

THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXX. No. 1,045. (Registered at the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1929

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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AGNES DAWSON, L.C.C.

At the Minerva Club last week, Miss Dawson, Senior Whip of the Labour Party on the London County Council, gave an Address which threw much light on the working of the new Local Government Act. Miss Dawson opened by saying that the Minority Report, drawn up and signed solely by the Sydney Webbs, of the Royal Commission on the Poor Law in 1909, was in advance of its time. There was an echo of that Report in the present Act. Co-ordination of

the services was now considered as practical politics.

It was noteworthy, said Miss Dawson, that although women were not considered to come up to the scratch with men in mathematics and finance, the outstanding speech on the De-Rating Bill had been made by Miss Susan Lawrence, who had confounded her hearers. In the near future women would be much more called upon for administrative work.

In the first place the measure had been described as the De-Rating Bill, its object being to lift the burden of rates from certain industries in order to assist employers and lessen unemployment. In the case of some authorities with a great burden of Poor Relief, the assessment value was already low, whereas other authorities, levying high rates, were called upon for little Poor Law Relief. The Grant-earning Formula to re-adjust the incidence of taxation, which aimed at a more equitable distribution, was ably pulled to shreds in the House by Miss Susan Lawrence.

Miss Dawson's special criticism of the formula is that it takes no account of unemployed women, hence makes a fair distribution of the Exchequer Grant impossible. Mr. Pethick Lawrence, M.P., has already criticised it on this ground in the House.

Under the new Act, a Central Public Assistance

Committee and Local Public Assistance Committees will take the place of the Boards of Guardians. On each Local Public Assistance Committee in London there will be about 30 members, some of whom, but not more than one-third, will be co-opted. There is an enormous difference between elected and co-opted members. The latter are not responsible to the electors, do not carry the same weight, and have no responsibility in finance.

At present there are 2,250 women serving on Boards of Guardians, and only 235 women on County Councils. The new Act will deprive many women of Poor Law administration. There is nothing in the Bill to prevent women from being elected to County Councils; but so far, women have shown themselves less willing to stand for Council election than for election on to Boards of Guardians. Out of the 144 members of the London County Council only twenty-five are women.

Miss Dawson criticised the Block Grant on the grounds that it discouraged the expansion of the Voluntary Services. The substitution of a Block Grant for a percentage grant was bound to have a slowing up effect on Maternity and Child Welfare. Instead of the Ministry of Health bearing half of the total expenditure, the grant would be determined for five years on the basis of expenditure of a particular year, 1928 in the first place. If during the five years there was any expansion, the whole of the increase in expenditure must be borne by the rates. Lady Astor had criticised the Block Grant on the grounds that the money was pooled, whereas with the Percentage Grant it was ear-marked for special services. It was better that such services should remain stimulated by a central authority, represented by the Ministry. At the present time nearly half our County Boroughs and two-thirds of our County Councils carry out less than half the services for which they can receive the Ministry grant.

Miss Dawson considers that the co-ordination of the Services made possible by the Act will be highly beneficial. The present pauper children, sick, mental and maternity cases would be sent to the ordinary schools and hospitals, irrespective of their means, but she foresees enormous administrative expenditure before the new machinery can be set into motion and anybody relieved by a penny, and fears that highly paid administrative posts made necessary by the transition may tend to

become permanent; it is also lamentable that far fewer women would share in the care of the Poor than under the present Boards of Guardians.

In the discussion that followed, Miss Nina Boyle said that every woman's organisation should send up names of suitable women for nomination as co-opted members of Public Assistance Committees; the authorities were looking for people who had had experience. Miss Eunice Murray, Miss Alix Clark, and others joined in the discussion.

WOMEN AND JURY SERVICE.

Readers of THE VOTE will remember that the Women's Freedom League recently questioned the right of the accused's counsel to challenge women jurors on the ground of sex, and the Secretary wrote to the Lord Chancellor and the Attorney-General, asking if they would kindly make a pronouncement on this matter. We have pleasure in giving below the letter received from Sir William Jowitt, M.P., the Attorney-General:—

Royal Courts of Justice,
Strand, W.C.2.

2nd October, 1929.

Dear Madam,

Thank you for your letter of the 26th ultimo, calling my attention to a recent case at the Central Criminal Court where defending counsel successfully challenged the right of two women jurors to serve on the jury on the ground of sex.

I am not very familiar with the procedure regarding the summoning of jurors, except that I know this to be the function of the sheriff, and that the number of women on each panel should, by the rules made under the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919, be in the same proportions to men as the total number of women are to men on the Jurors' Books. The actual selection of a jury for a particular case is by ballot, performed by an officer of the Court. When, therefore, the right of a juror to serve is challenged, and allowed, the officer of the Court draws another name from the box, and nothing but chance determines whether the substitute is a man or a woman. Selection by ballot is a fundamental principle in the composition of juries, and I think it would be a mistake to depart from it.

I know nothing of the facts of the case in question beyond the references to it contained in your letter and in the article in "The Vote." It appears to be a case of felony, in which event the accused had a perfect right to challenge any number of jurors up to twenty without giving any reason for doing so. This being the case, the accused may therefore object to a juror

Miss Underwood said that the new Local Government Act concerned us all. The Act had tremendous advantages, and women must make up their minds to take their chance with men for election. They must come forward at all County Council and Borough Council Elections, and not expect to be co-opted without the trouble of an election. They must get their parties to put forward good women candidates.

simply because he does not like his or her appearance. He is not bound to divulge what his objection is, but if he is incautious enough to do so the Court has no power to disallow it simply because it is a frivolous one. You will find authority for this in a case which came before the Court of Criminal Appeal on the 7th December, 1925, and which is reported in Volume 19, Criminal Appeal Reports, at page 67. There the Appellant had been convicted of house-breaking, and sentenced to four years' penal servitude. At the trial he challenged a woman juror, and when asked why he had done so, he said: "That it was because she was a woman." His challenge was ignored, and on this ground the Court of Criminal Appeal came to the conclusion that the proceedings were a nullity, and ordered a new trial.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) WILLIAM A. JOWITT.

It is clear from the foregoing that if the plaintiff is to have as much chance of securing justice as the defendant in these cases involving sexual offences, the law relating to Jury Service must be altered by an amending Act, which should provide that whenever a woman is challenged her place must be taken by a member of her own sex. At present there are very many fewer women than men jurors, because there are so many more men than women able to fulfil the qualifications for Jury Service. A juror must be a person who owns property, or pays rates on a house assessed at not less than £30 a year in Middlesex and the County of London, or £20 in other counties. Comparatively few women own property or themselves pay rates. We therefore urge that political enfranchisement should carry with it liability to jury service. Citizenship brings with it responsibilities as well as rights, and any man or woman who can exercise a vote should be willing to shoulder the responsibility of jury service. If every voter were liable to be called upon to act as a juror, it would not be difficult to replace by other women the women who are challenged, even if the accused or the accused's counsel exercises the right to challenge jurors up to twenty times.

Tea and Politics

at the **Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.**

THURSDAY AFTERNOONS at 4.30 (Tea at 4 o'clock).

NOV. 7th. Speaker: MRS. ARCHDALE (Chairman, Woman Peers Committee). Subject: "Women and the Upper House." Chair: MRS. DORE.
NOV. 21st. Speaker: MRS. POLLARD. Subject: "Women in the Ministry." Chair: MISS F. A. UNDERWOOD.
NOV. 28th. Speaker: MRS. BIGLAND. Subject: Part II. "The Recent Assembly." Chair: MRS. MUSTARD.
DEC. 5th. Speaker: MISS NINA BOYLE. Subject: "Slavery Convention of the League of Nations." Chair: MRS. PETHICK-LAWRENCE.
DEC. 12th. Speaker: MISS MORGAN GIBBON. Subject: "My Election Experiences." Chair: MRS. FLOWERS
PLEASE BOOK THESE DATES. Collection.

IRISHRY IN SONG AND VERSE.

RECITAL

BY

FLORENCE MARKS

(Late of the Abbey Theatre, Dublin)

WEDNESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 27th,

in the

ART WORKERS' GUILD HALL,

6, QUEEN SQUARE, BLOOMSBURY, W.C.1

AT 8.30 P.M.

A varied programme will include Irish Ballads and Folk Songs, Skits and Absurdities, Verse, serious and humorous, &c

TICKETS 2/6, at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1, or at Robert & John's Tea Shop, Adam Street, Strand, W.C.2.

Book this Date!

Friday, November 29th, at 7.30.

SOCIAL EVENING

AT

KINGSWAY HALL.

Speakers: MRS. MARY HAMILTON, M.P.,
MRS. PETHICK-LAWRENCE,
and others.

Chair: Miss LILIAN PIEROTTI.

Songs by Miss Edith Pigott, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.,
Miss Miriam Prelooker.

Recitations by Mrs Evelyn Gatland (Gold Medallist).

Tickets 2/-, including Refreshments, from the Hon. Sec. Mid-London Branch, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C.1.

GREEN WHITE AND GOLD FAIR.

The Green White and Gold Fair will be held at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Thursday and Friday, November 14th and 15th, and will be open each day from 3 to 9 p.m. The Fair will be formally opened on Thursday, November 14th, by DR. ETHEL BENTHAM, J.P., M.P., at 3 p.m., and on Friday, November 15th, at 4 p.m., by MISS ELEANOR RATHBONE, J.P., C.C., M.P. The chair will be taken on Thursday by Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, and on Friday by Mrs. Mustard.

Stalls and Stallholders.

Hampstead Branch.—Handkerchiefs: Miss Lyndon, Miss James, and Miss Trotter.

Chiswick Branch.—Christmas Decorations: Mrs. Parkin, Mrs. Percival, and Members.

Edinburgh and Glasgow Branches (Scottish Stall).—Mrs. MacLeod Easson, Miss Godwin, Mrs. Boxshall, Miss Munro, and Miss Sidley.

Mid-London Branch and Barnsbury Branch (Stationery Stall).—Mrs. Anderton and members of the Mid-London and Barnsbury Branches.

Portsmouth Branch.—Household Goods: Mrs. Whetton, Mrs. Brading, and Members.

South Eastern Branches (Basket Stall).—Miss White and Members.

Book Stall.—Mrs. Pierotti, Miss M. Pierotti, Miss Stephens, and Miss Marian Berry.

China Stall.—Mrs. Lindus, Miss Lindus, Mrs. Tanner, and Mrs. E. J. Rubra.

Country Produce and Cakes.—Miss A. M. Clark and Friends.

Nasal Hygiene Stall.—Dr. Lewin.

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

Pound Stall.—Mrs. Legge and Members.

Shilling Stall.—Mrs. Delbanco, Mrs. Wilss, and Mrs. Thompson.

Sweets.—Miss Mary Knight and Friends.

Toys.—Mrs. Knight and Friends.

Treasures Old and New.—Mrs. Dore, Mrs. Mustard, and Miss Phyllis Mustard.

Underclothing (supported by the Hackney Branch).—Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Boxall, and Mrs. Roper.

"Vote" Stall.—Mrs. Evans, Miss Barton, Miss E. Pigott, Mrs. Flowers, and Miss Lilian Armstrong.

Please Help.

Will everyone interested in the Women's Cause send us something for one or other of our Stalls. All kinds of useful and fancy articles will be most acceptable and will help to supply our Stalls with the many goods for which our Annual Fair is always noted. Please spare a little time to make some pretty article for the Fair, or if you have not time to make anything, buy something. Goods that always sell well are Overalls and Aprons; we require dozens of these useful articles to supply the wants of visitors to the Fair. Lingerie is always much sought after, and a number of dainty garments are needed for this Stall. Handkerchiefs are wanted in large numbers, at all prices and of all sizes. Gifts of Table Linen, Sheets, Pillow Cases, Towels, Teacloths, Dusters, Pots, Pans, etc., are wanted for our Household Stall; these goods are always very popular, and many are needed. Stationery is always useful. Visitors to the Fair often buy a supply to last them for months; therefore Note Paper is required, and many Blotters, Post Cards, Pens, Pencils, etc. The Shilling Stall is always a joy to our younger members, who love to buy these pretty little things for their Christmas presents. Pin-cushions, Ash Trays, small Fancy Boxes, Powder Puffs, etc., will be most acceptable. Treasures Old and New are needed; please hunt out all the articles you have put away because you are tired of them and send them to us for the Fair, and if you have no old Treasures, buy us some new ones, large or small—it does not matter which, all kinds are required. The Sweet Stall is one of the great attractions of the Fair. Many boxes are required to supply the needs of buyers at this Stall. Toys are wanted in large numbers, also Books—Children's Books are in great demand for Christmas presents. Gifts of Baskets and China are much wanted, especially Teapots, Hot-water Bottles, Vases, Jugs, Dishes, etc. General goods will be acceptable for our Scottish Stall, and home-made Jam and pounds of Tea, Butter, Rice, Sugar, Currants, etc., for our Pound Stall; also Cakes and Country Produce. Please

support the Fair to the very utmost of your means. If you cannot do anything else, write to the Hon. Secretary for twenty, thirty, forty, or fifty handbills and send them to your friends and ask them to come and meet you at the Fair. They are sure to enjoy themselves and have a delightful time.

Entertainments.

An excellent programme of Entertainments has been arranged by the Entertainment Committee, and will include a short Poetry Recital on both days of the Fair at 6.30 p.m., by Miss Katherine Barry, Miss Louise Ducat, Miss Louise Cottam, and Miss Clare Soper (students of Miss Marjorie Gullan's Polytechnic School of Speech Training), and a short Play on Friday, November 15th, at 8 p.m., by the Dramatic Group of the Practical Psychology Club of London. Those taking part are Leander Porteous, Peggy Leather, Ivy Grantham, Kathleen Fitton, Ethel Watson, Anita Davis, Edith Roberts and Arthur Nicol.

Concerts will be arranged each day by Miss T. A. Davis, who will be assisted by Miss Lilian Foulis, Miss Joan Dunsford, Miss Mabel J. Marx, Miss Alice Manderville, Miss Staples, and Mr. G. H. Harris; and there will be a String Orchestra, by students from the Royal College of Music, on Thursday, November 14th. Miss New will kindly act as announcer to the entertainments.

Character Reading.

Miss Marion Schofield Coates has kindly promised to organise the Character Readers, and will be assisted by Mrs. Drawater.

The following have kindly promised to give Readings:—Mrs. E. Espir, Madame Gena, B.Sc., Miss Hudson, Mrs. Platnance, and Miss Wall; Mrs. Peters will tell stories from tea cups.

Competitions.

Visitors to the Fair may look forward to a delightful time in the Competition Corner of the Fair. There will be various attractive Competitions, including **Magic Squares** by Miss E. M. Elliott, Mrs. Gallop, Miss F. A. Elliott, Miss D. Elliott, Miss Crawley, and Miss Coushey.

Treasure Hunt.—Miss J. Boorman, Mrs. Creasey, Miss Frankiss, and Miss Palmer.

Mystery Stall.—Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Stanton, Mrs. Kennedy, Miss J. Kennedy, Miss G. Paine, Miss F. Potter, and Miss Seif.

Afternoon Tea and Evening Refreshments.

Teas will be served in the Lounge from 4 to 6 p.m., and Refreshments will be served after 7 p.m. Miss Reeves, Mrs. Fisher, Miss New, Miss Owen, and the members of the Minerva Club Branch have very kindly undertaken this part of the work, and will be assisted by the staff of the Minerva Club and other friends.

The Information Bureau.

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

Doors.

Mrs. Antill and Mrs. Nichols have kindly promised to be at the door.

The Cloak Room.

This most useful part of the work will again be kindly undertaken by Mrs. Scott.

Other Societies and Friends taking Stalls.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.
The Dames of St. Joan.
The Invalid and Crippled Children's Society.
The Open Door Council.
The Psychological Aid Society.
Miss Burwood (Beads).
Mrs. Clifford (Wax Flowers).
Cooper's Studios (Decorated Furniture, etc.).
The Misses M. L. and G. E. Fraser (Jazzle Pottery).
Miss Seyfang.
Miss H. D. Stringer.

TICKETS, price 1s. 10d. (including Tax), the first day until 5 p.m.; after 5 p.m. and on the second day, 1s. 2d. (including Tax). All communications and gifts, also applications for Stalls, should be sent to Miss E. Berry, Hon. Fair Secretary, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1st, 1929.

WELFARE OF SEAMEN IN PORTS.

Readers of THE VOTE will remember that at the beginning of last month the International Labour Organisation held a Conference at Geneva on the Welfare of Seamen in Ports. At this Conference a Report was to be submitted by a Sub-Committee appointed by the Joint Maritime Commission in 1925, which had special reference to protection from venereal diseases, and among its recommendations were the following:—

A (5) "Prohibition against the employment of female attendants in places where strong drinks are served."

A (6) "Strict medical control of women who have illicit intercourse with men."

The Women's Freedom League, together with other women's organisations, protested against both the above recommendations. We sent our protest to the Director of the International Labour Office in Geneva, and to the Heads of our own Government, asking them to instruct the Government delegates to oppose these recommendations on the grounds that they were unjust to women and that they would be ineffective in operation. By the kindness of the International Labour Organisation's Office in London, we have now received a copy of the Provisional Record of the recent International Maritime Conference, and from it we are delighted to see that the Conference is recommended to instruct the International Labour Office to consult the Governments upon "prohibition of the employment of attendants of both sexes in public houses under a certain age;" and that no reference is made to the "medical control of women." This is certainly a victory for common-sense and justice. At the same time we must insist that the age of prohibition shall be the same for both sexes. In connection with this particular recommendation it is gratifying to read the following paragraph which appears in the Provisional Record:—

"With regard to the restrictions on the employment of female attendants in public houses, it was pointed out that it was scarcely advisable to attempt to regulate the work of women in a particular occupation when no women were present on the Committee. The Committee therefore decided merely to mention the prohibition of the employment of attendants of both sexes in public houses under a certain age."

It is some advantage that the International Labour Office has at last realised that when matters affecting the paid work of women are dealt with by any Committee or Conference, women must be members of that Committee or Conference. Women are now past the stage in which they can be legislated for or against without being consulted.

UNEQUAL PAY AGAIN!

An advertisement recently appeared in the *Glasgow Herald* for a Woman Inspector under the Scottish Education Authority. A woman, who applied, received the following information in regard to the salary scale:—

"Men.—Commencing at £500 per annum and rising by annual increments of £25 to £900.

"Women.—Commencing at £300 per annum and rising by annual increments of £20 to £500.

"Women Inspectors appointed at the age of 36 or over, may, at the discretion of the Department, receive a commencing salary above £300, provided that the excess over £300 shall not exceed £20 for every year by which the officer's age at appointment exceeds 35, and that in no case shall the commencing salary exceed £400.

"In addition to this is a bonus, which at present raises a salary of £300 and £500 to £423 5s. and £671 15s. respectively."

PENAL REFORM.

At a meeting held by the Howard League for Penal Reform at Church House, Westminster, last week, very sympathetic speeches on prisoners and their treatment were made by the Rt. Hon. J. R. Clynes, the Home Secretary, who for the greater part of the time presided at the meeting, Mr. Salter Davies, Dr. Gillespie, Lecturer in Psychology, Guy's Hospital, London, and Miss Margery Fry, J.P. Mr. Clynes said that the number of prison sentences had fallen from 158,000 in 1914 to 43,000 in 1927. In part, that was due to improved social conditions, particularly with the decline in drunkenness; but it was also due to a greater use of alternatives to imprisonment, especially to the use of the Probation Act, as well as to the provision in the Criminal Justice Administration Act of 1914, allowing time for the payment of fines. Whatever reforms might be effected in prisons, it was a far greater reform to keep people out of prison altogether. Mr. Clynes paid a warm tribute to the fine work of the 500 men and women unofficial visitors to the prisons in various parts of the country; and said that the ideal at which administrators were aiming was to return the prisoner to normal life, better fitted for freedom than when he left it. The Home Secretary added that all their efforts were liable to be frustrated unless the prisoner felt some hope that on his release he would have an opportunity of social reinstatement.

DR. GILLESPIE gave a fascinating address on "The Service of Psychology in the Prevention and Treatment of Crime," showing how children may be made into criminals by a dominating father—however good his intentions—a too indulgent mother, or a too rigid mother. General adaptability, the desire and the will to succeed, were the gifts of the ordinary, sane citizen. Excessive day-dreaming, on the other hand, leaving things unfinished to start others, which in their turn were never completed, led to a curious desire to fail, a conviction that one did not deserve to succeed, and thus one became a failure in life unless these tendencies were corrected.

MR. SALTER DAVIES described the benefits of educational efforts on behalf of the prisoners at Maidstone, how the men responded to these efforts, and the educational accomplishments of so many men prisoners.

We yield to none in our desire to see a more enlightened and a more humane prison system for men; but what about women prisoners? In listening to the many excellent speeches at Church House that evening, it was very difficult to realise that there were any women prisoners in the country, or, if there were, that the speakers had any interest at all in their welfare. Yet, in 1927, there were 7,636 convictions of women, and the daily average number of women prisoners in Holloway throughout that year was 318. There was no enthusiast present at this meeting to tell the audience of wonderful and varied efforts in the education and training of women prisoners. Why? Because there is no woman member of the Prison Commission, which consists of four men, who, together with the Home Secretary, are entirely responsible for the prison system in both men's and women's prisons; because there is still a man governor at Holloway, the women's prison, and men governors at all other women's prisons and women's sections of prisons, with the single exception of Aylesbury, where Miss Lillian Barker is, happily, the governor of the Girls' Borstal Institution, and also of its Convict Prison, in which the daily average number of women is ten; and because there is no woman inspector of prisons. We submit these facts to the present Home Secretary, as we did to his predecessor, Sir William Joynson Hicks, who was also very sympathetic towards male prisoners, and we appeal to Mr. Clynes to initiate a genuine reform in our prison system so far as women prisoners are concerned by appointing, without delay, women to the Prison Commission, to the governorship of all women's prisons and women's sections of prisons, and to the inspectorate of prisons.

SAVING THE MOTHERS.

Conference called by the Maternal Mortality Committee, at Central Hall, Westminster, October 22nd, Lady Cynthia Colville in the chair.

The meeting was very crowded and exceedingly enthusiastic. A very large number of women's societies were represented, including the Women's Freedom League.

MR. ARTHUR GREENWOOD, M.P., Minister of Health, said that even more important than the deaths of 3,000 mothers yearly in childbirth was the loss of vitality, strength, and happiness of a much larger number. His predecessor had left him two good legacies:—the Departmental Maternal Mortality Committee (Dame Janet Campbell, secretary), which was continuing its scientific inquiry into causes of maternal deaths, and the Departmental Committee on training and employment of Midwives, which had reported and made many valuable recommendations for a comprehensive scheme of maternity service. These he was considering very sympathetically; the major proposals would require legislation, those that could now be carried out he would bring forcibly before local authorities. All causes of mothers' deaths are still not understood, but we know certain truths, that the mother's chance of safety varies with the standard of public health, and this standard is largely a question of public opinion; determination will get things done. We are entitled to expect Local Authorities to live up to the standard of Public Health as presented by public opinion through Parliament; many local bodies did not use their powers.

He hoped soon to deal broadly with the question and fill up the gaps so as to ensure the necessary help and economic support during pregnancy. Social insurance must include maternity. A campaign of support was necessary; Public Health got pushed into the background by other questions. It was magnificent to know they were all uniting in this crusade. He hoped he might be able to, and would be proud if he could, do something really to lessen maternal mortality and help not only Britain but the world.

MRS. HUBBACK presented the Report of the Committee for the past year, describing:—

(1) The Departmental Committee on Maternal Mortality.

(2) The British Medical Association Memorandum calling for better education of doctors.

(3) The Departmental Committee on Midwives, which in its Report calls for extension of maternity benefit, to include a complete maternity service.

(4) Local Authorities. Practically no progress.

ALDERMAN ROSE DAVIES (Wales) said, in her district of ten administrative counties, mortality was very high, from 5 to 7 per 1,000, compared to 4 for the whole country. In the small villages sanitation was very bad; nearly half the deaths were from puerperal fever, the other half because of the difficulty of getting skilled attention in time. Official transport must be provided

by public authority. Life is the one thing that matters. Mothers often lived in isolated cottages. The antenatal clinics must be brought to the villages once or twice a week, right up to the mothers; they cannot travel to them, and it is the right of every mother to have them. Many of the mothers required feeding. Complete maternity service must be available even to the lonely shepherd's wife away on the hills, as her right as a mother giving to the country the best that she has to give.

MRS. HOOD (Women's Co-operative Guild) called for much more accommodation in maternity homes, so that abnormal cases could be sent to hospital very early, weeks before the confinement, and so that mothers should not, in small, crowded rooms, have the cares of washing, housekeeping, and little children during the lying-in period. Mothers should be advised to go into maternity homes and have a rest.

DR. BRACKENBURY (British Medical Association) assured the Health Minister that the medical profession was entirely with him. Public opinion was already quite ripe in most parts of the country and in favour of an immediate move. He need not hesitate to make it even his first object and to bring in an immediate Bill, such as he had referred to. The Government and the Chancellor of the Exchequer must remember that it would have been cheaper if done earlier, and the longer it waits the more it will cost.

MISS STEPHENSON (Wiltshire), chairman of a Public Health Committee, found it very depressing that rural bodies were so much interested in roads and bridges and so little in maternal mortality. She suggested that midwives should live together and work like a firm; they could easily get mileage from the local authority. An all-night telephone service should be arranged; every village had some house from which a person could ring up the midwife if needed.

MISS PYE (Midwives' Institute) welcomed the scheme because it was based on a living wage and recognition of a midwife's position. Midwives were not responsible for the high mortality. The time has come for this great dream of safety for mothers to be brought into the world of reality.

A representative from the CLAPHAM MATERNITY HOSPITAL said that their average figure over forty years was 2.2, though patients were sometimes brought in very late.

The resolution was carried unanimously:—

"That this Conference adopts the Report of the Maternal Mortality Committee, heartily welcomes the Report of the Departmental Committee on the Training and Employment of Midwives recommending schemes to make available for all mothers skilled attention and nursing care before, during, and after childbirth, and urges the Minister of Health to put into force as soon as possible the recommendations concerning maternal care, and undertakes to give him its active and enthusiastic support in this work."

MUI TSAI SYSTEM IN HONG KONG.

According to *The Times*, the Attorney-General, in Hong Kong, has brought in a Bill in the Legislative Council relating to mui tsai. When introducing that Bill, he explained that the legislation was intended to bring to an end as soon as possible the present practice of the employment of mui tsai. Its abolition, he said, could not be effected by mere legislation, but required the education of public opinion. The Secretary of State had directed that the registration of all mui tsai should now be enforced. Official correspondence on the subject would be published at the earliest possible date. The Attorney-General added that he hoped that employers of mui tsai would accept the situation and act promptly and generally. If, however, they did not do so, it was proposed to enact more

drastic regulations, as the Government had no intention of allowing the registration of mui tsai to remain a dead letter.

In a foot-note to the above paragraph, *The Times* states that the mui tsai is the female child of pauper parents who is sold into domestic service or goes with the daughters of the rich as part of their dowries. She is found enduring a form of slavery in practically all families above the pauper level. She is at the mercy of her purchasers, and her treatment varies with the generosity of her possessors.

We are very glad indeed that at last these mui tsai are to be registered. We are convinced that the enforcement of this registration is the first necessary step towards the abolition of the abuses of this system of child slavery now existing in Hong Kong.

THE NEED FOR MORE WOMEN POLICE. THAMES VALLEY CONFERENCE.

The need for the appointment of more Women Police in the Metropolitan area was stressed at a representative Conference, held at Pitt's Restaurant, Kew Green, on Friday of last week, when the following organisations were represented:—Brentford and Chiswick Branch of the Women's Freedom League, East Sheen Women's Co-operative Guild, Hampton Women's Co-operative Guild, Kew Branch of the Women's Freedom League, Kew Debating Society, Mortlake Sisterhood, Richmond Women Citizens' Association, Teddington Branch of the Transport and General Workers' Union, Teddington Women Citizens' Association, and Teddington Women's Liberal Association. Amongst others present were Councillor Mrs. Hegnauer, the Misses Bulkeley Johnson, Mrs. Gillett Gatty, Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. Farr, and Mrs. Kenwick. An expression of regret for unavoidable absence was received from Councillor Mrs. Holman.

Miss F. A. Underwood presided, and Inspector Campbell, of the Women's Auxiliary Service, was the chief speaker. Miss Underwood said that the League had been working for many years to secure the appointment of more women police, and in proof of this cited an article in THE VOTE, in June, 1914, on the Need for Women Police, by Mrs. Nott Bower (afterwards Lady Nott Bower); meetings held by the Women's Freedom League, and a deputation to the Home Secretary on the same subject—all before the war. She also referred to the recent conference and deputation to the Deputy Commissioner of Police on the special need for women police on Hampstead Heath, organised by the Hampstead Branch of the League.

In the report of the Commissioner of Police for 1928, Miss Underwood said it was stated that the total strength of the Police Force was 19,781, whilst there were also fifty women police, namely, two inspectors, five sergeants, and forty-three constables. She declared that even these few women were not an integral part of the Police Force.

Chief Inspector Campbell, of the Women's Auxiliary Service, in her opening remarks, said that the Women's Auxiliary Service and the Women's Freedom League had always worked together. They both want the right kind of women police—special persons who can go out to make a valuable contribution with gentleness and firmness.

Chief Inspector Campbell then referred to the necessity of women police in cases of child assault and women offenders, and of the necessity to press for their full share of all police duties. The audience then listened with interest to the ways in which women police are trained. Inspector Campbell insisted that women police should always accompany women prisoners on their way to and from the Courts, and that women police should always be on duty to look after women who were placed in the cells at police stations.

A very interesting discussion took place, and valuable contributions were added to the speeches already made.

Mrs. Burgess, representing the East Sheen Women's Co-operative Guild, then proposed the following resolution:—

"This Conference demands that there shall be a greatly increased number of uniformed, trained, and attested women police for all open spaces."

This was seconded by Mrs. Seers, representing the Teddington Branch of the Transport and General Workers' Union, and was carried unanimously. A copy of the resolution has been sent to the Home Secretary, asking for the appointment of more women police in Bushey Park, Richmond Park, and on Sheen Bridge and Kew Bridge.

MEXICAN WOMEN AND THE SUFFRAGE.

According to the British United Press, women are not to be allowed to vote in the Mexican elections. This ruling has been given by the Ministry of the Interior in reply to a group of women supporters of the National Revolutionary Party, who contended that the Constitution did not debar them from voting.

WOMEN'S VOTES IN THE CITY.

The question of the voting rights of women in the City of London is now occupying the attention of the Law Officers of the City Corporation. On the one hand, it is contended that there is nothing whatever which entitles a man or a woman, whose wife or husband occupies business premises, to the local government franchise, unless the person claiming actually resides on the premises; and, on the other, that women who are on the Parliamentary register for the City, by virtue of their husband's occupation of business premises, must be on that register in respect of that occupation. *The Times* state that the law officers—the Recorder, the Common Serjeant, the Remembrancer, and the Solicitor—with the Secondary, have already held a preliminary meeting, and a ruling may be expected shortly, and that if the wives of occupiers are to be placed on the Ward Lists they would be eligible for election to the Common Council and to the Court of Aldermen, although in the latter case the Court has the ancient right of exclusion. If a woman were elected and accepted as an alderman she would be eligible to offer herself to the Livery for election as Sheriff and afterwards (if elected, and she served) the way would be open to election as Lord Mayor. Women occupiers in their own right are at present in this position, but there are so few of them that Guildhall has so far not been invaded.

BAN ON WOMAN COUNCILLOR REMOVED

The *Daily Mail* reports that, by a majority of one, Miss Gladys Ashworth, the first and only woman member of the Preesall (Fleetwood) Urban District Council, was reinstated to membership of all the Council's Committees at the monthly meeting of the Council, held last week. A petition, signed by several hundred ratepayers, was presented to the Council by a deputation. The Rev. D. A. Schofield, vicar of Stalmine, moved that the Council accede to the petition, and this was seconded and carried, the voting being five in favour and four against. One councillor stated that this resolution would have to be confirmed at the next Council meeting.

THE SIX POINT GROUP.

A Public Meeting and Open Discussion

The Equal Rights Treaty

will be held on

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6th, at 8 p.m.

in the

MARY SUMNER HALL, TUFTON ST., WESTMINSTER
THE VISCOUNTESS RHONDDA
will preside.

The following will lead the discussion:
MISS VERA BRITTAIN MISS MONICA WHATELY
MRS. ARCHDALE MADAME RAMA RAU.

The Meeting is open to the Public. Admission free.

OPIUM AND DANGEROUS DRUGS.

Conference on International Control

at London School of Economics, Houghton Street,

On November 13th; 10.30—1, 2.30—4.30, 5—6.30.

Speakers from INDIA, CHINA, EGYPT, GENEVA, including MR. P. J. NOEL BAKER, M.P.

Admission free. reserved seats and details from Secretary, Women's International League, 55 Gower Street, W.C.1.

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

DARE TO BE FREE. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Tuesday, November 5th, at 3 p.m.

Minerva Club. Branch Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

Thursday, November 7th, at 4.30 p.m. (Tea at 4 o'clock.)

Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Mrs. Archdale (Chairman, Woman Peers Committee). Subject: "Women and the Upper House." Chair: Mrs. Dore.

Friday, November 8th, at 3 p.m.

Meeting at "Duart," 65, Grand Drive, Wimbledon (by kind invitation of Mrs. Catmur).

Thursday and Friday, November 14th and 15th, 3 to 9 p.m.

Green, White and Gold Fair, at Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Saturday, November 16th, at 10 a.m.

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

Tuesday, November 19th, at 8 p.m.

Highbury Branch. Meeting at 25, Queen's Road, N.16 (by kind permission of Mrs. C. A. Paine).

Thursday, November 21st, at 4.30 p.m. (Tea 4 o'clock.)

Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Mrs. Pollard. Subject: "Women in the Ministry." Chair: Miss Underwood.

PROVINCES.

Monday, November 4th, at 7.45 p.m.

Leeds. Public Meeting in the Church Institute, Albion Place. Speaker: Mrs. Israel Zangwill, supported by Councillor Blanche Leigh. Chair: Dr. Marion MacKenzie.

Tuesday, November 5th, at 7.45 p.m.

Bradford. Public Meeting in Church House, Darley Street. Speaker: Mrs. Israel Zangwill. Chair: Alderman Kathleen Chambers.

Wednesday, November 6th, at 7.45 p.m.

Middlesbrough. Public Meeting in Hinton's Café, Corporation Road. Speaker: Mrs. Israel Zangwill. Chair: Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P.

Thursday, November 7th, at 3 p.m.

Hastings. A Drawing-room Meeting will be held at 4, Holmesdale Gardens. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle on "Child Slavery." Chair: Mrs. Strickland, J.P.

Thursday, November 7th, at 7.45 p.m.

Darlington. Public Meeting in Temperance Institute, Gladstone Street. Speaker: Mrs. Israel Zangwill. Chair: His Worship The Mayor (Councillor Smith), supported by The Mayor Elect (Councillor Bell).

Friday, November 8th, at 7.30 p.m.

Gateshead. Public Meeting in the Bewick Hall. Speaker: Mrs. Israel Zangwill. Chair: Miss Tookey, J.P.

SCOTLAND.

Wednesday, November 13th, at 7.30 p.m.

Glasgow Branch. Public Meeting in the Central Halls, 25, Bath Street. Speaker: Mrs. Zangwill on "The Means and the End." Collection.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Friday, November 1st, at 2.15, 4.30 and 8 p.m., and Saturday,

November 2nd, at 11 a.m.

National Council for Mental Hygiene. Conference at Central Hall, Westminster.

Saturday, November 2nd, at 3 p.m.

The Speech Club, at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Debate: "That the Independence of Woman has been carried too far." Proposer: Miss Bourchier. Opposer: Miss Reeves.

Saturday, November 2nd, at 8.30 p.m.

West London Mission Girls' Club, Kingsway Hall. Speaker: Miss Auld.

Wednesday, November 6th, at 8 p.m.

Six Point Group. Public Meeting and Open Discussion on "The Equal Rights Treaty," at Mary Sumner Hall, Tufton Street, Westminster. Speakers: Mrs. Archdale, Miss Vera Brittain, Mrs. Rama Rau, and Miss Monica Whately. Chairman: The Viscountess Rhondda.

Wednesday, November 13th.

Women's International League. All-day Conference on "Opium."

BRANCH NOTES.

HIGHBURY.

The inaugural meeting of the Highbury Branch was held on Tuesday of last week, at 14, Highbury Quadrant, by the kind invitation of Mrs. Flint. This branch promises to be an active one, and we are fortunate in having secured Miss N. Hindmarsh as our Honorary Secretary and Miss Pearson as Hon. Treasurer. Mrs. Flint presided, and Miss Underwood gave a delightful speech on the work of the League, showing the many inequalities still to be removed. Miss Underwood showed the necessity of working to secure more women on local governing bodies, and expressed dissatisfaction that women cannot sit in the House of Lords. Equal Pay for Equal Work is a matter, Miss Underwood said, which the League is vigorously working for.

An interesting discussion took place on child slavery in Hong Kong, and the evening concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to Miss Underwood as speaker and Mrs. Flint as hostess, proposed by Miss Gwen Paine and seconded by Miss Pearson.

ASHFORD.

A very interesting meeting was held at the Bowling Green Club Room last Friday. Mrs. Kither gave an instructive address on "The New Local Government Act." The speaker said: "This new Act, affecting primarily poor law institutions, which is to come into force next year, has been placed upon the County Councils by Parliament and is not of their own seeking. By it, areas will be centralised, and the one aim of the County Council will be to see that the poor do not suffer by the change, and also that extra expenditure is not incurred by a special expenses rate. There will be some difficulty at first by the aged being placed farther away from their friends, but it is hoped that greater comfort will accrue through proper classification. Under the scheme all Child Welfare Centres, Town Planning Authorities, Educational Administration, Unemployment, etc., will be taken over by the County Council, and the representation will be by appointment from those elected on municipal, borough, urban, and parish councils.

It was evident that public-spirited women were needed to offer themselves as candidates at all elections, and the speaker strongly urged that the local branch should rise to the occasion and see what could be done to get a woman to stand for the Ashford Urban District Council election next spring. As an outcome of her appeal, two members were chosen to stand for the next election.

Mr. C. P. L. Miles, the son of our energetic President, gave a very clever lecture on "The History of the Kentish Scenery," etc., which delighted all present. After both speakers had been warmly thanked, tea was served, and some of the pretty lavender bags, covers for milk jugs, etc., were shown, which are being sent to the Fair.

(Organiser) MAUD L. WHITE, 8, Holmesdale Gardens, Hastings.

PORTSMOUTH.

A members' meeting was held on Wednesday, October 23rd, at 80, Festing Grove. Three questions were framed to send to the candidates at the City Council Elections in November. A resolution of protest was unanimously passed, and the Secretary was asked to send it to the City Council, on the discrepancy of time allocated to men and women at the Corporation swimming baths (men, 41 hours per week; women, 9 hours per week). The resolution also suggested the more frequent changing of the water.

Will members who have not already done so, please send an article for our Stall at the Fair? Gifts gratefully acknowledged from Mrs. Poole, Mrs. Whitehead, Mrs. Sawyer, Mrs. Tremain, Miss Peacock, Mrs. Layton, Mrs. Ware, Mrs. Speck, and Mrs. Whetton.

(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. WHETTON, 80, Festing Grove, Southsea.

OUR NORTHERN BRANCHES.

As will have been seen from our "Where to Go" column, a series of meetings have been arranged in the North, to be addressed by Mrs. Israel Zangwill, on "What We Expect from the Government." She will be in Leeds on November 4th; Bradford, November 5th; Middlesbrough, November 6th; Darlington, November 7th; and Gateshead, November 8th.

It is exceedingly kind of Mrs. Zangwill to give her time like this, and we hope that the meetings in all five towns will be well supported.

(Organiser) LILIAN LENTON.

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NOTICES.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, November 1st. 3.30 p.m. Music. Lecture. Charles Singer, M.A., D.Lit. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden: "Our Beloved beyond the Veil."

PUBLIC SPEAKING.—Lectures, classes, and private lessons. Saturday Speech Club.—MISS LUCY BELL, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Tel.: Museum 4791.

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