Electric Power Company, most of the women present having come from country districts which will be so immensely benefited. Lively intelligence was displayed in the price of current and the possibilities of an electric home in the country. An interesting suggestion was made that the electrification of rural districts might possibly have the effect of reviving many of our village industries.

W.F.L. PAMPHLETS.

- "British Women M.P.s (brought up to date), by D. M. Northcroft ... 4d.
- "The Work for Women M.P.s," by Mrs. Helena Normanton, B.A. ... 3d.
- "The Need for Women Members of Parliament," (Second Edition), by Mrs. How Martyn, M.Sc. 3d.
- "Women's Right to Work," by Miss Lind-af-Hageby 3d
- "Women and Income Tax," by Mrs. Ayres Purdie (Certified Accountant) ... 3d.
- "Race Motherhood. Is Woman the Race?" by Mrs. Montefiore ... 6d.
- "Women Police," by D. M. Northcroft ... 1d.
- "Women at Work in the League of Nations," by D. M. Northcroft (Second Edition) ... 6d.
- "The Wrongs of Married Women," by Mrs. M. W. Nevinston, J.P., L.L.A. ... 3d.
- "The New Humanism," by Laurence Housman ... 6d.

BRANCH NOTES.

MID-LONDON.

The Mid-London Branch are arranging an "At Home" at the Kingsway Hall, W.C., on Thursday, May 21st. Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., has very kindly promised to be present. Further particulars next week. **BOOK THIS DATE NOW!** (Hon Sec.) Mrs. FLOWERS, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

THAMES VALLEY.

A meeting of the members of Thames Valley Branch was held at "Holmwood," Waldegrave Road, Teddington (by kind permission of Mrs. Foster Lumb), Tuesday, April 7th. Resolutions and Amendments on the Conference Agenda were discussed, Mrs. Foster Lumb being appointed the Branch delegate. The Chair was taken by Miss F. A. Underwood. (Hon Sec.) MISS BREWER, 15, Fleece Road, Ditton Hill, Surbiton.

EDINBURGH.

We were glad to welcome Miss Lenton, the Scottish Organiser, to our Branch Meeting on April 3rd, and we trust that her presence in Edinburgh will have the same inspiring effect as in Glasgow. The Conference Agenda was discussed, and instructions given to our delegate. A Social Meeting was also held on April 5th, when plans for the future were discussed. The Branch has suffered a great loss in the sudden death of our valued member, Mrs. Edgar, of Leith. She was a loyal and devoted member of the League, whose fine character was an inspiration to us all, and her cheery presence at our meetings will be sadly missed. (Hon Sec.) W. M. SPRIGGS, 22, Dick Place, Edinburgh.

New members are being enrolled, and it is hoped to hold open air meetings on "The Mount" this week.

(Org.) LILIAN LENTON.

GLASGOW.

The name of the lady who has so kindly undertaken the duties of Hon. Sec. is Mrs. Fiske, not Mrs. Fisher, as erroneously reported last week. We are very pleased to say that Miss Crone, 114, North Hanover Street, has consented to be Literature Secretary. She will be assisted by her sister, Miss Amy Crone, and Mrs. Keenan, of 87, Garnethill Street.

(Org.) LILIAN LENTON.

At a Committee Meeting last Monday (April 6th) it was decided to hold a Branch Meeting on Wednesday, April 22nd, in the Christian Institute, Bothwell Street, at 7.45 p.m., that the Resolution and Amendment to go before the Conference in London might be discussed, and other business connected with the Branch attended to.

(Org.) LILIAN LENTON.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Parliamentary Recess.

Parliament was adjourned April 9th until April 28th.

Unemployment Returns.

The number of persons on March 30th, 1925, recorded on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain, was 1,194,300. The total includes 923,000 men, 31,400 boys, 210,300 women, and 28,700 girls.

A Novel Housing Scheme for Women.

According to the March number of *Feminine Life*, the United Women's Homes Association, Ltd., are to build in and around London and seaside places, such as Brighton and Leigh-on-Sea, specially designed houses containing one-room flats for women. Each flat will be self-contained, and will possess a bedroom-alcove, a tiny scullerette with sink, gas stove, etc., large cupboards, tiled window ledges, electric light and dustless skirting. To every two flats there will be a geyser-bathroom and lavatory. These flats will be let to tenant members (who are required to invest £25 in shares of the Association) at an average rental of 5s. to 6s. a week. Further information may be obtained from the Office of the Association, 439-441, Oxford Street. This scheme has been worked out by Mr. Alban Gordon, Secretary to Lady Emmott, J.P.

Hungarian Women in Upper House?

The *Daily Express* reports that membership of the Upper House which is now to be added to the Hungarian Parliament, will be open to women.

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NOTICES.

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