

THE VOTE,
NOV. 9, 1923.

PARLIAMENT RE-OPENS.

THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXIX. No. 994.

(Registered at
the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1928

OBJECTS : To use the power of the Parliamentary vote, now won for Women upon equal terms with men, to elect women to Parliament, and upon other public bodies; to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes; and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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"GEORGE WASHINGTON LINCOLN GOES ROUND THE WORLD." Reviewed by Alice Park.

THE VICTORY

GREEN GOLD & WHITE FAIR

CAXTON HALL

WESTMINSTER

1928



VISCOUNTESS ASTOR, M.P.
The First Woman to sit in the
British House of Commons.



MARGARET BEAVAN
Lord Mayor of Liverpool
(1927-1928)

3 P.M.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS TO
MEET YOU THERE

3 P.M. TO 9 P.M.

THE VICTORY GREEN WHITE AND GOLD FAIR

The Green White and Gold Fair will be held at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 13th and 14th, and will be opened each day at 3 p.m.—On Tuesday, November 13th, by The Viscountess Astor, M.P.; and on Wednesday by Miss Margaret Beavan (the Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor of Liverpool). The Chair will be taken on Tuesday by Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence (President of the Women's Freedom League), and on Wednesday by Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P.

STALLS AND STALLHOLDERS.

Hampstead Branch.—Handkerchiefs. Miss Trotter, Mrs. Patrick Graham, Miss James, Miss F. M. C. Collier and Miss Scott.

Hampstead Branch.—Antiques and White Elephants. Mrs. Waring, Mrs. Harvey James, Mrs. Ostler and Mrs. Williams.

Mid London Branch.—Stationery Stall. Mrs. Antill, Miss Barton, Mrs. Legge, Miss Sparkman and Miss Webb.

Montgomery Boroughs Branch.—Country Produce, Cakes, and General Goods. Miss Alix M. Clark, Mrs. Elias-Pritchard, and Branch Members.

Portsmouth Branch.—Household Goods. Mrs. Whetton and Members.

South-Eastern Branches.—General Stall. Mrs. Cloke, Mrs. Buckingham, Miss White and Members.

Scottish and North Country Stall. Mrs. Eason, Miss Munro, Miss Godwin, Margaret Munro, Miss D. Sidley.

China Stall. Mrs. Lindus and Miss Lindus, Mrs. E. J. Rubra, Miss Jonquiere, Miss J. Thompson, Mrs. M. A. Sidley Rose.

Literature Stall. Mrs. Pierotti, Mrs. Marriotti, Miss Steven, and Miss M. Pierotti.

Overalls and Aprons. Miss Underwood, Miss F. A. Underwood, Miss Brewer, Miss Charles, and Mrs. Turriff.

Shilling Stall. Mrs. Delbanco and Mrs. Willis.

Sweets. Mrs. Hugh Glaisyer, Miss Mary Knight, Miss Dorothy Dix, and friends.

Toy Stall. Mrs. J. R. Knight, Mrs. Shore, Miss Annie Hoare.

Underclothing. Mrs. Sutherland, Mrs. Watts, Mrs. Abbott and Mrs. Boxall.

General Stall. Mrs. Lloyd.

"Vote" Stall. Mrs. Flowers, Mrs. Evans and Miss Burgoine.

"Vote" Sales Table. Mrs. Zangwill.

PLEASE HELP!

There are now only a few days left before the Fair. Will every reader of the VOTE and member of the League do her utmost to make the Fair a great success and worthy of the wonderful Victory of Equal Franchise? Please come to the Fair to buy your Christmas Presents; there will be many attractive Stalls, and all will be crowded with delightful Christmas Gifts. So do not fail to come to the Fair and bring your friends with you.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

Tuesday, November 13th—

4 to 5 p.m.—Piano Solos, Mrs. Sparrow.

5 to 5.45 p.m.—Short Vocal Concert (arranged by Madame San Carolo, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.), assisted by Miss Vere Manooch, A.R.C.M., Miss Davis, and Mr. Frederick Threadgold.

6 p.m.—Display of Operatic, Classical and Character Dances (by pupils of Miss Grace Woollacott, of Wimbledon).

MORE GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE.

On October 19th we called attention to the fact that the Public Auditor, acting under the powers given him by the Government's recent Audit Act, challenged the wages of the women employees of the Woolwich Borough Council as being "unreasonable" because these women were paid at the same rate as the men employees for similar work, and surcharged the Council to the amount of £576 19s. 3d. Now the Ministry of Health has directly interfered in the arrangements of Middlesbrough Workhouse, to the clear disadvantage of its matron. Mrs. Gaines, the matron, has proved herself a most efficient administrator, and since the death of her husband the work has gone on so smoothly that the Guardians were disposed to give her supreme control, with a male assistant master. The Ministry, however, have vetoed this arrangement, and accordingly Mrs. Gaines is to be retired on pension, and a new master and matron appointed. It is curious to

Wednesday, November 14th—

4 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.—Piano Solos, Mrs. Sparrow.

5 p.m.—Violin Solo, Miss Lillian Foulis.

6 p.m.—Fencing Display (arranged by Professor Tassart): Miss J. Rogers v. Miss Rosenheim; Miss B. Price Hughes v. Miss Bonser; Miss A. Walker (Lady Champion 1913-1914, Olympic Games 1924) v. Miss Sheila Nash (Professor).

6.45 p.m.—Violin Solo, Miss Mollie Seymour.

7.15 p.m.—Songs and Recitations by Miss Joan Dunsford.

CHARACTER READING.

Character Reading: Miss Wall.

Stories Told from Teacups: Mrs. Gilchrist.

Numerology: Miss King.

Phrenology: Madame Gena, B.Sc.

Psychometry: Mrs. Thomson.

(Under the direction of Miss Ivy Hawke and Mrs. Goddard Watts.)

TEAS AND REFRESHMENTS.

Tuesday, November 13th, and Wednesday, November 14th—

Miss Reeves has undertaken the Teas and Refreshments, and will be assisted by Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Keelan, Mrs. Scott, and the staff and members of the Minerva Club. Teas will be served in the Lounge from 3.30 to 6 p.m., and Refreshments will be served after 7 p.m.

THE INFORMATION BUREAU.

Mrs. Seymour Pritchard has kindly promised to manage this part of the work.

Other Societies and Friends taking Stalls:

Barclay Workshops (for Blind Women).

The Canning Town Women's Settlement.

The International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

The Open Door Council.

The Psychological Aid Society.

The Women's Exchange.

The Yugoslav Peasant Industries.

Lower Holloway Infant Day Nursery.

Mrs. Aston (Filigree Work and Artificial Flowers).

Miss Burwood (Beads).

Mrs. Clifford (Wax Flowers).

Miss Colgnou.

Miss Minnie Culverwell (Hand-made Jewellery).

Mrs. M. E. Moreton (Laquer Work and Lamp Shades).

Miss Dorothea Page (Unika Sports Wear).

Miss Seyfang.

Tickets, 1/10 (including tax) the first day until 5 p.m.; after 5 p.m. and on the second day, 1/2 (including tax). On sale at 144, High Holborn, or from the societies and friends taking stalls.

All communications and gifts should be sent to Miss E. Berry, Hon. Fair Secretary, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

note with what ease the various Departments of Government manage to interfere in local affairs, to the detriment of women. Yet, when any advantage for women is desired—the appointment of women police for example—Government Departments at once plead that such matters are the province of the local governing bodies, and refuse to take any action. It is time that Government Departments were made to realise that the interests of women are of equal value with the interests of men; and we hope the young women voters will succeed in teaching them that lesson.

FIRST WOMAN VICE-PRESIDENT.

Lady Gladstone has been appointed Vice-President of the International Federation of League of Nations' Societies, and is the first woman to fill that position. The appointment was made last month, when the Council of the Federation met at Prague.

WOMEN BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.

The following women were successful at the Municipal Elections for the new Councils for London. M.R. stands for Municipal Reformers; Lab., Labour; Lib., Liberal; Prog., Progressive; E.A., Electors' Association; Ind., Independent; R.A., Ratepayers' Association; P.R., Anti-Labour Alliance.

Battersea.—Miss Jacob (M.R.); Mrs. Rose (Lab.); Mrs. Reed (Lab.); Mrs. Baker (M.R.); Mrs. Robinson (Lab.).

Bermondsey.—Mrs. M. Homewood (Lab.); Mrs. M. E. Witham (Lab.); Mrs. E. F. George (Lab.); Mrs. J. E. Purser (Lab.); Mrs. J. Langley (Lab.); Mrs. F. Powell (Lab.); Mrs. A. Salter (Lab.); Mrs. F. L. M. Husk (Lab.); Mrs. M. Nix (Lab.); Miss Henrich (Lab.); Mrs. Stokes (Lab.); Mrs. Jagers (E.A.); Mrs. S. C. Amos (Lab.); Mrs. A. M. Fortescue (Lab.); Mrs. A. M. Newton (Lab.).

Bethnal Green.—Miss Bendy (Prog.); Mrs. Rawles (Lib.); Miss James (Prog.); Mrs. Davy (Lib.).

Camberwell.—Mrs. Gillespie (Lab.); Mrs. Bracey-Wright (Lab.).

Chelsea.—Mrs. M. A. Hewitt (M.R.); Mrs. D. C. M. Worshorne (M.R.); Mrs. C. Stewart-Moore (M.R.); Mrs. Walter (M.R.); Mrs. Snowden (M.R.); Lady Phipps (M.R.); Miss Paterson (M.R.); Mrs. Hartnell (M.R.).

Deptford.—Mrs. G. E. Green (Lab.); Mrs. Drapper (Lab.); Mrs. Bateman (M.R.); Mrs. White (M.R.); Mrs. Cheason (M.R.); Mrs. Shade (Lab.); Mrs. Herlihy (Lab.); Mrs. Tiffin (Lab.).

Finsbury.—Mrs. Martin (Lab.); Mrs. Richards (Lab.); Mrs. Lord (R.A.); Mrs. Smith (Lab.); Mrs. Cullen (Lab.).

Fulham.—Miss Waldron (M.R.); Miss Fulford (M.R.); Mrs. Brooks (M.R.); Mrs. Cummins (M.R.); Mrs. Sheppard (Lab.); Mrs. Lineham (Lab.).

Greenwich.—Miss Sherman (M.R.); Mrs. Woolmer (M.R.); Mrs. Turner (Lab.); Mrs. Mills (M.R.); Mrs. Beacham (Lab.); Mrs. Carter (Lab.); Mrs. Thackeray (Lab.).

Hackney.—Mrs. Du Vergier (Lab.); Mrs. Walker (Lab.); Mrs. Benwell (M.R.); Mrs. Bothway (M.R.); Mrs. Anderson (M.R.); Miss True (M.R.); Mrs. Ashdown (P.R.).

Hammersmith.—Mrs. Hodgson (R.A.); Mrs. Davies (R.A.); Mrs. Gardiner (Lab.).

Hampstead.—Mrs. K. I. Fisher (E.A.); Miss Richards (E.A.); Miss E. C. Lodge (E.A.); Mrs. Carnegie (E.A.); Mrs. Townroe (E.A.); Mrs. Moody (E.A.); Mrs. Evans (E.A.); Mrs. Arnholz (E.A.).

Holborn.—Frances Graves (M.R.); Gertrude Howard (M.R.).

Islington.—Mrs. Essex (M.R.); Miss Clarke (M.R.); Mrs. Manchester (M.R.); Mrs. Allen (M.R.); Mrs. Coleman (Lab.); Mrs. Blythe (Lab.); Mrs. Summers (M.R.).

Kensington.—Miss M. Drysdale (M.R.); Miss A. S. Hayne (M.R.); Miss B. C. Wilson (M.R.); Miss M. D. Brinton (M.R.); Mrs. M. Burton (M.R.); Miss H. Frazer (M.R.); Miss E. A. Goring-Thomas (M.R.); Miss H. M. Cunningham (M.R.); Miss M. A. Fuller (M.R.); Mrs. Price (Lab.); Miss Pennefather (M.R.); Miss Keeling (M.R.).

Lambeth.—Mrs. Hare (M.R.); Mrs. Barnes (Lab.); Mrs. Anstey (Lab.).

Lewisham.—Mrs. Goldthorpe (M.R.); Mrs. Wadham (Lab.); Miss Mason (M.R.); Mrs. Pinnell (M.R.); Miss Ball (M.R.); Mrs. Edwards (M.R.) (Lewisham Park); Mrs. Edwards (M.R.) (Hither Green).

Paddington.—Mrs. L. M. Lofthouse (M.R.); the Hon. Mrs. Diana Brougham (M.R.); Miss L. C. Campbell (M.R.); Mrs. E. M. McSwiney (M.R.); Miss M. Parker-Ness (M.R.); Miss E. Sturgess (M.R.); Mrs. Pain (Lab.); Mrs. Lambert (Lab.); Mrs. Drury (M.R.).

Poplar.—Mrs. Mudge (Anti-Soc.); Mrs. Lambert (Lab.); Amy Harris (Lab.); Mrs. Mackay (Lab.); Elizabeth Stayers (Lab.); Mrs. Cressall (Lab.); Alice Shepherd (Lab.).

St. Marylebone.—Violet Freeman (M.R.); Mabel Henriques (M.R.); Agnes West-Russell (M.R.); Virginia Crawford (Lab.); Mrs. Shirley (M.R.); Ethel Ashford (M.R.); Mabel Harris (M.R.).

St. Pancras.—Mrs. Smerdon (M.R.); Mrs. Bell (Lab.); Mrs. Allen (M.R.); Mrs. Alliston (M.R.); Mrs. Woods (Lab.); Mrs. Radford (M.R.); Miss Crosby (M.R.); Mrs. Stone (M.R.).

Shoreditch.—Mrs. O'Connor (Lab.); Mrs. Ellwood (Lab.); Mrs. Fairchild (Lab.); Mrs. Thurtle (Lab.); Mrs. Smith (Lab.); Mrs. Kellett (Lab.).

Southwark.—Margaret Rushen (M.R.); Florence Martin (P.R.); Bessy Rowe (P.R.); Mrs. Tidy (Lab.); Mrs. Calveit (Ratepayer); Catherine Green (Prog.); Mrs. Want (P.R.); Florence Zimmerman (Lab.); Lucy Ashe (Lab.).

Stepney.—Miriam Moses (Ind.); Ida Samuel (Ind.); Mary Hughes (Lab.); Kathleen Slattery (M.R.); Mrs. Reidy (M.R.); Maud Smith (Lab.); Julia O'Brien (Lab.); Annie O'Leary (Lab.); Hannah Long (Lab.); Mary Phillips (Lab.).

Stoke Newington.—Miss D. M. Burt (Ind.); Mrs. Smith (Ind.).

Wandsworth.—Mrs. Dewar-Robertson (M.R.).

City of Westminster.—Mrs. H. J. Harris (M.R.); the Hon. Mrs. Douglas-Vickers (M.R.); Edith Lady Bradford (M.R.); Mrs. A. M. Smith (M.R.); Miss Dutch (M.R.); Mrs. Odone (M.R.); Mrs. Horne (M.R.); Miss Mercer (M.R.).

Woolwich.—Miss Turnbull (Lab.); Mrs. Reeves (Lab.); Miss Walters (Lab.); Miss Crout (Lab.); Mrs. Driver (Lab.).

BAR EXAMINATIONS.

The following women were successful in the Michaelmas Examination of students of the Inns of Court by the Council of Legal Education:—

Roman Law, Class I.—Evelyn Adelaide Sharpe (Inner Temple). **Class II.**—Norah Mary Brooks and Mary Josephine Butcher (both Gray's Inn). **Class III.**—Ruth Daiches (Lincoln's Inn).

Constitutional Law and Legal History, Class I.—Patricia Hackett (Inner Temple). **Class II.**—Nora Myfanwy Gipson (Middle Temple). **Class III.**—Alexandra Millicent Christides (Inner Temple); Florence Ada Coxon, Phyllis Mabel Martin, Grace Geraldine Prescott (all three Gray's Inn).

Criminal Law and Procedure, Class II.—Edith Ferguson-Murdoch (Middle Temple); Alix Hester Marie Kilroy (Lincoln's Inn). **Class III.**—Alexandra Millicent Christides (Inner Temple); Margaret Jones-Bateman (Gray's Inn); Sybil Gertrude Overton, Joan Coulton Walker Smith (both Gray's Inn); Doris Tempest (Middle Temple).

Real Property and Conveyancing, Class II.—Margaret Jones-Bateman (Gray's Inn). **Class III.**—Kathleen Bruce Anderson, Ruth Haring (both Middle Temple); Joan Meredyth Chichele Julien (Inner Temple).

Membership Application Form.

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

I enclose £ : s. d. as my first

Annual Subscription.

Minimum Annual Subscription 1/-

THE VOTE.

Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.
Offices: 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9th, 1928.

"THE CAUSE."

Under the above title, Mrs. Ray Strachey has written a delightfully readable book, giving a short history of the women's movement in Great Britain. She claims that the real date for the beginning of the movement is 1792, when Mary Wollstonecraft wrote and published "A Vindication of the Rights of Women." We are rather inclined to go still farther back—to 1667, when Mary Astell pleaded for the higher education of women, and reminded the world that "Fetters of Gold are still fetters, and the softest lining can never make them so easy as Liberty." The struggle for the higher education of women and the struggle for women's political enfranchisement went on side by side throughout the latter half of the nineteenth century, together with a newer and even harder struggle for the improvement of women's status and their economic independence. The women who took part in these struggles and the men who helped them are very sympathetically portrayed by Mrs. Strachey. Florence Nightingale comes vividly before us; and, at the conclusion of this book, is a hitherto unpublished essay upon the position of women, written by Florence Nightingale in 1852—an essay which should be read by every suffragist. Emily Davies, Frances Buss, and Miss Beale, their aims, their work, their disappointments, and their successes, stand out attractively on these pages. Then comes Louisa Twining, the originator of workhouse reform, who courageously interviewed the Poor Law Board at Whitehall in 1855, and afterwards worked for twenty years before she had the satisfaction of seeing a Bill passed into law enabling women to become Poor Law Guardians. Then, Mary Carpenter, her work for Ragged Schools and for the prevention of delinquency. The story of the difficulties and reverses experienced by the women who, in the last century, wanted to study medicine in this country is told again, and calls forth our highest admiration for their indomitable pluck and amazing resourcefulness. Josephine Butler's campaign against the State regulation of vice is well described. All these women, of course, had to fight their battles without the weapon of the vote, and many of them were first converted to the need for their political enfranchisement through the realisation of their powerlessness to secure reforms without it. The history of woman suffrage is a fascinating one. Woman suffrage found a place in the Chartist movement; it was specially mentioned in the draft of the Charter of Rights and Liberties, having been put there by William Lovett, a Cabinet maker. But it was struck out because "several Members thought its adoption in the Bill might retard the suffrage of men"! Even earlier, in 1831, the *Westminster Review* had published an article by an unknown woman, advocating female suffrage, and the next year, Mary Smith's petition, "that every unmarried female possessing the necessary qualification should be entitled to vote for Members of Parliament" was presented by a Mr. Hunt. Women's special work for political enfranchisement, petitions and Bills in Parliament for women's suffrage, the help given to this cause by such men as John Stuart Mill, Professor Fawcett, John Morley, Sir Charles Dilke, Lord Courtney, and Mr. Stansfield, are all faithfully recorded. The history of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies makes very interesting reading, and the able leadership of Mrs. Fawcett is abundantly clear. The beginning of the militant movement has a chapter to itself, and the W.S.P.U., its protests, and its leaders are described very fairly from the point of view of an outsider. Members of the Women's Freedom League cannot help noticing some curious omissions and inaccuracies, as well as some misunderstanding. The only reference to ourselves is as follows: "In 1909 a considerable body, under the leadership of Mrs.

Despard, broke off and formed the Women's Freedom League—a society which followed much the same policy as that of the W.S.P.U., though it arrived at it by a different line of reason, and conducted its affairs in a more regular and democratic fashion." The split in the militants took place in the latter part of 1907, not 1909, on a question of the constitution of the Society, when Mrs. Despard, Mrs. How Martyn, and Mrs. Billington Greig and others decided to adhere to the self-governing basis of the Society, while Mrs. Pankhurst and her followers resolved to alter that basis for the purposes of the struggle. The militancy of the Women's Freedom League showed itself in police court protests by its members—protests against women being charged, tried and condemned by men only; in tax resistance; in women's refusal to be counted in the Census; in chaining themselves to the House of Commons Grille, part of which had to be pulled down and a portion of which is among the national treasures; in the ballot-box protest; and others, which all had a definite meaning and message, as well as Demonstrations at Westminster. Not one of these finds a place in the chronicles of Mrs. Strachey. There is another inaccuracy, which we must correct. Mrs. Strachey, in a footnote about Mrs. Despard, says that "in 1927 she was expelled from the Irish Free State as a dangerous character." That never happened. Notwithstanding these particular matters which are of special concern to us, we cordially recommend "The Cause" to our readers, and we cannot refrain from expressing our warm appreciation of the many really delightful photographs in this book, among them Dame Millicent Fawcett, Florence Nightingale, Mary Wollstonecraft, and Josephine Butler.

"The Cause." By Ray Strachey. (G. Bell & Sons.) 15s (Can be obtained at this Office.)

PARLIAMENT RE-OPENS.

The last Session of the present Parliament opened on Tuesday. The King's Speech states that the relations between this country and foreign Powers continue to be friendly; that we have accepted the Treaty for the Renunciation of War; that the Government have accorded their full support to the League of Nations; that negotiations have been opened in regard to the possibility of a complete and definite settlement of the problem of reparations; then, after referring to affairs in Japan and China, it says that the situation in the mining areas continues to engage the earnest attention of the Government, who are taking energetic steps to promote the success of the scheme of industrial transference and migration, and that a Bill will be introduced, increasing borrowing powers to help the Unemployment Fund. Measures are also promised dealing with the reform of the rating system, with the reorganisation of local government, and the readjustment of the financial relations between the State and the local authorities. A Bill will be introduced, authorising the appointment of two additional members of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and of one additional Lord of Appeal. The Debate on the Address was moved and seconded by two men supporters of the Government. We had hoped to see the honour of either moving or seconding this Address bestowed on a woman. When the next Parliament reassembles, will women be admitted to the Privy Council? Will it also open the Diplomatic Service to women? Foreign Affairs are as much the concern of the women citizens as of the men of this country. In Home Affairs, too, we hope to see women taking a more prominent part in the Government Departments.

OUR FIRST-PRESIDENT.

We are delighted to say that we have the best of news of our dear Mrs. Despard. She describes herself as "nearly quite well, with the exception of her right arm." Her surgeon considers that she has made a marvellous recovery, chiefly due to her wonderful courage and spirit.

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE POLICE.

On November 5th, Mr I. H. Stranger, Barrister-at-Law, President of the London Prison Visitors' Association—which helped men who could not help themselves—ten years in the prisons, before which he was at the Bar in London and on Circuit, but ceased to practise in criminal cases on becoming a Prison Visitor, gave his individual personal opinions as a member of the public. He attended the London prisons every week, the prisoners' statements had to be sifted for the truth. Prison Visitors went to bring into the prison a different atmosphere; old offenders were not hostile to the police.

Advice to plead guilty.—Their most common complaint was that the police obtained a plea of guilty by promising them a "good character" to the magistrate:—"pity him and thought he had been trying to get work since the last conviction," as against "can't say anything good about him at all." This was frequently true in a difficult case, where a statement was important. Men had told him they had received too good a character and an inadequate sentence. Prisoners were sometimes falsely induced to plead guilty. The magistrate is obliged to suspect every word of an old offender; this is the strength of the police.

3rd Degree.—Two police officers interrogating a witness in matters which may affect his own character may cause great strain, and after a time even an honest witness may become quite inaccurate. Police want to save time and take a complete statement at once, and do not notice, but a third party easily sees when it occurs. If exhausted, the signature is no safeguard; an exhausted person will not worry what he signs. Reading the statement next day before signing would be a great protection. The same is seen at the end of long cross-examination even of a truthful witness, if utterly exhausted. Police have no power to extort statements, and are forced to adopt any legitimate means. Is it legitimate to promise a man who knows of a crime and is in some way affected by it, that he would not be bothered further, when they knew he would be very much bothered and likely to be arrested, or say that they wanted to assist him or the accused man, or that they would detain him till he did speak, or that they would arrest his near relative if he would not speak? Asked to give his opinion, he thought these ruses wrong if there were any other way, but if statements were to be absolutely voluntary, a good deal of crime would go undetected. They were largely employed and very efficacious. He suggested further power, in indictable cases, to put pressure on a person who knows something and will not speak—an order to appear before a magistrate for interrogation by the police, to make an unsworn and unsigned statement, taken down verbatim with questions and answers.

Verbatim Statements.—Best in all cases. All questioning on character should be by probation officers; not desirable for police.

Complaints against Police.—Fear of subsequent police attention would prevent them; old offender fears to be arrested as suspect when next seen.

Park Offences.—He objected to plain-clothes officers; their existence assisted the operations of the bogus plain-clothes detectives, who now levied extensive blackmail. The uniformed police should be enough.

Replying to Mr. Pick: He thought the police went to greater lengths than twenty years ago, were better educated, and cleverer in "persuasion." They were wholly fair until arrest, but then were committed to their opinion. It was often a direct conflict of evidence—perjury either by police or accused. The public should have a duty to give information for detection of crime.

Women Police.—Presence desirable during statements of women, and usually to take statements from women and children in sexual cases.

Capt. J. A. Unett, D.S.O., Chief Constable of Essex, formerly in Hertfordshire and in the Army, thought cautions were sometimes overdone. He would like an elastic code of instructions for taking of statements and safeguards against undue length. His police methods were the same, but the public had less awe than before the War and were more truculent, and prisoners more artful.

Complaints.—Generally relate to the law the police have to administer. Attempts at bribery—driving licence offered with 10s. inside.

Clubs.—A few specially selected police officers should have general authority to enter clubs where they suspect illegal practices. He would discourage or even prohibit the participation by police in offences, even at the risk of failing to get a conviction.

Press.—He would like an official report, if any, issued from one official source only. Silence is golden, and no advertisement for detectives.

Identification Parades.—Best to have officer in charge of case standing on parade ground, so prisoner can see he is not meddling with witnesses. Serious crime he referred to the Metropolitan Police; the Gutteridge case was in their hands in four hours.

Women Police.—"The employment of policewomen is largely kept in the foreground through the activities of a relatively small number of enthusiastic women and through the agencies of women's institutions, etc.," and in spite of this they had none, and he did not think there was any use for them in Essex. It was desirable to have a woman present during certain questions to women and children; they had women to attend upon women.

Mr. R. L. Matthews, O.B.E., Chief Constable of the Leeds City Police for the last six years, over twenty-eight years' police service, would only countenance arrest on lesser charge in order to question on major offence in extreme cases, such as murder; it was justified then.

Identification Parades.—Officer in charge excluded and his access to witness was prevented.

Women Police.—He had two, also permanent trained police matrons, who attended on women. His policewomen did not investigate crimes and offences at present; they took statements from women and children in sexual offences and attended them at Court. The future work of the policewomen depended on their progress; one had been doing very well for five years. It took a long time to train a man to investigate serious crime; it would not be fair yet to ask the women to do it. They were being trained on these lines. When ready, he saw no reason why, in certain classes of crime and offences against children, they should not carry the cases right through.

Public Decency.—Offences throughout the country should be clearly defined; too much discretion was left to the police. Were morals a police duty? He was against putting welfare work into the hands of police—male or female. Welfare work was not under law, and police were supposed not to interfere unless they had law behind them. He was not opposed to welfare or reclamation work, or to police authorities paying for it, but it should be kept separate. It was difficult to draw the line, for, broadly, all welfare work as preventing crime does come into the sphere of police work. A constable must act at once, and may decide wrong in points of law. Even a judge often takes time to consider. It was impossible for a policeman to remember all his rules now, and very hard to be criticised in open Court. Only enough should be said to ensure a disciplinary inquiry. He had 694 police in his Force. In his district detected crime was 60 to 70 per cent.; the undetected were generally minor offences.

The next meeting will be at 11.15 a.m. on November 15th.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

At the Maternal Mortality Meeting, held at the Central Hall, Westminster, on October 30th, 1928, presided over by Lady Galway, Mr. Neville Chamberlain, M.P., Minister of Health, stated that, although as a general rule the death rate has declined, and there is a decrease in infant mortality, maternal mortality has remained at about the same level for the last twenty years. He had to confess that what has been done to counteract this evil has proved a failure. Annually, 3,000 women—the majority of whom are young—lay down their lives bringing children into the world, and many others who escape with their lives fall victims to maternal morbidity.

The problem must be attacked from two aspects: (1) Assistance must be available; (2) Public opinion must be stimulated so that available assistance is taken advantage of. In connection with the first, Mr. Neville Chamberlain stressed the necessity of raising the status of midwifery service. Better remuneration and better conditions are essential if a more satisfactory type of woman is to be attracted to this work.

The voluntary reference made by Mr. Chamberlain to the cutting down of milk supplies to local authorities raised a storm of protest from all parts of the hall. His defence that he had not cut down the supply in any centre, but had notified the authority concerned that the curtailed allowance was all the contribution he could make, met with little sympathy.

Dr. Flemming, of the Maternal Mortality Committee of the Ministry of Health, said that the fault does not rest with any one group, but with the whole system. The causes of the high death rate are:—

- (1) Maternal mortality is regarded by many as inevitable.
- (2) The misuse of antiseptics in the place of cleanliness and care.
- (3) The demand of the patient for a quick delivery.
- (4) Pre-natal and post-natal neglect.
- (5) Want of co-operation between doctors and midwives.

Dr. Marion Phillips, who represented the Maternal Mortality Committee, said how glad they were to have

EXPLOITATION OF WOMEN'S LABOUR IN INDIA.

The annual report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India, for 1927, shows that out of 165,213 persons employed in coal mines, 33,841 were women, of whom the majority were loaders. The largest number of women employed was in Behar and Orissa, where there were 18,613; while in Bengal there were 8,302. While we do not agree with the principle of protective legislation, we must point out that the mine owners' objection to the present agitation for prohibition of the employment of women in mines is based on economic grounds. Women are cheaper to employ than men, and work with greater regularity. It is feared that if women are debarred entrance to the mines, where their work is exceedingly heavy—one photograph in the report shows heavy coal waggons being pushed by two women, and another, a woman emerging from a pit carrying on her hip a basket containing 60 lbs. of coal which she has brought up an incline about 4½ feet high for from 150 to 250 feet on a gradient of one in twelve, with a further slope before her of 50 feet with a gradient of one in two—the cost of production will increase.

The following quotation, in reference to the consumption of liquor by mine workers, from the report on the working of the Indian Mines Act, made by the Deputy Commissioner, Ohhindwara, Central Provinces, is worthy of notice:

"The arduous nature of the work and the conditions in which it is performed make men specially prone to drink liquor. It has been suggested that another cause is the employment of women. The workman on return to his home wants food and finds that his

His Majesty's Minister of Health upon the platform, although "Ministers of Health" come and go. She was glad to be able to state that both recommendations of the last Report of the Maternal Mortality Committee had been put into operation by the Ministry, and hoped that when the Committee was set up to consider the results of the investigations at present being carried out, working women will be represented. She hoped that opportunities for training as midwives would be provided by the hospitals. What was needed was to co-ordinate the work which was being done.

The resolution put to the meeting and carried was: "That this Meeting welcomes the action taken by the Ministry of Health in calling for medical inquiries into every death in childbirth, and in setting up a Committee to consider the results of these investigations, as well as other questions relating to the reduction of Maternal Mortality and Morbidity. It also observes with satisfaction the appointment of a Committee to inquire into the working of the Midwives' Acts, with particular reference to the training of midwives and the conditions under which midwives are employed. It is glad to be informed of the co-operation of the British Medical Association in these steps and of its interest in the better training of medical students in midwifery.

"The Meeting notes with regret the inadequacy of the Maternity Services in many parts of the country, both rural and urban. It pledges itself to do all in its power to arouse public opinion in this matter, and to raise the more backward districts to the level of the best. It wishes to place on record its gratification at the sympathetic statements of the representatives of the great Approved Societies, and urges them to carry their sympathy into practical effect."

To meet a very generally-expressed wish of the audience, Lady Galway then moved from the chair a second resolution, brought by a delegate, expressing the great dissatisfaction of the meeting at the decision of the Health Minister to stop the present 50 per cent. Treasury Grant to local maternity centres and substitute a fixed Block Grant, which will include milk supply. This was carried with enthusiasm.

wife has not yet had time to prepare it. He accordingly goes to the liquor shop for a drink whilst he is waiting."

What more feeble argument could be put forward for the prohibition of women's labour! Surely, where husband and wife toil together in the mines, the man should render some assistance in the home.

OUR BOOK REVIEW.

George Washington Lincoln Goes Around the World. By Margaret Loring Thomas. (Thomas Nelson and Sons, New York, \$1.50.) (Can be obtained from this office.)

"George Washington 'Lincoln Goes Around the World,' is a travel story for children. But it is more than that. The small boy starts from New York City, and is shown on the cover in a picture by Willy Pogany, going up the long gang-plank to sail on the huge ship. He invites a boy or a girl from each country to join him. Every child tells the group about his or her own country, and all the children learn toleration and helpfulness from each other. Equal rights between boys and girls are implied always. No child traveller is ever able to discover a national boundary line. The ship is named "The Ship of Friendship." An airplane is used for some of the journeys.

The stories were told first to the children of the Peace House, New York City. The author, Mrs. Margaret Thomas, is an experienced teacher and writer. She has made an international book suitable for young children.

ALICE PARK.

Women's Freedom League.

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

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Telegrams—"DESPARD, HOLBORN 9301, LONDON."

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

DARE TO BE FREE. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, November 9th, at 3 p.m.

"At Home" at "Craigieburn," Ballard's Lane, Finchley, N. (by kind invitation of Mrs. Marriott). Speakers: Mrs. Bigland on "Women at Work in the League of Nations," and Miss F. A. Underwood on "The Work of The Women's Freedom League." Chairman: Mrs. Marriott. Tea will be provided.

Tuesday and Wednesday, November 13th and 14th.

Green White and Gold Fair, Caxton Hall, Westminster, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. each day.

Wednesday, November 21st, at 4.30 p.m.

Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington on "The Free State Censorship Bill as it affects Women." Questions and Discussion. Tea at 4.

Saturday, December 1st, at 10 a.m.

National Executive Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Thursday, December 6th, at 4.30 p.m.

Meeting at Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Mr. W. Clarke Hall (Magistrate, Old Street Police Court), on "Women's Help in the Children's Courts."

PROVINCES.

Tuesday, November 20th, at 7.30 p.m.

Bradford Branch. Meeting in the Y.M.C.A. Rooms, North Parade. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro.

Friday, November 23rd, at 2 p.m.

Ashford Branch. Gift Sale at the Hempsted Street Hall. Stalls:—Produce, Fancy Clothes, White Elephant. Tea.

Friday, November 30th, at 3 p.m.

Ashford Branch. Branch Meeting at the Hempsted Street Hall. Lecture: "How to do French Laundry."

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, November 10th, at 3 p.m.

Saturday Speech Club, at the Minerva Club, 55, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. "The Foreigner in China." Mrs. Nathan.

Monday, November 12th.

Federation of Women Zionists. Conference at 75, Great Russell Street, W.C.1.

Tuesday, November 13th, at 5 p.m.

The Six Point Group, 92, Victoria Street, S.W.1. Mrs. Graham will speak on the "Nationality of Married Women." Chairman: Miss Winifred Mayo. Admission Free.

Tuesday, November 13th, at 8 p.m.

Fabian Society (Women's Group), at Caxton Hall, Victoria Street. Speaker: Miss Vera Brittain. Subject: "Women in the Professions." Chairman: Dr. Stella Churchill, L.C.C.

Thursday, November 15th, at 11.15 a.m. Police Commission, Caxton House.

Thursday, November 15th, at 1 p.m.

British Commonwealth League, Luncheon at 17, Buckingham Street, W.C.1. Dame Edith Lyttelton will speak on "The 1928 Assembly at Geneva." Seats 2/- each. No bookings or cancellations after first post Tuesday, 13th.

Friday, November 16th, at 8 p.m.

Open Door Council. Open Conference in the Ante-room of the Y.M.C.A. Building, Tottenham Court Road, W.C.1., on The Minimum Wage-Fixing Convention; Equal Pay and the Woolwich Borough Council. Protest against Auditors' demand that Equal Pay should be stopped in the case of women.

Thursday, November 22nd.

British Commonwealth League: Bridge Drive, at 2, Chesterford Gardens, N.W.3. Tickets 5/-. Bridge and Tea. Apply Secretary, British Commonwealth League.

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BRANCH NOTES.

PORTSMOUTH.

Members and friends will be sorry to hear that Miss Mottershall passed away at her residence, 17, Lombard Street, on Monday, October 29th, at 1 p.m.

Miss Mottershall was one of the earliest members of the Portsmouth Branch, and, as a matter of fact, the branch was formed at her house eighteen years ago. In those days her house was always at our disposal, and it was there that a crowd of us resisted the Census in 1911. Until her health gave way she distributed a dozen copies of THE VOTE every week, and nothing was too much trouble to do for the League. A great many members attended her funeral, and a beautiful wreath in the colours of the League was sent from the branch. She will be greatly missed.

Gratefully acknowledged.—Gifts for the Fair from Mrs. Layton, Miss Brown, Mrs. Cory, and Mrs. Davies.

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

GLASGOW.

On Friday evening, November 2nd, the Franchise Victory Celebration was held in the Banqueting Hall of "The Rhul," 123, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, and was a great success. We were very happy to have with us our beloved Presidents—Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence and Miss Eunice G. Murray.

Friends from different parts of Scotland attended, and two active members from London looked in for a short time, as they felt they could not miss any function in connection with the League. The pleasure of renewing old and forming new friendships seemed ample repayment for the expenditure of physical effort in travelling.

Miss Murray, who occupied the chair, in her opening remarks intimated that letters of regret had been received from the following invited guests:—Mrs. Despard, Countess of Aberdeen, Dr. Marion Newbiggin, Councillor Snodgrass, Dame Louise Lumsden, Misses Alice Younger, Williamson, Gregory Smith, S. Melville Maude May, Marg. Kennedy, Violet Rutherford, Janie Allen, Helen Fraser, Mary P. Grant, Charles Martin, Esq., E. Rosslyn Mitchell, Esq., M.P., Rev. Vera Findlay, Rev. McClelland and Mrs. McClelland, Miss Bessie Semple, Miss Sara Munro, J.P., and Miss Muriel Ritson.

Miss Frances Melville, M.A., B.D., LL.D., was the first speaker to be called, and in her speech she traced several of the stages in the movement which had resulted in the victory they were celebrating, and remarked that it had been won sixty years after the start of the women's suffrage societies in Britain.

BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA.

Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, who was received with a great welcome, said they rejoiced in the knowledge that the British movement had not only brought victory to themselves, but that other countries gave them credit for their enfranchisement. Sometimes she thought she was a sort of Rip Van Winkle, who had gone to sleep for 100 years and awoke after that period, so utterly changed was the position of women and the attitude of the political world and the Press towards them. They looked forward to the next General Election, for, as the different parties were preparing their programmes, so were the women preparing theirs. One thing they were determined upon was that world peace would be the dominating issue of the next election. Deputations including the new voters would wait on all candidates to ascertain what their position was in regard to all-in-all arbitration and progressive mutual disarmament. They felt their victory was not the end, but that it was the beginning of a new era, and that historians of the future would look back and recognise that the enfranchisement of women was a great step in the evolution of the human race. (Applause.)

The Chairman asked the audience to give Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence a very hearty vote of thanks, which they did, and while she was leaving the hall, they sang "She's a Jolly Good Fellow."

The following speakers gave most interesting short speeches—Miss Paterson, Miss A. B. Jack, Dr. Madeline Archibald, Dr. Marion Gilchrist, Miss Elizabeth Mitchell, Miss Eunice Scott, and Lt.-Col. A. D. McInnes Shaw, D.S.O., M.P.

There was an interval for tea, and during the evening Miss Mina MacDonald and Miss Landells contributed to the musical part of the programme which was very much enjoyed by all. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to them. Miss MacLean moved a hearty vote of thanks to the speakers.

The Celebration terminated with a very sincere vote of thanks, moved by Miss McClelland, to the Chairman, Miss Murray, for presiding, and was unanimously accorded by the audience.

Thanks are also due to all who helped to make our Celebration a success.

(Hon. Secretary) R. McDUGALL.

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NOTICES, Etc.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, November 11th, 1928. 3.30. Music. Lecture. The Very Rev. Father Cuthbert, O.F.S.C., 6.30. Dr. Leonard Cuthbert.

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