

THE VOTE.
MAY 27, 1927.

“HOLD ON, HOLD FAST, HOLD OUT!”

THE VOTE

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

Vol. XXVIII. No. 918. (Registered at
the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, MAY 27, 1927

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.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.
IN PARLIAMENT.
WOMEN AT OXFORD.
MRS. BALDWIN'S CHAMPIONSHIP.

IMPERIAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE.
JOHN STUART MILL CELEBRATION.
NOTES FROM THE FOREIGN PRESS. By Marian Berry.
OUR OPEN COLUMN. "Re Local Authorities (Women)." Miss Bertha Mason.

JOHN STUART MILL CELEBRATION.

MAY 20TH, 1927.



WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

A Promise is a Promise.

Addressing the Hallam Women's Conservative Association, Sir Frederick Sykes, the Member, said that, although there might be doubts as to the rightness of the moment for equalising the franchise, the Prime Minister had made a promise and they had to go through with it.

Woman County Alderman.

Lady Mabel Smith, Socialist Member for the Ecclesfield Division, has been unanimously elected a County Alderman on the West Riding County Council. Miss Hermione Unwin received a similar distinction some years ago.

Woman Guardian Unopposed.

A vacancy occurring in the Lordship Ward of the Hackney Board of Guardians, Mrs. Booth-Tucker, standing for the first time, was elected unopposed.

First Woman Justice for Pontefract.

Councillor Mrs. Dooley has been appointed Justice of the Peace for Pontefract. Prominent in public work in this district, she is the first woman to take a seat on the Bench.

Another Woman on Pharmaceutical Council.

Mrs. Freke has been appointed to the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. Mrs. Freke is at present the only woman member, although the second to be appointed.

Economy or Principle?

A letter, signed "Feminist," dealing with the dismissal of married women, appears in the *Northern Echo*, and has the following: "I hate to be outwitted by the good system which allows the dismissal of a number of teachers obtaining the maximum salary and the replacement of them by an equal number of women obtaining the minimum salary!"

British Women Golfers.

The final rounds of the Ladies' International Golf Championship resulted in Ireland beating Wales, and Scotland beating England. This gives the championship to Scotland, with three victories on their score.

Women's Altitude Record.

Mrs. Elliott-Lynn, with Lady Bailey as passenger, last week made a world's altitude record for light aeroplanes, reaching a height of 3 miles.

Jewish Women in Bristol.

Bristol Jewish congregation has, in general meeting, carried *nem. con.* a resolution granting to women seatholders the right of becoming privileged members eligible for election to the Council and for honorary offices, except those of President and Vice-President.

Backward Oklahoma.

The Constitution of Oklahoma has in it a clause enacting that, for the highest elective State offices, only "male" persons shall be eligible. The women have been trying to have "male" deleted, but have again suffered defeat. The Legislature has adjourned without taking action.

Frenchwomen and the Franchise.

Two French newspapers are conducting a symposium on the rights and wrongs of Frenchwomen. Deputies, senators, and editors have replied on the right side, and such public admission is certainly an advance.

Post Office Women in France.

The Union of Post-Telegraph-Telephone women in France have recently held a huge meeting, at which three main objects were defined: (1) Equal pay for equal work; (2) equal opportunities; (3) substitution of general meetings open to women and men in place of present regional system.

Frenchwomen Journalists.

After four years of refusal, the 1927 general meeting of the *Maison des Journalistes* has agreed to admit women journalists as members.

Swiss Suffragists' Reverse.

The *Times* reports that at Basel the electorate has rejected by a large majority a proposal to introduce woman suffrage in Cantonal affairs.

Iceland Franchise Equality.

One clause of the Bill amending the Icelandic Constitution reduces the voting age from 35 to 25 for both men and women. The Bill has now passed both Houses.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE OVERSEA SETTLEMENT OF BRITISH WOMEN.

The Society for the Oversea Settlement of British Women issues its seventh Annual Report (1926). It opens by a detailed account of the work done, and claims that this fully justifies support from public funds. A slight tendency to extend interest and facilities to the professional woman is to be welcomed, and the Report states: "Although facilities are increasing, restrictions still make themselves felt. State assistance is available only for women who are nominated, or are accompanying husbands or other relatives who intend taking up land, or are able and willing to undertake domestic work. Others not included in these categories must pay their own way, and the high rate of ocean and rail fares, as compared with those of pre-war times, still acts as a deterrent to a considerable number. It is, however, encouraging to learn from the Report of the Imperial Conference that the representatives of the Dominion Governments were not prepared to say that the only openings for women are those in domestic work, but recommended that the possibility of further openings should be explored." The Society further says it is "ever anxious to explore wider fields of employment for the professional woman." The year's figures for professional women are two doctors, one secretary, 28 nurses, and 150 teachers (71 to Africa), as against 350 domestic workers and close on 100 other non-professional classes.

The Report contains much valuable information as to present facilities given to intending emigrants, with many letters from those who have settled overseas and write to the Society giving accounts of the difficulties met and surmounted, and valuable suggestions for later migrants.

CONTINUANCE OF ASSAULTS UPON WOMEN IN RAILWAY CARRIAGES.

The *Bolton Evening News* last week recorded the disgraceful fact that Mr. Justice Roche and a common jury, in the Criminal Court at the Manchester Assizes, were occupied during a whole day's sitting with the trial of cases of offences against young women or girls. The last of this day's cases was that of a shunter, who was found guilty of assault on a young woman in a railway carriage. This man expressed regret, and said: "It was only frivolousness." The young woman assaulted had struggled free and reached the communication cord, stopping the train, when the man dropped off the train on the offside. Mr. Justice Roche said he felt it would be sufficient to bind the man over, and also ordered him to pay £10, in £1 monthly instalments, towards the cost of the prosecution.

At Houghton-le-Spring, another man has been committed for trial at Durham Quarter Sessions on a similar charge of assaulting a young woman in a railway carriage.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Franchise (Compulsory Voting).

LT.-COL. MOORE (U., Ayr Burghs) asked the Prime Minister whether, in view of his recent decision regarding the extension of the franchise, he will consider the advisability of introducing legislation to enforce the exercise of the franchise before the next General Election? THE PRIME MINISTER: The answer is in the negative. LT.-COL. MOORE: May I ask the Prime Minister, with all deference, whether he has considered that the adoption of my suggestion would mean the probable disappearance of His Majesty's Opposition at the next General Election? MR. SPEAKER: That question is decidedly argumentative. MR. SCRYMGEOUR (Ind., Dundee): Would not the effect of this legislation be actually to intimidate and coerce the Government? MR. SPEAKER: That is another question of the same nature.

Trade Boards (Catering and Drapery Trades).

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR (U., Plymouth) asked the Minister of Labour whether he has maintained observation as to wages and conditions in the catering and drapery trades since the investigations made by his Department in 1926; whether, in any district, any substantial change in wages and conditions has been observed to take place; and whether he, as the result of such continued observation, has been led to reconsider his decision not to establish Trade Boards for these trades? SIR A. STEEL-MAITLAND: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative, and to the two latter parts in the negative. VISCOUNTESS ASTOR: In view of the fact that recent investigations have revealed that all women of 21 years of age—MR. SPEAKER: The noble Lady's question seems to be in writing. I would like to see it. VISCOUNTESS ASTOR: It is not entirely in writing. Arising out of the fact that all women over 21 years of age, or a great majority of them, in the catering trade were receiving 30s. a week, including tips, and as Mr. Seeborn Rowntree's "The Human Needs of Labour" gave as a standard for women 36s. a week, does not the Minister of Labour think that there is really a need for a Trade Board for these women? MR. SPEAKER: That is even more of a speech than I thought. MISS WILKINSON (Lab., Middlesbrough E.): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that certain very alarming figures as to the conditions of women, in the catering trade particularly, have recently been published, and is his Department prepared to undertake a special inquiry into this matter under Trade Board Regulations? SIR A. STEEL-MAITLAND: If the hon. Member will show me any figures, I will certainly consider them.

Seniority List.

MR. BRIANT (Lib., N. Lambeth) asked the Postmaster-General whether the question of placing the men and women on one seniority list has been considered in the Post Office; and, if so, was the idea abandoned, and for what reason? VISCOUNT WOLMER (Assistant Postmaster-General): Following a recommendation by a Committee appointed to consider the application of the principle of common seniority lists for men and women in certain classes in the Civil Service, the question of compiling such lists was brought before the Post Office Departmental Whitley Council in July, 1925. The staff side then stated that they desired to give the matter fuller consideration, and would raise it at a subsequent meeting. The staff side have not yet communicated their views on the question, and until they have done so, it is hardly possible to come to any decision in the matter. VISCOUNTESS ASTOR: May I ask whether there were any women on the Committee which had to decide this? VISCOUNT WOLMER: I think so, but I would like to have notice of that question.

Sexual Offences Against Young Persons.

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR asked the Home Secretary what action it is proposed to take to give effect to the recommendations of the two Departmental Committees appointed to study the questions of sexual offences against young persons and the treatment of young offenders? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: The more important recommendations in these two Reports could not be carried into effect without legislation. The second Report, which covers a very wide field, was only presented to me at the end of March, and I am not yet in a position to make any definite statement.

Imperial Education Conference.

MR. LUMLEY (U., Kingston-upon-Hull) asked the President of the Board of Education when the Imperial Education Conference will be held; and what will be the composition of the Conference? LORD EUSTACE PERCY: The Conference will meet from June 20th to July 8th next. It is composed of delegates from the Dominions and Colonies and of representatives of Government Departments in this country.

WOMEN AT OXFORD.

In Congregation last Tuesday, Dr. S. R. Farnell, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor presiding, the degree of M.A. was conferred upon Miss Sybil Cooper, of St. Hilda's. A statute was introduced, on the motion of Sir Walter Buchanan-Riddell, Principal of Hertford, to provide that women shall be eligible for any professorship, readership, or other university teachership. Since the women's movement began in Oxford in the eighteen sixties, women have secured more and more of the privileges hitherto held only by men. For several years women have occupied the headships of women's colleges and have been on the same footing as men as regards pensions and discipline. For the past year or two, they have been elected to the governing body of the University.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES.

Next week, the Federation of Women's Institutes holds its annual meeting in Glasgow. The phenomenal growth of this movement is the best test of its value. Started undoubtedly as a side shoot of the political awakening of women, opening in a tiny village only 12 years ago, there are now 3,845 institutes in Great Britain. In 1920, a wise Government agreed to a grant in aid of £10,000. In 1927, the Federation is self-supporting. Institutes are rural and not urban, devoting themselves to the help of women living in villages or country districts. The long distances tramped in the Highlands to attend the nearest institute show how women have responded, and how the comradeship and help which they give is being given in the right way and is of the right kind.

WOMEN'S PIONEER HOUSING, LTD.

A Public Dinner

and

Professional Women's Housing Conference

Monday, May 30th, at the Hyde Park Hotel.

SIR JOSIAH STAMP, K.B.E.,

will be the principal speaker. Tickets 12/6 each (and a limited number of tickets for the Conference only, 1/- each), from Women's Pioneer Housing, Ltd., 92 Victoria Street, S.W.1. Telephone: Victoria 4494.

Dinner 7.15 for 7.45 p.m. Conference 8.30 p.m.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.
Offices: 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

FRIDAY, MAY 27th, 1927.

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

EDITORIAL.

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

MRS. BALDWIN'S CHAMPIONSHIP.

We warmly congratulate Mrs. Baldwin on her able championship of equal suffrage for women and men. In a bright, clever speech at Folkestone last week, she ridiculed the heavy and solemn attacks on "flappers" by elderly men writers in the Press. As she aptly put it, "If a woman wished to be a giddy goose, she was just as likely to be a giddy goose at 31 as at 21!" The same remark, of course, might be equally applicable to mere man, but, as the Premier's wife pointed out, the law acknowledged that a person was capable of managing his or her estate at 21, and, moreover, a great Queen came to the throne at the age of 18! But, apart from those ladies of high degree, readers of THE VOTE know full well that ordinary women of 21, the very great majority of whom are earning their own living in this country, just like ordinary men, are quite competent to exercise their full citizen rights. The phrase, "Votes for Flappers," is just as meaningless and silly as "Votes for Cubs." Neither phrase is applicable to grown-up men and women of 21, and both are intended to be used in a derogatory sense. Mrs. Baldwin went on to say that, at girls' schools, many so-called flappers were now learning how to talk, how to debate, and to take an interest in politics, and then she told this delicious story: "When I was a flapper, I took an interest in politics, and I remember that a friend and I did not quite see eye to eye concerning our respective political heroes. After we had exhausted argument with our tongues, we determined to settle the question by a wrestling match." Mrs. Baldwin did not say who won the match, but she pertinently inquired, "If a Victorian schoolgirl could take an interest in politics, why in the world should not the much more enlightened Georgian schoolgirl take an interest?" We hope all the self-constituted censors of young women will read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest Mrs. Baldwin's remarks. It is true that young women wish no real harm to their elderly male critics, but a good number of women would very much like to condemn them, say, in ten years' time, when they are too decrepit to write to the papers or make public speeches, to reading out loud every week a good selection of their own writings and speeches, as well as those of their fellow scribes, which opposed the granting of equal citizenship rights to women. In the meantime, let women forget their disgruntled opponents, and work with might and main for full equality with men in every direction. They have an ever-increasing number of champions among members of their own and the opposite sex; they have their own organisations, in which girls can work together with older women, who have had long experience in the struggle for the equality of the sexes, and they have their own papers, written and controlled by women. Political equality with men is clearly in sight, and, with renewed and concentrated effort on the part of all women, it will be well within women's grasp at an early date. When that is gained, there will be, perhaps, a greater struggle to secure for women absolute equality with men in regard to status, opportunities, rewards and responsibilities throughout all branches of our national and international life.

IMPERIAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE.

The Imperial Education Conference is to be opened in London on June 20th, when the Prince of Wales hopes to be present. This Conference will be attended by 70 delegates from overseas, from a number of the Indian Provinces and Native States, Crown Colonies, Dependencies, and Mandated Territories. The Conference itself will last for three weeks, with an additional fortnight for demonstrations and various visits. The subjects to be discussed are rural education, the educational possibilities of the cinema, as well as the teaching of Empire history and geography. The Board of Education will be represented by the Duchess of Atholl (the Parliamentary Secretary) and four men; the Scottish Education Department by two men; and the Colonial Office by three men. We wonder how many women delegates will be sent from overseas? The last Imperial Education Conference was held in London in June, 1923. That Conference consisted of 53 men delegates from Great Britain, Ireland, and the Oversea Dominions, and one woman, Miss Ridler, the Principal of the Government Training College in Jerusalem, whom we afterwards had the pleasure of entertaining to dinner at the Minerva Club. On that occasion, Miss Ridler told us that, although all the members of the Conference except herself were men, many of the places visited and the work inspected were due to women's work: the Stockwell Training College for Women, the Women's Physical Training College at Dartford, which were included in the sight-seeing, as well as the special Education Exhibition at Westminster, all being connected with women's education. Miss Ridler herself said it was expected that, when the Conference met again in four years' time, women would be more adequately represented. We look forward with great interest to the issue of the names of delegates from overseas, in the hope that women educational administrators will be included.

GOVERNMENT PREFERS MEN!

Public Libraries would seem to be a question of as much interest to women as to men; but, when asked last Monday for the constitution of the Board of Education's Departmental Committee, which was appointed last October, Lord Eustace Percy disclosed the fact that it consisted of ten men, but only one woman, the Lady Mabel Smith. These men, of course, may all have very expert knowledge of the questions to be discussed by this Committee, but surely more than one woman could be found to take her part in its deliberations! Last week we referred to the Government's choice of only men delegates to the International Labour Conference at Geneva. Although the subjects to be discussed were sickness insurance, freedom of association, and minimum wage fixing machinery in trades in which organisation of employers and workers is defective, and where wages are exceptionally low, with special reference to the home-working trades, the delegates chosen by the Government were Mr. Humbert Wolfe, Principal Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Labour, and Sir Walter S. Kinnear, Controller of the Insurance Department of the Ministry of Health, and, in agreement with the National Confederation of Employers' Organisations and the General Council of the Trades Union Congress, Sir David Milne Watson (Governor of the Gas, Light and Coke Company and President of the National Confederation of Employers' Organisations) was nominated, and Mr. E. L. Poulton (Secretary of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives and a member of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress), as employers' and workpeople's delegates respectively. What special qualifications have any of these men to deal with the wages of sweated women workers? Only this week, too, the Colonial Secretary, in a speech which was broadcast, said that the highest positions in the Empire were open to any men who could prove their worth, while his only reference to women was to implore them to do Empire shopping!

JOHN STUART MILL CELEBRATION.

Last Friday morning, in brilliant sunshine and in the full beauty of an early summer day, members of women's organisations paid their tribute in Temple Gardens to the memory of John Stuart Mill, on the 121st anniversary of his birth, who, by moving a woman suffrage amendment to the Reform Bill in 1867, which, if carried, would have enfranchised women at the age of 21 and on the same terms as men, was the first champion of the women's cause in Parliament. Before entering Temple Gardens, in which is a statue of John Stuart Mill, one representative from each of the following women's organisations formed up in procession:—Women's Freedom League, National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, London Society for Women's Service, National Council of Women, Women's National Liberal Federation, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, League of the Church Militant, Six Point Group, National Union of Women Teachers, Women's Election Committee, Open Door Council, Women's Guild of Empire, Standing Joint Committee of Women's Industrial Organisations, Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, Young Suffragists, National Women's Party (U.S.A.), Women's International League, British Commonwealth League, East Lewisham Women Citizens, East Lewisham Junior Women Citizens, Actresses' Franchise League, and Kensington and Paddington Society for Equal Citizenship.

Dame Millicent Fawcett said:—

"We do well to-day to commemorate the great leader of our Cause, which is and always has been an extension of the vote to women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. It was a great thing for us when our movement started just 60 years ago to have as our leader a man of such universally acknowledged eminence as John Stuart Mill. He has been dead for more than 50 years, but he still remains a living power.

"Only the other day I came across a specimen of his combined courage and wisdom. 'Fear not,' said he, 'the reproach of quixotism or of fanaticism, but after you have well weighed what you undertake and are convinced of its justice, go forward, even though you risk violent hostility from the very men through whose changed hearts your purpose will one day be accomplished.'

"We have seen this change in process of development through the long years of our struggle; we have seen our enemies become our friends; and we go on in confidence, taking as our motto, 'Hold on, hold fast, hold out,' and victory is ours."

Dame Millicent, with her sister, Miss Agnes Garrett, then led the procession inside the Gardens to place the first floral tribute on Mill's statue. Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence followed with the Women's Freedom League's token of gratitude, and each representative in turn paid a similar tribute to the great English philosopher.

CENTRAL HALL PUBLIC MEETING.

In the evening the Women's Freedom League held a public meeting, in the Central Hall, Westminster, to celebrate the 121st anniversary of the birth of this great pioneer for women's freedom, and also to urge the Government to pass into law without further delay a Bill granting precisely the same measure of justice for which John Stuart Mill had asked.

It was natural on such an occasion that nearly every speaker compared the position of women to-day with that of women 60 years ago, but, perhaps, the most significant change lay in the fact that the seven speakers at this meeting were all women, and four of them were under 30 years of age.

The Chairman, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, pointed out that much trouble, time and sacrifice would have been saved if John Stuart Mill's amendment had been passed, but the loss to the women themselves would have been greater, for the effect of their long struggle

for enfranchisement had been that women's convictions were now so deep that they were ready to break conventions, and men's illusions, in order to gain for themselves the strength to break their bonds. She urged every woman present to do her utmost in the great campaign for equal enfranchisement. Although they had the Prime Minister's pledge, they knew from their own experience there was nothing so likely to be broken as a politician's pledge. There were endless contingencies which might occur to prevent its fulfilment, and the women should realise that the only thing to trust was their own relentless determination to have equality now.

The first speaker, MISS BARCLAY-CARTER (St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance), was one of the four "under thirties." From reading books of the Victorian age, she had come to the conclusion that the people of the period were a curious people, and it was not surprising, therefore, that they held curious views of women. In those days there were pretty little women in poke bonnets, held in check by fear of appearing "unladylike." To-day, the great outcry is that young women are frivolous, but, said Miss Barclay-Carter, the young woman can look round and say, "Who taught me to be frivolous?" Treat the young woman as a rational being and she will become so, for there is a great educative and moral value in having opportunities for development and in bearing responsibility.

MISS IDA SAMUEL, who primarily represented the Women's National Liberal Federation, but also spoke from the point of view of an "under 30," was convinced that women to-day are not merely the equals, but the superiors of men. She averred that women are better physically, look more intelligent, take more pride in their appearance, and are rapidly becoming the dominant sex. She is, however, looking forward to the time when men will become the equals of women. Although, owing to the efforts which have been made by women in the past, the young women of to-day have splendid opportunities, they are handicapped because they have not that status as citizens to which they are entitled by reason of their general economic responsibilities.

MISS MACADAM (National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship) made a plea on behalf of the last century. She thought that women to-day should be grateful to the electors of Westminster who had returned Mill to Parliament on a programme such as there would be no possibility of his being elected on to-day. The speaker believed that the great danger to be faced at present was the suggestion that the age of enfranchisement should be raised to 25. For generations the age of maturity had been 21 years, and she thought it entirely illogical to suggest that the voting age should now be raised.

MRS. FLOWERS, an "under 30" member of the Women's Freedom League, emphasised the fact that women to-day were still working for the great principles upheld by the man whose memory they were honouring. Mill had keenly desired liberty for women as well as for men; he believed in the supreme importance of the full development of each individual, and he believed that each member of the State had a right to be recognised as a citizen, and should be allowed a voice in the management of the affairs of the State. She urged those present to adopt the following slogan: "Be like a postage stamp; stick to it till you get there."

MISS DAWSON, L.C.C., of the National Union of Women Teachers, referred to Miss Emily Davies and Dr. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, who had worked so hard to obtain higher education for women. As a result of their work, women of to-day were able to enter professions and fields of culture which were denied to the pioneer women, and she considered it would be "selling the pass" for women to relax their efforts now. She hoped that women would continue to work

for complete equality between men and women, and would pledge themselves to work steadily until this was attained.

The Young Suffragists' representative, Miss DOROTHY WOODMAN, complained that men to-day were still asking the same questions as were asked when John Stuart Mill introduced his famous amendment to the Reform Bill: "Would it make a difference to women in the home if they had the vote?" and "Would it make women less likely to stay in the home?" Miss Woodman was another of the young speakers who paid tribute to the work done by the pioneer women, and she deplored the fact that the younger generation did not, generally speaking, realise the enormous amount of work which had been done before women could take part in industry and the professions, and also that much still remained to be done before they were admitted on equal terms with men.

The last speaker, MRS. ZANGWILL, in a delicately witty speech, asked whether the enfranchisement of women at the age of 30 was a huge joke on the part of the legislators. Mr. Baldwin had promised to introduce, during next Session, a Bill granting Equal Franchise, but, if he had not been clinging to the joke, why had he not brought in the Bill this Session? One could not help thinking that Mr. Baldwin believed there would be no next Session, and, unlike Bacon, he thought that delays were secure.

When Mill first championed the cause of women, his views appeared ludicrous, almost blasphemous, to his contemporaries, but he held to his ideals, and, when returned to Parliament on a programme, on which it was said the Almighty Himself would have no chance of being elected, he seized the first opportunity of moving an amendment to the Reform Bill of 1867, seeking to enfranchise women on the same terms as men.

Mrs. Zangwill concluded by quoting Mill's words: "I see no more reason why women should be in legal subjection to other people than why men should."

NOTES FROM THE FOREIGN PRESS.

By MARIAN BERRY.

Three recent numbers of the *Schweizer Frauenblatt* have included very interesting articles by M. ERNEST JUCKER on the position of women in Russia. M. Jucker, who is a Swiss by birth, is Director of Technical Education at Tomsk.

The subject is discussed from three aspects, namely, the position of the woman as wife and mother, as citizen, and as a worker. Since the Revolution the complete freedom and political equality of women have been an accepted fact, and Russian women are taking an active part in political and local affairs.

Two forms of marriage are now commonly accepted—the legal and free. The latter method has many supporters among educated people who hold that marriage is purely a private matter. In the early days of the Revolution the "free" union was practically the only form of marriage, but it has been found that a more binding tie is necessary in many cases for the protection of the mother and child. M. Jucker points out that the woman with children to support is in a very different position economically to that of the childless woman; and he goes on to say that if the State could afford to provide sufficient children's homes and trained nurses, the mother could be relieved of the care of her children. At present the country's finances only permit of provision for orphan children.

The civil marriage is not so difficult to sever as the former church marriage, "which has now become a matter of history." Under the legal form the status of the man and woman is equal, and in the event of a divorce the mother is granted the care of the children, for whose support the father is bound to pay. Should he not be willing, the courts can force him to do so. A divorce can be obtained on the following grounds: (1)

The Chairman then put the following resolution to the meeting, and it was carried with one dissentient:—

"This meeting, on the 121st anniversary of the birth of John Stuart Mill, pays grateful tribute to the man who first championed the cause of full political equality for women, in moving the Woman Suffrage Amendment to the Reform Bill 60 years ago.

"It deplores the fact that the present Government has prevented the Second Reading in the House of Commons to-day of the simple Bill conferring on women the right to vote at 21 on equal terms with men.

"It further calls upon the Government to redeem its pledge to grant equal voting rights to men and women, by introducing its proposed measure to enfranchise women at 21 and on the same terms as men at the very beginning of next Session, and to pass it into law without delay."

WHAT IS FEMINISM?

Equal Rights, the organ of the American National Woman's Party, devotes a leader to the result of research on this word. In all earlier editions of Webster's Complete Classical Dictionary the word does not appear, but appears in the Addenda of later editions. The New International Encyclopædia gives it an article several pages in length, placing its origin in place as France, whence it crept into England and its origin in time 1890. Finally, the Collegiate Dictionary defines Feminism as "the theory, cult, or practice of those who hold that present laws, conventions, and conditions of society should admit of and further the free and full development of woman; also the propaganda for securing such changes as will effect this."

British feminists will find no quarrel with such an excellent, concise definition, and will share with *Equal Rights* pride in having occasioned a new word and determination to make the public generally aware of the full meaning and significance of "Feminism."

mutual agreement; (2) contagious disease in the case of one of the partners; and (3) desertion. The woman loses her right to the possession of her children if her husband can prove immorality on her part; and if the parents' mode of life is likely to prevent the children from becoming useful citizens, the children are removed from their care.

A special feature of Russian life to-day is the mother making a home for herself and her child. The right of a woman to maternity is an accepted fact and in the town her position is unquestioned. Only in peasant circles and among old and prejudiced families does the tragedy of the unmarried mother still exist.

All important positions are open to women in Russia. Women judges judicate in disputes in which women are concerned; they have generally been barristers, or have had a wide experience of life and social conditions. M. Jucker considers that the woman judge has a great future before her, in view of the fact that her methods are more humane and less formal, and her understanding of a woman's psychology deeper than that of man's.

Women have achieved great success in the professions of teaching and medicine. About 80 per cent. of the teachers are women, and 50 per cent. of the doctors. There are also several distinguished women surgeons. Women doctors and teachers continue their work after marriage without the slightest objection or difficulty.

Engineering is a new opening for women and it is not easy for them to obtain a footing. The work in the large factories, as is also the case in the coal mines, is too hard for them, but in the drawing and designing departments, as well as in the laboratories, women's work is obtaining recognition. A number of women are working successfully as joiners, locksmiths and metal-turners.

Women's Freedom League.

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

Telephone:—MUSEUM 1429.

Telegrams:—"DESPARD, MUSEUM 1429, LONDON."

Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.

President—Mrs. PETHICK-LAWRENCE.

Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT.

Hon. Organising Secretary—Mrs. WHETTON.

General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, June 10th, at 5 p.m.
Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, June 11th, at 10 a.m.
National Executive Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Tuesday, July 5th, at 7 p.m.
Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, at Caxton Hall.

PROVINCES.

Friday, May 27th, at 3.30 p.m.

Ashford. Branch Meeting, Hempsted Street Hall.

Friday, May 27th, at 7.30 p.m.

Middlesbrough. Whist Drive and Dance at The Grey House, Linthorpe. Tickets 2/- each.

Saturday, May 28th.

Portsmouth. Jumble Sale.

SCOTLAND.

Saturday, June 18th, at 3 p.m.

Glasgow. Public Meeting in the McLellan Galleries.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, May 28th, at 3.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting in Regent's Park, arranged by the League of the Church Militant. Chair: Mrs. Pollard. Speakers: Miss Eley, Miss Possley.

Saturday, May 28th, at 5.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting in Hyde Park, arranged by the National Union of Women Teachers.

Sunday, May 29th, at 3.30 p.m.

The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square. Course of addresses on "Ancient Civilisations." Professor John Gars'ang, M.A., B.Litt., D.Sc., F.S.A., Director, British School of Archaeology, Jerusalem, on "Recent Discoveries in Palestine."

Sunday, May 29th, at 7.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting at White Stone Pond, "Jack Straw's Castle," Hampstead, arranged by St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Speakers: Miss Helen Douglas-Irvine, Miss May Wall.

Monday, May 30th, at 7.30 p.m.

Women's Pioneer Housing Dinner and Conference. Speakers: Sir Josiah Stamp, K.B.E., and Professional Women on "Different Aspects of Housing for the self-dependent woman." Tickets 12/6, from W.P.H. Offices, 92, Victoria Street.

Monday, May 30th, at 8 p.m.

The Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square. Debate: "That the Parliamentary Franchise should be given to women at the age of 21 and on the same terms as to men." Proposer: Miss Reeves. Opposer: Miss Solomon.

Tuesday, May 31st, at 6 p.m.

The Women's Institute. Lantern Lecture by Mr. R. W. Stobey, M.A., B.Sc., on "The Evolution of an Alphabet."

Saturday, June 4th, at 5.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting in Hyde Park arranged by the Six Point Group.

JOHN STUART MILL'S GRAVE.

The following is the inscription on the grave of John Stuart Mill and his wife, who are buried at Avignon, S. France, in the Cemetery of Boulevard John Stuart Mill:—

"To the beloved memory of Harriet Mill, the dearly loved and deeply regretted wife of John Stuart Mill. Her great and loving heart, her noble soul, her clear, powerful, original and comprehensive intellect, made her the guide and support, the instructor in wisdom, and the example in goodness, as she was the sole earthly delight, of those who had the happiness to belong to her. Her influence has been felt in many of the greatest improvements of the age, and will be in those still to come. Were there even a few hearts and intellects like hers, this earth would already become the hoped-for heaven. She died, to the irreparable loss of those who survive her, at Avignon, November 3rd, 1858.

"John Stuart Mill, born 20th May, 1806, died 7th May, 1873."

Lost and Found.—At Central Hall, Westminster, on Friday evening, May 20, a Sunshade. Apply to Dr. Knight, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

BRANCH NOTE

DARLINGTON.

There was a Branch Meeting in the Temperance Institute, on Wednesday, May 18th, at which Mrs. Ayton, the delegate from the Darlington Branch, gave her report of the Annual Conference.

The members present all took handbills advertising our public meeting, to take place on May 26th, and promised to do their best to get an audience.

(Organiser) LILIAN LENTON.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

Re Local Authorities (Women).

MADAM,—In his reply to a question put in the House of Commons, on May 6th, by Mr. Hore-Belisha, as to how many women are serving on Boards of Guardians in England and Wales, and how many women are serving on other local authorities, the Minister of Health (as already stated in your issue of the 13th inst.) is reported to have said: "I have no official information on the subject, but from particulars furnished to me, I gather that the services of women are available to an approximately equal extent (by means of either direct or indirect election or co-option) on Boards of Guardians and their Committees on the one hand, and on County and County Borough Councils and their Committees on the other hand, the figures in each case being approximately 2,000. I am not in possession of similar figures as regards other local authorities."

May I draw the attention of your readers to a very important point which should be clearly borne in mind in considering Mr. Chamberlain's reply.

The 2,000 women (to be strictly accurate, the number is over 2,300) who are serving on Boards of Guardians are all, without exception, *directly elected* by, and *responsible* to the ratepayers, whereas the number of directly elected women serving on County Councils is only 130, including Aldermen, of whom 23 are serving on the London County Council. The number of directly elected women serving on County Councils, therefore, is very small. The number of directly elected women on County Borough Councils is 165. These figures, which are accurate and up to date, having been supplied to me only this year, clearly show that, of the 2,000 women serving on County and County Borough Councils, only 165 are directly elected members of their respective Councils (the remaining 1,835 being indirectly elected or co-opted members), as compared with the 2,300 women who are directly elected members of their respective Boards of Guardians. The importance of this being clearly borne in mind lies in the fact that it is generally recognised that the position of a directly elected member of a local authority is in every respect more satisfactory than the position of a co-opted member. This was realised and admitted by Mr. Chamberlain himself in his reply to a deputation which waited on him recently in regard to the loss of the services of directly elected women who are now taking an active share in Poor Law administration, should his proposals for Poor Law reform ever become law. It is obvious, if Boards of Guardians are abolished, that the majority of women now rendering valuable service as Poor Law Guardians could not, even if they wished, find places as elected members of County Councils. In the first place, it is laid down by the Local Government Act, 1888, that "one County Councillor only shall be elected for each electoral division." This, in itself, makes it more difficult for a woman to secure election to a County Council. Secondly, the distance of many of the electoral divisions from the place of meeting, the cost of rail expenses to and from home, etc., make it impossible for many women, otherwise suitable, to undertake the work.

In regard to the second part of the question, concerning which Mr. Chamberlain is reported to have said that he has no information, there are statistics in my possession which show that here again the number of elected women serving on local authorities, other than County and County Borough Councils, runs only into hundreds, as compared with the number (2,300) of directly elected women serving as Poor Law Guardians.

The importance of these facts leads me to ask for space for their insertion in an early issue of your valuable organ.

I am, etc.,

BERTHA MASON.

W.F.L. PAMPHLETS, ETC.

- "British Women M.P.s" (brought up to date), by D. M. Northcroft 4d.
- "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 Police," by D. M. Northcroft 1d.
- "Women at Work in the League of Nations," by D. M. Northcroft (Fourth Edition) 6d.
- "What we have and What we want," by Muriel Pierotti 3d.
- "The Pilgrim Mothers," by Eunice G. Murray ... 2d.
- "Women and Politics," by Charles Kingsley 6d.
- "Ecce Mater," by M. A. R. Tucker 3/6

FRIDAY,
MAY 27,
1927.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

REST AND HOLIDAYS.

BRIGHTON.—"Sea View," Victoria Road. Midday dinner. Gas fires in Bedrooms. Wireless. Vegetarians catered for.—Hostess: MISS TURNER.

RYE, SUSSEX.—OLD HOPE ANCHOR. Ideal Guest House. Modern comforts; good cooking. Separate Vegetarian cooking a speciality. Write for booklet.

FRENCH ALPS.—Furnished Chalet to let. View Mt. Blanc. Seven beds, bath, inside sanitation.—"E.C.F.," 31, Meadhurst Road, Leicester.

DORSET COAST.—March to Sept. Two sitting-rooms; kitchen; three bedrooms, beds—four single, one double; bathroom (h. & c.); garage. Bridport Station, 2½ miles. Golf links and sea, 10 minutes.—Miss F. RENDALL, 6, West-cliff Road, Shipley, Yorks.

YORKSHIRE MOORS.—Apartments. Sitting and 1 or 2 bedrooms; inside sanitation; bath; garden.—ROBINSON, 6, South View, Eldwick, Bingley, Yorks.

NEAR FOLKESTONE.—Three friends offer a charming holiday home; large garden; tennis; garage—MISS HASLAM, The Grey House, Lyvinge, Kent.

CORNWALL.—Guests. Lady's country Cottage. Picturesque situation; 3 miles sea, Perranporth. Sanitation; Garage. Accessible to all interesting places.—"VOTE Office," 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

BATH.—Member desires holiday guests. Good centre; music; bridge; own car; bath h. and c. Terms reasonable.—Apply 2, Lower Oldfield Park, Bath.

SARK, CHANNEL ISLANDS. Cottage to let, furnished. 2 reception; 4 bedrooms; oil-cooking; farm produce. June, July, 4 gns. per week; August, September, 5 gns.—STEWART, Dixcart, Sark.

TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

SPRING CLEANING.—Send to us for "Sensa," the perfect cleaner, tins 1/6 and 3/6, and the perfect knife sharpener, 3/9, as sold at the Spring Sale, also for "Mutax," the little dry-cleaning clothes-brush, 10/-, and help your League. Postage extra.—144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

TO LET.

BOARD-RESIDENCE in small comfortable home at Leamington Spa. Suit business woman, or lady requiring care.—Box J.M.F., THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

HAYERSTOCK HILL, HAMPSTEAD, N.W.3 (opposite Belsize Park Tube). Pleasant bed-sitting-room in private flat, electric light; gas stove with ring and check-meter. 35/- weekly including electric light, breakfast and baths. Recommended.—THE VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

NEWLY decorated bed-sitting-room in lady's flat; use of kitchen; W.C. district.—Apply "Z.X.," THE VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

HAMPTON COURT.—Near Palace, facing river. Furnished flat for two; garden; no attendance.—Write "K," 238, Evering Road, Clapton, London.

FOR SALE.

NEW Brick Bungalow, double fronted, square bays; verandah; six rooms, bath (h. & c.); inside sanitation; Co.'s water; good bus service; pretty piece woodland; ¾ acre. Price freehold, £650. £500 mortgage obtainable.—MOCKFORD, Eastcote, Kingsnorth, Ashford, Kent.

MISCELLANEOUS.

DAFFODILS: 2/6 per box. Clotted Cream, 3/- lb., post free. Furnished House to let at NEWQUAY, 5 rooms.—Apply SELSEY, St. Stephen's, St. Austell, Cornwall.

MEDICAL.

PARK LODGE NURSING HOME, Bath Road, Reading. For Medical, Nerve, Chronic, and Rest Cure Patients. Terms moderate.—Phone: Reading 1948.

Prepaid Classified Advertisements

Number of Words.	Once.	Three Times.	Six Times.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
20	1 6	4 0	7 6
30	2 3	6 3	12 0
40	3 0	8 6	16 0

Displayed Advertisements,
8/- inch.

CLUBS.

ISIS CLUB, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue (2 minutes Hampstead Tube Station). Magnificent Reception Rooms. Central heating. Sunny bedrooms. Sandy soil. Lectures, dancing, listening-in. Telephone: Hampstead 2869.

MINERVA CLUB, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Open to non-residents. Restaurant. Smoking Room. Papers. Library. Bedrooms available at holiday times. Membership, £1 1s. Entrance Fee suspended during present year. All particulars from the SECRETARY. Telephone: Museum 4791.

FAMOUS FOR ITS 1/6 LUNCHEON. 10/6 First Fifty Members Join. The Owls Club in the 16th-century "Wig & Pen," 230, Strand. Open till midnight. Very cosy Writing Room, etc., for people of literary and kindred pursuits. Excellent Devonshire cooking. Founded by H. & F. Ames.—Apply Secretary, Owls, 230 Strand.

NOTICES.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED.—Consult Miss H. M. BAKER, 275, High Holborn, W.C.1. Income Tax Returns, Repayment Claims of all Descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 0377.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, May 29th, 1927. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Prof. John Garstang, M.A., B.Litt., D.Sc., F.S.A. 6.30. Maude Royden: "Jealous Gods."

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

EDUCATIONAL.

AUTO-EDUCATION, "46, Gt. Russell Street, W.C.1. DR. JESSIE WHITE invites parents and teachers to consult her as to Teaching Appliances.

HOTEL.

MONTAGUE HOTEL, Montague Street, Russell Square, London, W.C. First-class accommodation; room, breakfast and attendance from 7s. 6d. Pension from 3 guineas.—Phone: Museum 4660. (Highly Recommended.)

GOOD'S CAMEO CORNER

SPECIALISE IN

ANCIENT INTAGLIOS RUSSIAN ENAMELS
ANTIQUE CAMEOS OLD IVORIES
STONE CARVINGS GEORGIAN SILVER
ORIENTAL JEWELS RARE SNUFF BOXES

Etc., etc.

1, NEW OXFORD STREET, W.C.1.

We buy entire collections or single specimens to any amount for cash.

Phone: Museum 4296.

Membership Application Form.

To be returned to the Secretary, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C.1.

Please enrol me as a Member of the Women's Freedom League.

Name

Address

I enclose £ s. d. as my first

Annual Subscription.

Minimum Annual Subscription, 1/-