

THE VOTE,
MARCH 16, 1928.

OUR BILL AT LAST!

THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXIX. No. 960.

(Registered at
the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 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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TEA AND POLITICS-UP-TO-DATE.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (EQUAL FRANCHISE) BILL

A Bill to assimilate the franchises for men and women in respect of Parliamentary and local government elections;

CLAUSE 1.

For the purpose of providing that the Parliamentary franchise shall be the same for men and women, - - - -

CLAUSE 2.

For the purpose of providing that the local government franchise shall be the same for men and women, - - - -

CLAUSE 5 (1).

For the purpose of enabling the foregoing provisions of this Act to come into operation as soon as may be—

(2).

It shall be lawful for His Majesty by Order in Council to make such alteration in the registration dates as may seem to him necessary - - - -

THE STREET OFFENCES COMMITTEE.

The Street Offences Committee again held public sittings on Friday, March 9th, and Saturday, March 10th. Mr. Lieck, Clerk of the Court at Marlborough Street Police Court, expressed the view that solicitation in itself should not be a legal offence, but should be made so only when disorderly. The retention of the classification, "common prostitute," he held to be logically indefensible. He then gave a most valuable exposition of the weaknesses inherent in the present method of giving evidence in the Police Force, and urged some difference in their training or instruction in the direction of the prime importance of telling the truth. He did not mean that the police are less truthful than anyone else. Their skill in observation is remarkable; they are trained in observation, but not in how to express it. He said that if bribery did exist, it would not be known, as both briber and bribee would be silent. Mr. Lieck, in answer to questions, reiterated that the element of annoyance should be retained and should be proved, not inferred, before conviction.

Miss Paton, Inspector of the Metropolitan Women Patrols and their senior officer, said their work largely consisted of watching and warning young girls. If these rejected their advice or assistance, it was well to arrest them and bring them before a magistrate, as then they were forced to accept the assistance offered. She had never, in her eight years' experience, seen a man solicit a woman or heard of a complaint of such by a woman. She considered the present law satisfactory.

Mrs. Bramwell Booth, of the Salvation Army, spoke, from her very wide experience, very strongly of the sense of injustice among women, prostitutes and unmarried mothers, that they should be classed apart. The feeling was deep that the successful prostitute was untouched, and that the man, inevitable partner in immorality, was untouched. The laws, she said, dated from a time when prostitutes were a class apart, when men held chastity to be for them impossible, and when, even at Church Congress, women were provided. Such a standard created a special class—the prostitute. Nowadays it was considered possible for men to be chaste; the separate class was no longer necessary. Neither the immoral man nor the immoral woman has disappeared, but the class of prostitute has. Legislation must now deal with both equally. Raising the age of consent would check the recruitment to the trade of many young girls. Greater use of the power to move on might be made. Above all, the immoral man should be treated as equally guilty with the immoral woman, and the present method of arresting only the unsuccessful woman be abolished.

OLIVER GOLDSMITH SCHOOL, PECKHAM ROAD,
Sunday next at 7 p.m.,
MR. ELDON MOORE on
"Race Culture or Race Suicide."
 QUESTIONS INVITED.

THE SIX POINT GROUP
 announces a **DEBATE** on
"Women in the Press"—"That the Influence of
the Daily Press is Detrimental to the Position of
Women."

Proposer: DR. LETITIA FAIRFIELD.
Opposer: LORD RIDDELL.
Chair: MISS REBECCA WEST.
On TUESDAY, MARCH 27th, at 8 p.m.,
in the ASSEMBLY HALL, MARY SUMNER HOUSE, TUFTON STREET,
WESTMINSTER.

Tickets—3/6 and 2/6 reserved, and 1/- unreserved—from the Secretary, Six Point Group, 92 Victoria Street, S.W.1. Tel.: Victoria 0905.

Mrs. More Nesbit, former woman police officer in Edinburgh, objected to the label "common prostitute" as it gave the offender no chance to reform. "Why," she asked, "should women be called common prostitutes? Men are not called common profligates." She showed how almost impossible it was at present to obtain conviction of a man for solicitation for immoral purposes, and urged alteration of the law so that guilty man and guilty woman were equally amenable to it. Prostitution could never be abolished so long as men desired it.

Miss Chrystal Macmillan, a barrister, and representing the Edinburgh Society for Equal Citizenship, objected to solicitation with or without immoral purposes being made an offence, on the ground that its inclusion would make our Courts, Courts of Morals; our police, Police of Morals. Annoyance or obstruction should be the offence, provable only by or on behalf of a person annoyed. The Chairman asked what would then happen if the annoyance was not to an individual, but to the general public, and Miss Macmillan answered that the present laws covered that, whether the offender was man or woman. Women are constantly insulted owing to the special status of prostitute. That classification tends to the assumption that there is no immorality on the part of men. Challenged by the Chairman as to the possibility of achieving equality in substance in this matter, she answered that, if the law could not achieve equality, it had better not act.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Last week, the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship held its annual Council Meeting. Miss Rathbone gave her Presidential Address on Wednesday, dealing with the history of the struggle for women's enfranchisement, asking whether it had been worth while, and replying in the affirmative. She added that she considered that militancy had been the chief obstacle to the winning of the vote! On Thursday, the Council was closed to the Press. Subsequently, resolutions were discussed and passed on a variety of points in the Union's programme of social reform.

During the meetings, a telegram was sent to Mrs. Runciman, congratulating her on becoming a Member of Parliament, and hoping that she would retain her seat at the General Election. A telegram was also received from Mrs. Simon, from Manchester, reporting the reference back by the City Council of the Education Committee's decision against the employment of married women teachers.

SPRING SALE.

DR. OCTAVIA LEWIN
"AT HOME"

At 25, WIMPOLE STREET, W.1,
FRIDAY, MARCH 16th,
3 to 7.30 p.m.

Opened at 3 p.m. by
MISS ADA MOORE.

Chairman: DR. LEWIN.

Stalls—Household and Spring Cleaning Goods, Lingerie, Overalls and Aprons, Pottery, Fancy Articles, White Elephants, Beads, Country Produce, Cakes, Sweets, and Preserves.

LECTURE by DR. LEWIN at 6 p.m.
 Music. Recitations. Character Reading.
 Dainty Teas 3.30 to 6 p.m.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Franchise Bill.

On March 8th, Mr. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Lab., Aberavon) asked the Prime Minister if he could give the House any idea when he would make his announcement about the Franchise Bill? THE PRIME MINISTER: The Franchise Bill will be presented on Monday next. I cannot yet give the date of the Second Reading, but my undertaking holds, that the Second Reading will be taken before we rise for the Easter Recess.

Women Magistrates.

MISS WILKINSON (Lab., East Middlesbrough) asked the Attorney-General the number of women magistrates; and how many of these have been appointed on the advice of Labour bodies? SIR DOUGLAS HOGG: The answer to the first part of the question is 1,892. In answer to the second part of the question, women magistrates equally with men magistrates are appointed on the recommendations of Advisory Committees, which contain representatives of Labour.

Training, Glasgow (Women).

MR. BUCHANAN (Lab., Gorbals) asked the Minister of Labour the number of women now receiving training in the City of Glasgow, and the number for the same period last year; and if the training is confined to domestic training? SIR A. STEEL-MAITLAND: I am informed by the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment that there are 40 women at present in attendance at their Glasgow Home Training Centre. In March, 1927, the number was 60. The Centre is confined to domestic training. MR. BUCHANAN: Will the right hon. Gentleman state the reason why each year during the past three years there has been a declining number of women who have been offered training in the City of Glasgow? SIR A. STEEL-MAITLAND: That is really a matter primarily for the Committee who have charge with regard to women's training. It is a matter in their administration, and is largely in their discretion. MR. BUCHANAN: Can the right hon. Gentleman say whether there are any financial restrictions at work, and if any efforts have been made by his Department to reduce the amount spent on this work? SIR A. STEEL-MAITLAND: No. The sum at their disposal this year is rather more than that of last year.

Education (Infants' Department).

MR. COVE (Lab., Wellingborough) asked the President of the Board of Education whether recent experience has modified the attitude of the Board, as expressed in Section 4 of Circular 1350, towards the separate organisation of infants' departments? LORD EUSTACE PERCY: The view expressed in paragraph 4 of Circular 1350 was that, where the numbers of pupils under 11 were such as to necessitate the provision of two departments, the organisation normally adopted should be either (1) two separate and successive departments for infants and juniors, or (2) two separate and parallel junior mixed departments, and some preference was indicated for the latter alternative as avoiding a double break in school life. In the light of further experience, however, the Board are inclined to regard the balance of advantage as being in favour of separate infants' and junior departments, provided that transfers are made regularly and systematically, and at an age sufficiently early to permit every child to spend at least three years in the junior department.

FIRST WOMAN VICE-CONSUL in BRITAIN.

Miss Olga de la Barra, daughter of Dr. Tomas de la Barra, the Chilean Consul-General for Scotland, who has acted as her father's assistant for many years and was wholly responsible during his recent year of absence in Chile, has been appointed Chilean Vice-Consul for Scotland—the first woman to hold such a post in this country.

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN.

A successful Meeting was held at Highbury Corner on Thursday evening, March 1st, by the Women's Freedom League, with an audience of approximately 300. The speakers were Miss Sparkman and Mr. Colbourne Fisher; chairman, Mrs. Flowers.

Mr. Fisher stated that when he first spoke publicly on behalf of women's franchise, some years before the war, the demand was the same as now—the giving of the vote to women on the same terms as men. The "compromise scheme," which gave the vote to a certain number of women, had debarred a large section of the community from their right of registering their will at an election, and thus having some voice in the pressing problems of the day. The suppression of women in the past had created the impression in the minds of many men that women were their inferiors. There should be equality between the sexes, which included equal pay for equal work. In the face of past experience, it was essential to watch closely that the Government did not allow the matter to slip, since it was urgently necessary that the Bill should be passed before Easter, in order to avoid the danger there would otherwise be of the new voters not being able to vote at the next election. Miss Sparkman referred to the fact that the results in those countries where women are enfranchised have been the same the world over—the better protection and education of children being one of these world-wide effects. Speaking of the conditions in the industrial world and in factories, Miss Sparkman cited instances where there is pressing need of reform. The chairman pointed out that we are not asking for privileges but for justice—to be recognised as citizens. She drew attention to the fact that a branch of the Women's Freedom League was being formed at Highbury, and 50 members of the audience took membership forms.

L. M. W.

THE GRECIAN LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS.

We have received two recent issues of a paper issued by the Grecian League for Women's Rights, and called "The Fight of the Women." In one of these appears a most lively account of a meeting of the League on the question of the paternity of illegitimate children. A moving appeal was made to improve the lot of these unfortunate children by insisting on a share of the responsibility being borne by the father. At present, many of these babies are left in refuges or abandoned in the streets. Many speakers criticised adversely the legislation recently passed, describing its harmful effects in condoning and establishing a double moral standard, leaving the father with no responsibility for his act of fatherhood, placing the whole burden upon the mother, including social ostracism, and handicapping the unfortunate child.

We welcome this "Fight of the Women," and congratulate our feminist sisters of Greece.

MRS. RUNCIMAN, M.P.

We offer our most cordial congratulations to Mrs. Runciman, M.P., on her splendid victory at the St. Ives by-election. We also hope that she will again be the successful candidate at St. Ives at the next General Election.

With the prospect of over five million new women electors taking part in the next General Election, women cannot be content with only eight women Members of the House of Commons. This subject of the election of women to Parliament will be fully discussed at an informal Conference at Caxton Hall next Monday afternoon, and we invite all who are interested in seeing more women in Parliament to come and take part in the discussion.

MRS. PETHICK-LAWRENCE.

Readers of THE VOTE will be very sorry to learn that our President, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, has been seriously ill, but, as we go to press, we are glad to learn that she is on the road to recovery.

THE VOTE.

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 16th, 1928.

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."
Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

OUR BILL AT LAST!

Last Monday, Sir William Joynson-Hicks, the Home Secretary, introduced the Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Bill, which proposes to assimilate the franchises for men and women in respect of Parliamentary and Local Government elections. This is a genuinely *Equal Franchise* Bill, and is expected to add about five and a quarter million names to the Registers of Electors, so that, at the next General Election, there will be approximately 12,250,000 men and 14,500,000 women all voting on the same terms from the age of 21. The Prime Minister has promised that the Second Reading will be taken before Easter, and we urge our readers to write to their local Member pointing out the necessity of his or her vote on this Second Reading, so that there will be a record majority for this Equal Franchise Bill. We note that, under the provisions of this Bill, the Government has power to alter the date of the Register, and proposes to make it possible for the new voters to be on the qualifying Register by May next year, which means, of course, that if the "unexpected catastrophe" or "cataclysm" came into force which necessitated a General Election before that date, the new voters would not be able to vote at the next General Election. However, it is the Government's responsibility to carry out its own promise that they shall vote at the next General Election, and with the backing of the Government, the Bill should have a speedy passage into law. We learn that the Die-Hards are to move an Amendment to this Bill on the ground that the matter should only be dealt with after it has been before the electorate! But, as *The Times* points out, this opposition can only emphasise the extent of the women's victory. We are grateful to the Government for excluding all extraneous matter from this Equal Franchise Bill, and look forward to the triumph of equal suffrage for women and men at an early date.

"BEST BRAINS"—27 MEN AND 3 WOMEN!

The unemployment of boys and girls is a difficult problem, and we were glad to note in February, 1925, that a Committee, appointed jointly by the Board of Education and the Ministry of Labour, was to be appointed "to inquire into and advise upon the public system of education in England and Wales, in relation to the requirements of trade and industry." The Women's Freedom League at once wrote to the President of the Board of Education, to the Duchess of Atholl, (Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education), and to the Minister of Labour, urging that, as there were practically as many girls as boys unemployed, and as both boys and girls received similar education, there should be an adequate number of experienced and able *women* on this Committee so that the interests of the girls should be safeguarded. The Minister of Labour replied in a curious manner. He said: "I do not ever think it right to appoint women on a Committee just because considerations affecting women are to be dealt with, and vice versa as regards men. The proper principle, to my mind, is to get hold of the best brains in either case, and if anyone, by reason of sex, is likely to have a greater experience of the question, then, of course, that is a factor to be taken into consideration, but not the simple question of a possible member of a Committee being a man or a woman." The Committee appointed consisted of eight men in addition to two men secretaries and one woman, the woman member subsequently resigning. This "best brains" Committee issued Part I of its Report in February, 1927, which we characterised in *THE VOTE*

at the time as "inconclusive, entirely unsatisfactory, and leading nowhere." Last week, just over a year after the issue of Part I of this wonderful Report, we saw an announcement in the Press that a National Advisory Council for Juvenile Employment in England and Wales had been appointed "to examine and discuss matters arising out of Part I of the Report and allied questions, and to advise the Minister thereon." At the time, the latest available official figures showed that there were 34,600 boys and 33,600 girls registered as unemployed in England and Wales. Other official figures show that the number of unemployed girls has been greater than that of unemployed boys; but, for all practical purposes, the numbers remain fairly equal. The ordinary citizen might well suppose that an effective Committee to deal with the problem of the employment of these young people would consist of an approximately equal number of women and men; but this Committee consists of 27 men and 3 women! Another example of the Minister of Labour's "best brains" Committee, we presume! The Chairman of this new Committee is Lord Shaftesbury; then come: representatives of local education authorities—9 men; representative of London Juvenile Advisory Council—1 man; representatives of Juvenile Advisory Committee—3 men and *one woman*, Lady Rowland; representatives of the Teaching Profession—3 men and *one woman*, Miss Conway; representatives of the National Federation of Employers' Organisations—5 men; representatives of the Trade Union Congress General Council—4 men and *one woman*, Miss Varley; representative of the Ministry of Labour—1 man, and a man secretary.

We hope this Committee may do some useful work, but we do not expect it to give the same consideration to the needs of unemployed girls as it will to the needs of unemployed boys.

LONDON LOCK HOSPITAL INQUIRY.

We are glad to learn from *The Times* that the Minister of Health has appointed a Committee to inquire into the administration of the London Lock Hospital. This Committee consists of two men and one woman—Sir John Eldon Bankes (Chairman), Dr. John Fawcett, and Mrs. H. J. Tennant. The terms of reference are: "To inquire into the management, administration and staffing of the London Lock Hospital, with special reference to the arrangements for the medical treatment of the patients and to the provision made for the moral, social and material welfare of the inmates." The Secretary to this Committee is Mr. W. de B. Herbert, barrister-at-law, of 4, Elm Court, Temple, E.C.4. The proceedings of the Committee will be held in private.

Readers of *THE VOTE* will remember that last June Lt.-Col. Fremantle (U., St. Albans) asked the Minister of Health if, in view of the complaints which had been made in regard to the management of this Hospital, he would direct an inquiry to be made; to which Mr. Chamberlain replied that the hospital was a voluntary one, and that the general management of voluntary hospitals did not come under his review. He promised, however, that if the Hospital's Board of Management requested him to make an inquiry, he would be prepared to consider the question. Since then, articles have appeared in the Press on this subject, members of the present Board of Management have received a great deal of correspondence regarding it, and members of the former Ladies' Committee, who resigned in a body because they were a mere cipher in the management of the hospital, have issued a statement of their charges; and, at long last, the Board of Management has decided to invite the Minister to appoint a Committee of Inquiry. We take this opportunity of repeating what we have said on various occasions—that the most radical cause of the trouble is the fact that there are no women on the Board of Management of this Lock Hospital for Women. It is run and controlled entirely by men. To us, that seems a grotesque arrangement.

THE PRIME MINISTER ON HIS PLEDGE.

The Queen's Hall was filled in a manner reminiscent of old suffrage days on Thursday, March 8th, when Miss Rathbone, President of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, presided over a United Demonstration for Equal Franchise. After alluding to those who had passed on, not permitted to see their victory, she said the meeting was not a revival, but significant of the present day. She made a free translation of "Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes" as "Do not trust governments because they bring gifts," but expressed complete faith in the Prime Minister, who would give women what he had promised them.

Mr. Baldwin declared there were no grounds in justice, in logic, or in expedience for withholding the franchise from one sex or the other; in a few weeks women will have legal recognition of equality. He was neither weighing his words, hiding his thoughts, nor diluting his sentiments. He quoted parts of the first speech for votes for women, made 60 years ago by John Stuart Mill, and said, although the speech might have been shorter, it could not have been better. At the next election, men and women together must vote for the good of their country. Equality was almost a mystic word; it should mean that individuals are treated as an end in themselves, and not as tools or as slaves. He claimed that the long struggle for the vote had an educational and disciplinary effect, and ended by an appeal to the younger women now coming forward to keep their eyes on the blue distance, where humanity will at last find peace and happiness.

Sir Oliver Lodge, who had a tremendous reception, gave a humorous speech disguising serious thought. "The joy of life," he said, "was now before women, and they must regulate it."

Among messages received and read out was one from Dame Millicent Fawcett, followed by one from Lady Frances Balfour, unfortunately prevented by illness from being present, which hoped that the Prime Minister was going to be one of the world's liberators.

Miss Margaret Ashton then moved the resolution in place of Lady Frances, urging the justice of giving the franchise to youth.

Miss N. Stuart Parnell expressed her great pride in speaking for the 3,000,000 young women about to be

enfranchised, who, she said, were eagerly looking forward to the simple Bill promised by the Prime Minister. "Youth sees visions," she said, "quite as often as old age dreams dreams." Her generation had grown up in the shadow of war, and felt in some special sense dedicated to the cause of peace. Miss Parnell ended with charmingly worded gratitude to those women who had worked to give her generation their present freedom, not only those who had passed on, but those still with us and still working.

Miss M. Rippe, representing working women, echoed Miss Parnell's gratitude to the pioneers who had cleared the path for the younger women to walk on. She showed how many duties and responsibilities are placed upon young women long before they are 30, and claimed that the young women in industry had special need of enfranchisement.

The following resolution was then passed unanimously:—

"That this Meeting, representative of one hundred and forty Organisations, welcomes the promised introduction of a Bill to give the franchise to women upon the same terms as those upon which men now hold it.

"This Meeting records its thanks to the Prime Minister for his presence, for his speech, but, most of all, for the undertaking which he, on behalf of the Government, has given, that the Franchise Bill shall pass into law in time to permit the new voters to exercise the franchise at the next General Election, so that, in the future, the British Parliament, the Mother of Parliaments, may be truly representative of all her sons and daughters."

Mr. Baldwin rose again formally to announce that the Equal Franchise Bill was to be introduced on Monday, March 12th, the Second Reading was to be taken before Easter, after which the Bill would be proceeded with as quickly as possible, and that the Register would be so arranged that the new voters would vote at the next General Election, unless, he added, some cataclysm precipitated that event.

Miss Rebecca West made the final and a brilliant short speech, stripping the draperies with which a sometimes mistaken courtesy hid anti-feminism, and showing it clearly to her audience. "Antis" take the easy way of disloyalty to truth. This present victory was not only a victory for the young women—it was a victory for civilisation.

TEA AND POLITICS—UP-TO-DATE.

At the Tea and Politics-up-to-date Meeting held at the Minerva Club, on Wednesday afternoon, March 7th, Miss Underwood, from the Chair, said we were still waiting to see the promised Franchise Bill, but the Prime Minister had promised that its Second Reading would be taken before Easter. She drew attention to Major Hill's question in regard to the Federation of Women Civil Servants. He asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury if this Women's Federation had been obliged to delete from its constitution one of its objects—the removal of the civil and political disabilities of women—in order to obtain approval under the Trade Disputes and Trade Union Act passed by the present Parliament. The reply was in the affirmative, and Miss Underwood pointed out that, under the same Act, the Federation of Women Civil Servants had also been obliged to withdraw from its affiliation to the Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations and the National Council of Women. The speaker also told the meeting of the request sent by the Women's Engineering Society to the Home Secretary to receive a deputation to discuss with him the difficulties of an engineering firm, whose principals and staff consisted mostly of women, in carrying through their electrical work in rural areas. The power stations had naturally to be kept going night and day, and Sundays as well as weekdays. Yet women in this kind of paid work were prohibited by law from working after 8 o'clock at night and from

working on Sundays. Such irritative restrictions on women's paid work were not only harmful to the work of the firm and the women in charge of that work, but they were a serious drawback to the apprenticeship of girls in electrical engineering. Such restrictions were, in fact, no protection for women, but they worked unfairly for the protection of men against women's competition. Miss Underwood also reported on Lord Astor's speech in the Upper House on the need for a greater number of factory inspectors, and on Lord Desborough's assurance on behalf of the Government that two more factory inspectors were being immediately appointed, that new regulations were being made for celluloid factories, and that a Committee had been appointed by the Home Secretary to go into the whole question of additional inspectors, so that the results of this Committee's inquiries would be ready by the time the promised new Factories Bill was under discussion. The chief provisions of Lord Parmoor's Traffic in Women Bill were also described.

Dr. Knight told the audience that the Women's Freedom League's Edinburgh Branch had co-operated with the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship in holding a Protest Meeting in that city against the Edinburgh Corporation Bill. More than 2,000 people were present, and a resolution protesting against that Bill had been carried by an overwhelming majority. Dr. Knight read extracts of the speeches (reported in *The Scotsman*) of Lord Balfour of Bur-

leigh, the Chairman, Lady Astor, M.P., Miss Dorothy Jewson, Mrs. Bramwell Booth, Miss Alison Neilans, and Dr. Graham Little, M.P. Dr. Knight said that the Bill would come up again in the House of Commons this Friday, and that it might be debated at an early date. She explained why women should oppose its provision for the compulsory treatment of venereal disease, and should do everything in their power to secure its defeat in Parliament. Dr. Knight maintained that the present voluntary system of treatment had secured undoubted success both in this country and in Holland, where the incidence of venereal disease was considerably lower than in those countries where compulsion was being tried.

Miss Marian Reeves referred to the Zinoviev letter and the questions asked about it in the House of Commons, and to the Debate on the Road Fund in the House of Lords, and then made an urgent appeal to every woman to use her vote in the County Council elections the next day. Miss Reeves appealed specially for support of the women candidates standing for election.

Councillor Mrs. Irene Fisher gave a delightful survey of what women could do in stimulating Borough Councils to use their powers to the full in the solution of the housing problem. Some people, she said, were under the impression that the work of local governing bodies was dull and uninteresting, but she assured them that this work was teeming with live interest, and she urged women to come forward in greater numbers and to take part in it.

A discussion followed, and, after the usual announcements, the Chairman urged those present to bring others to our Tea and Politics-up-to-date Meetings, where there would always be some interesting topics to discuss, and the more we could discuss together matters of political and public interest, the better prepared we should all be when the General and other elections came round.

THE OPEN DOOR COUNCIL.

The Open Door Council held a meeting on Friday, March 9th, at which Dr. Christine Murrell presided. Miss Haslett, of the Women's Engineering Society, told of the barrier to the entrance of women to the engineering profession caused by the law that forbids women to work after 8 p.m. She showed how it excluded them from taking charge of power stations, which, large and small, are being erected in the country owing to the development of rural electrification. Her own Society, backed by other organisations of women, were asking for a deputation on the point to be received by the Home Secretary.

Mrs. Abbott gave a clear and forceful summary of the position of women in the labour market, proving beyond doubt that the legislative "protection" imposed upon woman in industry during the last 100 years had left her where it found her, and that was at

ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

are invited to a

MEETING

which is being arranged by the

MID-LONDON BRANCH OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE, on

"RUSSIA"

(some impressions on a recent visit).

Speaker:

MRS. RANSOM.

At the

MINERVA CLUB, 56, HUNTER STREET, W.C.1
(nearest Tube—Russell Square, Piccadilly Line), on

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21st, at 8.15 p.m.

Chair: **MISS LILIAN PIEROTTI.**

Dinner can be obtained beforehand at the Club.

the bottom of the labour market. Dr. Murrell, in thanking the speaker, told how, at Washington, when the Hours Convention was under discussion, she had asked: "What about nurses, if nightwork for women is abolished?" The answer was: "We shall not interfere with nurses." "Why not?" she asked again. "Because we need nurses."

Miss Gimmingham, not yet old enough to vote, then made a delightful plea for equal education. She scorned Dr. Norwood and the Headmasters for desiring to curtail academic education in favour of aesthetic and domestic. They seemed to think that a wife and mother needed no academic education, but she expressed the views of her contemporaries, who found their mothers, as not being sure of the difference between Herod and Harrods, very trying and useless in helping them in their own lives. She declared that the duties of a wife and mother did not end with the supplying of the material and physical needs of her family. Girls should not be taught so early in life to take the path of least resistance, to shirk the world, should not be let off so much, that all ended in a life-long inferiority.

A suggestion, made earlier by Miss Haslett and supported by the platform, was then taken up by a member of the audience, and was cordially agreed to by all. That was to the effect that steps should be taken to set up a Government Committee of Inquiry into the question of nightwork for women. It was decided to proceed in this direction.

AN ENCOURAGING EXPRESSION.

In *La Française* of February 18th there appears a series of resolutions recently passed by the League for the Rights of Man, which run as follows:—

(1) The Disabilities of Women—

Considering that the inanity of any arguments against equal political rights for women has long been exposed by other countries;

Considering that the arguments as to inopportune put forward by opponents are groundless;

Considering, also, that it is iniquitous to withhold from half the nation the choice of the representatives for the whole nation;

Considering that universal suffrage implies the right to vote for all, irrespective of sex or social standing;

Be it resolved that—

Parliament must give up its policy of delay, which is contrary to all justice, and must give to the women of France, no less worthy than the women of other nations, the same rights and privileges as men.

(2) Civil Rights of the Married Woman—

Considering that the civil disability of the married woman, whether mother or not, is contrary to the ideas and standards of modern life;

That it is derogatory to the dignity of a human being;

That it frequently operates to the injury of family life;

Be it resolved that—

Without delay, the civic disability of the married woman must be eliminated from the French law.

HOW TO GET WOMEN ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT.

Informal Conference on above Subject.

Monday, March 19th, at 2.30 p.m.,

AT CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER.

Speakers: Women M.P.s, Prospective Women Parliamentary Candidates, Representatives of Women's Organisations, Miss M. Reeves and Mrs. Billington Greig.

Chairman: **MRS. SCHOFIELD COATES, J.P.**

Tickets of Admission: **1/6** each, from Women's Freedom League Office.

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, March 16th, at 3 p.m.

Spring Sale at 25, Wimpole Street (by kind permission of Dr. Octavia Lewin).

Saturday, March 17th, at 10 a.m.

National Executive Committee Meeting.

Monday, March 19th, at 2.30 p.m.

Conference on Election of Women to Parliament Policy, at Caxton Hall. Tickets: 1/- each.

Tuesday March 20th, at 3 p.m.

Meeting at "Craigieburn," Ballard's Lane, Finchley, by kind permission of Mrs. Marriott, Mrs. Mustard will speak on the Constitution

of the Women's Freedom League. Members of the Finchley Board of Guardians will speak on their work.

Wednesday, March 21st, at 4 p.m.

Tea and Politics-up-to-date. Minerva Club, Brunswick Square.

Thursday, March 22nd, at 7.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Open-air Meeting at Highbury Corner, arranged by the Women's Freedom League. Chair: Mrs. Flowers.

Thursday, March 29th, at 8.30 p.m.

Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C. Josephine Butler Centenary Meeting. Speakers: Lady Balfour of Burleigh and Miss F. A. Underwood.

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.

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, March 28th, at 7 p.m.

Portsmouth. Social. Plays by the Pelham Players. Music. Refreshment. Silver Collection.

Thursday, March 29th, at 3 p.m.

Bexhill. Branch Meeting. Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin.

Friday, March 30th.

Ashford. Branch Meeting. Dr. Littledale on "Local Birds."

Saturday, May 5th.

Portsmouth. Jumble Sale.

SCOTLAND.

Monday, March 26th, at 7.45 p.m.

Glasgow. McLellan Galleries. Meeting against Compulsory Treatment of Venereal Disease. Chair: Miss Eunice Murray. Speakers: Dr. E. H. Williams, and others.

Thursday, March 29th, at 7.45 p.m.

Edinburgh. Annual Business Meeting, at Heriot Hill House, Canonmills.

WALES.

Monday, March 19th, at 7.30 p.m.

Swansea. Branch Meeting at 9, Sketty Road. Speaker: Mrs. William Rosser, J.P., on her Experiences as a Magistrate.

Thursday, March 22nd, 3.30—6.30 p.m.

Montgomery Boroughs. "At Home." Church House, Newtown. Josephine Butler Centenary. Speakers: Miss Alison Neilans, Clement Davies, Esq., K.C., and others. Chair: Miss Alix Clark. Music, tea and coffee. Silver collection.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, March 17th, at 2.45 p.m.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Annual Meeting (Members only) at St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho Square. 5 p.m. Miss Alison Neilans on "The Solicitation Laws."

Saturday, March 17th, at 3 p.m.

Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square. Debate: "That Organized Charity constitutes no solution of the problem of poverty." Proposer: Lady Balfour of Burleigh. Opposer: Miss Carthew.

Sunday, March 18th, at 3.30 p.m.

The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square. Professor P. J. Noel Baker: "The Repatriation of Prisoners."

Tuesday, March 20th, at 5 p.m.

Six Point Group, 92, Victoria Street. Meeting of "Equal Occupational Rights and the Modern Girl" series. Miss Chrystal Macmillan on "Women in the Legal Profession." Chair: Mrs. Pollard.

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BRANCH NOTES.

HAMPSTEAD.

A Meeting of the Hampstead Branch was held, by the kindness of Miss Lyndon, at 53, Willow Road, N.W.3, on Friday, March 9th. Miss Lyndon presided. A letter was sent from the meeting to the Mayor in regard to housing in the borough. Miss Berry stated that the Chief Engineer to the L.C.C. had written asking for particulars of the houses flooded owing to the inadequate sewer in Kilburn; although the particulars had been sent, no reply had yet been received.

The resolutions for the Annual Conference were read and discussed, and nominations made for the President and Hon. Treasurer of the League, also the National Executive Committee. It was arranged to hold the next Members' Meeting during the third week in April, Miss Armstrong very kindly giving the use of her house for the afternoon.

(Hon. Sec.) MISS E. BERRY, 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

BEXHILL.

A Members' Meeting was held at the Albany Hotel last Monday afternoon. The resolutions for the Annual Conference were read and discussed. It was decided to ask Dr. Octavia Lewin to speak at the Albany Hotel during the last week in March. At the end of April, we are hoping to have a meeting on "Capital Punishment." The Whist Drive held last Wednesday was successful. Mrs. Edwardes acted as M.C.

HASTINGS.

A Members' Meeting was held at the Open Door Club last Monday. After tea, we settled down to reading the resolutions for the Annual Conference. Mrs. Harrison was in the Chair. Mrs. Strickland was chosen to act as our delegate in April. It was decided to hold a Public Meeting to commemorate the Centenary of Josephine Butler; this will take place as soon as the arrangements can be made. (Organiser) MAUD WHITE.

NEWEURY.

A Meeting was held on March 9th, in the Magpie Restaurant. Miss Anna Munro was in the Chair, and Chief Inspector Champneys, of the Women's Auxiliary Service, gave an address on "Women Police." This was much enjoyed, and was followed by tea and an interesting discussion. K. M. F.

PORTSMOUTH.

Owing to other attractions, the attendance at our Third Tea and Politics-up-to-date Meeting was not quite so good. A Business Meeting was held first, at which amendments were made to the Conference resolutions, and nominations for the National Executive Committee. Mrs. Poole was chosen as delegate to the Conference. After tea, Mrs. Brading gave an up-to-date address on politics and social questions. She was heartily thanked by Miss Peacock, who presided.

A Social Evening has been arranged for Wednesday, March 28th, at 7 o'clock. Place to be announced later. The Pelham Players will give two plays. There will be music and refreshments, and a silver collection.

On Saturday, May 5th, there will be a Jumble Sale. Members are urged to save their unwanted garments, etc., for this event. (Hon. Sec.) MRS. WHETTON, 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

RYE.

A Members' Meeting was held at the Old Hope Anchor Hotel last week. Miss Bellhouse presided. The resolutions for the Annual Conference were read and discussed. Two amendments were framed and sent to Headquarters. We gladly welcome six new members. Many thanks to Miss Runnalls, who kindly invited the members to meet at her charming cottage at Winchelsea. Miss Bellhouse very kindly invited us to tea, and at the end of the meeting those present said that they knew much more about the League, and promised to attend in the future.

DUNOON.

A crowded hall greeted Miss M. Ramsay, our speaker, at a meeting held in the Rosebery Restaurant on March 5th. Miss Ramsay spoke on behalf of the League of Nations, and made it clear to everyone of us how necessary this organisation is. Miss Pamsay explained to us exactly what the League of Nations stood for, what it had already done, and what it intends to do in the future. Miss Ramsay was followed by Mrs. MacNaughton and Mrs. Lamont, two of the lady candidates who are seeking election on our Educational Board. Each lady gave us her views, and her programme, if returned. Miss Allen, our third lady candidate, was unavoidably absent.

A short musical programme followed, and our thanks are due to the following who so kindly entertained us—Mrs. Whistlesee, song; Miss Wrayne, a reading; Mr. Seth Jones, song; and Miss Pollock, dance; also Miss Smellie, who so ably accompanied.

Tea followed, and the whole thing went with a swing and was a good wind-up to this session. (Hon. Sec.) E. SMITH.

SWANSEA.

On Monday, March 5th, Miss Kirkland presided at a Branch Meeting, held at 9, Sketty Road, when Dr. Catherine Jones gave an interesting address on "Birth Control." The subject was handled in a very capable manner, Dr. Jones giving arguments both for and against conception control. A discussion followed, and the speaker answered numerous questions. Mrs. Rowland Williams proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Jones for her very instructive address, and was supported by Miss Neal.

It was announced that the next Branch Meeting would be held on Monday, March 19th, when Mrs. William Rosser, J.P., will give some account of her experiences as a magistrate.

(Hon. Sec.) MRS. OLIVER.

FRIDAY,
MARCH 16,
1928.

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WANTED.

REQUIRED POST.—Journalistic, Secretarial, or as Organiser. Part or full time.—EVELYN A. HAMBLING, Eastern Cottage, King's Holt, Gomshall, Surrey.

REST AND HOLIDAYS.

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

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

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BOSCOMBE, Bournemouth, 39, Parkwood Road. Comfortable Board-residence; 2 mins. cliffs; good locality. Terms from 2½ gns.—MISS MILLER.

BATH.—2 miles, ¼-hour by tram. Vegetarian Holiday Home. Parties taken. Cubicles 30/- week; single rooms £2 5s.; shared rooms £2 2s. 6d.—Batheaston Villa, Bath.

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CLUBS.

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

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, March 18th, 1928. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Prof. P. J. Noel Baker. 6.30. The Rev. Barnard R. H. Spaul: "The Idea of Providence."

TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

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