

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 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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HELEN SCHILIZZI, Prospective Liberal Candidate for Northampton.

I consider that one of the first things which a "new Member" has to do is to learn the technique of the House of Commons, and accordingly my first care would be to study the rules of procedure.

Let me say at once, that once in Parliament, I have nothing to "put over," as the Americans would say, but would energetically try, by every means in my power, to get the various questions to which my party was committed taken up and dealt with. In other words, my constant care would be for the speediest possible redemption of Election pledges, and I should want to see my party's programme put into operation with the least possible delay.

Naturally enough there are bound to be some points in the party's programme which would appeal to me personally more than others, and it would be only right that these should have my special attention, because in so doing I might be able to add something, however small, to their solution. This, however, would not prevent me from loyally co-operating with my party to put the whole of its programme into operation.

If my party happened to be in opposition I should regard my duty as being something more than simply to oppose. If the "other side" brought in a measure which was not in conflict with my political principles and which, as I thought, was designed to benefit the community at large, I should consider it my duty to support it. Possibly it might be strengthened by constructive criticism, but

simply to oppose because the "other side" introduced it, is to me iniquitous. Every unbiased person will admit that the "other side" does occasionally have a good idea, and may perhaps once in a way bring in a Bill which will be beneficial to the community at large:

Perhaps my preoccupying interest would be World

Peace, since in my opinion, this is the greatest of British interests, and none of the social reforms which we so earnestly desire can come about unless World Peace is assured. Another World War, and our civilisation is doomed. International affairs, therefore, are of vital importance and intimately concern every man, woman, and child in this country.

Lastly, I do not regard some questions as being essentially women's questions, and others essentially men's. As I see it, all questions are equally men's and women's questions, because they affect the home. The only sure way of dealing with any subject is to regard it from the standpoint of the home, because the home is the basis of society. This does not necessarily mean that women are not better fitted to deal with some questions than men, and *vice versa*, but simply that all political questions are of equal concern to both men and women. For after all,

the ultimate aim of all politics, in the higher sense, must be the good of the community, or as the Party to which I belong would prefer to put it: "That individual men and women may have Life, and may have it more abundantly."



HELEN SCHILIZZI.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

A Woman Newspaper Proprietor.

For the first time in the history of the Society, a woman newspaper proprietor, Miss J. H. Willmer, attended the half-yearly meeting of the Newspaper Society, which was held at the Hotel Cecil last week. Miss Willmer is editor and part-proprietor of the *Birkenhead News*, her sister, Miss Laura Willmer, being the other proprietor.

An Inspiring Example.

Mrs. Margaret Tegwedd Williams, who is in her 93rd year, is an active member of the Merthyr Bench. She was a member of the Board of Guardians for twenty-three years.

Lady (Trufram) Eve, J.P.

Lady (Trufram) Eve, Hon. Treasurer, National Council of Women, was recently sworn in at the London Sessions as Justice of the Peace.

London's Youngest Councillor.

Miss Gladys Waldron, the twenty-one years old daughter of the Mayor of Fulham, has just been elected a councillor. She is the youngest to hold that office in London.

Woman's Appointment.

Miss Kathleen Cunningham, M.A., has been appointed Lecturer in German at Armstrong College, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Two College Fellows to Marry.

Mr. Christian J. Fordyce, Fellow of Jesus College, and Miss Catherine M. Chilcott, Fellow of Lady Margaret Hall, are to marry shortly.

Two Noted Schoolgirl Swimmers.

Miss Hinton, the thirteen years old girl who represented Great Britain in the breast stroke events at the Olympic Games this year, has since her return won the Northern 100 Yards Breast Stroke Championship in 83 sec. This is almost 2 sec. faster than the best time credited to Miss King over the same distance.

Miss Howard, a girl of fourteen, won the 200 Yards Scottish Championship in 3 min. 6 sec. This comes within 4 sec. of the British record.

Youthful Skill.

"Jackie" Hance, daughter of Captain Hance, of Great Malvern, who is only twelve years of age, during the last three years has won 150 prizes for riding and jumping.

Women and the Vote in Ceylon.

The *Ceylon Indian* reports that the Women's Franchise Union of Ceylon have published a 16-page booklet, entitled "Women and the Vote," which makes out an able case for the grant of the franchise to women, and summarises the franchise movement in other parts of the world. This book is being translated into Sinhalese and Tamil, so as to carry the message of women's freedom to the villages of the island.

New Women Members of Congress.

Miss Ruth Pratt (Republican) is the first woman to be elected to the United States Congress from New York City; Mrs. Ruth Hanna McCormick (Republican), of Chicago, has also been elected; and Mrs. Owen (Democrat), of Florida.

Chinese Woman's Appointment.

Mrs. Chiang Kai-Shek, wife of the Nationalist President of China, has been appointed a member of the Legislative Board at Nanking, with powers equivalent to those of a Cabinet Minister. Mrs. Chiang Kai-Shek is not yet thirty years of age, and was only recently married. She is a sister of Mrs. Sun Yat-sen, widow of the former Chinese President, her brother being the Finance Minister, Mr. T. V. Soong.

Beat Her Own Record.

Mlle. Konopacka, a Warsaw woman discus thrower, in throwing a distance of 216 feet, has beaten her own previous record.

WOMEN MAYORS.

No woman has this year been elected Lord Mayor, but the following ten women have been elected Mayors: *Aldeburgh*.—Alderman Miss B. L. Pettit. *Christchurch*.—Councillor Miss M. B. Robinson. *King's Lynn*.—The Marchioness Townshend. *Sandwich*.—Mrs. M. B. Andrewes-Uthwatt. *Stratford-on-Avon*.—Miss Nancy Justins. *Thetford*.—Mrs. Lucy Emma Bidwell. *Tynemouth*.—Dame Maud Burnett. *Welshpool*.—Councillor Mrs. J. H. Davies. *Whitehaven*.—Alderman Miss C. Helder (re-elected). *Wrexham*.—Councillor Milly Edwards Jones (re-elected).

ACTIVITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

The report recently issued by the Belfast Women's Advisory Council contains some severe criticisms. It remarks that many of the municipal and legislative reforms advocated have not yet been achieved, and regret is expressed that the Northern Government has not kept pace with the social legislation passed by the Imperial Parliament. The Council intends to press for reforms which will secure equality of treatment for the women of Northern Ireland with those of Great Britain. In view of the Government's declared policy to follow "step by step" the legislation of the Imperial Authorities, nothing but expediency can account for the delay. The Council, which is working to improve the social condition of women, places little faith in the Belfast Corporation as at present constituted. The report calls attention to the fact that the Council is working in conjunction with the National Council of Women of Ireland, thus forming another bond of sympathy between North and South in matters concerning the whole country.

Other issues of the series, "When I am M.P.":—Lady STEWART, October 26, 1928; Miss BARBARA BLISS, September 28, 1928; Councillor KINGSMILE JONES, September 14, 1928; Miss JESSIE STEPHEN, August 17, 1928; Dr. MARION PHILLIPS, August 10, 1928; Mrs. C. D. RACKHAM, J.P., M.A., June 15, 1928; Miss ENID LAPHORN, June 1, 1928; Miss H. M. KEYNES, May 25, 1928; Mrs. HAMILTON, February 17, 1928; Miss F. B. WIDDOWSON, January 6, 1928; Mrs. TOWNSEND, September 16, 1927; Mrs. MASSINGHAM, August 19, 1927; Miss RUBY PART, June 3, 1927; Miss ELEANOR STEWART, May 13, 1927; Mrs. BEATRICE A. BAYFIELD, April 29, 1927; Mrs. PANKHURST, February 25, 1927; Miss MONICA WHATELEY, January 21, 1927; Miss ELISABETH EDWARDS, January 7, 1927; Miss MARY RICHARDSON, September 24, 1926; The Lady RATHCREEDAN, August 27, 1926; Mrs. CECILIA STREETEN, April 2, 1926; Dr. STELLA CHURCHILL, March 12, 1926; Mrs. MURIEL MATTERS PORTER, September 12, 1924; Mrs. ANNE CORNER, August 29, 1924; Mrs. LOUIE SIMPSON, J.P., August 15, 1924; Councillor ELLEN C. WILKINSON, M.A., July 4, 1924; Miss MINNIE PALLISTER, July 6, 1923; Miss C. PICTON-TURBERRILL, September 8, 1922; Mrs. HAMILTON MORE-NESBITT, August 18, 1922; Mrs. BURNETT SMITH, June 30, 1922; Lady CURRIE, April 7, 1922; Mrs. STEWART BROWN, March 31, 1922; Miss HELEN FRASER, March 24, 1922; Lady COOPER, March 17, 1922; Commandant MARY S. ALLEN, O.B.E., February 17, 1922; Miss MARY P. GRANT, January 6, 1922; Mrs. MARJORIE PEASE, J.P., October 28, 1921; Mrs. AYRTON GOULD, October 21, 1921; Dr. ETHEL BENTHAM, October 7, 1921; Mrs. WINTRINGHAM, M.P., September 23, 1921; Mrs. ELEANOR BARTON, August 28, 1921; Mrs. SCOTT GATTY, August 12, 1921; Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY, July 15, 1921.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Electoral Register.

MR. AMMON (Lab., Camberwell, N.) asked the Home Secretary why, in the new Electoral Register, it is not made clear as to whether the correct designation of women electors should be shown by the prefix Mrs. or Miss respectively? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I have carefully considered the matter, but the suggested additions to the names of electors would entail large additional cost in preparing the Registers, and as the particulars are not required for identification of the electors at the polling stations, I do not feel justified in recommending the expenditure of public money for the purpose.

MR. MALONE (Lab., Northampton): Does the Home Secretary not realise that many ladies regard it as an insult to be wrongly described, and does he not think the small extra cost is worth it to satisfy the women, even if the Government will not receive many of their votes? MR. GEOFFREY PETO (U., Frome): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that he can supply this most necessary information without any extra cost if, instead of adding "W." to the name of every woman, he will add "M." to the name of a married woman and "S." to the name of a single woman? MR. HARDIE (Lab., Springburn): Will the right hon. Gentleman consider that a mother and daughter can each have a vote and may have the same name? What are you to do there? VISCOUNTESS ASTOR (U., Plymouth): Does my right hon. Friend think the women do really care what they are called so long as they are voters? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: With regard to the suggestion made in two of the supplementary ques-

tions, I have arranged already that in the cases of both men and women, where there are two people in the same house of the same name, one should be called "Senior" and the other "Junior."

MR. THURTELL (Lab., Shoreditch) asked the Home Secretary the date when copies of the next Register of the electors will be available? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: The next Register of electors comes into force on May 1st, 1929, but I am afraid I cannot say how long before that date the Registers will become available in the different districts. I have no doubt Registration Officers will make copies available as soon as they are printed off. MR. THURTELL: Will the right hon. Gentleman give us an assurance that this Register will be available at least one month before the General Election? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I have been in personal touch with a good many Registration Officers, and there is more difficulty in some districts than in others, but the qualifying period does not stop until December 1st, and I am assured that they will do all that they possibly can to expedite the printing.

London Lock Hospital.

MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE (Lab., Leicester) asked the Minister of Health whether he has now received the Report of the Committee appointed to inquire into the London Lock Hospital; and whether it is his intention to have it published? MR. CHAMBERLAIN: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The question of publication will be considered later on. MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE: Can the Minister tell us when he expects to receive the Report? MR. CHAMBERLAIN: I am expecting to receive it very shortly.

WOMEN IN THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE

S. GRIFFITHS

(Woman Organiser, National Union of Teachers.)

Teachers, of course, form the bulk of women employed in this very important public service. Approximately, there are 130,000 women teachers in the elementary schools of England and Wales, and about 9,000 in the secondary schools. Their conditions have improved considerably during the last ten years, particularly as far as salaries are concerned. Probably teachers are the most highly organised of any professional body, although one does find among the women a certain number who decline to belong to any professional Union. This is partly owing to the innate conservatism of women and also to the influence of their families, where these belong to the small trader or employer class, prejudiced against Trade Unions and grouping all unions, professional and otherwise, in the same category. However, the percentage of women teachers who belong to no Union at all is very small, probably less than in any other group of women workers.

Salaries are now decided by a National Committee, and the chaos of scales, some hundreds in number, which existed in pre-1918 days has been reduced by arbitration and negotiation to four, the highest being paid in London and the lowest in the rural districts. The improvement in pay has quickly reflected itself in the attitude of the teacher. Freed from monetary worries there has been a tremendous impetus in the direction of refresher courses, week-end schools, and series of lectures where they attend in large numbers to learn from experts the newest in educational precept and practice. Continental travelling in a modest way, wider contacts and experiences, are within their reach, and all these reflect themselves in the teaching, and are a gain to the children in their charge. A higher standard of academic attainment is insisted upon, and now parents no longer consider whether it is worth while sending a girl to College for training, as they did twenty years ago, but have to decide whether two years at a Training College for teachers is sufficient, or whether a University Course can be managed. Unfortunately, owing to the economy campaign in educational circles, there is a great deal of unemploy-

ment among young teachers who have recently left the colleges. This state of affairs seems to occur in cycles, and always it brings a campaign against women teachers being allowed to retain their posts on marriage. Local feeling is worked up and Local Education Authorities are led to dismiss their married women teachers. On March 31st, 1927, the number of married women teachers in the service was 14,109. New appointments are rarely made, and generally speaking only in small country schools where single teachers make brief stays until better posts present themselves. The often intolerable loneliness of the country schoolmistress is a difficult problem to face.

In the elementary schools there are 12,941 Head Masters and 17,724 Head Mistresses. In the Secondary Schools 804 Head Masters and 458 Head Mistresses. Above this grade promotion for women is difficult. Of 330 Board of Education Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors only 73 are women. There is not one woman Director of Education under a Local Education Authority, although there are one or two remaining, among the Secretaries to Local Education Committees.

The School Medical Service has opened up a wide field for women doctors and nurses. There are now 275 women doctors, and 4,779 nurses engaged in school work. The National Union of Teachers, with its 126,000 members, holds its Annual Conference at Easter. The leading publishing firms who specialise in school books, and others who manufacture all kinds of school equipment, hold a large Exhibition in connection with the Conference. Each year there seem to be more and more women representatives. Then the educational Press is extending rapidly, and two new weekly papers belonging to a private firm have newly-appointed women editors. There are great changes taking place in the educational world as in many other spheres. All kinds of new ideas and fresh developments are foreshadowed, in which women will naturally play their part.

THE TURN OF THE SCALE?

"Mrs. Baldwin, asked the other day what the result of the election would be, replied that that remained in the hands of her fellow-women."—*The Western Mail*.

THE VOTE.

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NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.
To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders,
printing, and merchandise, etc.

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Holborn 9301, London."

Telephone: HOLBORN 9301.

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.

LADY ASTOR, M.P.

Members of the Women's Freedom League and of the other women's organisations who were present at Caxton Hall, were delighted to have the opportunity of giving Lady Astor the warmest possible welcome when she came to open our Victory Green White and Gold Fair last Tuesday. We welcomed her not only because she was the first woman to take her seat in the House of Commons, nor for the splendid success she has achieved in Parliament, but also because of her unflinching understanding and ever-ready championship of the women's cause in this country and throughout the world. We cannot adequately express our appreciation of all that Lady Astor means to the work of women's organisations, and especially the non-party organisations. From the first she instinctively realised, as the earlier women pioneers had realised, that the questions and reforms which are of special interest to us cut right across all divisions of party, and unite women far more than their political parties divide them. We always remember that the first vote Lady Astor cast in the House of Commons was on behalf of the inclusion of women in the Indian Reform Bill and against her own party—the Government, who preferred leaving this matter to be dealt with by Indian men. And who else but Lady Astor could have converted the present Government so effectively to the cause of equal franchise? That was not an easy task, but her victory was complete. Lady Astor has always taken pains to keep in touch with the women's movement; women's organisations have always been sure that she would listen to their point of view, and, if she agreed with it, would keep forward that point of view. She quite agrees that the work of women's organisations is by no means finished. Both inside and outside the House of Commons, there is plenty of work to be done before women secure a full measure of equality of opportunity, reward, and responsibility with men in the ordinary life of the country. There are still many barriers of inequality to be broken down; but Lady Astor is very hopeful for the future—and so are we! Can we not manage to send a great number of women to Parliament at the next General Election to support Lady Astor in the House of Commons? It does not matter to which political party they belong, so long as they are sound and sane on the question of equal rights for men and women. We thank Lady Astor once again for coming among us last Tuesday, and for all the encouragement she gave us.

PHYSICAL TRAINING FOR GIRLS.

Last week, Mr. GROVES (Lab., Stratford) asked the President of the Board of Education how many inspectors of physical education are now employed, and how many hours per week are devoted to the boys of elementary and secondary schools, respectively? We wonder why girls were not included in his question. Surely Mr. Groves should recognise that physical training is as necessary for girls as for boys! To his question, LORD EUSTACE PERCY replied that the Board of Education employ ten inspectors of physical training, who are responsible for the inspection of

physical training in all types of schools and also in training colleges, and it would not be possible to state precisely what proportion of their time is devoted to the inspection of physical training for boys in elementary and secondary schools. We should like to be assured that the physical training of girls is not being overlooked by our Board of Education. Last summer the Government of Madras appointed a Physical Education Inquiry Committee, but the inquiry was not to concern itself with the physical education of girls. When asked by the Women's Indian Association why this decision had been arrived at, the reply was that the question of physical education of girls was not included within the scope of the inquiry of the Committee, because girls require different courses of instruction from boys, and the Committee, in view of its personnel, is not fit to deal with the subject. We should have thought it would have been easy to change the personnel and to have included women on the Committee, but the Government of Madras have appointed a woman specialist in physical education to organise the physical training of girls along special lines. Such a specialist is not needed in this country, but it is very important that Members of Parliament and the Government should recognise the need for the adequate provision of physical training for the girls as well as the boys in our elementary and secondary schools.

"LIVE M.P.s"; MORE OF THEM WANTED!

So much is said and written about the present women Members of Parliament, that, in comparison with these eight vital members, the other six hundred and seven get a very poor show. Not even the names of the majority are familiar outside their own constituencies, and even there, too often, the electors know nothing about their Member except the party to which he belongs.

The criticism—just or unjust—that no woman Member has yet shown herself worthy of the Premiership, is a compliment in disguise. With over six hundred men to choose from, the number of possible Prime Ministers is sadly inadequate; yet these discerning critics, who air their views about women's capabilities with so much assurance, expect to find the proportion of potential women Premiers at least one out of eight! On what is their estimate based, if not on the efficiency and vitality of our present women representatives—each of whom, if publicity in the Press is any criterion, is a "live" Member?

There is no woman Member who has not made a speech—the comments of the women Members are often the most enlightening, and, we might add, enlivening, parts of Parliamentary debates—yet there are close upon one hundred men representatives who have never felt the urge to raise their voices in the present Parliament!

How many of the six hundred and seven men representatives stand for anything in particular? Yet, the name of each of the women Members is associated in the public mind with some definite motive—Lady Astor's, for example, with the equal moral standard; the Duchess of Atholl's with education; and Miss Lawrence's and Miss Bondfield's with social reform.

With a General Election approaching, every voter—whether man or woman—should consider whether it is in the best interests of the country to return a "dead" Member, who can only be aroused from his lethargy by his party Whip, or whether the future of the country would not be safer in the hands of a Member who will not only be *seen* in the House on special occasions, but both *seen* and *heard* whenever affairs of State are under consideration.

OUR FIRST-PRESIDENT.

Mrs. Despard is now at home again, and has been to a meeting to speak. She has written, sending her very best wishes for the "Fair," though not quite able to be with us at it.

"SUFFRAGE MEMORIES."

The Minerva Club, on the evening of November 7th, was packed to overflowing to listen to Mr. Laurence Housman, always one of the most popular of suffrage speakers, on "Suffrage Memories." In presiding, Mrs. Zangwill told us that she first met Mr. Housman 20 years ago on the pavement outside the Albert Hall, when women were crowding out of the 'buses to take part in a suffrage meeting. Soon afterwards she had made her first speech on suffrage, standing on a rickety box at an open-air meeting at a seaside town. With a frequent interruptor she made a bargain that if he would allow her to make her speech, he should afterwards take her place and make one for himself. He mounted the "platform," and she kept it steady with her foot. He had one argument, and one only, which he repeated in varying forms *ad nauseam*—that because women had not equal physical strength with men, they were not fit to have the vote. All at once Mrs. Zangwill forgot to steady the "platform," and the orator and his arguments fell ignominiously to the ground. The crowd quickly recognised that it was only Mrs. Zangwill's physical strength which enabled him to stand on that box and to talk for so long about men's superior physical force!

Mr. Housman, who was received with prolonged applause, wondered whether he owed the suffrage movement a debt or a grudge? He was not a politician, but a writer. Twenty years ago he made his first speech on woman's suffrage at Hereford. He had learnt it off by heart and stayed awake two nights to make sure he had really committed it to memory. He then determined to learn to speak with the aid of notes. Early in life Mr. Housman had realised that women and girls did not get anything like equality with men. While the boys were at play, the girls were at work mending their brothers' stockings. A boy was given every help to make a career, but girls were not expected to want any. His own sister was only enabled to make a career for herself by being sent to London to look after him! Mr. Housman had attended his first suffrage meeting in 1885, when Mrs. Fawcett was the speaker, and his second not until twenty-three years later, when Mrs. Pankhurst spoke. Both meetings had made him feel militant. He had taken part in women's processions and women's meetings, and had seen women, who were asking for a perfectly reasonable thing, buffeted about and jeered at, and he had become more militant. Mr. Housman told the story of Mr. Wilks' arrest and imprisonment because his wife refused to pay her taxes while she was an unfranchised woman, and George Bernard Shaw's intervention on that occasion. The speaker said that Mr. Justice Grantham entirely disagreed with women having the vote, and disapproved of their methods in trying to get it, but at the same time, he admitted that the only way they would get it was by making themselves a nuisance.

Mr. Housman told the story of his sister's tax resistance. For eighteen months Miss Clemence Housman had refused to pay a tax of 4s. 6d. as a protest against her disfranchisement. An official from Somerset House came specially to warn her. He found a gentle-looking lady, and was probably quite convinced that when another official called the following day, and mentioned Holloway, the tax would be

AN ENTERPRISING AIR CLUB.

Reading, which aspires to be a leading flying centre, has, in the person of Miss "Toby" Cribb, the only woman secretary of a British aeroplane club.

Miss Cribb, who is only twenty-one years of age, has already drawn in two hundred members, a large number of whom are women. Miss Winifred Spooner, who was third in the King's Cup, has joined the club.

Miss Cribb, who describes herself as "a sporting girl," is keen to take a pilot's certificate; so far, she has been too busily occupied to find time for the training.

An aerodrome is the special need of the club.

paid. When the second official came, Miss Housman still refused to pay, and when Holloway was spoken of, she asked if she should put on her hat and "come now." The man hastily said, "No, to-morrow." The next day, when the man came armed with the majesty of the law, she put on her hat and asked if he was prepared to walk her through the streets? He explained that they could have a taxi, but Miss Housman told him she wouldn't pay for it. They had a taxi, and it registered 4s. 6d. as it reached Holloway prison gates. When Miss Housman appeared before the Governor, he asked what her sentence was. She said she supposed she was in for life, for she had no intention of paying the tax. However, she was let out within a week, and joined in the protest meeting which was being held outside the prison gates. Miss Housman was not worried again by the authorities for her tax until she had the Parliamentary vote, and then registered her vote against the Government which had denied the vote for so long to women. Asked what she did all day in Holloway, Miss Housman replied: "I sat and bubbled."

Mr. Housman included in his recollections the picketing which the Women's Freedom League organised for many weeks outside the House of Commons, the great Census protest, when it was computed that 100,000 women refused to be counted on the nation's Register so long as they were not counted among the country's voters, and various women's deputations to Parliament, when the women were arrested and imprisoned. Mr. Housman himself was thrown down the steps of the House of Commons; he was arrested with four other men for going on a deputation to the Government. The five men were released at the end of the day, but the sentence passed on women for doing precisely the same thing was three months' imprisonment.

"What has come of all this agitation of the women carried out with such courage?" Mr. Housman asked. First and foremost—open speech and open minds. Before the suffrage movement, one could not speak openly of prostitution. Women had to be kept out of having any voice in the solution of social problems. That had changed, and we were now nearer to getting a better understanding of all human problems. Mr. Housman said that the more we can get women to keep non-party organisations together to trouble the Government to deal with all problems on human lines, and to substitute arbitration for war, the more the suffrage movement would be justified.

Several members of the audience gave reminiscences of their share in the suffrage struggle, among them encounters with Mr. Winston Churchill and Mr. John Burns. Another, remembered a meeting at a seaside town. The authorities had refused a hall unless a promise was secured that no militancy should be advocated by the speakers. Mr. Housman gave the necessary pledge, and took as his text: "Be Law-abiding." His speech was a brilliant piece of satire, and the people who had asked for the pledge were mercilessly ridiculed. The authorities raged furiously, but the three local papers had a verbatim report of Mr. Housman's address.

The meeting concluded with a very hearty vote of thanks to the speaker.

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 11.

OUR BOOK REVIEWS.

Health Work in Soviet Russia. By Anna J. Haines. (Vanguard Press, New York.) 50 cents.

Miss Haines shows herself a sympathetic investigator into health matters in present-day Russia. Her own practical experience in social and nursing work in both America and Russia has fitted her to estimate the value of the really strenuous efforts made since 1918 by the Commissariat of Health, under the direction of its enthusiastic head, Dr. Semashko.

Pre-war Russia had little provision for national health services, though her doctors were famed internationally for their discoveries and specialised skill. During the War and early revolutionary period, what service there was broke down, and few, if any, records were kept; but by 1921, returns were made of diseases and mortality, showing an appalling state of affairs. Comparison made with the latest available returns of 1926, shows an amazing improvement after only a few years of the new order. It has been a great achievement to build up the framework of an almost ideal system of health services, and to stir up the enthusiasm of medical men, students, nurses, and population to work the system. As yet the services are limited, owing to the inadequate supply of doctors, trained workers, and necessary material; but such enthusiasm as Miss Haines indicates, must overcome that difficulty in the next few years.

A very interesting survey is given of the provision made for the care of children and motherhood, the anti-tuberculosis campaign, the problems of alcohol and drugs, venereal disease, and the propaganda by means of exhibitions, both stationary and travelling, and by lectures and posters. A. S. C.

Notes on the Women's Movement in China, 1928. By E. M. Pye. (Women's International League, 55, Gower Street, London, W.C.1.) (Can be obtained from this Office.)

This concise pamphlet on the position of women in China should serve as a useful introduction to those who wish to study the rise and growth of the women's movement in that country. Written by a member of the delegation of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, which visited China at the close of last year, the short duration of the visit, and the immensity of the country, necessarily render the survey far from complete.

The general impression given is that both Chinese men and Chinese women are eager to put the progress of their country before all other considerations. The writer states:—

"Every door has been thrown wide open to Chinese women by the men, and one has even a glimpse occasionally of a pushing through this open door of a not-quite-equipped candidate almost against her will, so eager are the men to share responsibility."

The education of women in China—although Higher Education is inadequate—is making headway. The throwing open of many of the Universities to women has revolutionised life for those students who formerly despaired of continuing their studies. The keenness of the Chinese to learn can be deduced from—

"In one of the small towns, Chefoo, where the whole population appears to have turned out either to teach or to be taught, after one examination, diplomas or certificates of being able to read were presented to 1,147 people, of whom 372 were girls and women."

Owing to several of the most able Chinese women educationalists having taken their degrees in America, there is a tendency for education to become rather too Americanised.

The Nurses' Association of China and the Y.W.C.A. are two of the greatest social forces at work. Chinese women doctors are rapidly increasing in numbers and importance. The throwing open to women of Government Universities and Colleges that grant medical degrees will have an important bearing on the number of women doctors available.

When we come to industry, the situation is less favourable—the conditions prevailing in the few

factories visited by members of the delegation, supplied sufficient evidence that the industrial position of women and children bears no comparison with that existing in Western civilisations.

The revolution cleared the way for women to organise for political purposes. The mass meeting for International Women's Day, on March 8th this year, from which a number of demands—similar in most cases to those already put forward by women in the West—were to be carried to the Government, is an instance of the readiness and capability of the Chinese women to band themselves together for political purposes now that the age-long embargo on their personal freedom has been removed.

In every place visited, the delegation found the spirit of service and the ideal of a United China dominant. They were much impressed by the reasonableness and balanced outlook of the women with whom they came in contact. E. A. H.

WOMEN'S ADMISSION TO HOUSE OF COMMONS.

There is a ban on women in regard to seats under the Strangers' Gallery, which are available for the technical advisers of Members of the Opposition. Mr. Pethick-Lawrence told the Speaker that he asked recently for a seat for someone, and was told that he could not have the ticket because the person for whom he desired the seat was a woman. Seeing that women are now eligible, with men, to sit as Members on the Floor of the Commons, and considering that they are also brought into the seats reserved in the Gallery for technical advisers of the Government, Mr. Pethick-Lawrence asked if the Speaker could not see his way to remove the ban on women in regard to seats under the Strangers' Gallery? The Speaker said the matter was one for the House. He did not know if the time would ever come when all the sex distinctions as regards the admission of strangers to the House would be done away with, but he thought the time had not arrived for making any change in the existing Regulations. Mr. Pethick-Lawrence pressed the matter. Miss Wilkinson supported him, and asked why women are not allowed in the Strangers' Dining Room? We also want to know why THE VOTE cannot yet have a representative in the House of Commons Press Gallery.

PLAIN SPEAKING BY A WOMAN M.P.

"There are at least 200 male M.P.s, at a modest estimate, who are practically useless in the House. They are either uninterested, too busy elsewhere, or just simply lazy."

"At the next election we could do with fewer of this type, while ten times the present number of women would not be too many for the work there is for them to do."—Ellen Wilkinson, M.P.

PERTH RAM SALE.

According to the *Oban Times*, Miss Winifred G. Ferguson, who won the Amateur Judging Competition at the Highland Show at Aberdeen, judged the ram lambs. The innovation of a lady judge naturally caused considerable interest among breeders, and the expert manner in which Miss Ferguson performed her work was commented upon and her judgment was confirmed in the sale ring later on.

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

DARE TO BE FREE. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Wednesday, November 21st, at 4.30 p.m.
Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington, M.A., 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 7.45 p.m.
Bradford Branch. Public Meeting in the Y.M.C.A. Rooms. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro on "Fair Play to the Weaker? Sex—in all ways." Chair: Alderman Mrs. Kathleen Chambers. Coffee and Biscuits. Collection.
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.

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.
Saturday, November 17th, at 3 p.m.
Saturday Speech Club, at the Minerva Club, 55, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Miss Spooner on Aviation.
Tuesday, November 20th, at 5 p.m.
The Six Point Group, 92, Victoria Street, S.W.1. Miss Winifred Holby will speak on "The Next Step." Chairman: Miss F. A. Underwood. Admission free.
Tuesday, November 20th, at 8 p.m.
The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, at the Mary Summer House (Large Hall), Tufton Street, Westminster. Speakers: Mr. C. F. Andrews, Mr. Surendranath Mallik (Council of India), Miss M. Shephard. Chairman: Rev. W. C. Roberts. Admission free.
Wednesday, November 21st, at 4 p.m.
British Commonwealth League. Lecture-Tea in the Club Room, 17, Buckingham Street. Miss Fedden on "Empire Catering." Club Member, 1s., Non-Members, 1s. 6d.
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.
Friday, November 23rd, at 4 p.m.
The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, at S. Matthew's, Westminster, Great Peter Street. Farewell Service. The Right Rev. Bishop Gore, D.D. Admission free.
Monday, November 26th, at 8 p.m.
Large Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W.1. Public Meeting to press for legislation on the lines of the Public Places (Order) Bill. Speakers: The Lord Balfour of Burleigh (Chair), The Viscountess Astor, M.P., Mrs. Bramwell Booth, J.P., Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, M.P., Miss Alison Neilans. Admission free, Reserved Seats, 1s.
Monday, November 26th, at 8 p.m.
The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene. Public Meeting on the Report of the Street Offences Committee at Caxton Hall, Westminster.
Monday, November 26th, at 8 p.m.
Union of Women Voters, at 55, Chancery Lane (Room 25). Speaker: Sir Robert Newman, J.P., D.L., M.P., on "Employment of Married Women Bill."
Tuesday, November 27th, at 3.15 p.m.
British Commonwealth League. Christmas Gift Sale, at 17, Buckingham Street. Opened by Miss Florence Austral.
Thursday, November 29th, at 5 p.m.
Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations. Open Meeting at Women's Service House, 35, Marsham Street, S.W.1. Speaker: Dame Edith Lytton, D.B.E. (British Substitute Delegate to the Assembly).

BRANCH NOTES.

FINCHLEY AND GOLDERS GREEN.

By the kind invitation of Mrs. Marriott, a meeting was held at "Craigieburn," Ballard's Lane, North Finchley, last Friday afternoon. Mrs. Marriott presided, and introduced as the first speaker Mrs. Bigland, who has a wide knowledge of international affairs, and who was present in Geneva during all the meetings of the Assembly of the League of Nations last September. Mrs. Bigland's subject was "Women at work in the League of Nations," and she gave a most interesting account of the work of the women who had been sent by their different Governments to the Assembly. Mrs. Bigland regretted that all Governments did not include women in their delegations, for there was a great deal of work for women to do in the League of Nations, not only on the Fifth Commission, which dealt with Humanitarian Subjects, but also on other Commissions and Committees of the League. The speaker gave unqualified praise to the splendid work done by Dame Rachel Crowley on behalf of the Committee responsible for the Report on the Traffic in Women and Children, as well as to the work of Dame Edith Lytton, who had been sent for the fourth time by our own Government to the Assembly. Dame Edith had specially pressed for an inquiry into the opium question in the Far East.

After questions had been answered by Mrs. Bigland, Miss Underwood spoke on the immediate work of the Women's Freedom League. We had not worked for the vote as an end in itself, but in order to secure equal opportunities, rewards, and responsibilities with men everywhere, both in our national and international life. The Women's Freedom League wanted to see more women taking part in local government work, more women in Parliament—eight women out of 615 Members of the House of Commons were not enough—women Members of the House of Lords, women in the Cabinet, more women in the Government, and in responsible positions in Government Departments. The speaker expressed keen disappointment that no woman had been appointed to the Savidge Tribunal, and that no woman had been appointed to the recent Committee to inquire into Juvenile Courts. We wanted women in adequate numbers on every Departmental Committee and Commission appointed by the Government. The Women's Freedom League wanted to see the Diplomatic Service open to women, and all the higher posts in the Civil Service. We wanted equal pay for equal work, and all industry open to women without any restrictions which were not imposed on the work of men.

Questions were again asked and answered, and on a resolution, moved by Miss Stephens and seconded by Miss Rankin, it was decided to amalgamate the Golders Green and Finchley Branches. After some discussion, Mrs. Marriott kindly consented to act as Hon. Secretary, and Mrs. Pierotti as Hon. Treasurer to the new Branch.

DARLINGTON.

We held a Public Meeting in the Temperance Institute, Gladstone Street, on October 23rd, on the "White Slave Traffic." Mrs. Bigland, who had just returned from Geneva, was the speaker, and the Rev. T. G. Gobat took the chair. Mrs. Bigland gave us some very interesting and enlightening information, and told us what the League of Nations were doing to prevent the Traffic in Women and Children. She also gave us the interesting and pleasing information that the amount of such traffic carried on in this country was practically nil, and this she attributed largely to the absence of licensed houses. Miss Lilian Lenton gave us an amusing and interesting half hour on the "Inferiority Complex." The meeting was fairly well attended, considering counter attractions, and a collection was taken, a vote of thanks being passed to both speakers and to the chairman, the latter having been very kind and obliging on several occasions. (Hon. Sec.) MISS MARY WARD.

LEEDS.

We are hoping to form a Branch in Leeds, and expect to have a preliminary meeting, at which Miss Anna Munro will speak, on November 22nd or 23rd. Will any member or sympathiser in Leeds seeing this please write to the address given below, that particulars may be sent? The organiser would be very grateful for the names and addresses of anyone likely to be interested.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, November 18th, 1928. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Canon V. F. Storr, M.A. 6.30. Rev. J. S. Bezzant, M.A.: "The Christian Claim."

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