

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 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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XLII.—WHEN I AM M.P.

MISS BARBARA BLISS, Prospective Liberal Candidate for East Grinstead.

I shall do my best, if I am returned, to equip myself with as much knowledge as I can of Parliamentary procedure. I do not mean by this only a study of Erskine May, but observation of the various methods and manners employed in the daily routine of the House of Commons. I believe that by becoming a good Parliamentarian one best can serve the interests of those one represents, and, incidentally, the future of the woman's movement all over the world.

My main interest will be the Committees of Supply, Ways and Means, Public Accounts and the Estimates. Because, only when the financial position is known, whatever Government may be in power, can one judge what chance there is for the causes one really has at heart. World peace, I believe depends, more than on any other one factor, upon the size of the British Army, Navy, and Air Estimates. All the nations seem to be waiting for someone else to start, and Great Britain, with her great strength and her great responsibilities, seems to be the Power from whom a sign of willingness to take risks and to be less well protected would come with the greatest effect; there is nothing which more effectively would put a stop to the competition in armaments.

Upon the Budget debates depend what monies will be devoted to Education, Health, and the Insurance and Pensions Funds. On these will be concentrated one's hopes for the pre-school child, smaller classes, better school buildings, the raising of the school age, safeguarding of the juvenile worker; one's hopes

for more scientific care of the mothers, the prevention of illness in young people, its cure if it becomes established, the ex-soldier's health, provisions for old people, widows and orphans, the removal of slums, the humanising of industrial life, the betterment of rural conditions.

If I have the good fortune to be returned when there is a Liberal Chancellor of the Exchequer on the Treasury Bench, work on these nights will be constant and all-night sittings frequent, especially if—which is probable—parties are evenly balanced.

Three parties and two Lobbies make difficult voting on divisions for the new Member. Although the present situation is not, as is commonly supposed, a new feature in the British Constitution: there have often been three parties; the Tories had a large split over Catholic Emancipation a hundred years ago; the Peelites formed a third party in the middle of the century; the Liberal-Unionists took a long while before they were absorbed into the Conservative party. But it is periods such as these, when groups are apt to break away, or new alliances and compacts form, which require the most conscientious loyalty to principles and beliefs and election pledges in the Division Lobbies. To express



MISS BARBARA BLISS.

opposition to Conservative fiscal policy without showing approval of Socialist doctrines on a division list is often a difficult thing to manage; or, on the other hand—a situation which often may arise in the future for supporters of any of the three parties—to support on a division a minority administration in order that

His Majesty's Government may be carried on without at the same time jeopardising election promises.

Personally I shall expect to find myself very frequently in the Voting Lobbies with the Labour party, although I am told, and have often observed for myself, that work in the House of Commons tends to sharpen distinctions rather than to blur them. The point where I shall always find myself in opposition to Labour—as the term is at present understood—will be when Labour appears to be striving for material gains, better wages,

shorter hours, and the like, not as a means to public well-being, but as an end in itself; as Mazzini wrote: "A mere change of social organisation makes little difference if you (Italian workmen) and the other classes keep the passions and egoisms of to-day." It merely becomes an exchange of masters. What appears to me of supreme importance in the art of government is the development of the character of the people—a well fed and well housed people is essential as a road to that development, but it is not the goal itself.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Lady Aberdeen, Burgess.

Last Friday, in the presence of an audience of 2,500, in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh, the Freedom of the City of Edinburgh was presented to the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair. Lady Aberdeen, who was accompanied by Lord Aberdeen, received a great ovation when she was presented with the burgess ticket in a silver casket, in testimony of the high regard in which she was held by the citizens of Edinburgh, and in recognition of the prominent part taken by her in connection with the higher education of women and her assistance at all times ungrudgingly given to schemes for improving the health and well-being of the people. The platform was beautifully decorated with flowers, and Sir Alexander Stevenson, the Lord Provost, who presided, and the magistrates wore their robes. The Lord Provost said he was sure Lady Aberdeen would value the honour all the more because of the interesting fact that Lord Aberdeen himself was made a burgess of Edinburgh forty-three years ago. The Town Clerk (Mr. Grierson), in a eulogy of Lady Aberdeen, said there were only two other women on the burgess roll of Edinburgh—the late Baroness Burdett-Coutts and the late Miss Flora Stevenson. Lady Aberdeen made a delightfully happy speech in reply.

Japanese Women's First Suffrage Step?

The *Sunday Times* states that the first step towards the realisation of woman suffrage in Japan has been taken by the Imperial Government Railways. The officials decided to grant all employees, regardless of sex, who are more than eighteen years old, the right to vote for the election of members of the railway committee on improvement and treatment of employees. Although this is limited to those employed on the railways, it is expected that the decision will have a favourable influence in the country, and that it will not be many years before adult suffrage has been achieved. There are approximately 10,000 women employees of the railways who will vote for the first time in their lives. Up to the present only male employees, twenty years old or over, have been allowed to vote in the committee elections.

A Woman Factory Inspector Appointed.

The Home Secretary has appointed Miss Mary Evelyn Roxburgh to be an Inspector of Factories and Workshops.

Women Swimmers beat Men.

Three women beat all the male competitors in a swim on Saturday from the Cloch Lighthouse across the Firth of Clyde to Dunoon. The first two were Miss Bell Weir (1 h. 16 min.) and Miss Jean Gainford (6 min. longer).

Other issues of the series, "When I am M.P.":—Councillor KINGSMILE JONES, September 14, 1928; Miss JESSIE STEPHEN, August 17, 1928; Dr. MARION PHILLIPS, August 10, 1928; Mrs. C. D. RACKHAM, J.P., M.A., June 15, 1928; Miss ENID LAPHORN, June 1, 1928; Miss H. M. KEYNES, May 25, 1928; Mrs. HAMILTON, February 17, 1928; Miss F. B. WIDDOWSON, January 6, 1928; Mrs. TOWNSEND, September 16, 1927; Mrs. MASSINGHAM, August 19, 1927; Miss RUBY PART, June 3, 1927; Miss ELEANOR STEWART, May 13, 1927; Mrs. BEATRICE A. BAYFIELD, April 29, 1927; Mrs. PANKHURST, February 25, 1927; Miss MONICA WHATELEY, January 21, 1927; Miss ELISABETH EDWARDES, January 7, 1927; Miss MARY RICHARDSON, September 24, 1926; The Lady RATHCREEDAN, August 27, 1926; Mrs. CECILIA STREETEN, April 2, 1926; Dr. STELLA CHURCHILL, March 12, 1926; Mrs. MURIEL MATTERS PORTER, September 12, 1924; Mrs. ANNE CORNER, August 29, 1924; Mrs. LOUIE SIMPSON, J.P., August 15, 1924; Councillor ELLEN C. WILKINSON, M.A., July 4, 1924; Miss MINNIE PALLISTER, July 8, 1923; Miss C. PICTON-TURBERVILLE, September 8, 1922; Mrs. HAMILTON MORE-NEBBITT, August 18, 1922; Mrs. BURNETT SMITH, June 30, 1922; Lady CURRIE, April 7, 1922; Mrs. STEWART BROWN, March 31, 1922; Miss HELEN FRASER, March 24, 1922; Lady COOPER, March 17, 1922; Commandant MARY S. ALLEN, O.B.E., February 17, 1922; Miss MARY P. GRANT, January 6, 1922; Mrs. MARJORIE PEASE, J.P., October 28, 1921; Mrs. AYRTON GOULD, October 21, 1921; Dr. ETHEL BENTHAM, October 7, 1921; Mrs. WINTRINGHAM, M.P., September 23, 1921; Mrs. ELEANOR BARTON, August 28, 1921; Mrs. SCOTT GATTY, August 12, 1921; Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY, July 15, 1921.

OUR BOOK REVIEW.

The Strange Necessity. Essays by Rebecca West. (Jonathan Cape.) 10s. 6d. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

Miss Rebecca West is herself such a brilliant reviewer that she is the most difficult person in the world to review—the ordinary craftsman is dazzled by the splendour of her wit and crushed by the weight of her learning! Nevertheless, the task must be essayed.

Her new book, "The Strange Necessity," is mainly occupied by a discussion of the question, "What is Art?" upon which Tolstoy once exercised his gigantic intellect. Miss West approaches the subject in a different fashion, and her conclusions are expressed in the latest terms of modern psychology. She deals mainly with the art of Literature, and she takes as her text a novel with which few English readers are familiar—"Ulysses," by James Joyce, which has been banned in this country, but published in America. But Miss West's analysis is so thorough and searching that, by the time she has finished with "Ulysses," we seem to know the book and its author, and the Dublin slums which he describes, as if we had known them all our lives. We may not fully share her admiration for James Joyce, and we may half suspect that he is not so much a person of genius as his reviewer, but at least he has tried to "paint the thing as he sees it," and the artist in Rebecca West responds joyfully thereto.

But it does not really matter what Miss West is discussing. Whether she is describing a golden autumn day in Paris, or her emotions on seeing a painting by Ingres, or Professor Pavlov's experiments on dogs—from which she draws an interesting parallel between Science and Art—whatever the subject-matter, it is a joy to watch her brilliant mind at work. And if, when we have finished the essay on "The Strange Necessity," we have not yet solved the problem, "What is Art?" we have watched the creative impulse at work in humanity, from the cave-dweller to James Joyce, and our minds are enriched thereby.

The second half of Miss West's book, reviewing other writers of the day, is more within the scope of the average reader, and the chapter dealing with the Four Uncles—Wells, Shaw, Bennett, and Galsworthy—is a gem of insight, sympathy, and humour. But why not the Big Five? What has Uncle Chesterton done to escape her friendly criticism? Surely "G. K. C." is a perfect uncle, in form and spirit! Has he not told us fairy tales galore, and have we not played games together? But we must not be greedy and ask for more, when our author has already treated us so generously.

In a later chapter Miss West pays homage to the genius of Thomas Hardy, and compares him with some of our younger poets, and another essay calls attention to the work of H. M. Tomlinson, upon whom the mantle of Conrad seems to have descended, and whose wonderful books on sea and jungle should be more widely known.

America, too, is not forgotten, and in the review of "Elmer Gantry" Miss West puts Sinclair Lewis in his proper place by showing that, although he can satirise false Christians, he is quite incapable of appreciating true ones. St. Francis of Assisi is to him an unknown quantity! In another chapter she puts up a spirited defence of poor old Europe, which has produced so many masterpieces of art and literature, and is still producing them.

The essay on "The Long Chain of Criticism" should be studied humbly by every Fleet Street scribbler who wishes to understand the basic principles of his art, and the chapter on "The Tosh Horse" should bring a blush to the cheek of Miss Ethel M. Dell if that lady were not past praying for. Miss West's final chapter is a tribute to "Some Minor Artists"—the architects and gardeners and cooks who make the Riviera the delightful place it is.

And so we close the book with mingled feelings—shame at our own ignorance, wonder at our author's encyclopaedic knowledge, and gratitude that so many

fine men and women, including Rebecca West, are still writing in our noble English tongue. Sometimes we think we are decadent, but posterity may declare that the Georgian period was a Golden Age. W. M. S.

WOMEN'S PROGRESS IN THE ASSEMBLY.

By OUR CORRESPONDENT IN GENEVA.

The Assembly of the League, meeting in Geneva, gave an excellent opportunity to the women delegates to show their powers of expression and their ability in carrying important points. Miss Forchhammer (Denmark) was made vice-chairman of the Fifth Committee (Social Questions), and in the same Committee Dame Edith Lyttelton was made rapporteur on the Opium Question; she was able to show that she is a master of procedure and can give expression to the most delicate matters; it must be remembered that Opium is as much a political question as a social one.

Mrs. Carlyle Macdonnell (Australia) spoke very ably at a plenary meeting of the Assembly on Women Police. Mrs. Hainari (Finland) was rapporteur on Traffic of Women and Children. She emphasised the need for a further inquiry in the countries where no investigation has taken place before (viz., the East). Her report also noted that the Advisory Committee has examined the resolution passed by the previous Assembly as to "the desirability of recommending to all governments the abolition of licensed houses," and supported the request that the "Governments of all those countries which still retain the licensed house system will investigate the question as soon as possible in the light of the report made by the Body of Experts."

Two very important recommendations were passed by the Plenary Assembly, showing the work done by the women present. One, in connection with the report on the "Relations between the League of Nations and Institutes or Bodies set up under its authority." These relations had been defined in a previous report adopted by the Council of the League; but the Second Committee of the Assembly amended it as follows: "Care should be taken that the nomination of members, both to the governing body and the superior staff, be made without distinction of sex, and to correspond with the international character of the institute." The second recommendation is in connection with the report of the First Committee on Progressive Codification of International Law.

The resolution, calling upon the Council to convene the meeting of the Conference during 1929, contains in paragraph 7 the following sentence: "The Assembly, considering that the question of nationality, which is on the Agenda of the Conference, is of special interest to women, and that Article 7 of the Covenant embodies the principle that all positions under or in connection with the League shall be open equally to men and women, expresses the hope that the members of the League, when invited to the forthcoming Conference, will consider the desirability of taking these considerations into account in composing their delegations."

TOLERATED VICE IN KENYA?

In the year in which the Centenary of Josephine Butler's birth is being celebrated in every part of the world, and when the State Regulation of Vice has been everywhere thoroughly discredited, it is very disturbing to learn from the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene that the Kenya Legislative Council is proposing to introduce a system of State-regulated prostitution among the natives of the Colony. The well-known newspaper, *The Times of East Africa*, is opposing this proposal. The Women's Freedom League is also protesting against it to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Kenya Colony and Kenya Protectorate are situated in Eastern Equatorial Africa. On the west the Colony adjoins Uganda, and on the south the mandated Tanganyika territory. The Governor of Kenya is Sir Edward Grigg, K.C.V.O., C.M.G. We cannot believe that the British Government will countenance such a retrograde step as the Kenya Legislative Council proposes.

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Telephone: HOLBORN 930

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.

OUR PRESENT DISCONTENTS.

While politicians and the Press are busily occupied in wooing the new women voters, and one newspaper is running a series of articles by women under the heading "If I were Prime Minister," an intriguing situation has arisen at Sheffield. The famous Cutlers' Company will hold its 300th annual feast next month, when Mr. Baldwin will be the principal guest. It has always been the custom for the Master Cutler to invite the mayors of the surrounding towns to this feast, and the mayor of the ancient adjacent borough of Chesterfield has a sort of prescriptive right to invitation; but this year the Mayor is a woman, Miss Violet Markham, and as women have never before taken part in the Master Cutler's feast Miss Markham has only been invited to the Mistress Cutler's party, and she has declined the invitation. The Mistress Cutler's reception, which on previous occasions the Duchess of Norfolk and Mrs. Baldwin have attended as guests, is not a dinner, the guests having dined at home; but light refreshments and music are provided and those who come to it afterwards occupy a gallery in the banquet hall from which they listen to the speeches of the men diners. Miss Markham has declined Mistress Cutler's invitation on the grounds that she could not, with due regard to the prestige of her town, accept any lesser position than that normally accorded to the Mayor of Chesterfield. The following is a copy of her letter:—

"Mayor's Parlour, Chesterfield.
September 19th, 1928.

"Dear Mistress Cutler-Elect,—I much appreciate the kind invitation that I have received to meet you at the Cutlers' Hall on Thursday, October 11th. I need scarcely say that I should welcome any opportunity of making your acquaintance, but I much regret that it is impossible for me to accept this particular invitation.

"The Mayor of Chesterfield has, through the courtesy of successive Master Cutlers, always been included as a guest at the Cutlers' Feast. You will readily understand, therefore, that since my fellow-citizens have thought fit this year to make me their Chief Magistrate, I could not with due regard to the prestige of my town accept any lesser position at the Cutlers' Feast than that normally accorded to the Mayor of Chesterfield.

"I know that women have not up to the present been included at the Cutlers' Feast, and I understand that on the 300th anniversary of this historic ceremony it is felt that no departure can be made from the recognised custom. I cannot, however, refrain from pointing out that many established customs have undergone changes in the course of 300 years, notably the position of women. Women are now full citizens of the realm, and a woman at present holds the office of Lord Mayor of Liverpool. Should a woman in future fill a similar post in your city I find it hard to believe that a Lord Mayor of Sheffield could in any circumstances be excluded by reason of her sex from the Cutlers' Feast.

"In view of the public importance of the principle concerned in this matter I am compelled to communicate a copy of this letter to the Press.

"Thanking you for your invitation, and with every good wish for your year of office,

"Believe me, dear Mistress Cutler-Elect,

"Yours very truly,

"VIOLET MARKHAM.

"The Mistress Cutler-Elect,
(Mrs. Thomas G. Sorby)
The Cutlers' Hall, Sheffield."

This is all very Gilbertian and we are sure Miss Markham must thoroughly enjoy the humour of it. As the *Manchester Guardian* reminds us: "It is quite on the cards that in another generation the Master Cutler himself may be a woman." We wonder if Mr. Baldwin, as the principal guest at that feast, will remember his statement in the House of Commons last March: "Once this Bill (the Equal Franchise Bill) is law, the last fraction of truth about inequality will have gone?"

We are glad to note that the Mayor of Lichfield (Mrs. Stuart Shaw) has had better luck. She attended the annual supper of the Johnson Society, held in the Guildhall at Lichfield last Saturday in the dim light of candles, and is the first woman to have done so. When responding to the toast of her health, Mrs. Shaw, we are glad to say, reminded those present that she had a right to be there as their Mayor. We know of course that a prominent bachelor M.P. has declared that women were always either an irritant or a distraction, and that their presence was so often undesirable; but if women quietly but firmly insist upon their right to do what they wish, the opposition of such men will continue to dwindle. It is difficult for some types of mind to understand women's resentment of unequal treatment and consideration with men, and this is shown in the following letter from the British Broadcasting Corporation which the Secretary of our Middlesbrough Branch received in reply to that Branch's protest against the reference to the new women voters as "flappers" which occurred in the 9.30 news from 2LO on September 18th:—

"NEWS BULLETINS."

"Dear Madam.—We have your post-card of recent date and note what you say on behalf of your League in reference to the new women voters. We regret any annoyance caused by the expression used, but do not think that this can possibly be construed as an intentional slight. As you are doubtless aware, the expression has been in current use ever since the extension of the franchise was mooted, and the News Agencies, by which our Bulletins are supplied, were merely following this common usage. Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) C. R. WADE."

Yes, yes. And for three hundred years women have been excluded from the Cutlers' Feast. So that the Master Cutler was "merely following the common usage" when he refused to invite a woman, Miss Violet Markham, the Mayor of Chesterfield and Chief Magistrate of the Borough, to the Cutlers' Feast. Women, however, have no use for these "common usages."

MARRIED WOMAN TEACHER WINS.

Mrs. Doris Bent, the teacher at Pennington Mission Church of England School, whom the Leigh (Lancashire) educational authorities refused to recognise or to pay since last July, on the ground that she was a married woman, has received a letter informing her that the salary withheld from her will be paid on September 27th. The managers of the school instructed Mrs. Bent to continue teaching after her marriage, although the local Education Committee said they would not pay her salary as a member of the staff if she continued to teach. Mrs. Bent's case was supported by the National Union of Teachers, and a deputation from the Education Committee went to the Board of Education. The National Union of Teachers maintained that, in the case of non-provided schools, the education authority has no right to dismiss any teacher except on educational grounds, and they have gained their point. Our view is that no woman teacher should be dismissed from any school except on educational grounds. Marriage does not prevent the Duchess of Atholl from holding the post of Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education; why, therefore, should marriage prevent a woman from holding the post of a teacher under the Board of Education?

"ONLY A GIRL."

By M. I. NEAL.

The Equal Franchise Act is on the Statute Book. Women have swum the Channel, become air pilots, won motor races, played in Olympic games, entered the "professions," and "made good" in business, and it is with considerable indignation that the feminist realises that even now these successes are regarded with surprise not only by men, but by her own sex; but is that surprise really surprising? Is it not true that the old "inferiority" of the woman still exists in *her* mind as well as in that of her brother?

I confess I was astonished a few days ago to hear a friend, whom I knew as a whole-hearted suffragist, correct her small son with "Brian—you are *not* to tease Mary! you know she is only a little girl." I repeated the last four words, and my friend blushed as she turned to me and said: "Oh! it is so *difficult* to get out of the old nursery habit; but you know I wouldn't let Brian senior say that, and this boy won't after a time." Perhaps he will not, but how deep will the impression be? and will it affect Mary as well as her brother?

Recently I have been reading "Speech Day" addresses given by famous clerics and equally famous head-masters to girl schools. It is certainly a sign of the times that such addresses should be given at all, but finding that the majority of the speakers advise their young hearers to "cultivate charm," not to "adopt extreme dress," not to "ape men," to "remember that motherhood and the making of home is not only 'the' duty but the *first* duty of womanhood," I am wondering how far such addresses impressed their hearers. Certainly none of the speakers would tell the boys of a public school that their most important duty was to prepare for fatherhood, but why? or that "plus fours" are as indecent in the city as a girl's sleeveless frock!

Why should "Speech Day" in a boys' school be regarded as an opportunity for serious advice—but in a girls' as one for gentle banter? Why are girls not told to carefully consider their profession in life, to make a good choice, to "play the game," and to meet difficulties

with brave hearts? Is it not because the old "inferiority" complex is showing itself in a new way?

Women have shown an aptitude for sport: a *few* desire to excel and enter for Olympic games, one faints and one becomes hysterical at the winning post, and at once the cry goes up "Women are not fitted for athletics! for the sake of the race, such contes's must be stopped!" As though the "future of the race" could possibly be seriously affected by the two or even two hundred women who entered for such games. On the other hand—what of the sports *men* who fall over the tape after the race—who have to be *carried* from the boats after the Boat Race? Do the critics really believe that to women only belongs the "future of the race"? If they do, *why* do they not insist that women must no longer do the heavy work of washing clothes and of scrubbing floors.

We have gained much in the last few years, but the greatest fight is still ahead of us—to convince not only men, but women too, that the "inferiority complex" is a perversion of nature—that girl and boy, though not always *physically* equal, are yet *humanly* equal; that strength, ability and skill are matters of training, and not of sex; that a woman has a right to live her own life and decide her own work, subject only to such laws and regulations as apply to the whole community. The fight will cover many fields—the right of the girl to study the same subjects and take the same examinations as a boy—a right recently challenged, or at least debated by the Head Masters' Association; the right to enter certain trades and professions and to work in them unhampered by special regulations—a right disputed by many Trade Unions and professional associations.

The right of the married woman to select her own work, in the home or outside it.

All these are part of the great fight, and only when the whole field is won shall we cease to hear that reproach "Only a Girl."

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A WOMAN EXPERT ON SLEEPY SICKNESS.

From *The Woman's Journal* (New York) we learn that Dr. Josephine B. Neal, of the New York City Health Department, has been appointed by a group of New York specialists to direct a most thorough-going investigation into the causes, diagnosis, and treatment of that inflammation of the brain known scientifically as epidemic encephalitis—popularly, as sleepy sickness. For their foundation these researches will have the most complete survey ever undertaken of work already done on the disease, and this foundation, in its turn, will rest on the labour and resourcefulness of a woman. When the group of specialists decided last year that Dr. Neal was the best possible person for this post, she immediately began her work in the New York Academy of Medicine. She has her own private nook in the learned seclusion of its library, where she keeps before her the outline of her task. There are four long drawers packed full of cards, each card representing a book or an article, all of which have been read or are to be read and abstracted by Dr. Neal and her assistant, also a woman physician. Thus, everything that has been produced on this subject will be gathered together in one place to serve as a starting-point for future work. Communication by letter has been established with investigators all over the world, and last spring Dr. Neal travelled abroad to inquire into the researches and visions of European experts. Dr. Neal is also one of the most active physicians in New York, and at any time of day or night, on Sunday or on holiday, wherever and whenever the summons calls her, she may be found at the bedside of sufferers from meningitis and other acute disturbances of the central nervous system—her speciality—and she probably sees more such cases in a year than any other specialist in the city. She had strenuous days in the war, when private practitioners were scarce and conditions were so acute that her staff of twenty-five were overworked. In recent years more normal conditions have permitted the reduction of her staff to two physicians (both men) and two laboratory assistants, but hard days still recur.

Dr. Neal has had eighteen years' medical experience in highly specialised city work. At the time of her graduation from the Cornell University Medical School in 1918, opportunities for young women doctors were nothing like they are now in America. But that year the Bureau of Laboratories of the New York City Health Department initiated its division of applied therapy. The opening was offered to Dr. Neal, and there she has remained.

The Woman's Journal further tells us that Dr. Neal, who had been brought up on a farm in Maine, long clung to the dream of getting away from the rush and clamour of the city to a more congenial environment, and these dreams were revived for a time a year or so ago by a call from Smith College to fill the post of college physician. The hold of her speciality, however, was too strong, and the obscure path of epidemic encephalitis drew her on.

And so, in the hours that consulting physicians leave free to her, Dr. Neal digs deep, preparing the field for the forthcoming campaign against sleepy sickness.

A PILGRIMAGE TO MACEDONIA AND GALLIPOLI.

At the luncheon arranged by the British Commonwealth League at 17, Buckingham Street, Strand, last Tuesday, Dr. Grace Boelke, of New South Wales, was the principal guest. Mrs. Corbett Ashby presided, and said how pleased all present were to welcome Dr. Boelke among them again. Dr. Boelke, who is a prominent member of various women's organisations in Australia, gave a graphic account of the pilgrimage which she and others had undertaken to Gallipoli and Macedonia to visit the graves of those who had fallen there in the War. Passing through France, they had touched at Venice, gone on to Corfu, Corinth and Athens, where she had seen the Acropolis and the remains of the Parthenon in moonlight. Later, she had visited Rupert Brooke's grave and then visited

Salonika. At Lake Dorian and other English cemeteries the War Memorial is a white, bell-shaped stone tent with a cross on top. Dr. Boelke could not sufficiently praise the loving care and attention bestowed on these cemeteries by the Imperial War Graves Commission. Italian cypress trees and English rosemary grew there together. Dr. Boelke gave a moving description of Gallipoli—that hard, barren district, where so many of her own countrymen and ours met their death—and she pleaded that the tragedy of Gallipoli should never be repeated. It was not enough, said Dr. Boelke, to pray for peace in our time. We must have peace in our hearts, in every fibre of our being. We should not get peace without national sacrifices. We must all get peace in our hearts and minds; only then can we make sure that the unforgettable tragedy will not occur again.

THE POLICE COMMISSION.

The Royal Commission on Police Powers and Procedure held a preliminary private meeting on September 17th, at Caxton House (West), Tothill Street, S.W.1. The first public session will take place at the same address on Wednesday, October 10th, at 11.15 a.m. It is anticipated that the Commission will hold two sessions in each week for taking evidence, but further information on this matter will be available after the first meeting.

The following are the terms of reference of the Commission: "To consider the general powers and duties of police in England and Wales in the investigation of crimes and offences, including the functions of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the police respectively; to inquire into the practice followed in interrogating, or taking statements from, persons interviewed in the course of the investigation of crime; and to report whether, in their opinion, such powers and duties are properly exercised and discharged, with due regard to the rights and liberties of the subject, the interests of justice, and the observance of the judges' rules, both in the letter and the spirit; and to make any recommendations necessary in respect of such powers and duties and their proper exercise and discharge."

MORE RAILWAY CARRIAGES OFFENCES.

According to the *Hackney Gazette*, a sentence of six months' hard labour was imposed at West Ham Police Court on a young man, a canvasser, aged 19, living in South Hackney, who was charged with indecently assaulting a married woman in a railway carriage on the L.N.E.R. The prisoner pleaded guilty and urged in mitigation that he had suffered from sleepy sickness, was now ill, and was not responsible for his actions at times. It was stated that he had twice been fined for insulting behaviour.

The Birmingham Daily Mail reports that, at Birmingham last Friday, a mining engineer, aged 39, was fined £25 and £10 10s. costs for an offence from a first class carriage, with intent to insult women and girls in a factory in Landor Street, Birmingham. The prisoner pleaded guilty. Counsel made a strong appeal for leniency on the ground of defendant's nerves being affected through overwork and the strain of business worries. The magistrates retired to consider the case, and on returning it was announced that, having regard to the exceptional circumstances, they felt they could deal with the case by imposing a fine.

DELPHOS

The Future of International Language.

By E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

Published by Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co.,
Broadway House, Carter Lane, E.C.4.

"TO-DAY AND TO-MORROW
SERIES." 2/6.

**WHERE TO GO.
WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.**

DARE TO BE FREE. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, September 28th, at 7.45 p.m.

Members' Rally at Caxton Hall, Westminster. Short speeches by Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., Miss Marian Reeves, Miss M. I. Neal, Dr. Knight, Miss F. A. Underwood and others, on "The Immediate Work of the Women's Freedom League." Questions and Discussion. Chairman: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence.

Saturday, September 29th, at 10 a.m.

National Executive Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn.

Monday, October 1st, at 3 p.m.

Hampstead. Branch Meeting at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

Wednesday, October 10th, 4-5.30 p.m.

Open Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Tea 4 p.m. Speaker at 4.30 p.m.—Mrs. Mayne on "Russia in 1928, by an Impartial Observer."

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, October 24th, at 8 p.m.

Bexhill. Councillor Mrs. Meads will speak on "The Work of a Woman Councillor," at the Albany Hotel, Sea Road. Chair: Miss Thornton (Sec. Bexhill Sisterhood).

Wednesday, November 7th, at 3.30 p.m.

Bexhill. Whist Drive. Albany Hotel, Sea Road.

SCOTLAND.

Friday, September 28th, at 7.30 p.m.

Glasgow. Branch Meeting in Central Halls, 25, Bath Street. Speaker: Miss I. H. McLelland on "The New Franchise and How it Works." Tickets for the "Victory" Celebration in October will be obtainable at this meeting.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Monday, October 1st, at 6 p.m.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Open Meeting at St. Patrick's Clubroom, Soho Square, W.1. Speaker: Miss Pedden on "The Nationality of Married Women." Chairman: Mrs. Laughton Mathews, M.B.E.

Tuesday, October 2nd, at 7 p.m.

Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries. Debate at Essex Hall, Essex Street, W.C.2, on "That the Home should Not be Abolished." Proposer: Mrs. Cecil Chesterton. Opposer: Mrs. Dora Russell. Chairman: Miss Dorothy Evans, M.A. (Barrister-at-Law).

Thursday, October 4th, at 5.30 p.m.

League of the Church Militant. Public Meeting in the Junior Y.M.C.A. Hall, Cheltenham. Speaker: Lady Barrett, C.B.E., M.D., M.S., and the Rev. Canon Guy Rogers, B.D., M.C., on "The Ordination of Women." Chairman: The Rev. W. R. Matthews, D.D. (Dean of King's College, London).

Saturday, October 6th, at 3 p.m.

Saturday Speech Club. Lecture by Miss Lucy Bell on "Chairmanship and Procedure."

Tuesday, October 9th.

British Commonwealth League. Jumble Sale at "The Quest," 85, Clarendon Road. All goods to be sent to the "Quest," marked "Jumble Sale, B.C.L."

October 15th to October 19th.

National Council of Women. Annual Meetings at York.

**ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN CLERKS & SECRETARIES
CITY & CENTRAL BRANCHES.****A DEBATE**

"That the Home should Not be Abolished"

Proposer: Mrs. CECIL CHESTERTON.

Opposer: Mrs. DORA RUSSELL.

Chairman: Miss DOROTHY EVANS, M.A. (Barrister-at-Law).

**AT THE
ESSEX HALL, ESSEX STREET, STRAND, W.C.2.**

7 p.m. on TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2nd, 1928.

Further particulars from the Secretaries, City & Central Branches, A.W.C.S., Bank House, 1-3, Chilton Street, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W.1.

**"IS AN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE
POSSIBLE?"**

By E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

Published by the Academia Pro Interlingua (British Section)

6d. post free from the Morland Press, Carey
Street, London, S.W.1, and A. Hodson, 36, St.
Peter's Hill, Grantham.

BRANCH NOTES.**ASHFORD.**

We had an excellent meeting at the Hempsted Street Hall last Friday afternoon. We were all very glad to see Miss Underwood again. She gave the speech that we felt we wanted to hear particularly just now—"The Future Work of the Women's Freedom League." Mrs. Miles presided. There was a short discussion meeting on all that we should like to do at Ashford this autumn. It was arranged to hold a Gift Sale, Whist Drive, etc., in the near future, and some interesting meetings were arranged. Miss Underwood then told us that, after twenty-one years of work, we now had equal franchise, but this was not the only piece of work the League had to do—we must go on until women had equal rights with men. We must have more women magistrates, more women on Borough Councils, Boards of Guardians, and Civil Servants. They must have justice with regard to their own nationality, income tax, etc.; they must have more authority in the League of Nations and the International Labour organisations. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. Kither, and seconded by Mrs. Knock.

We warmly thank those who helped to make the meeting a success, including Mrs. Kither and the members of the Committee who helped Mrs. Palmer to send out the notices.

(Organiser) MISS WHITE.

BRADFORD.

On Tuesday, September 18th, an informal business meeting of the local branch was held in the Y.W.C.A. Rooms, at 7.30 p.m.

Miss Hoey, the hon. treasurer, produced a balance sheet, showing the financial state of the branch and giving the result of the "Victory" Dance and Whist Drive, held last July, which was not only a decided success socially, but also resulted in a little profit.

Various suggestions for the winter's programme were discussed. Eventually it was decided that, if possible, the branch should commence with a public meeting, to be held about October 11th or 12th, to be followed by another towards the end of October. At the latter we hope to have all the local women candidates for the Council elections. Further details will appear as soon as speakers are arranged.

LILIAN LENTON.

Middlesbrough's Protest to the B.B.C.

The following protest has been sent to the British Broadcasting Corporation: "The Middlesbrough Branch of the Women's Freedom League protest against the reference to the new women voters as 'flappers,' which occurred in the 9.30 news from 2LO on Tuesday, September 18th. It is disgraceful that such a term should be applied to responsible citizens, many of whom have been serving the community without the recognition of citizenship for many years."

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

"A Married Woman's Fight."

Madam,—I have been unable to read the Press regularly this summer, and the account of the struggle of a married woman to keep her place on the staff of a school in Leigh, published in your issue of August 31st under the title, "A Married Woman's Fight," therefore escaped me until it was brought to my notice a few days ago by a nun, who is herself a teacher. In a letter to me she cites the statement in this article that the Education Committee at Leigh, since they seek to dismiss a woman for marrying, "evidently" consider that "a woman on entering the profession should become a kind of nun, vowed for life to her profession, however narrowing such a life may be, as she grows older and more circumscribed by the daily petty routine which is to be the end-all of her existence."

My correspondent points out the obvious fact that a "daily petty routine" is not the exclusive lot either of nuns or of teachers, but falls to all mortals, and that a nun's routine consists of the "necessary care of the body and its needs," which is incumbent on all men and women. She protests, however, with emphasis, against the insinuation that such pettiness is "the end-all" of a nun's existence. "The end-all of a nun's existence is," she says, "simply to worship God."

I would support her protest, and would further point out that the secular work which nuns, through the ages, have done for this high motive, includes a larger amount of public service than does the work performed by any other class of women. The task of governing communities, administering property, teaching, caring for the sick and the unfortunate, have been discharged by nuns habitually with an unusual degree of efficiency.—Yours, etc.

(Signed) HELEN DOUGLAS IRVINE.

Press Secretary,
St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

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CHILTERN.—Attractive little house, fine view, 3 bed, 2 sitting-rooms. Modern conveniences. Electric light. July-August.—COBB, Chinnor, Oxon.

CORNWALL.—Well-furnished kitchen and double bedroom to let in farmhouse. No attendance; every convenience. Garage, if required. Good motoring centre.—SELSEY, St. Stephen's, St. Austell.

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BOOKS, Etc.

FROM A VICTORIAN TO A MODERN
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Publisher: E. Archer, 68, Red Lion St. W.C.1. PRICE 5/6.

64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS AND HOW TO USE THEM. 2d. Send for one.—TRIMNELL, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond Road, Cardiff. Est. 1879.

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NOTICES.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, September 30th, 1928. 6.30. Dr. Leonard Browne.

PUBLIC 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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