

THE VOTE,  
DEC. 7, 1928.

WOMEN HOSPITAL MANAGERS.

# THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1928

**OBJECTS :** To use the power of the Parliamentary vote, now won for Women upon equal terms with men, to elect women to Parliament, and upon other public bodies; to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes; and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community

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## THE DE-RATING BILL.

### SOME POINTS TO WHICH WOMEN OBJECT.

The Government's Local Government Bill, commonly known as the De-Rating Bill, is rapidly passing through its stages into law. Last week, Miss SUSAN LAWRENCE made a brilliant speech in the House of Commons, criticising its financial aspects. Miss Lawrence is an expert on all matters, financial and otherwise, pertaining to local government. This Bill is really a Bill for experts, the majority of the Members of the House of Commons, like the majority of the public, quite frankly confessing that they do not understand its provisions. MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE attacked the Bill on two grounds, one of them being the effect of this Bill on women generally. Under its provisions he maintained that the health services, and particularly the services for maternity and child welfare, would be starved. With the block grant for maternity and child welfare, localities would not be encouraged, as they had been hitherto, to expand these services. The general tendency of the quinquennial period and the fixation of the grant was to make local authorities less willing to undertake increased financial responsibility in improving them. Again, under Clause 13, the Minister made it obligatory to raise from the patients or their relatives the money which was expended on their behalf in maternity homes. Mr. Pethick-Lawrence pointed out that if persons were suffering from infectious disease or venereal disease they would be treated free. But if the patients were mothers bringing children into the world, the cost of the attention given to them would have to be recouped from them and their families, and he urged that any step which would make it less easy or less advantageous to extend the service for maternity, and would make it more difficult for people to avail themselves of this service, was a step to be deplored. It is, too, in direct opposition to the forward move just being started towards the reduction of our deplorable stationary maternal mortality.

LADY ASTOR said she hoped to move an amendment to take the maternity and child welfare services from the block grant, and to keep them as they are now under the percentage grant. Her amendment would enable the maternity and child welfare services to be continued on the percentage basis for the first five years, and would specify that after the first five years the Minister should take into consideration the adequacy, not the efficiency, of the maternity services when he decided whether he ought to reduce the block grant to any authority. Lady Astor said that if the

services were adequate, no one would fear a block grant, but there were local authorities which had not provided adequate services even under the fifty-fifty arrangement. Under a block grant the Minister had no power to compel any local authority to use any particular sum for maternity services, but under a percentage grant, because the money was ear-marked, it could only be spent on the special services.

MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE referred to the grave effects of the way in which the system of our Poor Law was being changed so as to deprive localities of the services of women. At present, the Poor Law was administered in a large measure by women who were elected and chosen for the purpose. The Bill suggested that their services would be equally valuable when they were co-opted, but co-opted persons had not the same authority as elected representatives. Under this Bill the main avenue for women to be elected to control relief would be through the County Councils in counties and Borough Councils in county boroughs, although there were some subordinate bodies to which women could also be elected. The result would be that many fewer women would be able to share in the control of the Poor Law system.

In the Rules for determining the weighted population in any district, the Bill states that there shall be estimated and certified the average number of unemployed insured men resident in each county and county borough during a certain period. MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE drew attention to the fact that it was only the unemployment of men that was to be taken into account, and that the unemployment of women was to have no part in the weighting. He stated that in the counties of Lancashire and West Riding, where, above all others, women are largely employed and where, at the present time, there is considerable unemployment amongst women, this formula worked out worse than in any other part of the country. If the Minister had included in the number unemployed women as well as unemployed men, as was natural and obvious, Lancashire and West Riding would not have come out in the wrong way they did under the formula at present. To this criticism, MR. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN, in his reply, said he would be glad if that matter could be debated in Committee. They did not put into their formula for the sake of one particular area something which was going to be unfair to a great many other areas, and where women went to work with their husbands, and their husbands were also at work, the figure of unemployment must not be doubled if they were both



out of work, because, after all, it was only one household. However, if there were cases where the woman was, in fact, the head of the household, and was in a

district where women were ordinarily employed, and where there was great unemployment, that was a very fair subject for discussion.

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League was held at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, last Saturday, those present being Miss Alix Clark (Montgomery Boroughs), Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P. (Middlesbrough), Mrs. Dexter, Dr. Knight (Hon. Treasurer), Miss Anna Munro, Miss M. I. Neal (Manchester), Miss C. Neal (Swansea), Mrs. Pierotti, Miss Reeves, Mrs. Zangwill, and the Secretary. Miss Munro was appointed to the chair.

A letter was read from Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence (President), regretting that she was not well enough to be present at the meeting. The Committee sent her a warm message of sympathy and its best wishes for an early and complete recovery of health and strength. The Committee also sent its sympathy to Mrs. Ayton (Darlington), who was prevented from attending the meeting owing to an attack of influenza. Letters of apology for absence were read from Mrs. Bigland, Miss Eunice Murray (Glasgow), and Miss Harvey (Edinburgh). The Committee sent a message of love to Mrs. Despard and warm congratulation on her already almost complete recovery.

Reports were considered, discussed, and adopted from the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Organising Secretary (Mrs. Whetton), the Secretary, and from the political and literature departments, with special thanks to Miss Berry for the success of the "Fair." Reports were also considered from our Branch Secretaries, which showed that steady and successful work had been done in their various districts. Successful Equal Franchise Victory Celebrations had been carried through by our Glasgow and Swansea Branches; Portsmouth Branch had done a good deal of local government election work in its support of Mrs. Barton's candidature; various meetings had been held by other branches, and public and other meetings had been arranged by our organisers in Bradford, Leeds, Darlington, Hastings, and Ashford.

The Committee considered a request for the Women's Freedom League to co-operate with other societies in the British-American Women's Crusade for Peace. After considerable discussion, the following resolution was carried:—"That, whilst we sympathise with the objects of the British-American Women's Crusade for Peace, we feel we must concentrate all our energies on securing the special object of the Women's Freedom League—the full equality of men and women in all branches of our national and international life."

Miss Anna Munro, who had represented the Women's Freedom League at the annual meetings of the National Council of Women, held in York in October,

## EQUAL PAY FOR MEN AND WOMEN.

Dr. Knight, Mrs. Pierotti, Miss Reeves, and Miss Underwood represented the Women's Freedom League at a meeting at the Central Hall, Westminster, last week, to demand equal pay for men and women in the Civil Service. Mr. George Middleton, J.P., Chairman of the Civil Service Equal Pay Committee, presided, and the speakers were Miss Margaret Bondfield, M.P., Mr. Frank Briant, M.P., and the Viscountess Rhondda, J.P.

A resolution was carried, calling attention to the fact that seven years ago the Government accepted the principle of equal pay for equal work in the Civil Service, but had failed to put it into operation, and

urging the appointment of a Select Committee of all parties to consider the best means of giving effect to the principle, having regard to cost and other circumstances.

In speaking to this resolution, Lady Rhondda remarked that it was mild, patient, and reasonable. There were many present—ourselves amongst them—who thought it should have gone farther, and demanded that the principle so long ago agreed to in the House of Commons should immediately be put into practice—that, in fact, the Government should now give women and men equal pay for work of equal value throughout all grades of the Civil Service.

Dr. Knight reported on the public meetings of the Royal Commission on the Police, all of which she had attended and reported in THE VOTE. The Committee gave very cordial thanks to Dr. Knight for this splendid piece of work.

The suggestion was made that members could help us considerably by enclosing a copy of THE VOTE with their Christmas Cards. THE VOTE Office would be glad to have orders for any quantity of VOTES at an early date, so that we may have sufficient extra copies printed.

It was decided to hold our Twenty-second Annual Conference on Saturday, April 13th.

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## IN PARLIAMENT.

### The King's Illness (Transaction of Business).

THE PRIME MINISTER stated in the House of Commons last Tuesday that His Majesty in Council was pleased to nominate Her Majesty the Queen, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, His Royal Highness the Duke of York, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor, and the Prime Minister to be Councillors of State for the summoning and holding of the Privy Council, and for the transaction of other matters and things on behalf of His Majesty, and the Order in Council was signed by His Majesty. Letters Patent under the Great Seal to give effect to His Majesty's Commands will be issued forthwith.

### Maternity and Child Welfare.

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR (U., Plymouth) asked the Minister of Health if he will, at a proper time and early date, withdraw the cut which he made in the moneys granted for milk provision for the maternity and child welfare services? SIR KINGSLEY WOOD (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health): I assume that my hon. Friend is referring to the reduction of about £12,000, which was made in the grants available for certain local authorities in aid of their expenditure on milk during the present financial year. This reduction, which was purely temporary, had to be made in order to keep the grants paid by my Department for the health services within the amount voted by Parliament. I may add that similar action will not require to be taken during the next financial year.

### Departmental Committees (Young Persons).

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR asked the Home Secretary what steps have been taken to carry out the recommendations of the Departmental Committee on Sexual Offences against Young Persons, which reported in December, 1925, and also those of the Departmental Committee on the Treatment of Young Offenders, which reported in March, 1927, other than those covered by the Home Office Circulars issued on September 30th, 1927, and July 20th, 1928? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: It would be impracticable in the course of an answer to a Parliamentary question to refer in detail to the various matters dealt with by the two Committees, which, as my noble Friend is aware, covered a very wide field. A new Report of the Children's Branch will be issued in the course of a few days, and this will give some account of the progress made. The two Circulars mentioned dealt fully with the many aspects of the subject of young offenders, including the important question of the organisation of Juvenile Courts and the use of hostels and homes in connection with the probation system as an alternative to imprisonment, and showed how much could be done by the justices under their existing powers. I understand that in many places the justices have carefully considered these Circulars, and have arranged to modify their practice in accordance with the recommendations. A Circular was issued to justices on September 17th, 1926, as regards the recommendations of the Sexual Offences Committee, and I am considering, with the aid of the best advice I can obtain, whether it would be right at a suitable opportunity to propose changes either in law or in the practice of the Higher Courts in some of the many directions indicated by the Committee. As to those recommendations which cannot be carried out without legislation, the Government are most anxious to introduce a Bill to amend the Children Act as soon as Parliamentary time can be found.

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR asked the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps are being taken to carry out the recommendations contained in the Report of the Departmental Committee of Inquiry into the Treatment of Young Offenders, which has recently been printed under the title, "Protection and Training"? SIR J. GILMOUR: This Report has been receiving careful consideration by the various Departments concerned, and it is proposed to issue at an early date Circulars dealing

with such matters as do not involve legislation. Many of the recommendations involve legislation, and these are being considered in conjunction with the legislative recommendations of the Departmental Committee on Sexual Offences against Children and Young Persons in Scotland, with a view to the introduction, when Parliamentary time permits, of legislation amending the Children Act, 1908, and dealing with probation and other matters.

### Government Departments (Women, Resignations).

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury the number of women who resigned on marriage in the year 1927, in each of the following grades: higher executive, junior executive, higher clerical, and lower clerical? MR. SAMUEL: I regret that this information is not available.

### Children (Provision of Footwear).

Last Tuesday, MISS BONDFIELD (Lab., Wallsend) secured leave to bring in a Bill "to provide footwear for children in distressed areas." This was read a First time, and ordered to be printed. It is supported by Viscountess Astor, Mrs. Runciman, Mrs. Philipson, Miss Lawrence, Countess Iveagh, and Miss Wilkinson.

### WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN FRANCE.

A. F., writing from Paris, says:—

"Referring to the recent suffragette demonstrations in Paris, we learn from *Le Petit Parisien* of November 30th, that the Parliamentary Group for the defence of women's rights, assembled at the Palais Bourbon under the presidency of M. Louis Proust, has decided to make an urgent application to the President of the Council, asking him to use his influence with the Senate in order to push forward in the Upper House the discussion and vote on the motion adopted by a very strong majority in the Chamber on April 7th, 1925, conferring on women eligibility and the right to vote."

### "AT HOME" AT LINCOLN'S INN.

Members and friends of the Women's Freedom League who accepted Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence's kind invitation on Friday, November 30th, received a cordial welcome from our President, who wished success to the afternoon. Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence kindly entertained to tea all who came to buy from the wonderful display of attractive goods. Many articles which had escaped notice at the Green, Gold and White Fair found ready buyers.

The tea was under the able management of Miss Reeves, who was assisted by Mrs. and Miss Pierotti and the Misses Skinner, to whom and to all who helped to make the afternoon a success—Mrs. Antil, Mrs. Curwen, Miss Lyndon, Miss New, Mrs. Flowers, Miss Armstrong, Miss Alix Clark, Miss Trotter, and Miss E. Berry—our best thanks.

### WOMEN TO-DAY AND YESTERDAY.

"The dreams and desires of the woman of to-day are obviously more adventurous, less exclusively amorous, than those of her Victorian forerunners."—*Cicely Hamilton.*

### HAMPSTEAD BRANCH.

#### Dr. KNIGHT "At Home,"

to meet members and friends

At 7, GAINSBOROUGH GARDENS, N.W.3.

Little Sale of Christmas Presents from "The Fair."  
Handkerchiefs, Antiques, Toys, China, Household  
Goods, Fancy Articles, and Sweets.

Also a large and attractive selection of books of all descriptions

Monday, December 10th 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. R.S.V.P. to Miss E. Berry, Hon. Sec., 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.



## THE VOTE.

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### EDITORIAL.

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

### "THE BREADWINNER."

A correspondence is going on in the local Press of one of the London suburbs on the subject of the local governing authority giving posts to men rather than to women. The latest contributor to that correspondence states that "woman, although attaining man's equality in many things, has yet to be universally recognised as the 'breadwinner' of the nation, and should accordingly be content with the lesser wage," and he proceeds to congratulate the local authority in selecting men for its staff. Whatever the "universal recognition" may be, we would remind that correspondent that in this country, in this Year of Grace, women as well as men are breadwinners. Like men, women are to be found earning their own bread in all the professions, and throughout nearly all branches of industry, and quite a large number of them have dependents—sick or aged parents or relatives, not infrequently a sick or helpless husband, and sometimes children, either their own or the children of relatives. We would also point out to that correspondent that local governing bodies, who are responsible for spending the money of the men and women ratepayers, are not charity organisation societies, and that it is their duty to select for any paid post the most suitable applicant, irrespective of that applicant's sex, so that the best value shall be secured for the ratepayers' money, and that it is not their business to take into consideration the applicant's degree of need or amount of responsibility. When Miss Bondfield and the Duchess of Atholl were given posts in the Government, they were selected for their special capacity, and they were paid at the same rate as their men colleagues. Why should local governing bodies discriminate unfairly between men and women in connection with the posts they have to offer, and pay women lower rates simply and solely because they are women? This unequal treatment and unequal pay meted out to women has a sinister effect upon all women. Only this week *The Times* reports that Major M. Clowes, speaking at a luncheon of the London Master Printers' Association at Islington, said that in printing establishments they would have to consider the introduction of a class of labour at a lower rate than the skilled rate. The trade unions were realising the difficulty of dealing with boy labour when the age of 21 was reached, and were prepared to regard with sympathy an extension of the amount of work women and girls could do, so long as fully-trained trade unionists were in charge. In theory, they ought not to employ in the trade more boys than they could find work for when they grew up, but it must be admitted that they had been taking boys into a "blind alley" occupation. If girls were employed instead, they could still afford to keep them when they became adults. Can anyone consider anything more callous than this proposal for the employment of girls in the printing trade? Will men trade unionists agree to this "blind alley" occupation to girls when it is considered not good enough for boys? If they do, women workers will have little to thank them for. Such a short-sighted policy would bring discredit on all trade unionism, and would eventually inflict harm on men workers. The only safe and just policy in the printing trade and in all other occupations is the one which will secure equality of treatment and equality of pay for equal work for all workers—men and women.

### HOSPITAL BOARD INVITES WOMEN COLLEAGUES.

Mrs. Arnold and Miss Thorne were elected to the Board of Management, and Countess Cave and Lady Alberta Lopes were appointed Vice-Presidents, of the Royal Hospital and Home for Incurables, Putney, at the annual meeting held last week at the Cannon Street Hotel.

The annual report of the hospital stated:—

"For seventy-five years mere man has been treading out a beaten track. Now ladies are to lend a direct and prominent hand. It is said that in prehistoric days, when man and wife were looking for a suitable cave in which to shelter for the night, the wife was always sent in first to make sure that there were no wild beasts inside! Man, the lord of creation, did not believe in taking unnecessary risks. How changed are things to-day: the House of Commons and the Royal Hospital and Home for Incurables are admitting ladies to a safe sphere of activity."

We suppose the writer of this annual report was merely trying to be funny. We are very glad that at last, after seventy-five years, women have been appointed to the Board of Management of this particular hospital. Women ought to be on the Board of Management of every General and Special Hospital. Too often women have been relegated to a Ladies' Committee, whose chief business was to deal with the linen and blankets of the hospital! Yet in most of the hospitals the majority of patients are women and children, and the nurses women. It is true that at present the House Surgeons and the doctors of these hospitals are mostly men, but, happily, even this rule is changing, and medical women in these posts are not so rare as they used to be. With women on the Governing Boards of all hospitals, the number of medical women working in them would probably be increased. In any case, there is an enormous amount of work for capable women to do as Hospital Managers, and all our readers who have anything to do in the way of helping hospitals should press for women to be placed on their Boards of Management. We firmly believe that the London Lock Hospital for Women, the Report of the Inquiry into the administration of which we are still awaiting, would have avoided most of its difficulties and troubles if efficient women had been elected to its Board of Management.

### DAME MILLICENT.

Next week, an event of very great interest to all suffragists, the presentation of her portrait to Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., J.P., LL.D., will take place at Lady Astor's house, kindly lent for the purpose. The presentation will be made by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, formerly the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, of which Dame Millicent was for so long President, and by the London and National Society for Women's Service, of which she is Hon. President. The portrait, which has been painted by the young artist, Mr. Lionel Ellis, is not only an expression of gratitude to Dame Millicent for her work and leadership during the long suffrage struggle, but is a gift to posterity, so that future generations may know a little more intimately that wonderful personality, who has done so much in the cause of freedom for women. It is eminently fitting that Lady Astor, our first woman Member to sit in Parliament, should be closely associated with this tribute. In a few weeks, Dame Millicent is setting out on another long journey, this time not to Palestine, which she has visited and re-visited in recent years, but to Ceylon, where all women are still disenfranchised. The Women's Freedom League sends its warmest good wishes to Dame Millicent, both on the occasion of the presentation of her portrait and throughout her journey to and from Ceylon.

## THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE POLICE.

December 3rd.—**Sir Joseph Priestley, K.C.**, Chairman of the Hertfordshire Quarter Sessions, with many years' practice in Probate and Divorce, and a Hertfordshire magistrate since 1906, said his area met that of the Metropolitan Police at Potters Bar. He sat every week in Hitchin. The Hertfordshire and St. Albans Divisions had four Quarter Sessions each. He approved of uniform regulations as far as possible.

*Judges' Rules*, he thought, were observed. Not very happily phrased. He thought it a great temptation to a police officer to go on till the case was fairly complete, asking questions of a suspect without considering whether his mind was already made up to arrest him. Superintendents and Chief Constables smiled when he pointed this out to them. Were not the interests of justice and the rights of the subject identical? The Chairman replied, "Well, yes, I suppose so." The caution did not seem to be any great protection; it made investigation of crime more difficult.

*Statements*.—A witness, whose character might be affected by his answers, he thought had better have no special warning.

"3rd Degree."—He would strongly condemn the methods of the French Courts. The Chairman said he had now found in Wigmore's "Evidence" a definition, set out by an American authority, that in police and criminal procedure and practice the officer of the law administered the first degree when he made the arrest. When the person was taken to the place of confinement, that was the second degree; and when he was taken into private quarters and interrogated as to his goings and comings, etc., that was called the third degree. Chief officers should issue very careful orders on the subject, and train the police to be fair and considerate; exact time of beginning and ending of examination should be stated. Statements should be as near verbatim as possible, especially the important parts.

*Unwilling Witness*.—He disliked the suggestion of summoning before a magistrate. He could be subpoenaed at the trial; before that it would be gross interference with the liberties of the subject.

*Identification Parades*.—Very difficult to get suitable persons who would give up their time to come forward.

*Women Police*.—In 1926 he presided over the Home Office Departmental Committee on Sexual Offences against Young Persons, and referred them to its Report, page 26. He had just appointed two attested women police, and a third at headquarters; these now took statements from women and children in certain cases. A woman, such as a police matron, etc., should always be present when a policeman takes a statement from a woman prisoner. In some cases women, such as social workers, could assist the police in taking statements from women and children, or take the statements themselves.

*Morality*.—As a member of the Street Offences Committee, he would rather not anticipate its Report. He felt strongly that there was a danger of plain-clothes police unconsciously acting as "agents provocateurs." Police should be taught that it was much more their duty to prevent the commission of crime than to allow it to be committed and then cause it to be punished; when strongly suspicious, they should warn the person.

**Mr. Percy Robinson**, senior partner in Percy Robinson & Co., Solicitors, Great Marlborough Street, and defending solicitor in the Criminal Courts for the last twenty-eight years, had, speaking generally, distinctly favourable opinion of police.

*Statements*.—When a witness' personal character may be involved, he should be warned of that fact first of all, and told he need not answer; if silent, and evidence essential for justice, subpoena at the trial. In case of a prisoner, a rapid formal caution had not the slightest effect; he was not in a fit state of

mind to consider it. A caution to a witness might have some slight effect. The caution should be given at the very beginning.

"3rd Degree."—Improper pressure was frequent, police assuming a sympathetic air and advising accused to make a clean breast of it.

*Judges' Rules*.—Never seen them till now; they were rules of procedure, published for the information of the police, in Stone's "Justices' Manual, 1928." In pre-war days only a slight "spontaneous" conversation used to be read out of policeman's notebook; written statements were very few. During the War, practice of long, written statements originated in cases of spies, etc., and the police found it convenient. It was highly objectionable to read one prisoner's statement to a second prisoner, to induce a statement from him, and prisoners were often told that their co-prisoners had made statements incriminating them, to make them incriminate themselves and their fellows.

*Verbatim Statements* with questions and answers would be best.

*Identification Parades*.—Difficult, because prisoner's anxious expression contrasts with normal cheerfulness of the others.

*Women Police*.—A woman making a statement should be given the opportunity of having a police-woman present. In some cases of children and young girls, it was desirable that a policewoman should take the statement. Of course, in all cases a woman (mother, etc.) should be present.

*Morality*.—Prosecutions should be only when person annoyed would give evidence. The use of plain-clothes police to detect offences in public-houses, clubs, streets and parks is pernicious and objectionable.

*Excise Offences* should be out of the hands of the police and dealt with by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise, as was the method twenty-eight years ago. Extension of hours to licensed premises should be granted, not by the Metropolitan Police, but by the Metropolitan Police magistrates, as in a provincial Petty Sessional Court.

*Clubs*.—Specially detailed police officers (inspectors or higher rank) should have power to inspect all clubs where reason to believe it necessary, or else should inspect at regular intervals. The present method of getting evidence of betting in streets, clubs, etc., was most objectionable, and should be altered without delay.

**Miss C. M. Craven, Miss T. Llewellyn Davies and Mr. E. Calvert**, representing the Howard League for Penal Reform, founded in 1866 as the Howard League, thought that a prisoner should hear the main facts on which he is charged. Uniformed police should not enter schools to make inquiries about child offenders, and sometimes there should be more consideration for a man's family when he was arrested.

*Statements*.—No further powers were desirable against the unwilling witness; the subpoena in Court is sufficient. Compulsion would make the voluntary system less efficient, and undermine the goodwill which makes most citizens carry out their common law duty.

*Verbatim Statements* were best, but they also suggested experiment with some mechanical combination to take a record—possibly a microphone, loud speaker and dictaphone in different rooms. Accurate statement was so important that money must be spent upon it. A blemish in the present system is that police choose the moment to caution a prisoner; to know just at what moment he makes up his mind to charge is a great strain on a policeman. "Voluntary" statement was a misnomer. They deplored the recent tendency to take witnesses to Scotland Yard for examination; it inspired fear and handicapped truth. It was impossible for the officer used to the extraordinary powers during the War to be quite uninfluenced by the habit then acquired.



**Identification Parades.**—A magistrate should be present, and a "blank" parade be held either before or after the one which includes the suspect.

**Women Police.**—In general offences a policewoman should be present when a statement is taken from a woman, if she wishes. Statements from women and children in sexual cases should customarily be taken by a policewoman; women victims were loath to tell the story to a man. Women Police should, in many assaults on children, be responsible for the preliminary inquiries.

**Complaints against Police.**—They suggested a standing independent tribunal, appointed by the Home Office, to hear appeals of police from the police authorities.

**Morality.**—Uniformed police and park-keepers, not plain-clothes police, should be used in parks; all plain-clothes officers should be frequently changed and beats varied.

**Capital punishment** deterred some witnesses from volunteering information. Advice to plead guilty was frequently given by police; they should be prohibited from advising a prisoner at all. A solicitor or poor persons' aid should advise him.

**Remand in custody** should be to the nearest prison, as in London (Brixton, Holloway, and L.C.C. homes for children), not to local police cells for three days or four nights, as is done in the provinces. No appeal there from warders to governor, chaplain, doctor, or visitor, and particularly helpless without a solicitor.

**Police Records.**—After conviction, police should be forbidden to express vague general allegations:—"He is believed to be the associate of habitual criminals"; should confine themselves to definite statements, which they can prove; they may be mistaken, and prisoner should be asked if he disputes them. A blank form, which the man never sees, is sent from prison to the police station, filled up with his record, and returned to prison. Better facilities for legal aid for the poor in police courts, ensuring searching cross-examination of the police in court, would be the most effectual safeguard against abuse of police powers. We should reduce possibilities of abuse to the minimum and then trust the police, not give them every opportunity for abuse to show our trust in them.

December 4th.—**Sir Chartres Biron** Chief Magistrate of the Police Courts of the Metropolis, practised at the Bar chiefly as criminal barrister, made a magistrate in 1896, practically, though not formally, spoke for the other London magistrates.

**Judges' Rules**, an admirable, rough guide to conduct; anything said by a prisoner is evidence against him. After mind made up to charge a suspect, police are not entitled to ask questions in order to make a case against him.

**Statements.**—There seemed to be more long statements than before the War. He thought police had a tendency to more arbitrary use of powers since the War.

**Women Police.**—He did not think it would be generally desirable for policewomen to take statements from women and children in sexual cases, or to be present when a woman made a statement, or to assist the police in either of these ways. It was a great mistake to employ them in police cases, or allow them to arrest; they might get hurt, and it handicapped them in their best field—preventive work. Our police compared favourably with any such body in the world for good nature and restraint. People forgot how often they unhesitatingly risked life and limb in the service of the public—jumping into the river, stopping runaway horses, and as voluntary firemen. Occasional scandals were inevitable, but there was no systematic misconduct.

**Professional Bias.**—He did not think they ever sought to convict an innocent man, but, knowing or thinking a man guilty, they might be tempted to amplify their evidence rather than let him escape. It was for magistrates and judges always to guard against such professional bias. If there is a doubt as to the prisoner's guilt, he must be acquitted. This

does not mean the policeman is perjured, but that there are not sufficient facts against him. The police have to act on suspicion, the magistrate on proof. This is why public opinion here substantially supports the law.

**Police Advice to Plead Guilty.**—He hoped this was not done generally; he disapproved. It might be abused in night charges—drunks, prostitutes, etc.—not in serious cases. He was sure no substantial injustice was ever done, because a London magistrate makes himself a counsel of defence for a prisoner. Young constables were sometimes hasty with excess of zeal.

**Clubs.**—He thought the present system sufficient. The Commission meets again on Monday, December 10th, at 11.15 a.m.

#### WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

##### Woman Solicitor's Partnership.

Mrs. Edith A. Duthie, under her maiden name of Hart, in becoming a member of the firm of Duthie, Hart and Duthie, furnishes one of the few examples as yet of a woman solicitor entering into legal partnership with her husband. Her first post was as secretary to a solicitor, who found her so useful that he offered to give her her articles. Miss Hart read Law in the evenings after a strenuous day at the office. The possession of a beautiful voice enabled her to earn the £80 stamp on her articles and the Law Society's fees by singing at dinners and concerts.

##### Woman Educationalist.

Miss Rhoda Robbins, recent principal of Swansea Training College for Women, is about to undertake educational research work in America.

##### Woman's Forty Years Work as Postman.

Miss Lizzie Clay, of Bangor-is-y-Coed, Flintshire, who is over eighty, claims to have walked 200,000 miles in the course of her duties as an auxiliary rural postwoman, without ever having failed to deliver the mails.

##### Our First Woman Consul.

Senorita Inez Ortuzar, the Chilean Consul at Hull, is the first woman Consul to be appointed in England. It will be recalled by readers of THE VOTE that Miss Olga de la Barra was earlier in the year appointed Chilean Vice-Consul for Scotland.

##### Victory for Yugoslav Women Teachers.

The appointment of Katarina Bogdanovitch at Nish, and Leposaav Smodlaka at Kragujevac, as head-mistresses in Serbian secondary schools, has brought to a successful conclusion the long struggle of Serbian women teachers for recognition. The victory has caused much enthusiasm in the teaching world.

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WHERE TO GO.

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Monday, December 10th, 3 to 7 p.m.

Hampstead Branch. A little Sale by kind invitation of Dr. Knight, at 7, Gainsborough Gardens, N.W.3.

Friday, January 18th, at 3.30 p.m.

"At Home" at Pitt's Restaurant (close Main Entrance Kew Gardens), Kew Green. Speakers: Mrs. Bigland on "Women at Work in the League of Nations," and Miss F. A. Underwood on "The Work of the Women's Freedom League."

Saturday, January 26th, at 10 a.m.

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

Saturday, April 13th, at 10 a.m.

Women's Freedom League Twenty-Second Annual Conference, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W.1.

#### PROVINCES.

Monday, December 10th, at 6 p.m.

Rye Branch. Members' Meeting at the Mint Tea Rooms.

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

Portsmouth Branch. Members' Meeting at 2, Kent Road. Speaker: Miss Whitehead. Subject: "Politics Up-to-Date."

Friday, December 14th, at 2.30 p.m.

Ashford Branch. Whist Drive at S.E.R. Billiard Room.

Wednesday, December 19th, at 3 p.m.

Bexhill Branch. Whist Drive at Albany Hotel.

Monday, December 31st, at 3 p.m.

Ashford Branch. Christmas Party at Hempstead Street Hall.

#### OTHER SOCIETIES.

Friday, December 7th, at 3 p.m.

National Council of Women. Meeting at Chapel Street Congregational Hall, Southampton. Speaker: Miss M. I. Neal. Subject: "Equal Pay." Chairman: Mrs. Cresswell, J.P.

Saturday, December 8th, at 3 p.m.

Saturday Speech Club, at the Minerva Club, 55, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Debate: "That communication with the Dead has been established." Proposer: Mr. Harold Carpenter, of the Grotian Spiritualist Community. Opposer: Speaker from The Union Society of London.

Monday, December 10th, at 7.30 p.m.

Union of Women Voters. Dinner at the Goodie's Restaurant, 4, Woburn Building, Woburn Square. Speaker: Sir Robert Newman, M.P., on "The Employment of Married Women Bill." Tickets 3/6 each, from 55, Chancery Lane, W.C.2.

Tuesday, December 11th, at 8 p.m.

Fabian Society (Women's Group), at Caxton Hall, Victoria Street. Lecture by Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., on "Women in Politics." Single Tickets 1/3, to be obtained from Fabian Women's Group, 11, Dartmouth Street, S.W.1.

Wednesday, December 12th, at 4 p.m.

British Commonwealth League, "At Home" at 17, Buckingham Street, W.C.2. Hostess: Mrs. Etheridge.

Tuesday, January 8th, at 3 p.m.

Women's Guild of the George Street Congregational Church, Croydon. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood. Subject: "Josephine Butler."

Wednesday, February 22nd, at 8 p.m.

Character Builders Association, 45, Lancaster Gate, W.2. Speaker: Miss Marian Reeves. Subject: "Protective Legislation as it Affects Women."

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#### BRANCH NOTE.

##### PORTSMOUTH.

A Members' Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 13th, at 2, Kent Road, at 7 o'clock. After the business has been transacted, Miss Whitehead will speak on Politics-up-to-date. Gifts for the Fair gratefully acknowledged from Miss Barnes and Mrs. Poole.

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

#### OUR OPEN COLUMN.

Mr. H. J. Turrell, Recorder of Banbury, writes that he thinks his reference to Women Police reported in last week's VOTE was scarcely fair. He therefore sends us the following, which he thinks better represents his opinion:—

"As Mr. Justice Avory says, everyone but a lunatic changes his mind, but I really am not doing so; my opinion is that policewomen are not required as police patrols, and they are unsuitable for such work. In detective work, women must be useful. I remember cases where police officers have employed their wives in detective work, and I doubt if there are any private enquiry agents with any considerable staff who do not employ policewomen. I think if, by the employment of women, the contact of the police with prostitutes could be minimised, it would be a good thing. I think, however, the police as now organised are extremely orderly, are extremely astute, and successful in obtaining information from women."

#### WOMEN in the SERVICE OF HOSPITALS.

A deputation from the Joint Committee of Women's Organisations, including the Women's Freedom League, which was organised by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship earlier in the year to promote equal opportunities for women with men in the medical and hospital services, was received by officers of the King Edward's Hospital Fund for London on Tuesday, November 20th. Mrs. Corbett Ashby, representing the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship and the Women's National Liberal Federation, led the deputation, and was supported by Miss Louisa Martindale (National Council of Women), the Hon. Mrs. Franklin (National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship), Mrs. Barton (Women's Co-operative Guild), Mrs. Charles Williams (Women's Unionist Organisation), and Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P.

The Earl of Donoughmore, Chairman of the Management Committee of King Edward's Hospital Fund, Colonel H. A. Wernher, Hon. Secretary, and Mr. Maynard, Secretary, received the deputation, and there was a very interesting and useful exchange of views on both sides, the representatives of the Women in the Service of Hospitals Committee laying special emphasis on the growing need for fully-experienced women doctors.

#### TO "THE VOTE" READERS.

Vols. No. 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 14 of "The Vote" are urgently required by the Women's Freedom League. The gift of any or all of these volumes to Headquarters would be much appreciated. Many thanks for odd numbers already sent.

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## NOTICES.

**F**ELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, December 9th, 1928. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Rev. Francis Underhill, M.A., 6.30. Rev. James Binns, M.A. "The Inner Witness of the Spirit."

**P**UBLIC SPEAKING.—Lectures, classes, and private lessons. Saturday Speech Club.—Miss LUCY BELL, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Tel.: Museum 4791.

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