

THE VOTE

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NON-PARTY.

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 1928

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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MRS. WALTER RUNCIMAN, M.P.

The return of Mrs. Walter Runciman as Member for St. Ives was a momentous event in the history of Liberalism. The only woman Liberal Member of Parliament, and the only Liberal Member in the Duchy of Cornwall, her election is of great interest to Liberal women, and to the Liberal Party.

For many years a leading member of the Women's National Liberal Federation, Mrs. Runciman is one of the most able speakers of that body.

The daughter of the late Mr. J. C. Stevenson, who represented South Shields in Parliament for 28 years, Mrs. Runciman comes of a family whose Liberal traditions are well known. Her grandfather, a friend of Dr. Chalmers, was one of the "Disruption" ministers. Her mother was the daughter of the late Dr. James Anderson, United Free Church minister at Morpeth.

In her election speeches, Mrs. Runciman declared herself an exponent of the tenets of true Liberalism—"Peace, Retrenchment, and Reform." Identified with the anti-Lloyd Georgian wing of the Party, she did not fight on the land programme or the coal and power scheme.

Educated at Notting Hill, London, as a girl Mrs. Runciman distinguished herself by heading the list in all England on the Cambridge Senior Local Examina-

tions for her year. She became a scholar of Girton College, Cambridge, and made a bid for sex equality by being bracketed with Mr. W. Bateson, first class, in the Historical Tripos.

Her public work began when, before her marriage, she was the first woman elected to the Newcastle-on-Tyne School Board. Later, she became a member of the Northumberland County Education Committee.

Mrs. Runciman's wide experience as Chairman of the Borstal Association for Girls in London, and as a Justice of the Peace both for London and Northumberland, greatly enhances her value as a Member of Parliament.

A former Vice-President of the British Women's Temperance Association, Mrs. Runciman is a well-known personality on temperance platforms. She was also President of the Free Church Women's Council.

Her present public offices include the Vice-Chairmanship of the Executive of the Women's National Liberal Federation and the Chairmanship of the Westminster Housing Association. She is also a member of the Executive of the League of Nations.

Mrs. Runciman is a student of State and financial questions, and a keen Free Trader.



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MRS. WALTER RUNCIMAN.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Congratulations to Miss Hare.

Our member, Miss Hare, is the first woman to be appointed chairman of the National College of Teachers of the Deaf, of which college Lord Charnwood is the President. Miss Hare was inducted as the new chairman at the Annual Meeting of the National College, held in London on March 10th.

Woman's Political Appointment.

Miss Maxse, administrator of the women's organisation inside the Conservative Party, has been appointed the Deputy Principal Agent to the Party. This appointment marks the recognition of the valuable work done by the women in the Conservative and Unionist Party, and is a tribute to the personal qualities of Miss Maxse, who for so many years has filled with conspicuous success various important appointments in the women's organisation of the Party.

Prospective Women Candidates.

Mrs. Agnes Wilson, J.P., has been adopted as the prospective Liberal candidate for North Lanarkshire. She has been a member of the Lanark Town Council since 1923.

Lady Stewart has been adopted as the prospective Liberal candidate for North Kensington at the next General Election.

The *Liverpool Echo* states that Miss E. R. Conway, C.B.E., M.A., of Liverpool, who is Chairman of the Parliamentary and Superannuation Committee of the National Union of Teachers, has been chosen by the Executive as the woman candidate for a seat in the House of Commons. Miss Conway was the President of the Union in 1918, when the Conference was held at Cambridge.

No Women Admitted Yet!

The *Evening News* reports that one of the few business places in London to which women have not yet penetrated to work side by side with men is the Underwriters' Room at Lloyd's. At present, no woman comes into "The Room" at Lloyd's except as a visitor.

"Never Absent" Record.

Two women members of Stockton Board of Guardians have established a "never absent" record during the last three years. Mrs. Holden has been present at Board and other meetings 317 times out of a possible 317, and Mrs. J. Tinkler, 296 out of a possible 296.

More Protection for Women?

The Governor of the Sudan, Canute-like, forbids Lady Bailey (who is flying South) and Lady Heath (who is flying North) to fly unaccompanied over the little bit of the world under his jurisdiction. No reason has yet reached us.

Forty Years without Sick Leave.

Miss L. K. Henry, executive clerical officer, has recently completed 40 years' service in the Post Office Savings Bank Department without having had a single day's sick leave. During the war, the hours of duty in this Department were extended to 12, Saturdays included. Miss Henry was a pioneer in the campaign for equality of opportunity for women with men in the Civil Service.

Steam-roller driven by Woman.

There is reported to be, in Worcestershire, a woman working as driver of a steam-roller.

Woman and Bridge-building.

A woman chartered civil engineer, Miss Dorothy Eucharan, is working in the Bridges Department of a firm of constructional engineers. She intends to specialise in bridges.

The Woman's Van Horse.

The only woman competitor in the class for single-horse vans at the London Van Horse Parade in Regent's Park on Easter Monday was Miss Ivy Arnold, the daughter of a greengrocer and coal merchant at Manor Park, E. Her bay mare "Peggy" won a first prize of 15s.

Irishwomen Honoured.

Two Irish Universities have within last month conferred Hon. Degrees on women. National University, Dublin, gave Doc. Litt. Degree to Mrs. Shee Stopford Green (historian), Member of Senate of Irish Free State; Dublin University bestowed Degree of Doc. Sc. on Miss Huxley, matron, Elpis Home, Dublin, for her pioneer work in scientific nursing. Mrs. T. Clark is candidate (Fianna Fail Party) at North Dublin by-election, James Larkin (Left Wing, Labour), and V. Rice, K.C. (Government), also standing.

Woman Presidency Candidate.

The Communist and Workers' Party of Argentina have nominated Angelica Mendon as their candidate for the Presidency. The elections take place in April, and this is the first time there has been a woman candidate.

A Chinese Woman Diplomat.

Miss Chin, the first Chinese woman diplomat, is to come to this country shortly to interview Sir Austen Chamberlain.

Chinese Women in Chambers of Commerce.

At the recent Conference in Shanghai of Chinese Chambers of Commerce, a resolution was passed to encourage women to join, and assuring them of full equality.

WOMEN POLICE.

The *Times* reports that, at a meeting of the Middlesex Justices last week, Miss Smee moved for the employment of women police to take the statements of children in cases of criminal assault. Miss Smee said that the women magistrates felt very strongly that, in cases of assault on children, the statements of the children should be taken by women police. The women did not feel, no matter how kindly the man policeman was, that he could get the full facts from the children, and if the facts were not obtained justice could not be done. Miss Smee added that in the Metropolitan Police Courts women were employed in the way she suggested. Other women magistrates said that wherever women were employed in this work the results were more satisfactory. The resolution was carried unanimously.

INDIAN WOMEN.

Stri-Dharma, the organ of the Women's Indian Association, reports the great success of a Women's Educational Conference. One hundred and seventy women attended the Legislative Assembly for the discussion of the Age of Consent Bill, and a deputation is to go to the Viceroy on the subject. The leaders of all Parties are supporting the demand for raising the age of consent and also the age for marriage. *Stri-Dharma* welcomes the results of the Conference as "a magnificent demonstration of the determination of women to change conditions."

THE LINLITHGOW BY-ELECTION.

We regret that we have not the opportunity of recording the return of another woman Member to Parliament, but Miss Margaret Kidd failed to secure election at West Lothian on April 4th, the figures being: Mr. Emmanuel Shinwell (Lab.), 14,446; Miss Margaret Kidd (U.), 9,268; and Mr. J. Douglas Young (Lib.), 5,690. Being an Under-Thirty, Miss Kidd, although eligible to stand for Parliament, is not old enough to vote for a candidate for Parliament.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Underground Employment (Women).

MR. MARDY JONES (Lab., Pontypridd) asked the Under-Secretary of State for India how many women are employed underground in the coal mines of India, and how many women are employed underground in other Indian mines; and the reasons why the Government of India has failed to enforce the regulatory powers it has to prohibit the employment of women underground in such coal and other mines? EARL WINTERTON: In 1926, the average daily number of women employed underground was 28,496 in coal mines and 3,393 in other mines. As regards the last part of the question, I would refer to the reply given to the hon. and gallant Member for Central Hull (Lt.-Com. Kenworthy) on March 19th. (*This reply was: The Government of India are considering making regulations to prohibit the employment of women underground, by progressive stages, in certain classes of mine (including the chief coal mines), and forthwith in others.*)

House of Lords.

MR. L'ESTRANGE MALONE (Lab., Northampton) asked the Prime Minister if it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to introduce any measure for the Reform of the House of Lords before the next Dissolution of Parliament? THE PRIME MINISTER: I am not in a position to anticipate the contents of the King's Speech in the autumn.

Women Police.

MR. DAY (Lab., Central Southwark) asked the Home Secretary what decision has been arrived at by his Department with regard to the suggestion made to him by the National Council of Women that the establishment of women police should be increased? SIR VIVIAN HENDERSON (Under-Secretary, Home Department): As my right hon. Friend informed the hon. Member on March 15th, the matter is still under consideration. MR. DAY: Can the hon. and gallant Gentleman say whether he has received a report from the Area Superintendents, and whether they are favourable to its reduction or increase? VISCOUNTESS ASTOR (U., Plymouth): Is it not true that the Circular sent out by the Home Secretary to encourage local authorities to have an increased number of women police simply had the effect of discouraging them, and will he realise that they are long overdue, and hurry up and make up his mind? SIR V. HENDERSON: I can assure the noble Lady that my right hon. Friend realises all that. VISCOUNTESS ASTOR: Well, it is time he was doing something.

"I KNOW WHAT WOMEN WANT!"

So exclaimed Lord Riddell, when challenged by many interrupters at a Debate arranged by the Six Point Group between himself and Dr. Fairfield, on "Is the Press Detrimental to the Position of Women?" Lord Riddell never dealt with the advertised subject of the Debate, but seemed rather to be defending himself, and, through himself, the group of papers which he controls. He claimed that only 2½ per cent. of women were sufficiently intelligent to want to read another type of paper, while 97½ per cent. enjoyed, read, and paid for the type he provides. He quoted at some length from such writers as Dorothy Dix and Anita Loos, mainly on the duty of devoting much time and concentration upon the care of the body, in order that the body may be attractive. He assured his audience that no woman need lack this attractiveness. Dr. Fairfield did not keep very near the point in her opening speech, but in her final summing-up made an excellent case for the affirmative. She mentioned the cumulative effect of an impression of inferiority of a series of seemingly harmless and piffling stuff, implying that women are standardised instead of being individuals, just as men are. She showed how, if a man

does something discreditable, he, as an individual, is blamed or pitied; if a woman does something discreditable, the whole sex is discredited, and much emphasis given to "woman." She gave another reason than has yet appeared for the attempted exclusion by men of women medical students—that consultants and surgeons in doing hospital work cast their bread upon the waters, and hope that when their students enter practice that bread will return to them in the pleasant form of patients. Women doctors in considerable numbers take up public work; women patients in considerable numbers prefer women consultants; these two facts cause the man consultant to feel more kindly to the man student than to the woman student. Dr. Fairfield likened Lord Riddell to the traditional bad mother who brought up her children on the principle of giving them what they want.

Lord Riddell was briskly heckled and did not seem to enjoy the experience, but it was surely rash of him to state to an obviously intelligent audience that the great mass of women are chiefly interested in the question of their personal appearance.

Miss Rebecca West was in the Chair, and held the balance skilfully even between the two speakers and an unusually articulate audience.

AMERICAN WOMEN'S COLLEGES.

Following on an article in the *Atlantic Monthly* for November last year, to which we referred in THE VOTE of December 16th, there has been a meeting of the Boston Alumnae Clubs of the Seven Associated Colleges—Barnard, Bryn Mawr, Mount Holyoke, Radcliffe, Smith, Vassar, and Wellesley. It was a discussion on the "Question of the Women's Colleges," particularly how to stretch their small endowments to meet the ever-increasing educational demands. It was stated that the average endowment, in America, of a women's college was \$150 per student, while of a men's college it was \$500 per student. The opener, Miss Comstock, of Radcliffe, said that, although higher education for women was still too new to make definite pronouncement easy, she herself, from her own experience, was clear that women could absorb and use scholarship in every way. She stressed the importance of encouraging and helping the graduate.

Miss Pendleton, of Wellesley, dealt with the financial position, showing that not only were the colleges poorly endowed, but that the individual woman student had less often than the man student any private means or a family as willing or as able to back her through college. This meant an obstacle to the raising of funds by the raising of tuition fees.

Miss Woolley, of Mount Holyoke, enlarged upon the prime importance of the faculty to any college, nothing—housing or living conditions—being so vital to the educational standard. She also showed, as the article in the *Atlantic Monthly* so clearly did, that if the women's colleges raise their students' fees they run the risk, if not the certainty, of barring girls of moderate means, and would find themselves exclusively dealing with girls expensively reared in expensive private schools. Miss Woolley considered this risk too great to be within the realm of consideration by any college.

MEDICAL POSTS FOR WOMEN.

Dr. Stella Churchill, writing in *The Times* last week under the above heading, says:—

"The present controversy has dealt solely with the undergraduate woman. May I point out that women are no longer allowed to take house posts in any but two of the children's hospitals in London? During the war, all the hospitals for children engaged women for their resident staff. If there is really 'no hostility to women,' will Sir James Purves-Stewart explain on what grounds this necessary opportunity to gain experience is denied to the qualified woman?"

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NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
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EDITORIAL.

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

OUR TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The Coming-of-age Conference of the Women's Freedom League will be held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Saturday, April 28th, when delegates from our branches in England, Scotland, and Wales will meet together to discuss and vote upon resolutions and amendments sent in by the branches and the National Executive Committee, and to vote for members of the Committee, whose business it will be to see that the policy of the League, as expressed in the resolutions passed at this Conference, is carried out in the following year. Once again, our President, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, and our Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Knight, are being returned to office unopposed.

This year, our Conference will be held on the eve of a great triumph for the women's cause, for we all hope to see at an early date Equal Franchise the law of the land. The first object of the Women's Freedom League has always been "to secure for women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men," and we have never ceased to work first and foremost for that object, in season and out of season, during the time of the war as well as in the time of peace, all through the last 21 years. That members of the League realise that equal voting rights are not yet actually in the grasp of women is shown by a resolution on the agenda, which reads: "That the Women's Freedom League shall not cease to concentrate on Equal Franchise until the measure is on the Statute Book." The second object of our League is "to use the powers already obtained to elect women in Parliament, and upon other public bodies," and one of the resolutions "presses for the nomination of more women candidates by all political Parties, and pledges its support to all suitable women." Other resolutions reaffirm the Women's Freedom League's demand for the eligibility of women for the House of Lords; equal opportunities and equal pay for women and men throughout all branches of our national life; the right of women to retain their own nationality on marriage with a foreigner; the separate assessment and separate taxation of the incomes of married persons for the purpose of income tax; the necessity for women on the Prison Commission, women governors and women medical officers in all women's prisons and women's sections of prisons, women inspectors of prisons, and women police; an equal number of women of equal status with men on the Board of Control; the recognition of an equal moral standard for men and women; and the raising of the age of consent for girls to 18, with a similar provision for boys.

Other resolutions call for the inclusion of women in equal numbers with men on all Commissions or Committees of Inquiry appointed by the Government, and for the appointment of women as fully accredited delegates to the League of Nations Assembly and the International Labour Conference; and another resolution "calls upon the Government to take steps to

enforce the carrying-out of the provisions of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919, so that neither sex nor marriage shall be a bar to any appointment, or to the continuation of any appointment, under any body supported by public money." One resolution calls for an equal number of men and women magistrates serving on the Bench, and urges that women should be on all Advisory Committees for the appointment of magistrates. Women's economic position is the subject of various resolutions, and restrictions or privileges based on sex either in professions or industry are strenuously opposed; and the Government is called upon to provide more grants for the training of unemployed women and girls, not only in domestic service, but in other suitable occupations. Four resolutions vigorously oppose the provisions of the Edinburgh Corporation Bill, the Second Reading of which will be again before Parliament next week. Other resolutions deal with education, housing, the provision of public lodging-houses for women by municipalities, and other more general subjects.

This Twenty-first Annual Conference bids fair to be the most important in the history of the Women's Freedom League. It would have been interesting to contrast the position of women in the days of our earlier Conferences and their position at the present time, but we gather there will be little time for reminiscences, however interesting, at Caxton Hall, on April 28th. The delegates will be concerned with the future of our League. One of the resolutions on the agenda reads: "When Equal Franchise is achieved, this Conference considers that the Women's Freedom League has equally important work in the future to that which it has done in the past." Many of the other resolutions appearing on the agenda confirm this view; and, at the close of the Conference, at 4 p.m., it has been decided to have a discussion on "What the Women's Freedom League will do when Equal Franchise is won." This discussion will be open to all members of our League, and it is hoped that not only delegates from our branches, but every member present who has something useful to contribute, will take part in this discussion. The Women's Freedom League has taken its full share in women's struggle for political equality with men. Its first object is nearly won, but its other objects—the full equality of status, opportunities, rewards and responsibilities for women and men in our national and international life—are certainly not yet achieved.

REASSEMBLING OF PARLIAMENT.

Parliament reassembles next Tuesday, April 17th, and on the following day the Government's Equal Franchise Bill will enter on its Committee stage in the House of Commons. We are told that this is not likely to occupy more than a few days, despite the fact that Sir Alexander Sprot (U., N. Lanark) has put down a Motion which proposes to raise the qualifying age for both men and women to 25 instead of 21. Next week, also, there is the possibility of a Second Reading Debate being taken on the Edinburgh Corporation Bill, which introduces the principles of compulsion and penalisation into our present system of the treatment of venereal diseases. It was previously stated in the Press that the Government intended to put on the Whips against this Second Reading, but, in a recent letter to the Town Clerk of Edinburgh, it is stated that the Secretary of State for Scotland (Sir John Gilmour) "has decided, after careful consideration of the Corporation's request and after consultation with the Chief Whip, that the Government Whips will not be put on in connection with the Second Reading of the Bill." As our readers know, the Women's Freedom League is uncompromisingly hostile to the provisions of this Bill, and we are urging all our friends in the House of Commons to be present when its Second Reading takes place, and to oppose it. We sincerely hope that an overwhelming majority will be recorded against it.

MISS GLEITZE'S GREAT SWIM.

THE STRAITS OF GIBRALTAR CONQUERED BY A WOMAN.

We congratulate Miss Mercedes Gleitze on having swum the Straits of Gibraltar—a feat never before accomplished. She left Tarifa, a Spanish coast town 15 miles south-west of Gibraltar, on Thursday, April 5th, and landed at Point Leona, on the Moroccan coast, at night. Her sixth attempt, this remarkable feat of endurance lasted 12 hours 50 minutes, and was witnessed by an escort of Spaniards.

It will be remembered that Miss Gleitze succeeded in conquering the English Channel on her tenth attempt. Her conquest of the Straits of Gibraltar is a further tribute to the faith she puts in the will to win.

Describing her recent triumph, Miss Gleitze admits that the heavy rain, rough sea, and strong current tempted her to give up within the first two hours. She courageously fought on, and, for part of the way, had the company of dolphins and other large fish. Before starting, she had been warned against sharks. At one stage of her swim, a tremendous floundering in front of her caused her some uneasiness. However, the intruder proved to be nothing more formidable

than a large lobster, who shyly slipped aside for her to pass. Miss Gleitze suffered more from hunger than on her Channel swim, and was provided with food and drink by her Spanish friends. Although the water was less cold than in the Channel, the current was stronger.

Miss Gleitze made her first attempt to swim the Straits of Gibraltar on December 16th, and gave up when half-way across. She made a second attempt on January 2nd, when she got to within a mile of Tarifa, but was compelled to give in on account of the cold. Her third attempt, on January 25th, almost ended in disaster. She was caught in a whirlpool and narrowly escaped drowning. She tried again on March 12th, and on April 3rd, when she got within a mile of the Moorish coast.

Miss Gleitze has refused a challenge from Miss Lottie Schoemmell, the American swimming champion, to race her across the English Channel in September. Miss Gleitze does not claim to be a racer, and prefers to specialise in feats of endurance. It is her ambition to swim from England to France this summer.

TEA AND POLITICS-UP-TO-DATE.

At the Tea and Politics-up-to-date Meeting of April 4th, presided over by Miss Reeves, a particularly interesting address was given by Miss Partridge on the work of women electrical engineers. Messrs. Partridge are chiefly interested in rural electricity, and since their commencement—the firm was established by Miss Partridge—have brought the benefits of electricity to remote rural districts.

Miss Partridge pointed out that the aims of the Central Electricity Board, set up by the 1926 Act, are unification, amalgamation, and co-ordination. One of the chief difficulties in the way of development is that of getting small places to work together. Another serious difficulty is the prejudice against overhead mains. Miss Partridge contended that once the cables were established they were no more noticeable than telegraph wires, to which we become so accustomed that they do not worry us. Overhead mains are cheaper to erect in the proportion of four to one, and the maintenance is small.

Miss Partridge continued that the 1926 Act gave about three and a quarter millions to be expended on the development of electrical schemes, and proposed the setting up of big generating stations, which would give rural districts the opportunity of tapping on to the main. This, Miss Partridge stated, must be regarded as a development of the future, although it is being worked for even now.

To deal more particularly with present enterprises, Miss Partridge said that the individual plant which her own and other firms are setting up in villages, is preparing the way for the bigger scheme which is to follow. These undertakings not only accustom village people to the benefits of electricity, but are so arranged that when further developments materialise the villages can tap on to the main, and the individual plant, with which lighting only is possible, can be carried farther into the wilds.

Miss Partridge considers that girls and women are well suited for the work of electrical engineering. Her firm receives a limited number of girls who have passed London matriculation, and trains them over a period of two to three years. In the first stage, they enter the office and become thoroughly acquainted with the general office work and with making drawings; in the second stage, they become thoroughly experienced in

house-wiring; and, in the third, they are sent to one of the villages to run a plant.

Miss Partridge finds that women are much more successful than men in preventing difficulties arising in the homes of the villagers in connection with the various operations which have to be carried out. Tactfully managed, the countrywomen fall in with the suggestions made, and show greater resourcefulness than those accustomed to the advantages of town life.

After Miss Partridge had been engaged at her work for 15 years, a factory inspector suddenly became aware of her existence. He appeared one night and ordered her off the premises on the ground that it was illegal for a woman to be in a power station after 8 p.m. Such an Act is in existence, but, as it is necessary for Miss Partridge and her staff to work in power stations after 8 p.m., they continue to do so, and up to date no further notice has been taken of their breach of the law.

Questioned as to the economy of electricity for village consumers, Miss Partridge said that electricity works out cheaper than oil lamps.

Within two years Miss Partridge hopes to cover the whole of Devonshire, and to put women in charge of each undertaking. The cost of setting up an individual plant works out at approximately £3 10s. per head of the population of the village.

Miss Reeves supported unification, and emphasized the absurdity of the present arrangement, whereby if a man does a job on one side of the road, he must not—even in a case of emergency—cross to the other to attend to a lamp, because he would be trespassing on the preserves of another company.

Miss Underwood spoke of March 29th as a red-letter day. She and Dr. Knight were present in the House of Commons during the Debate. In reading extracts from the speeches, she selected those which arose from points raised by Members who voted against the Bill. The illogical and nonsensical reasons put forward by these Diehards were the cause of much amusement.

Miss Underwood said that she considers the Prime Minister's statement that the last fraction of inequality had gone is a direct challenge, for, although we may have the power to get equality, we have not got it yet.

Dr. Knight stated that the Edinburgh Corporation Bill came up for discussion last Wednesday, and would do so again on April 19th.

BOOK REVIEW.

Humanity and Labour in China. By Adelaide Mary Anderson, D.B.E., M.A. (The Student Christian Movement.) 10s. 6d. net. (Can be obtained from this Office.)

This comprehensive volume well repays study. Dame Adelaide mixes technical information about factories, congresses, and international and national ordinances with a pleasant stream of personal encounters, all set amid scenic beauty. Armed, as she is, having been H.M. Principal Lady Inspector of Factories, with a fund of knowledge concerning wise factory control, she can give a clear picture of conditions. In China, she shows us a transition stage from home-craft under quite unregulated conditions, but often productive of beautiful work, to the most modern and up-to-date equipment of the newest of factories. The transition of the family from home-work to work in factory has caused the employment, or presence—if too young to lend a hand in the factories—of children and babies, to an extent and often under conditions harmful to their lives. Dame Adelaide sees in the forbidding of child labour a first step to industrial improvement generally. Once the children are in better conditions, will come the improvement for adults; improvements in hours of work, now very generally two 12-hour shifts; improvements in work conditions, as ventilation, space, sanitation, welfare, etc.

Dame Adelaide approached the problem first on behalf of the National Christian Council of China, and worked much with the Young Women's Christian Association and the Young Men's Christian Association. Later, she again approached it as a member of the China Indemnity Delegation. She found a strong chord of sympathy with the Chinese people, men and women, whether holding their own religion or having the China Indemnity Delegation. She found a strong from the highest aristocracy, official, commercial, and industrial, and reports from all an earnest desire that China shall adopt what is good from Western nations, at the same time retaining her own characteristic individuality. China's present industrial progress, as was Dame Adelaide's visit, was tragically interrupted by civil strife, accompanied by industrial strikes and violence. What will emerge is not easy to prophesy, but Dame Adelaide is full of hope for the future of that seemingly much-troubled country. H. A. A.

ANOTHER COMMITTEE—14 MEN, 2 WOMEN!

In 1922, the Home Secretary appointed an Advisory Committee to assist in the development of the probation system in England and Wales, and to advise him in the administration of the Probation of Offenders Act, 1907. In accordance with the recommendation of the Committee on the Treatment of Young Offenders, Sir William Joynson-Hicks has decided to reconstitute the Advisory Committee so as to consider the problems of the after-care of lads and girls leaving Home Office Schools and Borstal Institutions, as well as those of probation. The new Committee is composed of 14 men and two women, as follows:—

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Vivian Henderson, M.P., Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Chairman); Sir Francis Blake, Chairman of Northumberland Quarter Sessions; Mr. J. Bradshaw, Chairman of the National Association of Prison Visitors; Mrs. Barrow Cadbury, Birmingham; Mr. W. Clarke Hall, Metropolitan police magistrate; Mr. S. W. Harris, Assistant Secretary, Home Office; Mr. E. S. W. Hart, Clerk of the Peace and Clerk of the County Council, Middlesex; Mr. E. J. Hayward, Clerk to the Justices, Cardiff; Mrs. Hemsley, Probation Officer, Stockton-on-Tees; Mr. A. H. Houston, Home Office; Mr. C. F. Mott, Director of Education, Liverpool; Mr. Alexander Paterson, one of the Commissioners of Prisons; the Rev. Harold Pierce, Secretary of the Manchester Police Court Mission; Mr. F. E. Poulton, Probation Officer, Nottingham; Alderman C. Raine, Hull; Mr. H. Riches, Chief Constable of Middlesbrough. The Secretary of the Committee is Mr. E. J. Metters, of the Home Office, Whitehall.

A GLEAM.

THE PRACTICAL EDUCATION OF WOMEN FOR RURAL LIFE, BEING THE

Report of a Sub-Committee of the Inter-Departmental Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Board of Education. (H.M. Stationery Office.) Price 6d.

This remarkable report is signed by the following: The Lady Denman, Mr. P. G. Dalling, Mr. R. H. B. Jesse, Miss Kate Manley, Miss S. Emily Matthews, Miss E. H. Pratt, Mr. Walter R. Smith, Miss Anna E. Wark, and Mrs. Margaret Winttingham. Its terms of reference were: "To consider the general question of the practical education of women for rural life."

The problem of the lives of women in rural areas is here faced in all its aspects, from the humblest cottager's girl to women members of County Councils. All is treated in due proportion to its relation to the complete problem, and the result is a report which not only well repays reading, but must also largely help towards an alleviation and a solution, if adopted. "If adopted" is, of course, the snag. So many reports, excellent in content, meet effective opposition where power to act lies.

The multitudinous duties that may fall to the rural woman are detailed, and it is shown how far too numerous they are for any one human being. Further, it is shown how almost universal is a complete lack of training for any one of them, from motherhood to marketing. Having displayed this existing state of affairs, the Report then displays the existing education available to the rural girl or woman, and then proceeds to offer suggestions which would definitely help to improve both. Increase in the facilities for the education of rural women should be made: e.g., provision of more, and more appropriate, itinerant instruction in agricultural subjects of special interest to women; increased provision of farm institutes; the addition of a college for women; increased employment of women on county staffs of agricultural education, with improvement of pay and pension rights; increased representation of women on local authorities and governing bodies; supplementing of scholarships for girls and women; increased courses for girls from 14-16; improving training facilities for teachers in rural schools, with experimental and additional courses; and urging local education authorities to increase the representation of women on their bodies and administrative machinery. The above are only selected headings from a comprehensive setting out in detail of the Committee's recommendations. They have proceeded on the sound principle that if you want to improve the conditions under which women live, you must first see to it that women are numerous on the authorities having power to control those conditions.

TRAIN OFFENCES.

The *Daily Record* (Glasgow) reports that, in the High Court, Edinburgh, recently, Lord Blackburn passed sentence of five years' penal servitude on a man of 48, on remand from Glasgow, for contraventions of the Criminal Law Amendment Acts, and an attempt to ravish a 7-year-old girl.

The offences, it was stated, took place between June 1st, 1927, and January 31st, 1928, in railway carriages between Coatbridge and Glasgow, and in a motor omnibus.

Counsel said the accused was single and was employed as a quarryman. He joined up in 1914 as a private in the Scottish Rifles, and attained the rank of corporal. He had never been in trouble before. Counsel asked for leniency on account of his war record.

Lord Blackburn said the accused had pleaded guilty to a series of serious and disgusting offences on small girls; on no less than four of them, whose ages ranged from 7 to 14. It was painful to him to see a man with such a record standing in the dock.

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Thursday, April 19th, at 3 p.m.

Hampstead. Branch Meeting at 28, Well Walk, N.W.3 (by kind invitation of Miss Armstrong).

Monday, April 23rd.

Finchley. Jumble Sale.

Wednesday, April 25th, 4—5.30 p.m.

Tea and Politics-up-to-date. Meeting at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

Wednesday April 25th, at 6.30 p.m.

Mid-London Branch. Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. All members are urged to

be present. Discussion and voting on Conference Resolutions.

Saturday, April 28th, at 10 a.m.

Twenty-first Annual Conference at Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Sunday, April 29th, at 3.30 to 5.30 p.m.

Reception and Tea to Delegates, Members and Friends of the Women's Freedom League, by kind invitation of the Minerva Club Branch. Short speeches.

Wednesday, May 2nd, at 3 p.m.

"Fair" Sub-Committee, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, April 18th, at 3.30 p.m.

Bexhill. Whist Drive at the Albany Hotel.

Thursday, April 19th, at 7 p.m.

Portsmouth. Members' Meeting at 25, Shaftesbury Road.

Wednesday, April 25th, at 3.30 p.m.

Bexhill. Branch Meeting at the Albany Hotel. Speaker: Mrs. Strickland. Subject: "Capital Punishment."

Saturday, May 5th.

Portsmouth. Jumble Sale.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Tue day, April 17th, at 11.15 a.m.

Electrical Association for Women. Annual General Meeting at the Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, W.C.2.

Wednesday, April 18th, at 3 p.m.

Electrical Association for Women. Lecture on "Technical Problems of Broadcasting" by Capt. P. P. Ekersley, at the Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, W.C.2.

Tuesday, April 24th, at 1 p.m.

British Commonwealth League, 17, Buckingham Street, Strand. Luncheon. Speaker: Mrs. Francis Ayscough on "Women in China." Seats 2/- each.

Tuesday, April 24th, at 7.30 p.m.

Josephine Butler Centenary. Special Commemoration Service at Westminster Abbey. Admission free.

Wednesday, April 25th, at 8 p.m.

Josephine Butler Commemoration Meeting, at the Central Hall, Westminster. Speakers: Miss Margaret Bondfield, M.P., Mrs. Bramwell Booth, J.P., Dame Rachel Crowley, D.B.E., Miss Alison Neilans, Sir Michael Sadler, C.B., the Rev. Johann Ude. Chairman: The Rt. Hon. The Lord Balfour of Burleigh. Admission free.

Tuesday, May 1st, at 8.45 p.m.

British Commonwealth League. Lecture by Mrs. Patrick Ness, the Explorer, on "From the Nile to the Zambesi," at 50, Porchester Terrace (by kind invitation of the Hon. Mrs. Franklin). Tickets 5/- each, obtainable in advance only.

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BRANCH NOTES.

MONTGOMERY BOROUGH.

The branch organised a splendid "At Home" in the Church House, Newtown, on March 22nd, to celebrate the Josephine Butler Centenary.

Some 320 people from all parts of the country attended. The room was beautifully decorated in the League's colours, an excellent tea was dispensed by a number of hostesses of 12 guests each, and an enjoyable miscellaneous programme was contributed by Miss Gladys Oliver, Mrs. Herbert Jones, Gregynog, Mrs. Sylvester, Miss Enid Roberts, Mr. Morley Jones, and Mr. Dennis Humphreys (who also accompanied). Exhibition dances in costume were given by Miss Eileen Lloyd and Miss Esme Grice.

At the close of the concert speeches were given by Miss Alix M. Clark (who carried out the secretarial work in connection with the function) on the work of the Women's Freedom League, and by Miss Alison Neilans, of the Moral, Social and Hygiene Association, London, on the life and work of Josephine Butler. Mr. Clement Davies, K.C., who was expected to deliver a speech, did not arrive.

The Chairman then moved the adoption of the following resolution, which was unanimously carried:—

"That this meeting, held in 1928, the centenary of Josephine Butler's birth, desires to place on record its profound admiration and gratitude for the magnificent fight which she originated in 1869, and fought continuously for 31 years against the double moral standard in law and custom, the system of State-regulated vice and *maisons tolerées*, and the traffic in women and children.

"This meeting pays tribute to Mrs. Butler's foresight, initiative and courage, but, above all, it acknowledges the debt that all men and women owe to her for her uncompromising loyalty to the principles of equal justice and the unity of the moral law."

Councillor John Griffiths, J.P., proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Neilans for her address. Mrs. Richard Jones, B.A., Llandinam, seconded, and Mrs. Cartwright, Oswestry, supported. The motion was unanimously carried.

Assistance was given to Miss Clark by Mrs. Harold Lloyd, Miss Dilys Davies, Miss Aileen Jones, Miss Evelyn Rickards, Miss Eleri Jones, and Mrs. T. Beaumont.

The following is a list of ladies who gave tea:—Mrs. Bennett-Lloyd, Miss Bessie Thomas, Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Rowlands, Mrs. Ed. Bennett, Miss G. Bennett, Mrs. Crofts, Miss Betty Crofts, Mrs. Eric Morgan, Mrs. Reese, Mrs. Harry Evans, Mrs. Palmer-Jones, Mrs. Leggatt-Leggatt, Miss Edie Jones, Mrs. Downing Davies, Mrs. Jarman Williams, Mrs. Hart, Mrs. Pryce Wilson, Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Cecil Taylor, Mrs. Tosh Davies, Miss Lumley, Mrs. W. R. Williams, Mrs. Sam Morgan, Mrs. Gwilym O. Griffiths, Mrs. J. H. Humphreys, Miss Nancy Price, Miss May Roberts, and Mrs. Aubrey Benbow. The following were the stewards:—Mrs. Harold Bennett-Lloyd, Miss Aileen Jones, Miss Roberta Jones, Miss Dilys Davies, Miss Rickards, Miss Eglwys Jones, Miss Vera Townson, Mrs. Beaumont, and Miss Kathleen Humphreys.

A large number of books, pamphlets and VOTES were sold, and a good collection taken.

To Branch Treasurers.—Please send in Capitation Fees at once, if not already forwarded.—E. KNIGHT.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

The Committee which arranged the recent Meeting at the Central Hall, Westminster, on "Maternal Mortality," has just issued a Report of the proceedings at that meeting, at the price of 1s., and also a leaflet defining the powers of a local authority to aid the Maternity Services of the district. In a letter from Miss Gertrude Tuckwell, J.P., the Hon. Secretary to the Committee, we are informed that it is proposed to hold another Meeting in the autumn to consider what has been done in regard to the recommendations embodied in the resolution passed at its last meeting.

WHAT BECOMES OF LONDON SCHOOL-GIRLS.

In the report of the Headmistresses' Employment Committee, which works in co-operation with the Ministry of Labour, we are told that, among the thousand girls who found posts last year through the agency of this Committee, one is a house decorator, now engaged on a Chinese room; one is a bio-chemist, looking after two hundred rats in a research institute; one is an apprentice in an electric generating station; and another is a house-keeper in charge of a floor of a London hotel. The openings for women are gradually increasing in number!

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This depot, at 61-62, Chancery Lane, W.C.2, is appealing for orders for dressmaking, ladies' tailoring, and *lingerie*. Clothes may be had from this depot either made to measure or ready-made in latest styles and carrying out original ideas, at moderate charges. At this depot, it is pointed out that the workers receive a living wage for their work. They are qualified needlewomen who are unable to go out daily to work in workrooms in the usual way. Some are widows with families, others have parents or relations to support, and in every case are the bread-winners of the home. All communications should be addressed to the Secretary, Miss M. L. Fox.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, April 15th, 1928. 3.30. Music. Lecture. The Hon. Humphrey Pakington, A.R.I.B.A. 5.30. The Rev. G. W. Hudson Shaw.

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