THE VOTE. MAY 6, 1927.

SPECIAL CONFERENCE NUMBER.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE. THE ORGAN OF THE

NON-PARTY.

Vol. XXVIII. No. 915. (Registered at the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 1927

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 wellbeing of the community.

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# WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE—TWENTIETH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER, APRIL 30th, 1927.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS, BY MRS. PETHICK-LAWRENCE.

DELEGATES AND FRIENDS.

In the name of the National Executive Committee, I give you warmest welcome to this Conference. This year sees us nearer to the attainment of our first elementary demand than we have ever been before. Nothing but a sudden and unexpected dissolution of Parliament seriously threatens the prospect that, before we meet again, or at any rate before the next General Election, an Act, conferring full political equality upon women, will be on the Statute Book. This is, therefore, an occasion for joy, not the joy of those who put off the armour after victory, but the joy of those who put on the armour for the victorious stage of our very long warfare for the full political equality of women and men. But, at the very moment that this victory in the political field comes in sight, the enemies of women's emancipation are mustering on another front, and a new menace to women's spiritual liberty is being developed in the economic field. of spiritual liberty is of necessity an economic one. No human being can enjoy independence of thought or action until he or she has attained financial independence, or the right to work in a self-chosen craft or profession. The deep-rooted hostility to women's moral and mental liberty, having at long last been defeated in the effort to keep women deprived of equal citizenship, is now being definitely organised in a growing movement to deprive them of equal status in the professional and industrial world.

Economic security and freedom are not only the basis of moral and mental liberty. For many women, as for many men, their self-chosen work is not only a means of self-support, but a means of self-expression. Work is worship. Love and work are religion. If a man is successful in his love and in his self-chosen work, he is in possession of fulness of life. The same is true of a woman. To take, by an arbitrary decision, her vocation from a woman, whether she is married or not married, is the greatest spiritual injury that can be inflicted upon her. Take, for example, the case of the woman teacher. Teaching is one of the most specialised vocations. It is comparable to ministry in the Church. It calls for mental and spiritual aptitudes of the highest order. To thrust a woman from her

acquired position of headmistress of a large school, where she is exercising the most potent formative influences on young minds at the critical stage of their development, and to compel her to take up the work of cooking over the kitchen stove, for which craft another woman has been trained, is not only an economic waste, by which the family and the whole community are impoverished, but it is an outrage upon the most sacred rights of a human being.

Yet this outrage is now being perpetrated by solemn fools all over the country. Until this sacrilege against all that is holy in humanity has been rendered impossible, our liberty in the things of the spirit is an empty

Yet, when this most important question is brought before our representatives in Parliament, what is the

I was in my place in the Gallery vesterday morning, when SIR ROBERT NEWMAN proposed the Second Reading of his Bill to give married women the right to continue in their profession. I was surprised and shocked at the emptiness of the House. You have read what happened. Sir Robert's speech was interrupted by a count-out. Subsequently his Bill came again before the House and was defeated.

Except for the organised suffrage movement, women as a whole are not alive to the issues of that Bill-not even the women whose fate is directly involved. While the women teachers and the women medical officers are unanimous in their demand that marriage shall not arbitrarily bar them in the practice of their profession, we have to face the fact that the Union of Women Clerks in the Civil Service are definitely opposed, owing to fears relating to their imagined self-interest. Behind this opposition of the women clerks, the Government were able to shield themselves in their opposition to the Bill.

It is possible, of course, to bring in a Bill to enable married teachers and doctors to continue their professional work after marriage, and, no doubt the best policy will be to limit the scope of the Bill in this way, until the women Civil Servants bring longer views to bear on the problem. This incident shows how mistaken it is to take it for granted that women, for whose economic freedom we are working, will understand our point of view, unless we carry out a programme of. argument, demonstration and debate.

We need to re-learn some of the lessons that we learnt 20 years ago: That the price of liberty is eternal vigilance, and the capacity for taking endless pains. We have also to re-learn the difficult lesson that the entire solidarity of women of all classes, ages and Parties in regard to the attainment of freedom and equality done can give us sufficient strength to defeat the hydra-headed tradition of women's dependence and subction. As in the case of the right to vote, women's right to work has all the argument on its side, and this advantage we must press to its utmost extent.

One of our opponents in the House yesterday suggested that there were divisions of interest between the "over and under thirties." Surface differentiations obscure the main issue—which is that, if women do not realise their solidarity in this issue, as they did in the issue of the vote, politicians, who still think in terms of a male electorate, will play fast and loose, and will encroach on the whole field of women's economic and professional life.

There are questions closely allied to the one to which

I have at length alluded-questions of legal differentiation between labour conditions of men and women, which all have in the long run, the result of depreciating the value of women's labour and putting it on a lower status than the labour of men.

A solid, active women's Party is as necessary to-day as it was 20 years ago. It will be necessary for many years to come. And, though I long for the day when we shall recognise the oneness of humanity without emphasising the divisions of sex, I know that we can only hasten the coming of that day by a vigilant and militant movement, to secure for that half of the human race to which we belong equal freedom with men in The International Council of Women. the political, economic and spiritual spheres of our human life.

I therefore trust that the Women's Freedom League, so far from nearing the completion of its great task so faithfully fulfilled in the past, is about to enter upon a still more important and far-reaching campaign, concentrating in the first place upon the redemption of the Prime Minister's pledge and the placing upon the Statute Book of an Act giving all women who are over 21 years of age the right to vote; and, from that position of advantage, carrying forward their flag, until women share equally with men all the legal, economic and spiritual liberties that have been won, or that shall yet be won, by the human race.

### WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

#### Another Woman Minister.

Miss M. Hardy, of Bournemouth, who was formerly a student at Lancashire Independent College, Whalley Grange, has accepted the pastorate of Marshall Street Congregational Church, Leeds. Miss Hardy will be Leed's first woman pastor. Marshall Street is one of the oldest Congregational churches in Leeds, having been established nearly a century.

# Dr. Bessie Wheatley's Appointment.

Dr. Bessie Wheatley, daughter of Mr. John Wheatley, M.P., and ex-Minister of Health, has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer of Health for Burnley. Dr. Wheatley, who is still in the twenties, has had a particularly successful career. She qualified at Glasgow University in 1922, and, after assisting a private practitioner for some time, secured an appointment at the Belvedere Fever Hospital, Glasgow. She has a diploma in public health, in addition to her medical and surgical degrees.

# Married Women in New Jersey.

The New Jersey Legislature has passed a Bill giving married women the same contractual rights as men and unmarried women; and another Bill giving married women the same rights of domicile as any other

# Woman's Examination Honours.

Miss Muriel Lefroy received a 3rd class in the examination for honours of candidates for admission on the roll of solicitors of the Supreme Court.

# Women Chairmen of Boards of Guardians.

At Northampton, a Conservative woman, Mrs. C. Wilson, succeeds a Liberal woman, Mrs. G. Swan, as Chairman of the Guardians. Miss C. Fulford is the first woman Chairman of Fulham Guardians. Miss Fanny Brown, who is a county magistrate and has for 21 years been a Poor Law Guardian, has been elected Chairman of Leigh Board of Guardians. Mrs. Sarah Laski has been elected Chairman of the Manchester Board of Guardians

# Women Vice-Chairmen of Boards of Guardians.

Mrs. Lightowler, the first woman Councillor in Halifax, has been elected Vice-Chairman of Halifax Board of Guardians; Mrs. Elizabeth Booth, Vice-Chairman of Leeds Board of Guardians; Mrs. H. Fox, Vice-Chairman of Northampton Board of Guardians; and Mrs. P. D. Priestman, Vice-Chairman of Sculcoates Board of Guardians.

# Woman Hospital President.

The Board of Directors of the New York Nursery and Child's Hospital has elected Mrs. W. Thorn Kissel as President of the institution. Mrs. Kissel is reported to be the first woman President of a Hospital in New York City.

# Woman Head of Zoning Board.

The Chicago Zoning Board, established four years ago to act as Appeal to prevent the coming into Court of cases of violation of the zoning regulations, has appointed Mrs. Eva M. Hamilton as President.

Her Majesty, the Queen of the Netherlands, graciously gave her patronage to the International Fancy Fair, organised by the International Council of Women, at The Hague. Twenty-nine nations sent consignments of goods, and the profit cleared was £2,800. Of this, £200 was given to Welfare Centres at The Hague as a mark of appreciation of the work of the Netherlands Ladies' Committee, under the presidency of Her Majesty's Chief Mistress of Ceremonies.

# Women Delegates for Geneva.

The Joint Standing Committee of Women's International Organisations for the Representation of Women on the League of Nations has been informed from Geneva that Dr. E. C. Van Dorp, Dr. M. E. Luders, and Mrs. Barbara Wootton have been invited to attend the International Economic Conference as full delegates. The Conference opened on May 4th

# Women's Motor Race Meeting.

A motor race meeting for women competitors, the first of such, is to be held at Montibery, in France, on June 12th this year. While the Ladies' Automobile Championship of France is here to be decided, tradition holds its own with a prize for elegance in women's

## Woman Lawyer in Bolivia.

Señorita Maria Josefa Saavedra, daughter of Dr. Abdon Saavedra, Vice-President of the Bolivian Republic, has passed her final law examinations, and has become a Doctor of Law. She is the first woman to qualify as a lawyer in Bolivia.

# JOHN STUART MILL CELEBRATION.

# EQUAL FRANCHISE PUBLIC MEETING.

FRIDAY, MAY 20TH, 8 P.M. AT CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER.

CHAIRMAN - - - MRS. PETHICK-LAWRENCE.

# IN PARLIAMENT.

#### Women Franchise.

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 1927.

SIR GEORGE GANZONI (U., Ipswich) asked the Prime Minister whether, upon the passage of the proposed Franchise Bill, he will leave the question of the age at which the vote will be given, to a free vote of the House? The PRIME MINISTER: It would be premature to reply to this and similar questions. Capt. Garro-Jones (Lib., Hackney): Will the Prime Minister bear in mind that, by leaving this question to a free vote of the House, he will, in effect, be withdrawing Government support for a measure which they are pledged to support? The PRIME MINISTER: I am grateful for the suggestion, which is, none the less, premature.

MR. THURTLE (Lab., Shoreditch) asked the Home Secretary if his Department has been able to form any estimate as to the number of additional women voters there would be over 25 years of age and under 25 years of age respectively, on the basis of women being granted the vote on the same terms as those now applying to men? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS: It is estimated that the number of new women voters in Great Britain over 25 would be 3,650,000, and under 25 about 1,590,000. Mr. Thurtle: Will the right hon. Gentleman discourage his supporters from describing this proposed change in the franchise as votes for flappers in future?

#### House of Lords.

CAPT. GARRO-JONES asked the Prime Minister whether he can now indicate any approximate date on which the Government will be able to make proposals for the reform of the Second Chamber? THE PRIME MINISTER: No, sir. I am not yet in a position to make any statement on this subject.

#### Traffic in Women (Report).

Col. Day (Lab., Central Southwark) asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the delay in publication of Part II of the League of Nations Report of the Traffic in Women, he will urge the permanent Advisory Committee of the League to have this portion of the Report published at the earliest possible moment? SIR AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: It would seem to me that exaggerated

importance is attached in some quarters to Part II, which, as far as I was able to study it in the time at my disposal at Geneva, is illustrative of Part I, but does not affect the conclusions to be drawn from it. In any case, publication can only be decided by the Council, to whom both parts of the Report were addressed. The matter will come before the Council again in June.

#### Bombay Cotton Mills (Wages).

Lt.-Com. Kenworthy (Lab., Central Hull) asked the Under-Secretary of State for India the average weekly wages reduced to sterling at the present rate of exchange, of men, women and children, in the Bombay cotton mills? EARL WINTERTON: The latest information is contained in a Report by the Bombay Labour Office published in 1925. This showed that in August, 1923, the average weekly earnings for a full working week of six days would be :-

Sterling equivalent

		Ks.	a.	p.	S.	d.
Men	High Is. I	 8	2	6	12	$2\frac{3}{4}$
Women	***	 4	5	6	6	$6\frac{1}{4}$
Rior lads and	children	1	1	0	6	45

The figures exclude overtime pay and all remuneration in the form of grain or clothing or accommodation below market prices or rentals.

## Agriculture: Women Workers.

Col. Day asked the Minister of Agriculture the approximate number of women yearly employed working on the land, and the average rate of wages paid to women in agriculture? Major Sir Harry Barns-TON (Comptroller of the Household): I have been asked to reply. Female workers employed on agricultural holdings above one acre in extent in England and Wales, as returned by occupiers on June 4th, 1926, numbered 104,556, of whom 62,949 were classed as regular workers, and 41,607 as casual workers. The minimum rates of wages fixed for women under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act range from 3\frac{3}{4}d. to 6d. per hour, but sufficient particulars are not available to enable me to estimate the average of the wages actually paid.

# WOMEN PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES. SUCCESSFUL WOMEN LAW STUDENTS.

The following names are given as officially adopted candidates for Parliament :-

The Hon. Mrs. Broderick, for Denby; Councillor Miss Kingsmill Jones, for Ardwell Division of Man-chester; Mrs. Pankhurst, for Whitechapel and St. George's; Miss Irene Ward, for Morpeth.

Lady Clare Annesley, for Bristol, West; Dr. Ethel Bentham, for Islington, East; Dr. Stella Churchill, for Brentford and Chiswick; Mrs. B. Ayrton Gould, for Northwich; Miss Dorothy Jewson, for Norwich; Mrs. M. Mercer, for Fairfield Division of Liverpool; Lady Cynthia Mosley, for Stoke; Miss Ruby Part, for Wells: Dr. Marion Phillips, for Sunderland; Mrs. M. Matters Porter, for Hastings; Mrs. N. Shimmin, for Salisbury; Miss Kate Spurrell, for Totnes; Miss Jessie Stephen, for Portsmouth, South; Miss E. Stewart, for North Edinburgh; Mrs. Streeten, for Aldershot; Mrs. Townsend, for Wycombe; Miss E. Picton-Turbervill, for Wrekin; Miss Monica Whately, for Hythe; Miss F. P. Widdowson, for Cheltenham.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby, for Hendon; Mrs. Bayfield, for Gorton Division of Manchester; Lady Rathcreedan, for Henley; Miss Edwardes, for S.E. St. Pancras; Mrs. Wintringham (not yet arranged).

The following women passed the Easter examination of students of the Inns of Court, conducted in March and April by the Council of Legal Education :-

Roman Law.—Class I: Mildred May David (Middle Temple). Class 3: Kathleen Bruce Anderson (Middle Temple); Isabella Crawshaw (Inner Temple); Marguerite Leslie Harris (Middle Temple); Enid Rosser (Lincoln's Inn).

Constitutional Law and Legal History.—Class 3: Enid Mary Russell-Russell-Smith (Lincoln's Inn).

Criminal Law and Procedure.—Class 2: Margaret Wulfhilda Prothero (Gray's Inn); Ruth Elizabeth Sophia Thompson (Inner Temple). Class 3: Alice Lorrine Campbell Holt-Kentwell (Inner Temple).

Real Property and Conveyancing.—Class 3: Norah Mary Brooks (Gray's Inn); Katherine Mary Evelyn Fearnley Sander (Gray's Inn); Sophie Sanger (Gray's

Final Examination.—Class 3: Edna Phyllis Bland (Gray's Inn); Alice Josephine Mackie (Inner Temple); Winifride Botterell McConnell (Inner Temple); Gladys Siddie Powell (Middle Temple); Kathleen Marjorie Strettell (Gray's Inn); May Louise Gordon Williams (Grav's Inn).

# THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, MAY 6th, 1927.

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

# THE CONFERENCE-AND AFTER.

In the discussions by delegates to our Conference last Saturday, on resolutions and the work of our League, two things stood out most clearly; first, that on all questions relating to the equal rights of men and women the Women's Freedom League is absolutely unanimous; and, secondly, that with regard to every other question which does not affect this equality there are sharp and fundamental differences of opinion. There is complete agreement among our members that the first and most important victory we have to win is equal voting rights for women with men. When that is won, the next great battle will be for equality of women with men in the economic field, and for the right of married women to choose for themselves whether or not they shall work for pay outside their home. Great indignation was expressed at the defeat the previous day in the House of Commons of Sir Robert Newman's Married Women (Employment) Bill, the object of which was to prevent the Government and local governing authorities from refusing to employ women simply because they were married. Members of the League keenly resented the fact that married women are to continue to be treated like children by the authorities, and that, apparently, they have no right to seek their own economic independence. Emphasis was laid on the fact that married women in this country have no legal right to any proportion of their husband's wages, income, or salary, and that a husband, if he chooses to do so, may will all his money away from his wife and leave her practically penniless at his death. Indeed, the whole position of the British married woman in regard to status, her rights over her children, her income and her nationality. was reviewed by the Conference and judged to be entirely unsatisfactory. Once again the Women's Freedom League determined to continue with vigour the fight for the full equality of women with men in every sphere as regards status, opportunities, rewards and responsibilities, and for the recognition of an equal moral standard for men and women. While the delegates congratulated Mr. Baldwin on his promise to introduce a Bill next Session to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women of 21 years of age and upwards on the same terms as men, they were unanimously of opinion that every possible effort must be made in the constituencies to arouse public opinion in favour of this measure of justice to women, and that every Member of Parliament must be urged to support it. Moreover, as the Representation of the People Bill comes up for its Second Reading in the House of Commons on May 20th, the sole object of which is to confer the Parliamentary franchise on women at the same age and on the same terms as men, the Conference felt that the Government should be pressed to adopt this Bill and to pass it into law without delay, so that no "unexpected catastrophe" may arise to prevent women voting on an equal footing with men at the next election. Time after time the women's cause has been defeated by the delay of politicians, and the message of the Conference to all our branches is: Show your determination to see the Equal Franchise Bill on the Statute Book during the life of this Parliament, and work as you have never worked before for the full on John Stuart Mill's statue promptly at 12 o'clock; equality of women with men!

#### OUR DAY OUT!

May 20th is the 121st anniversary of the birth of John Stuart Mill, the first great Englishman who championed the cause of woman suffrage in Parliament. On that day this year the Second Reading of the Representation of the People Bill is to come up for discussion in the House of Commons. It is a great day for all suffragists, and gives us an opportunity to bring our cause before the public in a very special way. We are therefore asking all suffragist societies to send a representative with a floral tribute in the colours of their society to John Stuart Mill's statue in Temple Gardens in the morning, and in the evening to come to a public meeting, to be held at the Central Hall, Westminster, when we shall review the Debate on the Representation of the People Bill. As that Bill comes up early in the day, and is a simple Equal Franchise measure to confer the Parliamentary vote on women of 21 years of age and upwards and on the same terms as men, we hope that suffragists who are able to do so will go to the House of Commons, either in the Gallery or in the Lobby, to show their interest in the object of this Bill. We are urging the Government to adopt it and to pass it into law at the earliest possible date. It is clearly a great chance for this Government to redeem its pledge to secure equal voting rights for women with men at the next election. The Prime Minister declared only this week that the Government is very pressed for time; its proposed Equal Franchise Bill next Session would certainly take considerable time, and here is a Bill already before Parliament, the object of which is to carry out the Government's own intention. The danger of the Prime Minister's proposal to introduce his Bill next Session lies in its delay; and we all fear the "unexpected catastrophe," shadowed by Mr. Baldwin himself, as time draws near to the close of the life of this Parliament. Already a member of the present Government has made it clear that the Government is prepared to go to the country on another issue, and Mr. Baldwin, as an experienced politician, knows as well as we do how easy it would be for Parliament to dissolve before a Government measure introduced next Session reaches the Statute Book. If, therefore, the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary are sincerely anxious to see their pledges to women redeemed, we urge that they can best make sure of an Equal Franchise measure reaching the Statute Book in time for women to vote at the same age and on the same terms as men at the next election by supporting the Second Reading of the Labour Party's Bill on May 20th, adopting it as a Government measure, and passing it into law this Session. What the Government intends to do will be known on May 20th. In the morning we shall pay our tribute to a splendid and honoured friend, who championed our cause before it was popular and before women had experience of the devious ways of many politicians, both friends and foes. In the evening, at our meeting at the Central Hall, we shall again honour the memory of John Stuart Mill, and once again weigh present politicians in the balance and count our friends and foes. Dame Millicent Fawcett has promised to bring her floral tribute to Mill's statue in Temple Gardens in the morning, and our President, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, will preside at the evening meeting. We shall also have Miss Agnes Dawson, a member of the London County Council and an old member of the Women's Freedom League and the National Union of Women Teachers, among our speakers, and others, whom we shall announce in our next issue. We appeal to readers of The Vote and all suffragists in London to make Our Day Out on May 20th a picturesque and brilliant success, and to turn it to the advantage of our cause. Lobbying should begin in the House of Commons at 10.30 a.m.; floral tributes are to be placed and our evening meeting will begin at 8 p.m.

# OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

THE VOTE

President: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence. Hon. Treasurer: Dr. Knight. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Brading, Miss Myra Sadd Brown, Miss Alix Clark, Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., Mrs. Dexter, Miss Anna Munro, Miss C. Neal, L.L.A., Miss M. I. Neal, Mrs. Pierotti, Miss Reeves, Mrs. Zangwill, Scottish Delegates (Mrs. Curdie, Miss Eunice Murray, Miss Manclark, Miss Ross).

Emergency Resolutions were passed unanimously Equal Franchise.

This Conference of the Women's Freedom League congratulates the Prime Minister on his decision to introduce a Bill in the next Session to equalise the franchise at the age of 21. We strongly press him, however, to adopt, on behalf of the Government, the Representation of the People Bill, 1927, which is due for its Second Reading on May 20th, in the House of Commons, so that legislation may reach the Statute Book sufficiently early to ensure that not even by a possible "unexpected catastrophe" can women be prevented from voting at the same age and on the same terms as men at the next General Election.

#### Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act Amendment Bill.

This Conference calls upon the Government to give further facilities to the Lead Paint (Protection Against Poisoning) Act Amendment Bill, which seeks to prevent the exclusion of women from the use of lead paint on buildings.

#### Married Women's (Employment) Bill.

This Conference warmly congratulates Sir Robert Newman and Mr. Pethick-Lawrence on their splendid championship of women's independence in their efforts to secure the passing of the Married Women's (Employment) Bill. We regret it did not secure a Second Reading, but we confidently hope it will do so on a

### Resolutions passed, those marked with a unanimously: Chief Objects of the League Reaffirmed.

This Conference reiterates that the main object of the Women's Freedom League is to obtain the vote for women at the same age and on the same terms as men, and to use the powers already obtained to elect women to Parliament and upon other public bodies. It further reaffirms the position of the Women's Freedom League in regard to: (1) The eligibility of women for the House of Lords; (2) equal opportunities and equal pay for women and men throughout all branches of our national life; (3) the separate assessment and separate taxation of the incomes of married persons for the purpose of income tax; (4) the necessity for women prison commissioners, women governors and women medical officers in all women's prisons and women's sections of prisons, women inspectors of prisons, and women police; also for (5) an equal number of women of equal status with men on the Board of Control; and (6) insists upon the recognition of an equal moral standard for men and women, and the raising of the age of consent to 18, with a similar provision for boys.

# Equal Rights for Women.

This Conference calls upon the Government to introduce at an early date an Equal Parentage Bill.

\*This Conference demands that neither sex nor marriage shall be a bar to appointments under any body dependent on public funds.

\*This Conference considers that the present method of adding husbands' and wives' incomes together for taxation is most unjust, both to the husband and the wife; therefore increasing agitation should be used to urge His Majesty's Government to assess and tax each individually.

\*This Conference demands that women should be accorded equal opportunities with men for employment as announcers on the B.B.C.

\*That the Women's Freedom League urges all women's organisations to work for complete equality

\*That, in connection with the proposed reorganisation of Government Departments for Scotland, this Conference urges that attention should be drawn to the necessity of affording equal opportunities for women with men.

#### Unemployed Women.

\*This Conference calls upon the Government to consider the position of unemployed women, and to arrange that in all schemes devised for the training and employment of the workless, as much provision should be made for women as for men. It further demands that specialised training in industries, supported by public funds, should be open to women.

### Women Municipal Candidates.

\*This Conference considers that the Women's Freedom League should urge their Branches to take more interest in local affairs, and to give active support to suitable women candidates for local elections.

### Women Magistrates and Women Police.

\*This Conference demands that women be appointed on all Advisory Committees of the Commission of the Peace, and that more women magistrates be appointed.

\*This Conference regrets the reception of the Home Office Circular 457,470/26 by the Chief Constables, and urges that the circular should be made obligatory and not permissive. It demands the appointment of women police in all cities and boroughs.

### Lunacy Reform.

This Conference is of opinion that women doctors should be in charge of all women patients in Public Mental Hospitals, that women should be appointed on the Committees of all Public Mental Hospitals, and that more women inspectors should be appointed by the Board of Control.

### Educational.

\*This Conference demands that it shall be illegal to restrict women as such from entering Universities, and protests emphatically against the limitation by the University of the number of women students at Oxford.

This Conference demands that the 1918 Education Act be put into force at once. It calls upon the Government to raise the school-leaving age to 15 immediately, and to allow all children, for whom it is desired, to continue their education free to 18; and it further urges that the number of children in the classes in the elementary schools be reduced to 30, and that greater facilities be provided for secondary and higher education.

## National Insurance.

This Conference urges that Unemployment and Health Insurance shall commence at school-leaving age, whatever that may be.

This Conference demands that the prohibitive clauses in the Widows' Pensions Act should be deleted.

Seeing that the housing shortage is still acute, this Conference calls upon the Government to put the provisions of the 1924 Act into operation when necessary.

This Conference calls for an alteration in the law, so that it will be impossible for a husband to will all his property away from his wife.

This Conference demands that capital punishment be abolished.

Delegates attended the Conference from Hampstead. Mid-London, Minerva Club, Ashford, Deal and Walmer, Darlington, Hastings, Middlesbrough, Portsmouth, Wallasey, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Montgomery Boroughs, and Swansea Branches.

### RECEPTION TO DELEGATES & MEMBERS.

A delightful reception to delegates and members of our League was arranged by Miss Reeves, at the Minerya Club, last Sunday afternoon, and after tea, music by Mrs. Sparrow, and greatly appreciated songs by Miss O'Brien, Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., called upon those present to give an account of the work in their branch. Mrs. Andain described Wallasey's struggle to secure women police and women members on the Watch Committee. Mrs. Poole gave an account of her experience as a Women's Freedom League candidate for the Portsmouth Town Council, and Portsmouth Branch's work in organising the recent successful Equal Franchise Public Meeting. Mrs. Mosen entertained us with an amusing account of her work as Secretary of the Glasgow Branch during the last month or so, and she also gave a most interesting survey of Miss Eunice Murray's efforts on behalf of women in the ministry. Mrs. Eason spoke of the work done in Edinburgh, and the branch's fight against the adoption of the Provisional Orders proposed for the city under the Health Act. Dr. Knight appealed for a collection. Miss Reeves explained that the Minerva Club Branch, in addition to its political work, undertook to feed the delegates and members of the League when dinners or teas were required for the work. Mrs. Schofield Coates said that Middlesbrough Branch had taken an active part in her candidature for the Town Council, and had recently organised a very successful Equal Franchise meeting in Middlesbrough. Mrs. Juson Kerr described the work of the Deal and Walmer Branch; Mrs. Pierotti appealed for support for the Literature Department; and Miss Underwood urged delegates to see that their branches actively supported the women's cause in the local Press. New members

# AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WOMEN.

The American Association of University Women held its biennial convention in Washington last month. Among well-known educationists who attended were Marion E. Park, President of Bryn Mawr; Dr. Esther L. Richards, of John's Hopkins; Dean Frances Fenton Barnard, of Smith; Dean Virginia C. Gildersleeve, of Barnard; Dr. Aurelia Henry Reinhart, of Mills; and many other presidents, deans, professors and delegates. This Association, in 1925, recommended to its members study of the Equal Rights Amendment put forward by the National Woman's Party, and in 1927 makes the same recommendation. Mabel Vernon, Executive Secretary of the National Woman's Party and delegate from the Affiliated Alumnæ of Swarthmore, received much support on urging that the branches of the Association should be supplied with material for a real study of the amendment. A valuable report was made on the result of research into the legal status of women. The veteran Dr. M. Carey Thomas, President Emeritus of Bryn Mawr, sent a telegram which included the following:—"I am even more strongly than two years ago against special legislation for women, maternity legislation not being included in this. I believe protection should be for both men and women according to jobs, not according to sex.'

# FRENCH SUFFRAGISTS.

After their defeat in the Senatorial Commission by 7 votes to 5 on the question of complete enfranchisement of women, and by 7 votes to 6 on the question of a restricted municipal vote, French suffragists, says Le Droit des Femmes, have little hope that on the next discussion, which is dated for this month, soon after the reassembly of Parliament, any other result will be secured. Le Droit des Femmes concludes as follows :- "We are convinced that no good result can to record that the three women Members who were be expected unless feminists organise an active campaign throughout the country.'

### VOTES FOR MORE WOMEN.

SOME FIGURES FOR SPEAKERS.

In a letter to the Editor of The Times last week, Sir Samuel Chapman, M.P., says :-

"As a supporter of the extension of the franchise to women of and above 21 years of age, will you allow me to give you some figures as to probable numbers and ages, as there seems to be some confusion?

"The proposition universally conceded is 'Give men and women at and above 25 the vote.' To this there is no objection. Lord Haldane is one who says this would be agreeable to him, and many Unionists say the same, while objecting to the 21 age.

'It is computed that 5,000,000 more women of all ages will be added to the electoral rolls. Of this number 3,000,000 will be above 30 years of age, and 2,000,000 below 30. Of these 2,000,000 between 21 and 30, if an average be taken, 60 per cent. will be from 25 to 30, and 40 per cent. from 21 to 24, because there are four years from 21 to 24, and six years from 25 to 30. That means, of the remaining 2,000,000 below 30 there will be 1,200,000 above 25, and 800,000 from 21 to 24. The voters of these 800,000 will average 200,000 in each year-some 21, others 22, 23, and

"At the last election there were some 22,000,000 voters, and 5,000,000 to be added would make 27,000,000. There are 615 members, and 800,000 added below 25 years of age means some 1,300 to each constituency of, say, 30,000 voters—or, roughly, about 300 of each age of 21, 22, 23, and 24, or, say, three per hundred voters below 25, or one per hundred voters of 'flappers.' So much for the women.

"What about the men? From time immemorial the age for men voting has been 21. What shall we have to do who make speeches on 'popular' platforms? Let Lord Haldane, for instance, go to his old constituency, which he represented so well and so long, in the Lothians, and say (he would not put it quite so baldly as this, but it would mean this): 'When I represented you or your fathers or grandfathers 30 or 40 years ago, it was quite all right for them to vote at 21. Indeed, it was quite harmless for your ancestors for generations to vote at 21, and quite all right for me, in my time, to vote at 21; but, although we have increased parish, district, and university education, and made it so financially easy that any of you can go from the mine, farm, or shop to the universitygoing through excellent primary and wonderful secondary schools on the way—and, although I myself have done not a little generally for many years, and in particular through the beneficent Carnegie Trust. to promote education, yet, after all, it is now too risky to trust you at 21. Your ordinary education may be superior, but your political wisdom teeth are not vet cut, and you must have four more years. Then you will be quite competent. Look at us-superior people. There are three great political Parties. We all think we know the last word in political wisdom-and we all want a different thing! No, no, wait patiently, my dear young boys, till you are four years older.

"No one could stand on a platform five minutes with such a programme, and without doubt when a plain question was put: 'Are you in favour of votes for men at 21 or 25?' every candidate would answer, '21. The Government are right in their policy, and no other course is open to them or anyone else."

## M.P.s AND MARRIED WOMEN.

Last Friday, Members of Parliament discussed the Married Women (Employment) Bill, and rejected its Second Reading by 84 votes to 63. Admirable speeches in its support were made by Sir Robert Newman, Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, Lady Astor, Sir Henry Slesser, Mr. Briant, and Dr. Little. The Government, however, were against the measure, but we are pleased present-Lady Astor, Miss Susan Lawrence, and Miss Bondfield-voted in favour of it.

# WHERE TO GO.

# WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



FRIDAY, MAY 6, 1927.

Tuesday, May 10th, at 3 p.m. Hampstead Branch Meeting, at 51, Willow Road, N.W.3 (by the kindness of Miss Lyndon).
Tuesday, May 10th, at 7 p.m.
Mid-London. Members' Meeting at 144, High
Holborn, W.C.1, to receive Delegate's Report

of Conference and to plan future work

DARE TO
BE FREE.

All members urged to be produced by the priday, May 13th, at 2 p.m.
The Women's Freedom League Jumble Sale, to be held (by kind permission of Miss Cole) The Women's Freedom League Settlement, 2, Currie Street, Nine Elms, S.W. Send your parcels from now onwards to 144, High

Friday, May 20th, at 8 p.m.

John Stuart Mill Celebration and Equal Franchise Public Meeting at Central Hall, Westminster. PROVINCES.

May 25th at 3.30 p.m. Hastings. Annual Meeting, Open Door Club, Trinity Street.
May 27th at 3.30 p.m.
Ashford. Branch Meeting, Hempsted Street Hall. Saturday, May 28th.
Portsmouth. Jumble Sale.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, May 7th, at 3.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting at Round Pond, Hampstead, organised by the League of the Church Militant.

Saturday, May 7th, at 5.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting in Hyde Park organised by the National Union of Women Teachers.

Monday, May 9th, at 8 p.m.
The Speech Club. Mr. Robert Mackray, B.A., on "The Chinese

Tuesday, May 10th, at 8 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Public Meeting in Lower Town

Mice Agnes Hall, Battersea (organised by N.U.W.T.). Speakers: Miss Agnes
Dawson, L.C.C., Miss Barclay-Carter, Lic.-ès-L. Chairman:

Mrs. Tidswell (N.U.W.1.).
Wednesday, May 11th, at 1 p.m.
Electrical Association for Women. Public Luncheon on occasion
Electrical Association for Women. Public Luncheon on occasion
Electrical Association for Women. Public Luncheon on occasion
Electrical Association for Women. of Annual General Meeting, at Hotel (Viscountess Astor, Sir Andrew Duncan, etc.

# BRANCH NOTES

EDINBURGH.

A very lively and interesting, if somewhat unusual, meeting was held in the Philosophical Institution, on Thursday, April 28th, when Mr. Dan Eassom very ably presided. The subject of the meeting, as advertised, was "Should Women Work for Pay?" but when we discovered that in the Provisional Orders for Edinburgh was one asking for some powers of compulsion in dealing with venereal disease, we felt that this matter was of such immediate importance that we asked Dr. Aimée Gibbs to speak on it, advertising the change as "Additional! Urgent!" This Dr. Aimée Gibbs did, very clearly putting the case against

Next, Mrs. Ross, M.A., of the Edinburgh Education Authority, Next, Mrs. Ross, M.A., of the Edinburgh Education Authority, spoke very strongly against any interference on anyone's part with the way in which a married woman occupied her time, and explained the unsa'isfactory manner in which the Edinburgh Authority dealt with those of its women teaches who married. Afterwards Miss Anna Munro spoke with her usual brilliance, chiefly supporting Mr. Baldwin in his intention to bring in an Equal Franchise Bill next Session, but urging all in favour everywhere to see to it that no "ungrayed extractorshe" was allowed.

where to see to it that no "unexpected catastrophe" was allowed to occur which might deprive the five million women who are to occur which might deprive the five million women who are still unenfranchised of their rights at the next election. Miss Munro also spoke of the married woman, pointing out how the majority will, as a matter of course, work in their homes, but saying that no woman trained for something else should be forced to spend her life "chasing dirt" if she did not wish to do so. She also spoke of various other injustices, under which women still suffer, but suggested that it would be easier to cause these to disappear when women were fully enfranchised.

After this, the meeting was opened for discussion, practically all of which, however, was on the subject of the Provisional Order. Resolutions were passed supporting Mr. Baldwin in his promise, and asking that the Bill be introduced "without delay," and also calling upon the Government to take over Sir Robert Newman's Bill on the right of the married woman to work.

(Organiser) LILIAN LENTON.

(Organiser) LILIAN LENTON.

A meeting was held in the Burgh Halls, on Tuesday, April 26th. Mrs. May, President of this Branch, took the Chair. The speaker, Miss Anna Munro, emphasised the fact that we were not to lessen our efforts to ensure votes for women at the age of 21. Miss Munro pointed out the need to realise it is not yet an accomplished fact, and still necessitates our whole-hearted supports.

The resolution, urging the Prime Minister to give full facilities or an Equal Franchise measure, to ensure that women should note on the same terms as men at the next General Election, was passed unanimously.

There was a good attendance, although the "letting" season is now well advanced. (Hon. Sec.) ЕДІТН SMITH.

#### OUR TREASURY. NATIONAL FUND.

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£198 8 3

Our Jumble Sale is put off for seven days to secure more customers. Please make use of this few days' more time to look out all the children's boots, toys, curtains, pieces of carpet and furnishings, wearing apparel, old saucepans, etc., which you can clear out of your way, and send or bring to 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, before May 13th. Proceeds of this Sale next Friday, at Nine Elms, to go to funds of the Women's Freedom League.

FRIDAY. 1927.

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Meadhurst Road, Leicester.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1.
Sunday, May 8th, 1927, 3,30. Music.
Lecture. Mr. C. M. Chao on "Confucianism." 6,30. Dr. Sybil Pratt: "Lord Lister.'"

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problems, including the Woman's Movement, Family Allowances, and League of
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I enclose £

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Minimum Annual Subscription, 1/-