

THE VOTE.  
JULY 9, 1926.

## THE NEW OFFENSIVE.

# THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXVII. No. 872.

(Registered at  
the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, JULY 9, 1926

**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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EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS PROCESSION, JULY 3rd, 1926.



## THE NEW OFFENSIVE.

Some 3,500 women, representing over 40 Societies, lined up on the Embankment, near Charing Cross Bridge, last Saturday afternoon, and walked in procession to Hyde Park, there, with the crowds already assembled, to hold a great mass Demonstration, demanding an immediate Government measure giving votes to women at 21 on the same terms as men, and for Peeresses in their own right a seat, voice, and vote in the House of Lords.

The Procession formed a pageant of beauty and colour as it gathered near the Temple Station, extending finally right across to the Royal Air Force Memorial near the Houses of Parliament. All the colours of the rainbow were reflected in the banners and scrolls and waving pennants of the various Societies participating, amongst which the green, white and gold of the Women's Freedom League contingent (under the splendid marshalling of Miss E. Berry) made a gallant show. Precisely at 2.45 p.m. this mass of moving colour marched slowly up Northumberland Avenue to the tune of "The Marseillaise."

First in order came the Youth Groups, picturesquely clad, and a group of the voteless "Under Thirties." Directly behind walked various political and Suffrage Societies, both British and American, including a contingent of women M.P.s (one of whom, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, had travelled all night in order to walk in the Procession), ex-women M.P.s (including Mrs. Wintringham), and Parliamentary candidates, preceded by a "Big Ben" banner in black on a red ground, whilst women Councillors, Mayors, and Justices of the Peace brought up the rear of this important little group. Further down the line the Actresses' contingent, under the patronage of Miss Ellen Terry and Miss Lillah McCarthy, robed in green and pink, with decorated lorries, formed a picturesque group, and were followed by women professors, medical women, and students of all types in academic dress, attached to various specialised Societies represented by each group. Many veterans of earlier days, including Mrs. Despard, Dame Millicent Fawcett, Mrs. Pankhurst, and Dr. Annie Besant, accompanied old friends and comrades. The organised women teachers brought a splendid contingent, with branch banners and decorated cars, allegorical devices and mottoes.

Our own contingent, headed by our band and the League banner, led by Mrs. Despard, who walked all the way with Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence and Dr. Knight, followed by the members of the National Executive Committee and speakers, and ending with our decorated brake, was an impressive part of the long line. Our branches and members rallied to the flag. Portsmouth came up in its own brake full of enthusiastic members. Representatives came from Swansea and other parts, and many new and old friends joined us to work towards the victory for which we strive.

Great interest was shown in the procession by the general public, of whom the majority were men. Many of these last clapped vigorously, not a few raised hats in respectful silence, whilst one *bon vivant*, watching from behind the plate glass windows of a Pall Mall Club, kissed his hand to the women marchers. He probably received the shock of his life when he caught sight of Lord Balfour of Burleigh, who walked with the women the whole of the way.

VOTES and literature sold freely as the Procession went along, and surely there could not have been a single taxi-driver in London who was minus a programme of the events of the day. Near Hyde Park Corner we were greeted by Miss Alix Clark from a waiting car.

Arrived in Hyde Park, the Procession broke up into groups round the 15 platforms awaiting them, and where large crowds were already assembled. At No. 5, the Women's Freedom League Platform, Miss Anna Munro presided, and, after reading the resolutions, which later in the afternoon were carried with acclamation, she explained that the present Demonstration was only the commencement of a tremendous campaign

throughout the country for Equal Franchise. Various speakers then put forward their cause.

Miss Godwin, one of the "Under Thirties," stoutly denied that the younger women did not want the vote, as had been frequently asserted. The women under 30 were not asking for favours, but for their just rights.

Mrs. Nevinsin championed the cause of the professional woman under 30, who had not only qualified for a profession, but was frequently married as well, with husband, children, and home to manage. As the law stood at present, only one woman in fifteen was enfranchised.

Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence described the great political campaign in the coming autumn, of which to-day's Demonstration was inauguratory, and enumerated some of the achievements—legislative and otherwise—that women had accomplished since their partial enfranchisement.

Alice Park (of the United States) recalled how some American women voted as far back as 1869, but to-day every woman in the United States was enfranchised on the same terms as men. With the exception of Great Britain, no other country in the world made its women wait to become voters until they were 30 years of age. Great Britain to-day was at the tail end of the procession.

Mrs. Zangwill asked what was the mysterious change which overtook a woman between the last day of her 29th birthday and the dawn of her 30th, thus making her eligible for political enfranchisement. She appealed to all the younger women present to keep faith with the lads who laid down their lives in the Great War for the cause of Freedom and Justice. Where women remained voteless, these were but empty words.

Mrs. Mustard referred to the recent debate in the House of Lords on the admission of Peeresses, and maintained that it did far more harm to the Lords than to the women of whom they spoke. The antiquated views and colossal ignorance revealed by the discussion were merely hastening the end of the Upper House.

Mrs. Whetton told the crowd how 13 members of the Portsmouth Branch of the Women's Freedom League had travelled specially to London that day to help forward the cause of the younger women.

Mrs. Flowers referred to suffrage tactics of former days, and said men had not forgotten them. Women of all ages and classes were needed to use their votes and send worthy Members of Parliament of both sexes to the House of Commons.

When Mrs. Despard rose to speak, at the close of the afternoon, the crowd broke out spontaneously into the refrain, "For she's a jolly good fellow." Later, when she could make herself heard, Mrs. Despard begged earnestly for enthusiastic helpers of both sexes, with vision, to further the cause of full freedom in the world.

### In Memoriam.

GORE-BOOTH.—On June 30th, at her residence, 14, Frognaal Gardens, Hampstead, N.W.3, after a short illness, Eva, second daughter of the late Sir Henry and of Lady Gore-Booth, formerly of Lissadell, Sligo, Ireland. We heard with the greatest regret of the death of Miss Eva Gore-Booth, and offer our sincere sympathy to the members of her family and to Miss Esther Roper and her many friends. We hope to have a portrait-sketch at an early date.

HANSON.—On July 6th, Helen Beatrice de Rastricke Hanson, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.Oxf., Assistant Medical Officer, London County Council. We are greatly grieved to hear, as we go to press, of the terribly sudden death of Dr. Hanson, who was knocked down by a motor-car as she was crossing the road near her home, 28, Circus Road Mansions, St. John's Wood, N.W., on Tuesday afternoon, and died before reaching hospital. We offer deepest sympathy to her mother, sister, relations and friends. We hope for a portrait-sketch very shortly.

## IN PARLIAMENT.

### Franchise (Women).

MR. TAYLOR (Lab., Lincoln) asked the Home Secretary when he proposes to introduce a Bill conferring the franchise on women on the same terms as men? CAPT. HACKING (Under-Secretary, Home Office): As the hon. Member is aware, it is the intention of the Government to propose a Conference to consider this question, and no decision as to when that will be has yet been taken.

### Unemployed Women (London).

MR. C. EDWARDS (Lab., Bedwelty) asked the Minister of Labour the number of unemployed women registered at the Employment Exchanges in the Metropolitan area? SIR ARTHUR STEEL-MAITLAND: The number of women on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the area of Greater London at 21st June, 1926, was 24,120.

### Children (Protection).

MR. JOHNSTON (Lab., Dundee) asked the Under-Secretary of State for India whether any legislation has been introduced by the Government of India to protect children from maltreatment and exploitation by professional beggars, agents of brothels, and, if so, when? EARL WINTERTON: This matter is now in the main one for the provincial Governments and Legislatures to deal with. Acts for the protection of children and young persons, and for the trial and punishment of youthful offenders were passed in Madras, Bengal, and Bombay in 1920, 1922, and 1924, respectively. Children are protected from the agents of brothels by the Indian Penal Code, which applies throughout India, and the provisions of which in this respect have recently been made more stringent.

### Hellingly Asylum (Nurses).

MR. C. EDWARDS asked the Minister of Health whether he is aware that at the Hellingly Asylum the East Sussex County Council employ female nurses in attendance on insane male patients; and whether, in view of the moral and physical dangers thus involved, he will take steps to prevent this practice? MR. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. I am unable to accept the assumption upon which the second part of the question is based. Medical superintendents who have had experience of the practice of nursing male patients by women nurses are practically unanimous in thinking that it is desirable in certain types of cases. I am advised that there are certain classes of patients who can be nursed by women nurses with great advantage to the patients and without risk to the nurses. I do not, therefore, propose to take action in the direction suggested by the hon. Member.

### Puerperal Septicæmia (Kingston).

COL. DAY (Lab., Central Southwark) asked the Minister of Health if, in view of the fact that further deaths have occurred from puerperal septicæmia following childbirth in the Kingston Nursing Association's Home, which makes a total of eight deaths from this cause during the last six months, and the criticisms made by the Kingston Coroner on the conditions existing at this Home, he can now state whether he is in a position to give further information to the House on the Report that has been made on this Home by one of his medical officers? SIR KINGSLEY WOOD (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health): My right hon. Friend has now considered this Report and regrets to say that it indicates that there has been grave laxity in the administration of this Home and of the district midwifery practice associated with it. He is about to address a communication to the Nursing Association dealing fully with the facts elicited by the inquiry, and he proposes to send a copy of the com-

munication to the County Council and the Kingston Town Council. My right hon. Friend will be happy also to send a copy to the hon. Member and to any other hon. Member who desires it. LT.-COL. FREMANTLE (U., St. Albans): Can the hon. Member use his influence with the Government to see that the Midwives and Maternity Homes Bill is given a speedy reception and carried through into law? SIR JOSEPH NALL (U., Hulme): Can the hon. Member say in what medical authority's area this home is situated, and whether it was inspected as a maternity home by the medical authority? SIR K. WOOD: I think the hon. and gallant Member had better put that question on the Paper. MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE: Can the hon. Member say whether the husband of the deceased woman was given an opportunity of attending the inquiry? SIR K. WOOD: I cannot say, but I know that a very full inquiry has been made. I should be happy to send the hon. Member a copy of the correspondence, from which he will see the action which the Minister of Health proposes to take.

### Factories Bill.

LORD HENRY CAVENDISH-BENTINCK (U., Nottingham, S.) asked the Home Secretary whether he proposes, under the new Factories Bill, to make provision for the better regulation of offices and of underground work-rooms? CAPT. HACKING (Under-Secretary, Home Department): I would ask the noble Lord to await the issue of the Bill, which my right hon. Friend hopes to introduce this month.

### Imperial Conference.

MR. MACKENZIE LIVINGSTONE (Lib., Western Isles) asked the Prime Minister whether, in view of the fact that subjects such as the nationality of married women and other matters of special interest to women will be discussed at the forthcoming Imperial Conference, he will consider the desirability of appointing women either as representatives, or, failing this, as expert advisers? THE PRIME MINISTER: The question will be considered, but it will be necessary to bear in mind that subjects of special interest to women will form a very small part of the matters to be discussed at the Conference.

### Venereal Diseases.

DR. V. DAVIES (U., Royton) asked the Minister of Health if he has any evidence showing a lessened incidence of venereal disease amongst the civil population of this country, and, if so, has he formed any opinion as to the cause of this diminution? MR. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN: As my hon. Friend is no doubt aware, there is no compulsory notification of cases of venereal disease in this country. I am, however, advised that the returns received from the treatment centres indicate that there has been a considerable reduction during the past five years in the incidence of these diseases, and particularly of syphilis, amongst the civilian population. One of the objects of the centres is to render the patients non-infective with a view to preventing the spread of venereal diseases, and I am advised that this part of the work of the centres has contributed specially to the decline in the incidence of these diseases. I may refer also to the fact that the recorded mortality from syphilis, and other conditions due to syphilis, has fallen considerably since the institution of special measures for the treatment of venereal diseases.

### Venereal Disease Act (1917) Amendment Bill.

MR. BASIL PETO (U., Barnstaple), on June 16th, secured the permission of the House of Commons to bring in a Bill "to permit the sale by chemists of disinfectants for protection against Venereal Disease, and for other purposes relating thereto." This Bill was read the First time the same day. F. A. U.



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

FRIDAY, JULY 9th, 1926.

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### EDITORIAL.

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

### MORE HONOURS FOR MEN!

Last Saturday the King's Birthday Honours List was issued. It is an extremely long list, and, as usual, the great bulk of it consists of the names of men who, apparently, have rendered to the State no particularly distinguished service. Lord Tredegar has been awarded a Viscounty "for public and political services"; Mr. H. S. Berry, J.P., has become a Baron "for public, political, and philanthropic services"; a Privy Councillorship has been given to Col. Gretton, M.P. "for political and public services"; to Sir Halford Mackinder, Chairman of the Imperial Shipping and Imperial Economic Committees; and to the Earl of Onslow "for public services." Six men have become Baronets "for political and public services," and forty-eight men have been given a Knighthood, among them being Mr. Henry Coward, Conductor of the Sheffield Musical Union. It will be remembered that Dame Ethel Smyth, whose fame as a composer is world-wide, was only awarded some time ago the D.B.E. The Order of the Bath has again only been bestowed upon men! Two men have received the G.C.B.; eight men the K.C.B.; and twenty-five men the C.B. The Royal Victorian Order has been bestowed upon twenty men, but no women. The Star of India has been given to five men, but to no woman. Twenty-six men have received the Order of St. Michael and St. George, but no woman. The Imperial Service Order has been given to eleven men, but to no woman. The Order of the British Empire has been bestowed lavishly upon men, but upon comparatively few women, as follows: The G.B.E. upon four men, and one woman—Mrs. Christina Allen Massey, "for services to the Dominion of New Zealand"; the K.B.E. upon twenty-one men; and the D.B.E. upon five women—Mrs. Kendal, "for services to the drama"; Miss Agnes Gwendoline Hunt, Founder and supporter of the Shropshire Orthopædic Hospital; the Hon. Maude Agnes Lawrence, Director of Women Establishments, H.M. Treasury; Mrs. Wilton Phipps, J.P., "for services to education"; and Dr. Mary Scharlieb, Consulting Gynæcologist, Royal Free Hospital. In our view, this is a very paltry "Honour" to give to such a distinguished woman as Dr. Scharlieb. At the close of the war, when the Government had to make some recognition of the services of women, it invented a new Order—the Order of the British Empire—in which women could be included without trespassing upon men's preserves in regard to other Honours; but even in the Order of the British Empire, men's names largely predominate! Other grades of this Order have been bestowed as follows: the C.B.E. on sixty-six men and six women; the O.B.E. on one-hundred and seventeen men and sixteen women; and the M.B.E. upon one-hundred and seventy men and twenty-two women. It is interesting to note that among the recipients of the C.B.E. are Miss Lilian Mary Faithfull, M.A., J.P., Principal of Cheltenham Ladies' College, 1907-1922, and Mrs. E. M. Glanville, LL.B., the first woman to be elected Vice-Chairman of the Metropolitan Division of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist

Association. In 1920 she was elected to the N.U.A. Executive Committee, and has been re-elected annually. We note that Alderman Bickerstaffe, who was Chairman and Leader of the Conservative Party in Liverpool for a number of years, has been made a Knight. The Honour in each case was given "for political and public services." Among the women M.B.E.s is Miss E. W. Cronin, Deputy-Governor of Holloway Prison. It is surely time that there was a woman Governor of this women's prison! The Order of the Indian Empire has been bestowed upon twenty-five men, but no woman; the Imperial Service Order has been awarded to twenty-seven men, but to no woman; the British Empire Medal has been given to four men, but to no woman; and the Kaisar-i-Hind Medal to five men and four women.

How long shall we have to wait to see the higher "Honours" shared between men and women, and a true recognition of service to the State, no matter by whom it is rendered?

### PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN INDIA.

Referring to Mr. Johnston's question on the above subject in the House of Commons and Earl Winterton's reply, it is of interest to note the following extracts from Indian papers received at our office last Monday:—

*New India* (Madras) for June 16 states: "With the almost daily reports one reads of young boys and girls being lured into criminal and immoral ways in the city, it is amazing that the Bombay Government should still delay putting into force the Bombay Children's Act, 1924. Under this Act, social workers and magistrates are empowered to remove children from bad surroundings, and also to commit juvenile offenders to industrial schools. One can easily sympathise, therefore, with Miss Katherine Davis in her complaint to *The Times of India* that by this Act remaining a dead letter, social and vigilance workers are very seriously handicapped. The Government's alleged difficulties in the way, namely, of suitable buildings to start rescue homes and industrial schools, are not insurmountable. According to Miss Davis, the existing institutions can be availed of at the start. The Government should not procrastinate any longer, as delay spells increase of crime, disease, and immorality. In this connection, Madras and Calcutta are to be congratulated on having made a good beginning in the treatment of juvenile offenders."

*Stri-Dharma* (official organ of the Women's Indian Association), in its June issue, reports: "Lord Lytton gave a very striking speech to the Society for the Protection of Children in Bombay. He said that in that city about 1,800 children pass through the hands of the police every year as the result of some offence against the law, and there is no adequate means of dealing with them. The bulk are returned immediately to the streets or bad homes. There are no reformatories, no industrial schools, the nearest being the juvenile jails and a reformatory for boys at Hazaribagh in Behar, where an annual contribution of boys is sent. Is it not an astonishing thing that in a large city like Bombay the children are so badly provided for? It is well known that a life of crime is not taken up by choice, and here are potential citizens being educated to a life of crime. To think that these little children are dragged up to the police court for minor offences, and then turned out into the streets again with no opportunity provided for a better life, is appalling. The need for homes and hostels is an elementary need. As Lord Lytton says: 'In order to bring the Children Act into real operation it will be necessary to provide a Reformatory, an Industrial School, and a Borstal Institution. We are badly handicapped by lack of voluntary associations.'"

Our view is that, with or without the assistance of voluntary associations, it is the bounden duty of the Government in any part of the British Empire to provide adequate protection for children and young people.

## MRS. DESPARD'S BIRTHDAY PARTY.

FIFTEENTH YEAR.

Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party was celebrated with even more than its accustomed enthusiasm on Wednesday of last week. The Council Chamber of Caxton Hall, prettily decorated for the occasion, was filled to overflowing with members and friends gathered to do honour, for the fifteenth year in succession, to the beloved First-President of the Women's Freedom League. All overseas and foreign suffragists now in this country were invited to be with us, and we had the pleasure of welcoming a great number of them.

The reception of the guests by Mrs. Despard, and a delightful interlude of Irish recitations by Miss Marks, selected from her amazing repertoire, with songs sympathetically rendered by Miss O'Brien, preceded the more serious part of the programme, viz., the speeches, and presentation of the Birthday Gift.

Our President, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, was greeted with a rousing ovation when she took the Chair for the evening, and paid a heartfelt tribute to the First-President of the League. Most of us, she said, carried our light in earthen vessels which were oftentimes so dense that the radiance could not shine through, but Mrs. Despard's clear vision was manifest to all the world in her long lifetime of love and service. Mention was also made from the Chair of the great Equal Franchise Procession and Demonstration in Hyde Park on July 3rd, which Mrs. Lawrence maintained was only our bow to the public, being the first beginning of a much larger campaign throughout the country for women's complete political equality with men.

Miss Anna Munro, in reminiscent mood, related how the first meeting she had ever organised for the Women's Freedom League was in Scotland 19 years ago, in conjunction with Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence. She also made an eloquent appeal to those who had once been members, but who had "fallen by the way," and those who were still outside the League, to join up immediately in the wonderful comradeship of the Suffrage cause and so hasten its complete victory.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, and just back from its Tenth Congress, held in Paris, expressed her "wholesale admiration" for Mrs. Despard, and declared that wherever the Woman's Movement was active her name was revered as one of its most brilliant pioneers. Mrs. Ashby then gave a brief résumé of the recent proceedings at the Paris Congress, specially distinguished by its strong delegations, carefully prepared work, and public demonstrations of approval. Emphasis was laid on the tremendous impression made upon French public opinion, the progress amongst women of the Far and Near East, and in the South American Republics, the deep and cordial bond of union women were forging

## MORAL STANDARDS OF YESTERDAY & TO-DAY.

By ALISON NEILANS.

The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene on Tuesday, June 22nd, celebrated the 56th Annual Meeting of its work. For the last eleven years this Society, which was founded by Josephine Butler in 1870, has worked under the title of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, and it is also the British Branch of the International Abolitionist Federation.

The Rev. W. C. Roberts, Rector of St. George's, Bloomsbury, presided, and pointed out that the Association was originally founded to abolish the State regulation of prostitution in this country and abroad, and that it had always stood for non-compulsory methods in dealing with the problems of venereal diseases. Mr. Roberts said that life could not be made simple or safe, and that it was impossible to try to compel people to be good by force.

Professor von Düring told how he had been converted by practical medical experience, first from being

for themselves in every civilised country, and the intimate connection of the Woman's Movement with the great cause of Peace and International Understanding.

Dr. Knight then read out the list of donors to the Birthday Fund, and handed the cheque to Mrs. Despard, who, as is usual on these occasions, returned it to our Treasurer for the work of the ensuing year.

This picturesque little ceremony over, Mrs. Despard rose to reply, but she could make no headway for some minutes because of the prolonged applause with which she was greeted, the audience rising and cheering *en masse*. When silence was again restored, Mrs. Despard made a delightful Birthday speech, with special reference to the stormy Suffrage experiences which had marked the first years of inauguration of the Birthday Party. She also paid tribute to the courage and self-sacrifice in the Women's Cause of the late Mrs. Thomson-Price, and to Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence's wonderful organising ability. "The cause of humanity is one," concluded Mrs. Despard, "and what hurts the individual hurts the whole." The whole aim of the Woman's Movement was to build a better world as a training-ground for the souls that should be born in the future. The recent progress of the movement amongst Indian women was a markedly hopeful sign, for the union of Western activity with Eastern habits of meditation was an absolute necessity in a future civilisation.

A cordial vote of thanks, moved by Mrs. Mustard, and carried with acclamation, then closed a very successful evening.

The Women's Freedom League offers its best thanks to the artistes who so kindly gave us the musical items; to little Margaret Johnson for her efficient presentation of Mrs. Despard's Birthday bouquet; to the Minerva Club members who presided over the beautiful flower-stall; and to Mrs. Harvey, member of our Letchworth branch, Mrs. J. R. Knight, and Mrs. Standen, who sent flowers; to the Mid-London branch for a well-stocked pound stall; and to Mrs. Eagle, Mrs. Lamartine Yates, Miss Berry, Miss Underwood, Miss Barton, Dr. Knight, Mrs. J. R. Knight, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Pierotti, Mrs. Northcroft, Miss Reeves, and Mrs. Bell, who sent pounds; to Mr. Elias for his generous gift of ice-cream, and to Mrs. Elias, who hospitably dispensed it; to Mrs. J. R. Knight for undertaking the strawberries and cream, which always receive a welcome, and to her helpers, Mrs. Keelan, Miss Mollie Stuart, and Miss Mary Knight; to Mrs. Fisher, the Minerva Club, and the Minerva Café, who were responsible for the refreshments, and to all our kind and busy waitresses and helpers who worked so cheerfully throughout the evening.



able to bring many more people under treatment in this way. Dr. von Düring dwelt at some length on the fact that on the Continent the history of the struggle against venereal diseases was the history of the State Regulation of Vice. There was an indissoluble association of ideas in the minds of people on the Continent, namely, venereal diseases—prostitution. Therefore all efforts at eradicating these diseases merely attempted to deal with prostitutes, whereas the obvious and simple truth, which did not seem yet to be fully grasped, was that the method of dealing with venereal diseases was to bring as many people under treatment as soon as possible and to keep them under treatment as long as possible. The speaker went on to say that venereal diseases were a medical problem, and that the physician is only an expert with regard to treatment, and he is not necessarily an authority on social, educational, and legislative measures, which lie outside his province. Hitherto, on the Continent, the great mistake had been that until quite recently the idea had prevailed that hygienic, social, educational, ethical, and criminal questions could all be dealt with at one blow. Thus nothing had been done right in dealing with problems of public health and morals, and no question had been solved.

Dr. von Düring emphasised some other points. There was all over the world a tendency, now that the old regulation system is medically discredited, to erect in its place a system of compulsory methods of dealing with venereal disease and prostitution, and all these measures contain within themselves the danger of a new and even more tyrannical system of regulation. He laid some stress on the changing moral outlook, especially amongst the young. On the one side there is a pronounced tendency to live as one pleases, allowing to women the same sexual freedom as has been given to men. The open *liaison*, the free union, and the right of indulging freely sexual inclinations is, in some circles on the Continent, regarded as indisputable, even by the very people who, 20 or 30 years ago, were vigorous defenders of responsibility and public morals. "On the other hand a new and extraordinarily interesting social and cultural phenomenon is arising, partly through the Youth-Movement. Here equal rights for young men and girls, equal rights for men and women, are taken for granted. Most of them do not profess allegiance to any religious or anti-religious sect. Frequently they are Socialists, or even Communists; but, whatever they are, they uphold and demand a high and equal standard of purity for both sexes, and are often both non-smokers and abstainers from alcohol. But not only the young people are interested, and take a stand on these questions. Large circles who some years before absolutely declined to discuss sexual questions, discuss to-day these questions, the rights of women and the same moral standard for men and women. It is of the greatest importance that these questions are now prominently brought within the view of large numbers of people."

Dr. Jane Walker spoke on the changes in medical and moral public opinion during the last 50 years. Regulation, and all the medical theories upon which it was based, was absolutely discredited. She firmly believed that the principles of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene were right. Compulsion, either applied to the problem of venereal disease or the problem of personal morals, must fail. Our own country was an object lesson of the success of the voluntary methods of fighting venereal diseases, and she thought in the long run it would be proved these methods, which encouraged a high standard of medical skill, would prove most successful.

Dr. Walker also referred to the changes in the moral outlook of men and women to-day as compared with 50 years ago, and said that the double standard could not much longer be maintained, even as a theory, and that the real problem before us all was whether we would work for a single high moral standard or a single low moral standard.

The young people of to-day were not so much in need of protection, in the ordinary sense, since they knew

a good deal more about some things than their elders did, but they needed friendly understanding and the support of a good moral tone in Society. Young people were very much concerned with expressing *themselves*, and perhaps rather regardless of other people's feelings; but we must remember that they must express themselves before they could express anything else, and she was confident they would not remain at mere self-expression, but would go through that and work to express themselves in the service of humanity.

The meeting was very well attended, and represented most of the organisations interested in these problems. A vote of thanks to the chairman and the speakers was moved by Dr. Helen Wilson, and seconded by Mr. Rowntree Gillett, who said what a help it had been in England to have the support of the Medical Women's Federation in the work of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.

#### WOMEN'S PEACE CONGRESS IN DUBLIN.

The Women's International League Congress, which is to be held from July 8th to 15th, will have women from nearly every country in the world at it, all seeking, by interchange of ideas, how best they can help to solve the problems of peace in their own countries. The subject of the Congress is "The Next Steps Toward Peace."

The Irish Section is setting up committees to study the subjects of Militarism and Minorities, and to report on them to the Congress Commissions. The problem of the relations between minorities and majorities, in particular, is pressingly important in Ireland, and special attention is being given to it, men and women outside the section who have studied minority questions in Ireland and elsewhere being invited to serve on the committee.

Every group of women, whether standing for civic reform, labour, or a political party, is to receive the Congress delegates. The Irish Women Citizens' Association are issuing invitations to a *Conversazione* at which the work of women in Parliaments will be the subject of discussion. The Trade Union women are having an afternoon tea party at their seaside club for delegates interested in the Labour movement, and Irish Labour leaders will thus have a chance to meet these delegates.

The United Irishwomen's Society (whose aim is to draw the women of Ireland together, irrespective of class or creed, for the betterment of rural conditions) intend, through their President, the Countess of Fingal, to invite a group of the delegates to Killeen Castle to talk over rural problems. In the grounds of Killeen Castle are some very interesting historical remains.

The women of the Republican parties have formed a committee to arrange an afternoon excursion for the entertainment of the delegates. They mean to take their guests by motor to the valley of the Boyne River, to give them an opportunity of seeing the most ancient and famous of Ireland's prehistoric monuments, the tumuli at Newgrange and Dowth, underground temples of a forgotten religion, dating back many centuries before the Christian era, and used in later, though still ancient times, as sacred burial places. A picnic tea will be arranged in the grounds of a house near by.

The League of Nations Society is organising a garden party at a country house near Dublin, and the Governor-General of the Free State is inviting the delegates to a garden party at his residence in the Phoenix Park.

Many other groups and individuals are eager for opportunities to meet the delegates, and to one of these groups—the Mothers' Pensions Societies—the Committee of the Irish Section have promised that some delegates will speak at a meeting organised on the subject of Mothers' Pensions, as the situation created by the need of widowed mothers in Ireland now is very tragic.

## Women's Freedom League.

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

Telephone:—MUSEUM 1429.

Telegrams:—"DESARD, MUSEUM 1429, LONDON."

Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.

President—Mrs. PETHICK-LAWRENCE.

Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT.

Hon. Organising Secretary—Mrs. WHETTON.

General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### WHERE TO GO.

#### WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

##### PROVINCES.

Saturday, July 10th.

Portsmouth Branch. Garden Party, Rowlands

Castle. Hostesses: Mrs. and Miss Whitehead.

Train leaves Fratton Park 3.5 p.m.

##### OTHER SOCIETIES.

July 8—15th.

National Women's International League. Fifth

Biennial Congress at the University, Dublin.

Monday, July 12th, at 8.15 p.m.

Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square,

W.C.1. Symposium: Five-minute speeches on "A Quotation from

my Commonplace Book."

July 28th—Aug. 2nd.

International Federation of University Women. Fourth Biennial

Congress at the Colonial Institute, Amsterdam.



DARE TO  
BE FREE.

W.C.1. Symposium: Five-minute speeches on "A Quotation from my Commonplace Book."  
July 28th—Aug. 2nd.  
International Federation of University Women. Fourth Biennial Congress at the Colonial Institute, Amsterdam.

### BRANCH NOTES.

#### MINERVA CLUB.

On Sunday evening we celebrated our second Birthday by giving a reception to our President, Mrs. Despard, who in her speech spurred us all on to further efforts for the Women's Cause. We were very pleased to welcome some of the veterans of the early days, and one of them, Mrs. Meeson Coates, gave us some delightful reminiscences of those days in a little impromptu speech. Amongst other speakers were Mrs. Mustard and our Californian member, Mrs. Park, who told us of her work for the Women's Freedom League in her own country. Miss Reeves gave a report of the work, and gladdened our hearts by showing a large increase in the number of members of the branch, bearing out Mrs. Despard's words, that there is a great awakening in the country to the need for the work which has been carried on for so long by the Women's Freedom League.

#### MID-LONDON.

On Thursday, July 1st, we held a very successful and enthusiastic open-air meeting in Hyde Park, presided over by Mrs. Alice Park, of California. Our speakers were Miss Katherine Blake, of U.S.A., and Mrs. Clifford Ewen, a branch member, their subject being Equal Franchise. Both speakers kept a large crowd interested in the reason "why we want the vote" for the young women under thirty, and reminded the audience that there were still a number of women over thirty who were unfranchised. We offer our very best thanks to speakers and Chairman for their help, which we greatly appreciated.

We should also like to thank Mrs. Evans, Miss Steven, Miss Mustard, and Mrs. Beardsley for the splendid help at the Pound Stall at the Birthday Party on June 30th.

I am asked by the Treasurer to remind branch members who have not yet sent in their contribution to the Birthday Fund to do so without delay. We should like our gift this year to be as large as possible, as there is still a great work ahead of us. Do help us by sending in your donation by return.

(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. S. FLOWERS, "L'Hirondelle," Clavering Road, Wanstead Park.

### EQUAL FRANCHISE "AT HOME."

A most successful "At Home" was held at Caxton Hall on July 2nd, under the auspices of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, the Women's Freedom League, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, and the British Commonwealth League, to meet delegates from the Paris Congress, and speakers and marchers attending the Hyde Park Equal Political Rights Demonstration. Miss Eleanor Rathbone presided.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby gave a brief résumé of the recent proceedings in Paris, with special reference to the excellent work carried on by the five Standing Committees of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. The controversy which had occurred over protective legislation, Mrs. Ashby said, had really been beneficial, inasmuch as it resulted in a sharp differentiation between the protection of the pregnant mother and the protection of the ordinary industrial woman worker, thus clearing up a certain confusion of mind which had long been in operation. Mrs. Ashby stressed the necessity for further scientific researches in con-

nection with industrial fatigue, and expressed satisfaction at the great improvement in the physical fitness of the modern woman, owing to increased sport and the adoption of rational clothing.

Mrs. Despard emphasised the importance of an international outlook in the Woman's Movement, and the breaking-down of artificial barriers between the nations. War, by various devices, had been made to appear attractive in the past. Why was not Peace made equally attractive? The internationalism of the Woman's Movement was the great hope of the future.

Mrs. Crawford (St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance) praised the excellent reports of the Paris Congress in all the feminist papers, and said it was a very hopeful sign when the women of the ex-enemy and of the allied countries met and fraternised as they had done at Paris. The enthusiastic reception of Frau Schreiber by the French public at the great Peace meeting in the Trocadero was a stirring occasion.

Mme. Fahmy Wisa Bey, a member of the Egyptian delegation to the Paris Congress, said that one of the most interesting facts brought out by the Congress was the way in which women in every country were awakening to their responsibilities. The women of Egypt had realised themselves by coming to the help of their menfolk in their political aspirations. Women all over the world must realise their special mission.

Mme. Lanbridis, a member of the Greek delegation to the Paris Congress, described the formation, after the Geneva Congress, of the Greek League for Women's Rights. During the agitation of Greek women for the Suffrage, rendered all the more difficult by constant changes of Government, the signatures of 70 Members of Parliament had been secured for a Suffrage petition. Though success had not yet crowned their efforts, the municipal suffrage had been promised to Greek women in 1928.

Mrs. Lang (Canada) described the procedure in the nine Provincial Parliaments of Canada which deal with social legislation, and in the Federal Parliament which supervises Army, Navy, etc. Canadian women, as well as men, could vote for the Federal Parliament and their own Provincial Parliament, but the women of Quebec were not yet permitted a Provincial Parliamentary vote. Canadian women were fully recognised as the real partners of men. Co-guardianship was in force in Canada long before it was agreed to in Great Britain. The Canadian Criminal Code was considered to be the best in the world, except that the age of consent at 14 was too low. The right of married women to retain their own nationality was also permitted for about a year, but was eventually rescinded because the Attorney-General said Canada must not be ahead of Great Britain in this matter! The economic status of married women in Canada, however, badly needed remedying. Except in British Columbia and Saskatchewan, where married women received a definite sum or money on widowhood, Canadian law in the remaining seven provinces only entitled a woman to receive one-third of her husband's income.

A vote of thanks to Chair and speakers, proposed by Miss Collinson (British Commonwealth League), terminated a very interesting afternoon.

## THE BIRTHDAY FUND.

Our list will come out next week.  
Please send me your contribution  
if it is belated. This fund has to  
see us through the summer, and  
your name must be in this list.

## THE SUFFRAGE MARCH.

Many thanks for all the help we  
received for this Procession.  
Who will send me the £35 we  
spent in band, printing, organ-  
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of work may not come upon the  
General Funds?

144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

E. KNIGHT.



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**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 1s. Entrance Fee suspended during present year. All particulars from the SECRETARY. Telephone: Museum 4791.

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**FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.**—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, July 11th. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden. "St. Francis of Assisi"

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Name .....

Address .....

I enclose £ : s. d. as my first Annual Subscription.

Minimum Annual Subscription 1/-