

THE VOTE.
OCT. 7, 1927.

EQUAL FRANCHISE WINNING!

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 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.

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GIRLS IN 1927.

ARE THEY DIFFERENT FROM GIRLS OF A FORMER GENERATION?

BY A HIGH SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS SINCE 1899.

"Girls in 1927? What do I think of them? Well, that they are much the same as they always were." "Oh, but with all the extra advantages they have now, and all this freedom, you can't really think that. Do turn it over in your mind and give THE VOTE the benefit." That was in August. Since then, as the chance offered, I have asked the question of one Board of Education inspector, one head of a training college, two headmistresses, several assistant mistresses, and of a few 'women in the street,' and I am confirmed in my opinion. "Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose." Time given to games and gymnastics at school has, it is true, meant time taken from sentimental talk over, or with, idolised mistresses or elder girls and increased vigour with which to denounce such talk as "sloppy." But only yesterday I heard of a girl of 18 whose examination results this summer were not so good as had been hoped—"But then she was always about with a boy, so what could you expect?" Nature has her way—that type is always with us. "Nowadays girls know so much, nothing is hidden from them." Maybe. Not three weeks ago, a most unconventional and advanced young woman suggested gaily that a most respectable old lady in our hotel was probably suffering from . . . I murmured a word of caution. "Why, I didn't know that meant anything horrid!" Exactly, she knew the *word*. That type, too, is always with us, eager as ever to show off, and quite unaware of the thinness of the ice on which she cuts her capers. "The modern girl won't let you know her thoughts." Did the old-fashioned one? Is the gulf between the generations any the narrower because mother and daughter confront each other from opposite sides in shingle and short skirt, instead of in bonnets? Now, as in Victorian days, there are few who can throw the light bridge of confidence across the agelong abyss.

"They' have such astounding powers of criticism." To begin with, I doubt the judgment of folk who say 'they,' of a whole class; to go on with, what is criticism? It is easy to say of a difficult poem, "It's

symbolic, you know," but 'they' would often be hard put to it to explain the application of their catchword. "You wouldn't understand"; I have a dim suspicion that I used to say that myself to an elder demanding an explanation of ideas that puzzled her. (In fact, at bottom, my firm conviction of little change is because I can remember so well my own frame of mind and see it again and again in the girls about me. I suspect that those who abuse the modern young woman either never were really young themselves or have lost the key to the enchanted garden of the past.)

Words—much of it is just words—clothes of the mind, or disguises, as the witty Frenchman said. The creature wearing the clothes (either kind) falls into the same old classifications. To one who has had to do with hundreds and hundreds of girls for the last forty years, the surface changes seem unimportant. "It is almost incredible that you can hold such views in face of all that is said of the modern girl." That's partly because I am not thinking of the girl depicted for us in magazines, films, novels and—dare I say?—the Press, nor of the few who take the attention of so-called society. I am considering the mass of healthy, busy young women. Partly, too, because there is something of the chameleon in most girls; they take on the colour of the group to which they belong at the moment. Girls are at heart even more conventional than their elders, and if it is "the thing" to be a Bolshevik of the most crimson dye, to use the most irreverent names for authority (can "adorable old pip" be beaten, as praise for a Bishop?), to talk of "free love," or anything else you like, you may be sure the girl will dress for the part. My point is, it is only "dress," and I am not troubled. When the demand comes for another rôle, we shall find our young "bolshie" duly changing her coat.

One more comparison. At a busy seaside resort we may see, if we care to look, corks, matches, refuse of all kinds, bobbing about in the froth at the edge of the incoming tide, but we remain unconcerned as to the state of the ocean beyond.

EQUAL FRANCHISE WINNING!

Home Secretary and Votes for Women.

Speaking at a meeting of the Women's Unionist Branch of the Argyll Constitutional Association at Oban, last Saturday, Sir William Joynson-Hicks, in referring to the resolutions on the Agenda of the Conservative Party's Conference at Cardiff which were in opposition to the Prime Minister's pledge to give votes to women at 21, said they had to-day the absurd position that a woman of 21 who had not a vote could enter the House of Commons, elected by other men and women. Our Dominions and the United States gave women of 21 the vote. Short skirts or long skirts, who was to say that women of 21 did not know as much about politics as boys of 21? The Conservative Party was nothing if not democratic, and he said to his friends at Cardiff that the Premier was pledged to the hilt in the measure of justice to women. He (the Home Secretary) was also pledged to the measure, and they were not going to climb down.

Duchess of Atholl's Support.

The Duchess of Atholl, Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education, told members of the East Renfrewshire Women's Unionist Association, at a meeting held at Paisley last Tuesday, that it was not a practical policy that the voting age should be 25 for both men and women. In the great majority of cases the girl of 21 to-day was as well educated as her brother, and as fitted worthily to exercise the vote. She thought it "a little bit thick" to call young women of 21 "flappers," which she described as a very insulting word.

Darlington Conservatives and Votes for Women at 21.

According to the *Darlington Times*, the question of the extension of the franchise to women of 21 was raised by Mr. A. J. Meek, Chairman of the Darlington Branch of the Junior Imperial League, at a gathering of members at Central Chambers, Darlington, last week. He reminded the members that the question had been thrashed out at meetings in the summer, and he thought the feeling of the Darlington branch was in favour of the proposal. When the question was debated at the Philip Stott College, however, the feeling was emphatically against it, although he voted in favour of the resolution, knowing that he had a mandate from the branch to do so. Whether they were in favour of it or not, it was quite clear that the extension of the franchise would come. He estimated that the measure would result in nearly 9,000 women being added to the electoral roll in Darlington, and he emphasised the necessity for the members to do all they could to get those new electors on to their side, realising that they were going to be an important factor at the next election. Miss Pearce, the secretary of the women's branch of the Conservative Association, expressed herself optimistic regarding the giving of the vote to women of 21. Women, she thought, were more conservative than men, and were not so easily led away by vague promises. In addition, they took matters more seriously than young men did. Mr. G. Shyvers, the secretary of the Conservative Association, intimated that when he attended the Party Conference at Cardiff in October, he would vote for resolutions favouring the granting of the vote to women of 21. In doing so, he would, he believed, be following out a mandate from the rank and file of the Party in Darlington. (Applause.)

The Times and Equal Franchise.

In *The Times* leading article last Tuesday, the writer, after predicting with certainty that women will get the vote at 21 in the near future, further says: "There is no shadow of doubt, in short, that the present Government are committed up to the hilt to this new extension of the franchise to women. However much their followers may deplore it, there is nothing what-

ever to be gained at this stage by attempting to avoid or to explain away some very positive undertakings. Moreover, a Conference of practical politicians may well be reminded that, whatever this Government may or may not do, the two rival Parties will certainly unite to extend the franchise at the earliest possible moment; and, though the case for anticipating opponents is by no means always a sound one, in this instance, at all events, it is overwhelming. The Conservative Party may fairly secure such credit as attaches to the termination of a manifest anomaly. They can secure nothing but discredit by declining to meet their obligations."

Dame Millicent Fawcett and Equal Franchise.

In a letter to *The Times* last Tuesday, nearly a column long, Dame Millicent, in her own inimitable way, deals with votes for women at 21, and women's claims to equality; and she illustrates her argument that women can be practical politicians by recalling instances in the past of the extraordinary political insight and capacity of young women—mentioning Joan of Arc, Queen Victoria, who was just 18 when she ascended to the throne, and Queen Elizabeth, our greatest sovereign.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Twelve Men—Only One Woman J.P.

The name of only one woman, Mrs. Beatrice Mary Courage, of Kirkby Fleetham Hall, Bedale, appears in the new list of additions to the Commission of the Peace for the North Riding of Yorkshire, while the names of 12 men appear on that list. Mrs. Courage is a member of the North Riding Rural Nursing Association. She is also Chairman of the Kirkby Fleetham Women's Institute.

Woman Trust Chairman.

Dame Henrietta Barnett, who has been a director and honorary manager of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust since its formation, has been unanimously elected chairman, in succession to Mr. Gerald Balfour. Dame Henrietta is now in her 77th year. It will be 21 years next May since she cut the first sod of the estate, on which 14,000 people now live.

Women Accountants.

At the Conference of Incorporated Accountants, held at Manchester last week, there were three women delegates—Miss Daisy Cross, Miss Emmerson Patterson and Miss Hilda Claridge. Miss Claridge, in 1920, was the first woman to qualify for membership of the Incorporated Society.

A Courageous Woman Swimmer.

Miss Mercedes Gleitze, a London typist, made her fifth attempt last week to swim the English Channel. She started from Cape Gris-Nez, but was obliged to give up after swimming eight hours because of strong currents, and when she was eight miles from the English coast, off Ramsgate.

Girls Skate 52 Miles.

Six girls, competing with men, set out on a long-distance roller-skating journey from Big Ben, Westminster, to Brighton Aquarium. Miss Harper was the first girl to accomplish this feat, having done the 51 miles in 6 h. 41 min. Miss Sherwood also finished it, but, having had a fall half-way on the journey and cut both knees severely, she took over eight hours.

Syrian Women Forbidden to Unveil.

Certain Moslem women, influenced by the Turkish movement, recently decided to appear in public unveiled, and presented a memorandum to the Syrian Government stating their intentions and asking for protection from fanatical attacks. The chief Ulema (religious body) protested against such "licentious acts." The Government forbade the women to unveil, and the women attempted to make a public demonstration against the order of the Government, but this was forcibly prevented.

DR. HOGARTH AND SEX PREJUDICE.

Mr. Robert G. Hogarth, senior surgeon of Nottingham General Hospital and ex-President of the British Medical Association, in the course of his introductory address at the opening of the winter session of the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women, last Monday, said, according to a report in *The Times*, that the London School of Medicine was born 50 years ago, amid the epoch-making discoveries which marked the renaissance period of British medicine. So it was under a lucky star that their pioneers burst their way through all the obstacles of an entrenched obscurantism, and vindicated the abstract right of women to enter the medical profession by proving themselves apt learners and practitioners of the art of healing. The root of the opposition, he supposed, was sex prejudice, strengthened by apprehensions of intensified competition, and the more he thought of it, the more he was appalled at the waste that the world for so long had made of its women.

Sex equality had to be stressed when sex equality was denied, but in the future the debate should rather be as to what men could do best and what women could do best, apart from the large common field of endeavour which was open to both. It was the division of function, according to special capacity, which made for good organisation and efficient service.

Every woman was at heart a leech. It did not matter whether her knowledge was of simples and herbs, of hot bottles and poultices, of patent medicines and soothing, comforting drinks, and of what was good to wear next to the skin; whatever the favourite nostrum of her sophisticated or unsophisticated devotion, she has the wish to serve, the desire to help, the readiness to give, and these were enduring qualities which had made women loved, even by those learned fools who professed to doubt whether women had either souls or brains.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN CONFERENCE.

Next week, Miss Anna Munro will represent the Women's Freedom League at the annual meetings of the National Council of Women, to be held in the Towa Hall, Bournemouth, October 11th, 12th and 13th. In addition to the Equal Franchise resolution, which is to be reaffirmed, without discussion, readers of *THE VOTE* will be specially interested in two resolutions on The Age of Marriage and Women Police. The former, which is to be moved by St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, reads as follows: "That the National Council of Women deplores the fact that 12 is still the legal age of marriage for girls and 14 for boys, and calls upon the Government to introduce legislation at the earliest possible moment to remedy this evil." An amendment, to be proposed by the Portsmouth Branch of the National Council of Women, asks that the minimum age of marriage for both sexes should be brought up to 18, except with the sanction of the Juvenile Court. The other resolution on Women Police reads: "This Council urges the Home Secretary and the Secretary for Scotland to follow up the circulars sent by the Home Office and by the Scottish Office on December 31st, 1926, and January 13th, 1927, by the issue of a further circular detailing the duties on which women police would be employed by police authorities." This will be proposed on behalf of the National Council of Women's Standing Committee of the Scottish Branches. The Women's Freedom League is proposing the following amendment: "To delete all words after '1927,' and to add 'either by issuing Statutory Regulations, or by promoting legislation to make compulsory on Watch Committees the appointment of an adequate number of Women Police as an integral part of the Police Force.'"

So far as we can see, the issue of the Home Secretary's circulars has not resulted in one policewoman

being appointed in any part of the country, and we do not think that the issue of any number of further circulars would have any more effect. Our contention is that, as Watch Committees are compelled to supply an adequate Police Force to keep order within their area, those Watch Committees should also be compelled to include women in their Police Force.

ANOTHER RAILWAY CARRIAGE ASSAULT.

The *Irish Times* reports that, at the Balbriggan District Court, a man was charged with attempting to assault and with assaulting a girl when travelling in a train between Donabate Railway Station and Rush and Lusk Railway Station, at about 10.30 p.m., on August 21st.

The girl deposed that she was returning to Skerries, along with another girl, by the 10 p.m. train from Amiens Street, on August 21st. The accused man was in the same compartment. When they came to Donabate, the accused asked witness was she married, and she replied that she was, although she was not. He also asked the other girl was she married, and she said yes. He then asked the plaintiff to give him a kiss, and she said that she would do no such thing. The witness was standing at the window, and accused caught hold of her by the neck. She struggled to get away from him, and in the struggle her coat (produced) was torn. When the train got near Rush and Lusk Station he came over to apologise to them and asked the witness for her name and address, stating that he would come to Skerries next day and buy her a coat. Before the train stopped at Rush and Lusk the accused jumped off.

Guard Smith deposed that he was on the same train, and when it stopped at Rush and Lusk he heard a girl shouting: "Stop that man; he's after tearing the coat off a girl." The witness went down the platform, but could not see the man. The stationmaster told him that the man had rushed past him and did not give him a ticket. The witness then went back to the carriage where the girl was to take her name, and found that there were two girls there. The plaintiff was sitting in the corner crying. Later he arrested the accused, charged and cautioned him, and he made no statement.

The magistrate, in sentencing the accused to one month's imprisonment with hard labour from that date, said that there was not in this case one suggestion that ought to be listened to to show that the plaintiff was not a perfectly respectable girl, and behaved, along with her companion on that night, in a perfectly proper manner. It would be a monstrous thing if girls could not get into third class carriages and travel to places in County Dublin without being molested by people getting into carriages with them.

We submit that this case, like so many other cases reported in *THE VOTE*, shows the need for reserved carriages for women and girls on our railways.

MEN LAWYERS' HILARITY.

Readers of *THE VOTE* will remember that, at the recent annual provincial meeting of the Law Society at Sheffield, at which no women were present, Mr. J. W. Pickles explained that women were too emotional to serve on juries. At the same meeting, the President of the Law Society, Mr. Cecil Coward, said: "We now see women not only vying with men in athletic pursuits and forsaking the old-fashioned drudgery of housekeeping, but becoming educated to the same extent as men, taking high degrees at the universities, and entering the learned professions." He added, amid roars of laughter, the Press assures us, "We shall welcome those members of the fair sex who join our profession, whether as solicitors or at the Bar, with what is figuratively described as open arms."

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7th, 1927.

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.

MARRIED WOMEN'S RIGHT TO INDEPENDENCE.

Time after time we have protested against the claim of education authorities to take away from married women their means of livelihood. Not long ago, a brilliant woman headmistress of a school near London, who had many years of experience and who performed her duties to the satisfaction of everyone, was dismissed from her post because the majority of the members of the local Education Committee clung to the irrelevant theory that it was the duty of a married woman, if she had not an unearned income, to stop at home and look after her child. That headmistress was earning a good salary, and her husband was able to undertake a business venture which gave regular employment to a number of men. When she was dismissed that business was showing every prospect of success, but, as she was unable to help it with the security of her salary, it had to be closed down, the workpeople were thrown out of employment, and the headmistress, who formerly could afford to pay for adequate help in her house, is now doing without help. All this bad economics is the result of men's meddling activities against the personal liberty of a married woman, who, like every other human being, should have the right to independent choice in the management of her own affairs.

This week we have heard of another instance of unwarrantable interference on the part of a Scottish education authority, the results of which are proving disastrous. In November, 1922, this education authority removed from their permanent staff a married woman, who was the principal teacher of French and German in a secondary school, because, in this authority's own words, "the continued employment of married women teachers who are introducing double salaries into one household cannot be justified in the present state of employment among teachers." That woman had to acquiesce in this ruling. Two years later, however, her husband lost his post as an electrical engineer, and they were left without means. Since then this teacher, who is an honours graduate, has applied three times unsuccessfully for permanent work, although she has secured a little interim work. This winter she has the prospect of some French and German evening classes in a Scottish high school. Last year they gave an income of £2 5s. a week, *while they lasted*; but this year the amount will be about 30s. She has no other means of livelihood at present, although she may get private tuition later. In the summer-time she kept boarders. Her husband has no prospect of work, and no unemployment insurance. Last June, when making the third request for "permanent" work, this married woman teacher canvassed some of the Staffing Committee. One minister said that if she came to him and said she had left her husband, he would guarantee her permanent work; and he named a definite post. Why should this woman Honours Graduate, or any other woman, be expected to suffer this insult, in addition to the practical destitution to which men's muddle-headed interference with women's private affairs is leading? What right have education authorities to take away from married women who are able and willing to work their means of livelihood? We also want to know why our Board of Education and the Scottish Education Department allow local education authorities to infringe with

impunity Clause I of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919, which enacts that "A person shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from being appointed to or holding any civil or judicial office or post, or from entering or assuming or carrying on any civil profession or vocation."

JUVENILE COURTS.

Sir William Joynson-Hicks, the Home Secretary, on September 30th, issued a circular to magistrates in England and Wales on the organisation and procedure of Juvenile Courts. In this circular he stresses the point that the success of the Juvenile Court must depend on the outlook of the magistrates who hold it, and recommends that a special rota should be formed for the service of the Juvenile Court, consisting of men and women justices with special qualifications for the work. The number of justices who are present at the same session of the Juvenile Courts should ordinarily be limited to three, and both men and women justices should normally be represented on the Bench. With regard to the procedure, the Secretary of State points out that the formality which is necessary in the trial of adults may often be out of place in the Juvenile Court, especially where young children are concerned, and that the child will be more likely to tell the truth if his confidence is gained and if the position is explained to him in simple language. The Home Secretary further considers that the Juvenile Court should have the fullest possible information as to the child's or young person's history, his home surroundings and circumstances, his career at school, and his medical record, and that officers of the local education authority and probation officers should collect such information for the Court. Dealing with the Court premises, the Home Secretary regrets that, in the majority of divisions, the Juvenile Court is still held in the ordinary Court, and earnestly requests that this practice should be brought to an end. When it does not appear justifiable to take special premises for this Court, he points out that some room might be obtained for the purpose in the Town Hall, the Education Office, or some other public building. He also urges that, in the interest of the young persons concerned, greater effort should be made to secure the privacy of the Juvenile Court. While not recommending the exclusion of *bona fide* representatives of a newspaper, the Home Secretary relies upon these representatives to comply with any request made by the magistrates to refrain from publishing the name, address, school, photograph, or anything likely to lead to the identification of the young offender. In referring to methods of dealing with young offenders, the Secretary of State thinks justices will find it helpful to read the suggestions made in the Report of the Departmental Committee on the Treatment of Young Offenders. Broadly speaking, except for trivial offences where a fine may be the appropriate remedy, the main choice lies with placing the child or young person under the supervision of a probation officer or sending him to a residential school. Unless the young person has no home or a home where the parental influences are bad, the supervision of a probation officer may produce the necessary result; but Sir William Joynson-Hicks says it is important to recognise that this method cannot be applied in all cases with any chance of success. He draws attention to the Committee's suggestion that probation officers should be employed instead of police officers in taking children to residential schools. It is to be hoped that all magistrates throughout the country will not only read this circular, but that they will study the Report on which the recommendations are based, as that Report says: "The boys and girls who appear before a Juvenile Court are under 16; the decision of the magistrates with regard to their immediate future must, to a large extent, influence their whole lives; and, by its wise treatment of the young people who appear before it, the Juvenile Court must of necessity play an important part in relation to the whole question of crime."

"MAN'S INHUMANITY TO"—WOMAN!

The poet who found himself in a mild state of wonderment at "man's inhumanity to man," had he considered, even in the light of the daily Press, man's inhumanity to girls and little girl children, might have been even more dumbfounded; in those of us who come across these examples of magisterial *justice* (shall we say?), a much more vehement feeling is aroused. On Tuesday, September 27th, the London Press gave an account of the mobbing of a young man of 17 outside the Guildhall, Salisbury, by a crowd of infuriated women. He had previously criminally assaulted two little girls of 7, and pleaded guilty to the crime. The Bench, who should be begged at least to temper mercy with justice, bound him over. On Tuesday, he was in Court for attempting the same thing by making indecent overtures to another little girl. The child gave evidence, but the magistrates did not even consider the case or question the man, much less consider his recognisances broken, but dismissed it as lacking corroboration. The average person asks in astonishment, How could there be any? The women who attacked him when he left the Court, so that he had to take shelter with the police, would have done better to transfer their attentions to the members of the Bench. These men, for it is natural to presume no woman was among them, are probably respectable fathers, husbands, brothers. One can, therefore, only conclude that they are entirely callous to the injuries done to other men's children, for these little girls, deeply injured mentally and morally, as well as physically, will be years before they become entirely normal again, if ever they do. Such victims so often drift to Rescue homes later on.

This was Tuesday's report. On Thursday, September 29th, before Gateshead County Bench, which comprises no women, and, though one might feel deeply sympathetic for one who would have such colleagues, surely a woman is needed to infuse a little decency into their judgments, four young men were accused of stopping two girls of 17 at 9 o'clock at night

asking them for money. On refusal, one girl was carried down a dark lane to a stable; escaping once, she was recaptured, and three of the brutes together assaulted her and tore her clothes. Meanwhile, the fourth man had done the same to the other girl. Another attempt was made to capture them, but the girls managed to get to the nearby police station, for this happened on a main road. The police brought the case and engaged a solicitor, who begged the Bench to take a serious view of the matter—an onslaught by four brutes (one of them married) on girls who were practically children. And what did the Bench do? As a writer in the *North Mail* said next morning, "Severe words were spoken, followed by a judgment whose mercy was almost a caress"—one was fined £5, the other three 20s., and ten days' time was given to pay; also a few shillings for damage to clothing, and the solicitor's fee! Had they forgotten their motor licence, or contravened some insignificant by-law, very little less would have been done to them. They were men who "generally stood about by the public-house"—this is quite easy to believe. Is this justice? Can nothing be done to bring these magistrates to their senses? Still, what can one expect when, after two important Committees have sat to consider similar crimes and issued careful reports, the Government Department concerned merely sends a mild memorandum to Chief Constables and Justices' Clerks, and such memorandums are very rarely seen even by the justices themselves, recommending some small changes in administration, while some portion of one report, at least, seems to consider the poor unfortunate children as worthy of blame for being thus treated!

Readers of THE VOTE do you think, as some folk do nowadays, that all women's battles are won, and no further efforts are needed? If you do, consider these two cases, only two of many similar, and you will surely be ready again to march to combat against chivalrous(?) man—who calls himself a "Protector of women."

J. M. T.

PEACE STUDY CONFERENCE IN AMSTERDAM.

By ROSA MANUS, Hon. Secretary, Peace Committee of International Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship.

Many of your readers will have heard about the plans for this forthcoming Conference, to be held at the Colonial Institute, Amsterdam, November 17th-19th, 1927, but, as there may be others who have not yet heard of the preparations being made, I gladly accepted the invitation to give some details of the work, and I shall try and show you what has been already accomplished in Holland, feeling sure that men and women in other countries will be at least as enthusiastic in the cause of promoting peace as are my own countrymen and countrywomen.

The Dutch public responded enthusiastically to the call of the Peace Committee of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship. When a tea-party was given at the Women's Club to try and form a Reception Committee, we were very much pleased to welcome Mrs. de Vlucht, the wife of the Mayor of Amsterdam, who gladly consented to be the Honorary President of the Reception Committee. Amongst those who were present, I would like to mention the name of Mrs. Wildman, the wife of the Consul of Great Britain in Amsterdam; Mrs. Spamer, the wife of the American Consul; Frau Schnabel, the wife of the Austrian Consul; Miss Pattie Field, the U.S.A. Vice-Consul in Amsterdam; and, in fact, many others from France, Germany, Brazil, Spain, etc.

The Boards of the two Dutch societies which form our auxiliaries are really giving full support to the Conference Committee, and intend to give all the help

in their power to try and make this Conference a success. The Mayor of Amsterdam has taken a great interest in our work, and offers to give an official reception to the delegates and visitors. A dinner is planned. Conference members will be able to attend one of the famous Thursday evening concerts at the Concert-building. A reception will be given by the Women's Club and informal dinners are planned, where delegates will be able to see something of Dutch home-life and will have many other opportunities for international intercourse.

The Dutch auxiliary intends to organise an open meeting on Saturday evening, November 19th, and invites famous speakers of different nationalities. In connection with the Peace Conference, meetings of the International Committee on the Women Police will be held on November 12th and 13th. The evening of November 12th we have invited men and women of Holland interested in the women police question; great interest is being shown, and many experts are coming from different cities of Holland to discuss the women police problem, which is a burning question of the day.

On Monday, November 14th, is the enfranchised women's Committee meeting, and we are now engaged in getting out a list of questions concerning the women suffrage movement, which will be sent out to the auxiliaries, and the information then obtained will be brought out, possibly in book form, for the use of those interested in the international women's movement.

The foregoing will give you an idea of what is planned for November in Amsterdam. The Dutch women are arranging for hospitality in as many cases as possible when this is needed, and they will show visitors many objects of historical and artistic interest. What we ask of the women of Great Britain is to make a special effort to come to Amsterdam and take part in the proceedings of the Conference, and give their invaluable assistance to the promotion of the International Cause of Peace.

BOOK REVIEW.

The Psychology of Childhood, Normal and Abnormal. By Mary Scharlieb, D.B.E., J.P., M.D., M.S. (Constable & Co.) Price 6s. (May be obtained at this Office.)

This little book is not a treatise, but "simply a popular guide designed for the assistance of parents in their difficult and important task of preparing the children of the present day to be the parents of the future," to "understand the processes whereby ideal manhood and womanhood may be helped to develop."

In a short preface, Mr. Graham-Campbell, stipendiary magistrate at Bow Street, explains that Dame Mary, as a magistrate sitting in a London Juvenile Court and as a doctor of ripe experience, has abundant opportunity of gaining wide knowledge of children, both normal and abnormal, and of the many difficult questions connected with delinquency and neglect.

The little book, therefore, should be useful alike to parents and teachers, magistrates, probation officers and Home Office officials.

The "Normal Child" is first studied, its links with the outside world by the bodily senses, the mind, and the spirit; and parental duties are discussed. Then follow "Unusual Children," the "Difficult Child," and the "Backward Child," with the varied special management appropriate to each.

The "Abnormal Child" with mental defect, idiot, imbecile, feeble-minded of high, medium or low grade, moral imbecile or Mongolian, is considered at some length, the importance of the earliest recognition and right surroundings, and a very useful chapter on "Suggestion, Discipline and Punishment" concludes this very interesting small volume.

E. K.

HEADQUARTERS NOTES.

We are very pleased indeed to welcome our new Newbury, Thatcham and District Branch, which Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence helped to inaugurate last week. Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence's League engagements for the near future include our first Tea and Politics-up-to-date meeting at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, on Wednesday, November 2nd, at 4 o'clock, when she has promised to lead the discussion. All women interested in politics are cordially invited to come that afternoon and take part in the discussion. On November 8th, our President is speaking at a Public Meeting on Equal Franchise, arranged by our Portsmouth Branch, and, on November 16th, at a Public Meeting on the same subject, arranged by our Wallasey Branch.

We are delighted to record that this week Miss Rodgers takes over the Honorary Headship of our VOTE Sales Department. She hopes to meet members of the League and readers of THE VOTE at the VOTE-Sellers' Supper and Rally, to be held this (Friday) evening, at the Minerva Club. Miss Rodgers is full of enthusiasm for our paper THE VOTE, and keenly desirous to see its circulation increased. She wants promises of sellers at London meetings, both indoor and outdoor, and in the streets of London. Will any of our readers volunteer? Miss Rodgers also wants readers to get new subscribers for us. This ought not to be a difficult task, if only our readers will set themselves to do it. Further, the Honorary Head of our

VOTE Sales Department would like to see a VOTE Secretary appointed in every branch, whose business it would be to see that every branch member takes in and reads THE VOTE regularly, and that it is sold at local meetings.

Will all willing to help in any of these ways communicate with Miss Rodgers, without delay, at this address?

In Memoriam.

We deeply regret to record the death, on Thursday, September 29th, after two years' illness, of Mrs. Symes (Marjorie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Catmur). We tender our heartfelt sympathy to her mother and father, her husband and two children, and other members of her family.

WOMAN LORD MAYOR AND WOMEN MAYORS.

It is good news that Miss Margaret Beavan, Liverpool's Lord Mayor designate, is to be the first woman Lord Mayor in this country. Miss Beavan has a long record of public work in Liverpool, and we hope to give our readers some account of that work in a later issue of THE VOTE. Meanwhile, we are wondering when we shall see a woman Lord Mayor of London! It seems that there are special difficulties for women to overcome in that direction, but we have no doubt that they will be overcome. We are told that the election of London's Lord Mayor is in the hands of the Livery; that a man, not necessarily a member of the Common Council (to which a woman may be elected), has to become an Alderman of his Ward, and he can then put himself before the Livery of the Guilds for election as Sheriff. Only then does he stand a chance of being elected Lord Mayor by the Aldermen and Guilds. Nine thousand, two hundred and fifty-nine Liverymen of the Guilds are entitled to vote at elections in Common Hall, but no woman at present is connected with the Livery, although there is no actual law against a woman becoming a liveryman. A woman has applied for admission to the Stationers' Livery Company. We hope she will be successful, and that other women will follow her example.

Not only are we to have a woman Lord Mayor of Liverpool this coming year, but there will be at least three women Mayors—Mrs. Drapper, J.P., of Deptford, Mrs. Stuart Shaw, of Lichfield, and Mrs. John Greene, of Bury St. Edmunds. All these women have spent a great part of their life in public work in their districts, and we are glad to see that they have received the highest public honour that can be conferred on them locally.

Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Wednesday, November 23rd.

3-9 P.M.

Thursday, November 24th.

3-9 P.M.

Green, White & Gold Fair

Women's Freedom League.

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Hon. Head VOTE Sales Department—Miss RODGERS.
General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, October 7th, at 5 p.m.
Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.
Friday, October 7th, at 8.30 p.m.
Vote-Sellers' Supper and Autumn Rally. Dr. Knight, Miss Rodgers.
Saturday, October 8th, at 10 a.m.
National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.
Monday, October 10th, 3 p.m.
Hampstead Branch. Members' Meeting at 53, Willow Road, N.W.2 (by kind permission of Miss Lyndon).



DARE TO BE FREE.

Wednesday, October 12th, at 3 p.m.
"Fair" Sub-Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.
Wednesday, October 12th, at 6.30 p.m.
Mid-London Branch Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. All members urged to be present.
Thursday, October 13th, at 7.30 p.m.
Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting at Highbury Corner. Chairman: Miss Eggott. Speaker: Mr. Ewen.
Wednesday, November 2nd, at 4 p.m.
Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Tea and Politics-up-to-date. Leader of Discussion: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence.
Thursday, November 3rd, at 7.30 p.m.
Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting at Highbury Corner. arranged by the Women's Freedom League. Speaker: Mrs. Lawry.
Wednesday and Thursday, November 23rd and 24th, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Green, White and Gold Fair at Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W.

PROVINCES.

Friday, October 7th, at 3 p.m.
Ashford. Public Meeting in Hempsted Street Hall. Speaker: Miss M. I. Neal on "W men and Housing." Chairman: Mrs. Miles.
Friday, October 14th at 7 p.m.
Portsmouth. Entertainment, Coffee and Business, at 2, Kent Road.
Wednesday, October 19th, at 3 p.m.
Bexhill. Whist Drive at Albany Hotel, Sea Road. Tea. Prizes.
Friday, October 21st.
Darlington. Whist Drive at the Temperance Institute. Tickets 1s. 6d.
Wednesday, November 16th, at 8 p.m.
Walla sey. Public Meeting in the Central Liberal Hall. Speaker: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence on "Equal Franchise."

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Friday, October 7th, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Exhibition of Home Crafts, at the Imperial Institute, South Kensington. Admission 1/-.
Saturday, October 8th, at 3 p.m.
Equal Political Rights Campaign. Hyde Park. Meeting arranged by St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Speakers: Miss Fedden, Miss Fitzgerald, Miss Douglas Irvine, and Miss Whately.
Saturday, October 8th, at 3 p.m.
Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Debate between Miss Boyd and Miss Wyatt on "That the right to strike is essential to the safety of the worker." Chairman: Miss Lucy Bell.
Sunday, October 9th, at 3.30—4.45 p.m.
Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Speaker: The Rev. Canon H. Bickersteth Ottley (Hon. Canon of Canterbury) on "Sunday."
Monday, October 10th, at 4 p.m.
Reception to Dame Edith Lytton, D.B.E. and Mrs. Moss, at Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W.1.
Thursday, October 13th, at 4.15 p.m.
The Women's Pioneer Institute, 70, Victoria Street, S.W.1. Lecture by Mr. Conal O'Riordan on "The Galsworthy Woman."
Friday, October 14th, at 7.30 p.m.
Debate at Commercial Institute, Raverston Street, Balham, on "Should Women have the Vote at 21?" Opener: Miss Marian Reeves. Opposer: Mr. Ignatius B. Kelly M.A. Barrister-at-Law.
Friday and Saturday, October 14th and 15th.
At the London School of Economics, Houghton Street, Aldwych, W.C.2. Public Conference on "Family Allowances."
Monday, October 31st, at 8 p.m.
Bexley Heath Congregational Guild Lecture Hall. Debate on "Equal Franchise." Proposer: Miss Marian Reeves. Miss Carthew.
Saturday, December 17th, at 3 p.m.
Speech Club. Debate between Dr. Marion Phillips and Miss Marian Reeves on "Protective Legislation for Women," at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

BRANCH NOTES.

BRADFORD.

The Bradford Branch of the Women's Freedom League sent a deputation (Miss Stead, B.A., and the local secretary) to address a meeting of the Guild of Youth on Thursday, September 29th. Miss Stead gave a very concise speech, and proved herself an able exponent of our aims. Much apathy was at first shown, but this was very soon dispelled, and interest aroused in regard to the injustices to which women are subjected owing to lack of fitting representation on local governing bodies and in Parliament. The great need of more women doctors, police, and governors of prisons was also stressed, and the speaker urged upon her audience the necessity of joining our movement and keeping the Prime Minister to his promise of granting the vote to women on the same terms as it is to men. A very lively discussion followed, and many questions were asked. Our representatives were assured, before leaving, that many of the arguments advanced had not been considered before, and the male section gave the assurance that they personally would give more serious thought to the subject of the equality of the sexes. This is part of Bradford's campaign to enlist members from the ranks of the younger generation, and an effort is to be made to approach the Young Liberals and the Primrose League in the near future.
(Hon. Sec.) Miss C. HOVE, 10, Carmona Avenue, Frizinghall.

NEWBURY, THATCHAM AND DISTRICT.

Thanks to the eloquence of Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, who so kindly came to speak, and to the quiet, businesslike ability of Miss Anna Munro in the Chair, a branch under the above title was formed at the meeting held in the Magpie Tea Rooms, last Thursday afternoon. There were several old friends of the Women's Freedom League present, and an atmosphere of interest and enthusiasm prevailed.

Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence made an exceedingly telling speech, chiefly on Equal Franchise, mentioning several ways in which women's entry into public life had greatly benefited the community, and laying particular stress on the influence women could and would exercise in the direction of world peace.

Miss Henry, of Thatcham, for many years member of the District Council and Board of Guardians, was unable to be present, but was nominated President.

Mrs. St. A. Lee, 73, Enborne Road, Newbury, very kindly consented to accept office as Hon. Secretary; Miss Davies, M.A., "Osyth," Buckingham Road, Newbury, and Mrs. Forrest, "Mapledean," Enborne Road, Newbury, with equal kindness agreed to act as Hon. Treasurer and Press and Literature Secretary respectively.

A strong Committee was appointed, as were also the members of a deputation it was decided to send to the local member, General Clifton-Brown, asking him to support the Prime Minister when he keeps his promise and brings in a Bill enfranchising women on the same terms as men.

A proposal was also made and carried that Miss Lillian Barker be asked to speak at a subsequent meeting.
(Organiser) LILLIAN LENTON.

PORTSMOUTH.

There was a good attendance at the annual meeting, held on Monday, September 26th, at 2, Kent Road, at 7 o'clock. Mrs. Whetton gave a report of the work done during the year, and Mrs. Whitehead (Hon. Treasurer) presented the balance sheet, which showed the sum of £108.13d. in hand. Mrs. Whetton and Mrs. Whitehead were re-elected Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer respectively.

Plans were made for the winter's work. An entertainment by Miss Whitehead's girls is to be held on October 14th. After coffee there will be a short business meeting. An Equal Franchise meeting is being arranged for November, at which we hope Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence will be the speaker. In December, the meeting will take the form of Tea and Politics-up-to-date. Work parties were arranged for our stall at the Green, White and Gold Fair. It was unanimously decided to support the candidature of Mrs. Barton in St. Simon's Ward at the forthcoming November elections.

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

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE NEWS.

Miss Maude Royden proposes to make a tour round the world, departing for the United States in late December. She is already very fully booked for work in the United States, where she is extremely popular. From Honolulu she is to go to Auckland and thence round New Zealand and Australia, where her arrival is already eagerly anticipated. The New Zealand and Australian part of her tour is to be arranged under the auspices of the British Commonwealth League, with Miss Collison as manager. Miss Collison will go three months ahead to make the arrangements. The League has long wished to extend its practice of arranging tours, which it has done here for delegates from Australia to the League of Nations, women of other countries, and for Miss Collison herself. But it is the first time that a woman has had complete charge of an important public undertaking which involves touring New Zealand and Australia. Miss Collison has had a very wide experience in touring, and herself went all over New Zealand, speaking on behalf of the Workers' Educational Association in its early days in Australia and New Zealand.

FRIDAY,
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1927.

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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.

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

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, October 9th, 1927. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Rev. Canon H. Bickersteth Otley, on "Sunday." 6.30. Maude Royden.

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