

THE VOTE,
MARCH 31, 1922
ONE PENNY.

NO COMPULSORY MEDICAL EXAMINATION!

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 1922

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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WHEN I AM M.P.

MRS. STEWART BROWN, the prospective Liberal Candidate for the Waterloo Division of Lancashire, is President of the Waterloo Women's Liberal Association, and a Member of the Executive of the National Women's Liberal Federation. She is also President of the Liverpool Branch of the National Council of Women, and the Women's International League, Vice-President of the Liverpool Council of Women Citizens, ex-Chairman of the late Women's Suffrage Society, an ex-City Councillor, and a member of our Liverpool Branch.

It would seem more modest, perhaps, to substitute to my own sex. The industrial position of women is profoundly unsatisfactory, and in the solution of the many problems bound up with it, I think it most necessary to have a considerable number of Women M.P.s to represent the Women's point of view, which is so often overlooked.

But, if elected, I know it will be the Women's vote which will turn the scale in my favour, and it is to that section of the electorate I make my most confident appeal, supported as I am by the members of the Women's Freedom League, and the Women Citizens' Association, as well as the Women's Liberal Association of Waterloo and District. As an M.P. I shall hope to further all reforms for bettering women's conditions, politically, industrially, and socially, which object is in complete accordance with Liberal principles as I have always understood them. I do not, therefore, anticipate any possible clash between my duty to my Party and my duty



get more women M.P.s elected to the House of Commons.
NESSIE STEWART BROWN.

Other issues of this Series in "The Vote"—Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY, July 15, 1921; Miss MABEL BILLSON, July 29, 1921; Mrs. SCOTT GATTY, August 12, 1921; Mrs. ELEANOR BARTON, August 26, 1921; Mrs. WINTRINGHAM, M.P., September 23, 1921; Dr. ETHEL BENTHAM, October 7, 1921; Mrs. AYRTON GOULD, October 21, 1921; Mrs. MARJORIE PEASE, J.P., October 28, 1921; Miss MAY P. GRANT, January 6, 1922; COMMANDANT MARY S. ALLEN, O.B.E., February 17, 1922; LADY COOPER, March 17, 1922; Miss HELEN FRASER, March 24, 1922.

COMPULSORY MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

A week or two ago we recorded in THE VOTE the fact that a British Medical Woman had been dismissed from a Government post in Uganda because she refused to carry out compulsory medical examinations on the natives of that country. The matter was brought up in the House of Commons last week, when MR. HAILWOOD asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies if his attention had been drawn to the Contagious Diseases Acts now operating in Uganda, which compelled chiefs, none of whom had had a medical examination, to report to the authorities anyone of whom they had reasonable suspicion that he or she had Venereal Disease; was he aware that numbers of men and women were obliged by British Government officials, and native chiefs acting under their orders, to come up at intervals for a particular form of medical inspection, and that the Colonial Office induced white women, both doctors and nurses, to leave England, where Contagious Diseases Acts were not law, to carry out measures of a similar nature in a British Protectorate, and this without pointing out to them the element of compulsion in the work they were expected to do; and would he take steps to put an end to these objectionable practices? MR. CHURCHILL replied that there was no analogy between the Contagious Diseases Acts formerly in force in this country, which were directed to the compulsory examination of prostitutes, and the measures which had been in force in Uganda since 1913, for preserving a population ravaged by Venereal Disease. The questions whether the procedure in Uganda could be improved in detail, and whether special references to prostitutes could be deleted from the legislation without relieving that class from the liability to examination which was considered essential in the general population, would be referred to the Governor. But he was satisfied, as was Lord Harcourt in 1913, of the necessity of drastic action in dealing with the matter. The main legislation on the subject was a native law of the Kingdom of Buganda, passed by, and at the instance of, Native Government, and the administration of the law was a matter for the native chiefs, and not for British officials, though the Government Medical Officers gave their services in examining the suspected cases sent them by the Chiefs. Corresponding legislation existed to cover the case of those not subject to the native law. There had been no complaint from the medical staff as to the execution of those measures, except from a woman doctor, who had been selected for employment in Uganda because of special knowledge of Venereal Diseases. Her protest appeared to be attributable in part to her conclusion, as a result of her five months' experience, that not more than five per cent. of the persons she examined were infected, a view which was not shared by medical men, official and missionary, of many years standing. It was a fact that her attention had not been drawn, before her selection, to the special measures regarding Venereal disease. They were communicated to her very shortly after her arrival, and it appeared that she took part in many examinations before making any complaint. Care was now taken to bring those measures to the notice of any persons engaged permanently for the duty of carrying them into effect.

LABOUR WOMEN'S CONFERENCE.

The National Conference of Labour Women will be held on May 9th and 10th, in the Town Hall, Leamington Spa. Readers of THE VOTE will be glad to know that the women of the Labour Party, like ourselves, are continuing to press for the further enfranchisement of women at the same age and on the same terms as men.

Our readers will also be interested in seeing the following resolutions which appear on the agenda:—one calling upon the Government immediately to appoint a committee or commission to investigate in its widest aspects the question of public provision for maternity and childhood (we sincerely hope that any such a

committee or commission will comprise an equal number of women with men); another protesting against the inadequacy of the Unemployment Dole to single women, and calling upon the Labour Party to press for the establishment of General Educational Courses for Unemployed Women, those attending to be paid an additional grant, making the dole £1 per week.

There is a resolution condemning the recent attack on the Trade Board System, and calling upon the Government to maintain all the powers now possessed by Trade Boards to improve the machinery in accordance with the evidence tendered by the Trade Unions concerned to the Cave Committee, and to set up Trade Boards in all industries where the workers demand such protection. Another resolution sent forward in the name of the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations, while recognizing the need of national economy and strict supervision of all expenditure, condemns any reduction in the national services of health, housing, and education. It declares that such expenditure gives a steady return by increasing the physical, mental and moral powers of the nation, and lightens the burden now imposed upon us by preventable death, sickness and ignorance.

There is also a resolution deploring the present unsatisfactory position of women industrial workers, many of whom, voteless and unorganised, are either the prey of unscrupulous employers, who are forcing down wages to below pre-war level, or are at the mercy of rota committees, endeavouring to economise at the expense of the rights of the Unemployed Women under the Unemployment Insurance Act, and urging the Standing Joint Committee to consider the question of organising a campaign, with a view to impressing public opinion, through the Press and public meetings, with the seriousness of the position, and urging the necessity of organisation on the women themselves.

THE INTERESTS OF WOMEN ELECTORS.

On Monday evening, March 20th, Mr. E. Leslie Burgin, LL.D. gave an interesting address on the above subject in the Minerva Café. Mrs. Mustard presided, and urged the necessity for equal franchise between men and women. She said women were not such cut-and-dried politicians as men, but on one point they were adamant, viz., the necessity for political equality. Economy was the chief question before the country to-day, but women were convinced that the gist of economy lay in wise spending, not in wholesale "cuts." Better housing, for instance, was imperative, and just as important now, as Lady Astor had observed, as building Dreadnoughts during the War. Education was another subject of great importance, yet in both these directions a policy of cheese-paring was being followed. A pressing necessity was more women in the House of Commons, because only women really understood the needs of other women. Women could be trusted to put principle before party.

Dr. Burgin said the interests of women electors were twofold, national and international, since no country lived only for itself, but was interdependent with other countries. Pure food, housing, the liquor traffic, education, &c., were foremost amongst the subjects which needed women's attention at home. One of the chief causes of drunkenness was a desire to escape from the sordid surroundings provided by far too many homes, owing to the prevalence of bad housing conditions. Germany and the United States were increasing the amount of their technical education, so as to turn out more highly-skilled workers. This country, however, was proposing to cut down its educational grants.

A good deal of animated discussion followed Dr. Burgin's address, and one of his statements, that present Parliamentary procedure was a necessary item of good government, was actively contested by many present, who argued that Lady Astor's political success was almost entirely due to the facility with which she cut directly across formalities and obsolete traditions.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Treatment of Children (Hong Kong).

The following is the text of MR. CHURCHILL'S reply last week to questions asked by MR. T. GRIFFITHS and MR. CHARLES EDWARDS in regard to the *mui tsai* system:—"I have received a telegram from the Governor of Hong Kong stating that his Government, in consultation with the Societies for the protection and for the abolition of *mui tsai*, will draw up a scheme for the abolition of the system as soon as possible. Both the Government and the Societies point out that this process must take some little time. I have directed the issue without delay of a proclamation making it clear to employers and employed that the status of *mui tsai*, as understood in China, will not in future be recognized in Hong Kong, and, in particular, that no compulsion of any kind to prevent girls over the age of 12 leaving their adopted parents at any time will be allowed. It has been pointed out to me by the Government and the Societies that the issue of this proclamation will involve some risk of exposing a number of girls to the wiles of unscrupulous persons, and that before the girls are encouraged to leave their employers, it would be very desirable to have some scheme to provide for their future. It is indeed obvious, in view of the numbers involved, that it will be beyond the power, either of charitable institutions, or of the Government, to deal adequately with the situation, should any large proportion desire to leave their present homes immediately. I have therefore instructed the Governor that *mui tsai* should be warned in the proclamation that until accommodation can be provided for them elsewhere, they should not leave the shelter of their present homes, except in case of ill treatment, and after reference to the Chinese Secretariat; and I have also said that they should be specially warned against the other danger referred to by the Governor. Although it is obvious that an old established custom cannot be altered at a moment's notice, I desire to make it clear that both the Governor and I are determined to effect the abolition of the system at the earliest practicable date, and I have indicated to the Governor that I expect the change to be carried out within the year."

Women Police Patrols.

MRS. WINTRINGHAM asked the Home Secretary whether he proposed to disband the Women police before the opinion of the House had been taken on the matter? MR. SHORTT replied that the disbandment would take place gradually, as from March 31st, as the engagements of the patrols expired. The matter could be raised if an opportunity occurred; but if the required savings were to be effected, the process of disbandment must be commenced as soon as possible.

Metropolitan Police (Matrons and Stations).

MRS. WINTRINGHAM asked the Home Secretary how many police matrons there were in the Metropolitan police area; what was their pay; and whether any allowances were made to them for uniform, meals, or for any other purpose? MR. SHORTT replied that there were 18 police matrons permanently attached to stations, who received a salary of £1. 1s. a week, and six van matrons, who accompanied female prisoners to Holloway, two of whom were paid 18s. a week, while four, who were employed part-time, received 10s. a week. At any station where there was no permanent matron, women were employed as and when required, and they were paid according to the period for which they were employed up to a maximum of 10s. for any one day. None of the matrons received any other allowance. MR. FOOT asked if the matrons referred to would be engaged to assist men police in bringing female prisoners from one part of the country to another? MR. SHORTT said that women were always employed on that duty. MRS. WINTRINGHAM further enquired what was the total number of police stations in the Metropolitan police area,

and what number of reserve policemen were on duty at those stations? MR. SHORTT answered that the total number of police stations in the Metropolitan police area was 195. He did not think it would be in the public interest to give the number of reserve policemen on duty at these stations.

Presumption of Coercion.

Last week VISCOUNT ASTOR introduced a Bill which provides that "No presumption shall henceforth be made that a married woman, committing an offence in the presence of her husband, shall be entitled to be acquitted, provided it be found by the jury that, as a matter of fact, she committed the offence under the compulsion of her husband." This measure is "The Married Women (Presumption of Coercion Removal) Bill, 1922."

Unemployed Women (London).

DR. MACNAMARA, replying to a question by MR. GILBERT, said that the number of women registered as unemployed in the Metropolitan area at 13th March was 51,869, belonging principally to the hotel, restaurant, and boarding-house service, the clothing trades, and manufacture of food and drink. He was aware of the shortage of domestic servants. It was a standing instruction to Exchange officers to direct the attention of unemployed women to the opportunities of work in domestic service, and large numbers had been placed in employment in that way. As a matter of fact, the number of women placed in employment by the Exchanges during the last twelve months was 218,000, of whom 124,000 had been placed in domestic service—residential or daily.

Lunacy Act (Certification).

MR. MILLS asked the Minister of Health whether, in view of the fact that Section 49 of the Lunacy Act constituted (in default of action by the Commissioners or the Medical Superintendent) the sole safeguard against detention at the hands of an unjust petitioner, he would take steps to see that the intention of the above Section was not annulled by the substitution (in the case of a lady confined for thirteen years in Camberwell Asylum) of the names of two doctors nominated by the husband for the names of two independent medical practitioners submitted in the application for her examination under the statute, with a view to discharge? SIR ALFRED MOND replied, that in the particular case mentioned, the Board of Control had two applications under Section 49 before them at the same time—one from persons who were not relatives, and the other from the husband who asked to be allowed to send two specialists in mental diseases. There was no reason to think that the husband was not sincerely interested in the wife's welfare, and the Board accordingly consented to his application.—F. A. U. (See VOTE, March 17, page 86).

OUR NEW PAMPHLETS.

- "The Work for Women M.Ps.," by Miss 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.
- CAMEO LIFE SKETCHES.
- "Dr. Elsie Inglis," by Dr. Aimée Gibbs 4d.
- "Josephine Butler," by Marion Holmes 3d.
- "Lydia Becker," " " 3d.
- "Frances Mary Buss," " " 3d.

and various pamphlets and books on subjects of special interest to women.

Any books on any subject obtained to order.

THE VOTE.

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To the Secretary—on all other business, including Vote orders,
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Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."
Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

EDITORIAL.

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

WOMEN AND THE COLONIAL OFFICE.

We all rejoice that the *mui tsai* system is to come to an end in the British Colony of Hong Kong, and to Commander and Mrs. Haslewood, who, two years ago, initiated efforts in this country to abolish child slavery in that Island, we offer our warmest congratulations on the success of their work. We are proud of the fact that the Women's Freedom League arranged the first public meeting of protest against this system, which was addressed by Mrs. Haslewood, who has also spoken on the subject at other meetings in England and Wales arranged by our Branches. The women of this country forced the Colonial Office to recognize that public opinion would not tolerate a system of child slavery under the British Flag. Women have now to convince the Colonial Office that public opinion in Great Britain is entirely hostile to the compulsory medical examination of women as a means of combating venereal disease in any British Protectorate. British women fought strenuously against this worst feature of the Contagious Diseases Acts in regard to prostitutes in this country, and secured the repeal of those Acts. They fought just as strenuously against the disgraceful 40D Regulation during the recent War, and with similar success. In spite of Mr. Churchill's statement last week, that this compulsory medical examination is considered essential in Uganda, reliable medical opinion throughout the civilised world is, that such examinations are altogether useless in preventing the spread of venereal disease. Women's organisations are unanimous in agreeing that such compulsory examinations are not only useless, but degrading, and entirely against the interests of morality, whether these examinations are carried out only in the case of prostitutes or, as in Uganda, on the general population. In regard to the system of child slavery prevailing in Hong Kong, the Colonial Office, on more than one occasion, pleaded that the system was a Chinese system, and in the best interests of the Chinese population of that colony. But people in England knew that it was entirely against the traditions of this country to bolster up child slavery anywhere on British soil, because under no conditions could we tolerate child slavery in Great Britain itself. So in regard to the compulsory medical examination of women in Uganda. The Colonial Office may plead that it is based on Native law, but, whatever its basis, British women, who are voters and therefore responsible for the conditions of women in every part of the Empire, will work against the carrying out of such a law by every means in their power. We strongly resent the fact that any medical officers—men or women—under our Government should be expected to work under these conditions. What the Colonial Office will have to realize is that British women who, under no circumstances would tolerate the compulsory medical examination of women for venereal disease in this country, will just as vigorously protest against this degrading treatment being meted out to Native women in a British Protectorate. British women will acquiesce neither in child slavery nor in the degradation of any woman—whatever her colour or creed—in any country which is under the protection of British rule.

COMPULSORY VOTING?

Lt.-Col. Archer-Shee is still of the opinion that the people of Great Britain should be compelled to vote at Parliamentary Elections, and he is supported in this theory by another old anti-suffragist, Lt.-Col. Page Croft. On the 21st March, Lt.-Col. Archer-Shee begged leave to move, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to promote the wider exercise of the Parliamentary Franchise," and explained that the Bill was introduced in a slightly different form two years ago, but that it did not meet with the approval of the House on First Reading, mainly because there was in it a penalty of one month's imprisonment for people who did not vote. The present Bill simply said that people must go to the poll. They need not vote for a candidate; if they liked they could put a blank paper into the ballot box. Exceptions were made for illness, distances from the poll, and for any reasonable excuse; but unless there was some reasonable excuse they were made liable for a first offence to a fine not exceeding 10s., and for a second offence to a fine not exceeding £1, or alternatively, seven days in the second division. The hon. and gallant Gentleman argued that it was not an undemocratic thing to ask the House to pass a law to compel people to exercise the franchise at Parliamentary Elections. The matter had been raised in the United States; it was the law in Holland and in Czecho-Slovakia. At our last General Election only something like 58 per cent. of the electors recorded their Vote; and it seemed to be a special grievance to the Colonel that less than 40 per cent. voted in his own constituency when he was last returned to Parliament. Lt.-Col. Croft supported the Motion, and the Bill was ordered to be brought in, after which it was read a First time.

OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On Saturday, April 29th, the Women's Freedom League will hold its Fifteenth Annual Conference at Caxton Hall, Westminster, when delegates from our Branches in England, Scotland, and Wales will meet together to discuss and vote upon Resolutions and Amendments sent in by Branches and the National Executive Committee, and to vote for the officials and members of the National Executive Committee for the coming year. All members of the League who are in London that day are most cordially invited to be present during the Conference, although only accredited Branch delegates and members of the Executive Committee may speak, and only Branch delegates may vote. There are resolutions on the agenda dealing with Equal Franchise, our Election Policy, Women Candidates for Parliament, the Protection of Women and Children, Women Public Officials, Married Women's Employment, Unemployed Women, The "Geddes Cuts" in Education, Health measures and Housing, the present Constitution of the Women's Freedom League, International Policy, Russia, etc. The Annual Conference is the Parliament of the Women's Freedom League, when our Branches have an opportunity of reviewing the year's work, and expressing their opinions on this work and our future policy, which is based upon the resolutions before Conference. Reports will be given of the work done in the various departments of the League throughout the year by our organisers and in the campaigns run by the Women's Freedom League. The Chair will be taken by Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., at 10 a.m., and the Conference will continue until 6 p.m., with an interval for lunch. The following afternoon (Sunday) a Reception to delegates, members and friends of the League will take place at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square (corner of Coram and Hunter Streets). This Reception is being arranged by our Mid-London and Hampstead Branches. There will be a little music, tea, and short speeches, and every one who is present will be assured of a warm welcome, and a very pleasurable afternoon.

PERSONAL REMINISCENCES OF ELSIE MAUD INGLIS.

BY EDITH W. KIRBY.

A Memorial to Dr. Elsie Inglis was unveiled last week in St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh. It is cut out of a single block of delicate, rose-tinted stone, resembling granite, and was quarried in France. The upper part consists of three angelic figures holding emblems of Faith, Hope, and Charity, and below them is the following inscription: "To the Beloved and Honoured Memory of Elsie Maud Inglis, Surgeon and Philanthropist; Founder in 1914 of the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Service with the Allies in France, Serbia, and Russia; born 1864, died on active service 1917. *Mors Janua Vitae.*"

Dr. Scharlieb, who travelled down from London to unveil the Memorial, said it was to them an inspiration and a guide. Dr. Elsie Inglis was a striking character, endowed with an optimism which would never believe in defeat, and her life was an example to the whole Empire. She had had the honour of knowing Dr. Inglis personally, and she hoped that none of them would forget the simple faith and reliance with which she followed her Beloved Master.

It is fitting that this Memorial should have been erected in St. Giles, for it was in St. Giles that she found strength to carry on her work in the surrounding districts, and it was under the shadow of St. Giles that the child of her imagination grew and prospered. The Hospice—a mean building up a narrow stair—was for many years Dr. Inglis' special hobby. Here was a complete Maternity Home for the poor women of Edinburgh, run entirely by women, with a special ward for malnourished babies, and a balcony on which their cots were placed on fine days, a pure milk depot, and a clinic to which all babies born in the Hospice were brought regularly until they were two years old.

She was never too tired or too busy to respond to any demand its patients made upon her time and energy; always ready to climb the steep stairs of their high dwellings if a mother was there who had been an inmate of the Hospice. She gave them more than medical help; she inspired them with courage, and helped them over many of the rough places in life. There are plenty of children now growing up who bear her name, "Elsie Maud," in grateful recognition, and on the day of her funeral these children and their

mothers filled the High Street to show their sorrow at her passing. It will be many a long day before her name is forgotten in the High Street, and many were the remarks on the day of her funeral how curious it seemed that other countries should bestow on her their highest honours, and yet her own country not only refused to accept her offer of help in time of need, but failed to recognise her greatness even after she had shown what the Scottish Women's Hospitals were worth.

Dr. Inglis was full of optimism for the future. She was always planning improvements at the Hospice; so before very long it is expected that a new home will be found for it, close by the old site, where there will be more room for women medical students to train in clinical midwifery, and more beds for patients. Thus will it be a fitting memorial to Dr. Elsie Inglis.

Dr. Inglis was a well-known figure in Edinburgh, and up to the beginning of the War drove about in an old-fashioned victoria, driven by a faithful old coachman. She was a born leader, and always expected everyone to do their best. She never spared herself, and, when abroad with the Scottish Women's Hospitals, it was always her desire to be where the need was greatest—"Not I, but my unit"! It was always a pleasure to do anything for her; she was so very appreciative, and never forgot to reward one with a bright smile.

The Suffrage cause in Scotland owes much to her untiring efforts, for she was ever willing to speak at evening meetings, provided she could get home the same night, so as to be ready for her professional duties next morning. She was a very effective speaker, and spoke with practical knowledge of the lives of poor women. It was her sympathy with their difficulties that drove her into the Suffrage movement. The vote to her meant cleansed cities, and women and children saved. That was why she counted no labour too great in the cause. When women's enfranchisement was won, she wrote from Russia: "So the vote has come, and for our work! Fancy it having taken a war to show men how ready we were to work!"

Of her it may well be said that her whole life was spent in self-sacrificing toil.

WOMEN ADVISERS AT WASHINGTON.

According to reports recently published in American papers, the four women who sat on the Advisory Committee of the Washington Conference were not appointed merely to represent women, but as citizens, to represent citizens, which shows that the American man is rapidly approaching the goal of equal comradeship between the sexes—the real age of chivalry. It is also reported that the women as a group did not separate from the men on any subject. The Advisory Committee was composed of 21 persons, and was appointed to act as a clearing-house for information and advice in the interests of the United States, and to consider and report upon the naval holiday, chemical warfare, submarines, aircraft, and land armaments.

The duties of Mrs. Martin Egan, who acted as executive secretary, included an enormous amount of office administration. She sat day after day, dictating answers to the letters and suggestions that came in by the hundred thousand. She also acted as secretary to the executive committee which discussed the reports of sub-committees before submitting them to the whole

committee for final action. At the full meetings Mrs. Egan read all documents, and, with the aid of a shorthand writer, kept the minutes in such form that practically everything that was said at the Council table will be available for the interest and enlightenment of the public.

Mrs. Thomas G. Winter, who, as President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, heads a nationwide organisation of two million, reported to the American Press that the Conference had aroused more ardent interest on the part of American women than anything she had seen within her lifetime. Mrs. Katherine Philips Edson expressed the hope that, in spite of the enormous benefit to be derived from the Conference, it would not lull the nations into a false feeling of security. Mrs. Charles Sumner Bird reported that, although the women of the Advisory Committee were selected from the point of view of geographical representation rather than representation along sex lines, they had been useful to the Advisory Committee primarily as representatives of the people, and secondarily because of their natural women's point of view.

BOOK REVIEW.

Report of the Royal Commission on Oxford and Cambridge Universities. (H.M. Stationery Office, Imperial House, Kingsway, W.C.2). Post free, 6/3½. (Can be obtained at this Office).

In November, 1919, the King, through the Home Secretary, appointed a Commission of 31 men (including Mr. Asquith, Sir John Simon, the Dean of Christ Church, the Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University, Professors of Oxford, London, and Manchester Universities, and the Provost of Eton), and two women (Miss Emily Penrose, Principal of Somerville College, and Miss B. A. Clough, Principal of Newnham), to consider the request for an annual State grant made by Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

The Commission sub-divided itself into the Oxford Committee, the Cambridge Committee, and the Estates Committee. It held 66 meetings and examined 90 witnesses. Its Report, just published, gives a comprehensive, detailed, and delightfully interesting account of many months of patient, hard work, gladly undertaken by these distinguished men and women to discover the exact position of our senior centres of learning, the educational needs of the world of to-day, and the necessary adjustments required in these "imperfect but perfectible" bodies, so that the greatest number of suitable students from all sources might benefit from them.

Recommendations.

No State grant was given to Oxford or Cambridge till 1919; since then a provisional annual grant of £30,000 has been paid to each University, pending the Commission's report. The Commission recommends that this should be increased to £100,000 each, with an additional sum for arrears of pensions for University service; an additional annual sum of £6,000 for the extension of teaching of adult students, and those whose school life has been restricted, but who are intellectually qualified for a University training in some special branch of study; and (for the next ten years) an additional sum of £4,000 for the benefit of the Women's Colleges (because they are unendowed), to be apportioned by a University body. Each University would thus receive an annual State grant of £110,000.

A brief but fascinating account is given of the rise of the two Universities in the 12th Century, their gradual development, the growth of colleges, the lethargy of the 18th Century, and the reform which came from within, and from Parliamentary pressure without, in the ever-recurring struggle for expression of the living ideal of "history and tradition in perfect harmony with progress and free intellectual activity."

Practical recommendations are made for reducing the expense of a College Course, for additional scholarships, for adequate stipends, and an increased number of Professors and teachers, for a pension scheme, and a retiring age, for foreign, overseas, and Indian post-graduate students, and for more democratic self-government and business methods of management.

University Women.—The Commission was unanimous in wishing women to have ample facilities for education at Oxford and Cambridge, and for full participation in the life and work of the University.

The Cambridge Committee recommended that women should be admitted to membership of the University on the same conditions as men, with some exceptions, that the women undergraduates should not exceed 500, that Girton and Newnham should be recog-

nised as Public Hostels, but should not rank as Colleges of the University, and that women should not hold the offices of Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, or Proctor.

The Committee was equally divided as to whether Parliament should be asked to step forward and effect this reform, or whether we should patiently wait and see what the University itself would vouchsafe under its proposed new constitution.

The Women's Demand—Equal Terms.*

Miss B. A. Clough and Mr. William Graham have no doubt about the question, but take a perfectly clear and definite personal stand, and point out plainly that "it will be very difficult to justify, either in Parliament or in the country, the grant of public money to Cambridge University so long as it refuses to women teachers and students the rights which they now enjoy in every other University in Great Britain. On the other hand, it is difficult to justify a refusal to this University of the public assistance proportional to its needs. For the majority of Cambridge resident teachers, who would be penalised by the refusal, are in favour of the admission of women to full membership of the University." They consider, therefore, that Parliament should be strongly urged to pass legislation at the earliest moment granting full membership to women on equal terms with men, and they are opposed to the suggestion to limit by statute the number of women undergraduates.

Armed with the above statement as a weapon, all our members and readers should immediately write to their members of Parliament to interest them in this long-overdue reform. E. K.

National Union of Teachers' Annual Conference.

EASTER CAMPAIGN, 1922. TORQUAY.

For the ninth year in succession the Women's Freedom League are running a Campaign at this Conference. This year our big Public Meeting will be held on the subject of the

MARRIED WOMAN'S RIGHT TO WORK

The speakers will be Mrs. Manning, of Cambridge, and Miss Sara Griffiths, of the Rhondda, South Wales. Other speakers will be announced later.

A special educational number of the "Vote" will be published. The help of members and friends attending the Conference is urgently needed to ensure a very successful Campaign, and the expenses, which are always heavy, must be provided for. Please send contributions and offers of help as soon as possible to:—

ALIX M. CLARK, The Hut, Newtown, Montgomeryshire.

OUR LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

"My Experiences as an Asylum Doctor." By Dr. Lomax. The Literature Department of the W.F.L. is prepared to lend this book at the rate of 6d. a week.

"Woman: A Citizen." By A. E. Metcalfe, B.Sc. (2/6). This very useful little book, which is intended more especially for the guidance of voters, and which deals with Government, both Municipal and Parliamentary, is a perfect mine of information, and can be obtained at this Office.

Women's Freedom League.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, April 3, at 3 p.m.—"Fair" Committee, at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.
Monday, April 3, at 6.30 p.m.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn. Speaker: Mr. E. G. Clayton. Subject: "Old London—some quiet backwaters and other relics of the past, in a great Capital."

Wednesday, April 5, at 6.30 p.m.—Mid-London Branch Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Friday, April 7, at 3 p.m.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn. Speaker: Miss Helen Fraser. Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Govan Division of Glasgow. Subject: "American Women versus British Women."

Monday, April 10, at 6.30 p.m., at 144, High Holborn.—Members' Meeting to discuss Amendments to Resolutions for Conference. Members of N.E.C. will be present.

Friday, April 28, at 1.30 p.m., at 144, High Holborn.—Meeting of Organization Committee.

Friday, April 28, at 2.30 p.m.—National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Saturday, April 29, at 10 a.m.—Annual Conference, Caxton Hall.

Sunday, April 30—Reception to Delegates, Members, and Friends, arranged by the Mid-London and Hampstead Branches. Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C. 1.

Friday and Saturday, November 24 and 25.—Caxton Hall, Green, White, and Gold Fair.

PROVINCES.

Monday, April 3, at 8 p.m.—Southend-on-Sea and District.—Public Lecture, at Metropolitan Academy of Music, 10, London Road, Southend-on-Sea.

Tuesday, April 11, at 7 p.m.—Portsmouth. Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin. Subject: "The Training of Children in Personal Hygiene."

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, April 5, at 3 p.m., at St. Michael's Hall, Northwold Road, Upper Clapton. Mrs. Mustard on "Women and Politics."

Wednesday, April 5, at 8 p.m.—Women's League of Union, Oak Room, Kingsway Hall, W.C. Conference to discuss invitation to affiliate the Union with the National Women Citizens' Association. Speaker: Mrs. Neave Hobbs.

Wednesday, April 12, at 7.30 p.m.—Hoxton Hall. Mrs. Mustard on "The Aims of the Women's Freedom League."

Sunday, May 14, at 6.30 p.m.—Kingston Church of Humanity, Orchard Road, Fairfield West, Kingston-on-Thames. Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin. Subject: "Nasal Hygiene and Spiritual and Mental Development."

BRANCH NOTE.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA & DISTRICT.

On March 9th, at the meeting of the Southend branch of the Women's Freedom League, Mrs. Nichols presided, and an address on "Municipal Undertakings" was given by Coun. A. Bockett. In the course of his remarks he traced municipal enterprises from 1420, when Southampton had its water supply. Having given statistics as to local authorities' undertakings, he referred to the question of the gas undertaking owned by the Corporation of Leigh, and said men were wanted on the Town Council who were accustomed to deal with big problems, men of business ability. Before long there would be a proposal regarding electricity, which would mean an expenditure of many thousands of pounds, and they wanted all the ability they could find to deal with it.

VENEREAL DISEASE. DANGER OF "COMPULSION."

The Corporation of London, on the advice of their Medical Officer of Health, have invited the National Council for Combating Venereal Disease to call a Conference at the Guildhall, of representatives of Sanitary and Poor Law Authorities, the medical profession and social workers, to consider how best to get patients to continue under treatment till free from infection. Many people are still badly hankering after Compulsory Notification and Compulsory Treatment, and this Conference will have to be closely watched.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Unmarried Parents.

The position of children of unmarried parents was discussed recently at the annual meeting of the National League for Health, Maternity, and Child Welfare in London. Referring to the Children of Unmarried Parents Bill, which he introduced in the House of Commons last year, but which failed to pass the House of Lords, Captain Bowyer, M.P., said that it was almost incredible that this was the only country in which children were not legitimated by the subsequent marriage of their parents. Captain Bowyer said that he would willingly accept legislation which provided that the child legitimated should forgo rights of succession to titles or property, other than the right to succeed to the property of its parents or next of kin. The position now was that the Government had agreed to make the measure a Government Bill, so that they had a good chance of seeing the Bill become law, provided the Government lasted out the year.

A resolution was passed calling upon the Government to introduce their Bill without delay; to increase the amount payable under affiliation orders, and to provide for the universal appointment of collecting officers.

Dietaries in Mental Hospitals.

According to the *Observer*, the Board of Control have, with the approval of Sir Alfred Mond, the Minister of Health, appointed the following persons as a committee, to consider the dietaries in county and borough mental hospitals, and to report what changes, if any, are desirable and whether a minimum dietary scale should be fixed:—R. W. Branthwaite, C.B., M.D. (chairman), Commissioner of the Board of Control; M. Greenwood, M.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., Medical Officer (Medical Statistics), Ministry of Health; R. Worth, O.B.E., M.B., Medical Superintendent, Springfield Mental Hospital, Tooting; and L. O. Fuller, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Medical Superintendent, Three Counties Mental Hospital, Arlesey, Beds. But why should women be excluded from this particular committee?

Edith Roberts to be released.

According to Press statements, the Home Secretary has decided to review the sentence passed on Edith Roberts, of Leicester, last July. Protest meetings were held, and nearly 30,000 people signed petitions for her release. Now that there is a By-Election in Leicester, Mr. Shortt has apparently found time to consider this matter further.

2000 Women on the Medical Register.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the governors of the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, Euston Road, Mr. Gordon Pollock, the chairman, stated that when he first became interested in this hospital there were only seven women on the medical register, and now there were something like 2,000. That, he said, proved there must be some need for them. Many of them admitted that they were making comfortable little incomes.

Bulgarian Women Plead for Starving Russia.

The president of the Bulgarian Women's Union, Madame J. Malinova, has issued a moving appeal for Starving Russia to the Presidents of International Women's Organisations. She asks why women do not organise public opinion and direct it in help of the starving women, children, and aged men of Russia?

Hong Kong Electorate.

Colonel J. Ward (Stoke-on-Trent, C.L.) last week presented a petition from the British inhabitants of the Crown Colony of Hong-Kong, numbering 1,500, praying for the abolition, so far as non-Chinese unofficial members of Council are concerned, of the principle of Government nomination, and the substitution of popular election therefor, and the adoption, so far as the non-Chinese members of Council are concerned, of a larger electoral body than exists at present.

WOMEN POOR LAW GUARDIANS.

Miss Vance (who has the strong support of the National League of the Blind) and Mrs. Beryl Russell are again putting up for No. 3 Ward, St. Pancras Board of Guardians. During the year Miss Vance has put in 350 attendances and Mrs. Russell 250. Throughout the year they have been tireless and enthusiastic workers, and we hope they will again be returned on April 5th. In Wales, Miss Alix M. Clark is putting up for the Newtown and Llanidloes Union Board of Guardians, and also, with Mrs. W. R. Williams, for the Urban District Council. We wish them every possible success on April 1st, the polling day.

A DELIGHTFUL EVENING.

Members and friends spent a most enjoyable evening last Monday, listening to a very interesting lecture on the Life and Work of the late Dr. Elsie Inglis, by Miss E. W. Kirby. Miss Kirby knew Dr. Inglis personally, having worked under her in Edinburgh. She relates some of her Reminiscences in this week's *VOTE*. Mention must also be made of the splendid lantern slides which accompanied the lecture, the property of the Scottish Women's Hospitals. These illustrated the work carried out at Royaumont and Villers-Cotteret, and also in Serbia and Russia, by the various units organised by the Scottish Women's Hospitals during the War.

FRIDAY,
MARCH 31,
1922.

THE VOTE

ONE
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WEEKLY.

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MISS GWYNNE HOWELL will give advice upon methods of Saving Labour in household management. Consultations written or personal.—88, Beaufort Mansions, Chelsea, S.W. 3.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. Sunday, April 2nd. Miss Maude Royden. 6.30. "Our Lord Christ."

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