

# THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXX. No. 1,023. (Registered at the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, MAY 31, 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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## A PIONEER SCOTSWOMAN.

Miss Agnes Husband, J.P., one of the original members of the Women's Freedom League, at one time the Hon. Secretary of our Dundee Branch, and for some years before the war a valued member of our National Executive Committee, passed peacefully away on April 30th, at her residence, 12, Woodburne Street, Craigiebank, Dundee.

For well over a quarter of a century Miss Husband took an active part in the public life of Dundee. She was not only a pioneer in asserting the claims of women and their competence to participate in the administration of all public affairs; she was a pioneer in the work of introducing ever more humane methods in the treatment of the poor and in the care and education of children. In the 'nineties of last century a woman seeking to enter public life as a Socialist candidate was not a popular figure, but this gentle, frail-looking Scotswoman had infinite courage and tenacity of purpose. She failed to obtain a seat on the School Board. Later she stood for election as representative of the First Ward on the Parish Council, but was again unsuccessful. These and her subsequent failures did not dishearten her. She continued to woo the electors, and at last succeeded in obtaining a seat both on the Parish Council and on the School Board, as well as on its successor, the Education Authority. On the Parish Council itself Miss Husband sat for more than twenty years. Her record of work included active association with the Distress Committee, the National Insurance Committee, and Juvenile Advisory Committee. She was also a member of the Committee which investigated social conditions and drew up the Report of the Dundee Social Union, a member of the Departmental Committee on Industrial and Reformatory Schools, and an active worker in the Labour Party.

Three years ago the Dundee Town Council conferred on Miss Husband the freedom of the city. This was a well-deserved honour, and it was a tribute not only of the public boards, but a recognition of the great work she had performed on behalf of the citizens of Dundee. Miss Husband was the first woman to receive this honour in Dundee, but, characteristically, she made one stipulation—that the investiture should involve no wasteful expenditure of public funds; and there was none. After a very simple ceremony, Miss Husband found herself a Burgess of the

City of Dundee. She had previously become the first woman Justice of the Peace in Dundee.

A writer said a few years ago: "You will find her where sorrow can be alleviated or where a word can be said for the wronged or the oppressed. Wherever she can be of service, there will Miss Husband be with her ready sympathy, her quiet and unobtrusive manner, her clear-headed judgment and tactfulness, but also—where needed—her scorn and contempt for all fraud and double-dealing."

To Miss Kitty Husband, the many friends of Miss Agnes Husband in the Women's Freedom League tender their warmest sympathy. She was behind her sister in all that sister's public work—unseen, unheard, but in

every way in fellowship, sympathy, understanding, and encouragement; indeed, it is said that Agnes Husband was Kitty Husband's life-work. They had a wonderful gift for friendship, and any day at four o'clock one was sure, not only of tea and a welcome, but of meeting all kinds of interesting people. Public life in Dundee and the many causes in which Miss Husband was an active worker, despite many years of ill-health, are infinitely the poorer because she has left them,



MISS AGNES HUSBAND, J.P.



## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

### Ten Men—Two Women.

Ten men and two women—Alderman Mrs. Mary Mercer, ex-Mayor of Birkenhead, and Mrs. Ethel Robinson—have been appointed Justices of the Peace for the borough of Birkenhead.

### Woman Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Education Committee.

Edmonton Education Committee, which has a Labour majority, has elected two women as chairman and vice-chairman respectively. The chairman is Mrs. A. C. Tabraham, a cleaner in the offices of the Labour Party, and the vice-chairman is Mrs. E. A. Young, the wife of a roadman employed by the local District Council.

### Woman Alderman of Kent County Council.

Miss Wigan is the first woman to be an alderman of the Kent County Council.

### Woman Superintendent of Polytechnic.

The London County Council are to appoint a woman superintendent for the Borough Polytechnic Institute.

### Hackney's Woman Health Visitor.

Miss L. Howman, of Derby, is to be a Hackney Public Health visitor.

### Six Men—One Woman.

Six men and one woman—Mrs. Gertrude Frater, of Alma Place, North Shields—have been appointed Justices of the Peace for the Borough of Tynemouth. Mrs. Frater has been a member of the Board of Guardians since 1911; in 1913 she was the first Chairman of the Children's Committee, and for some years has been Chairman of the Board of Guardians.

### Two Women and their Croft.

Mrs. MacKay, a widow, sixty-two years of age, and her daughter Elizabeth, who is twenty-four, have for some years managed unaided a croft of about fifteen acres, situated at Burnside. She is an expert in ploughing, sowing, harrowing, and the care of horses.

### Australian Woman Doctor's Appointment.

We learn from *The Dawn*, the organ of the Women's Service Guilds of Western Australia, that Dr. Elma Morgan, of Adelaide, has been appointed Assistant Director of Maternity and Baby Welfare in New South Wales. After graduating from Sydney University and studying in London, Dr. Morgan conducted an emergency hospital in India at her own expense. She has since worked for women and children in Bagdad, Scotland, and Hobart.

### Woman Bridge Builder.

A bridge over the River Vaal, recently opened by the South African Minister for Agriculture, General Kemp, was built under the supervision of Mrs. A. T. Mortensen. She took over the work a year ago on the death of her husband, who had the contract in hand, and with the aid of her staff saw that the bridge was constructed in accordance with Mr. Mortensen's plans.

### No Women Explorers!

According to the *Baltimore Sun*, the Explorers' Club, which recently opened its new building on Cathedral Parkway, have issued an edict excluding women from membership for all time! Not only are women denied the right of membership, but are barred from entering the premises! And this at a time when women explore the darkest parts of Africa and penetrate into the forbidden cities of Tibet!

### Woman's Name Inscribed in Hall of Fame.

Emma Willard, whose name was inscribed in the Hall of Fame at New York University, on May 9th, won her place as a pioneer in women's education. Miss Willard has founded schools for women at Waterford, New York, and Athens.

### Woman Member of Roumanian Censorship Board.

Mme. Cartargi, well known in Roumania as a journalist and the first woman in Roumania to edit a daily newspaper, is the only woman member of the moving-picture Censorship Board of Bucharest. She is also the only Roumanian woman delegate on a Labour

### Moslem Woman Takes Law Degree.

Naditsa Nuri-Hadjitch is the first Moslem woman in Jugoslavia to take a Law degree. Both she and her two sisters, as a result of having received a modern education, have broken away from the restricting customs of Moslem women. One sister is studying law at Belgrade University, and the other is training as an opera singer.

### Municipal Votes for Turkish Women?

The *Daily Telegraph* reports that after a prolonged discussion at Angora it has been decided that the terms, "Every Turk having attained majority" in the municipal statutes concerning the right to vote, will be allowed to stand. If this is approved by the Grand National Assembly, it means that women will henceforth vote at municipal elections, and will be eligible for election as Councillors.

### HINDU WOMEN'S PROPERTY RIGHTS.

*Stri Dharma* reports that after many years of discussion a small piece of social legislation, under the title of the Hindu Law of Inheritance Amendment Bill—the object of which is to rectify a glaring anomaly in the Hindu law of succession—has passed the two Houses of the Central Legislature and is awaiting the assent of the Governor-General.

In accordance with the existing Hindu law, women are totally excluded from succession. The Bill provides that, in preference to remote and unknown relatives, the kith and kin of the deceased should receive a share. The Bill, which is described as a modest one, is hailed by progressive Indian women as a small beginning in the direction of extending economic justice to women in Hindu society.

### PARLIAMENTARY TACTICS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The movement for the political emancipation of women in South Africa dates back to 1912, when a Bill was defeated by 70 votes to 30. In May, 1920, the Union House of Assembly adopted the extension of the franchise to women by 64 votes to 39 on the First Reading, but left the matter there. Seven years later a similar Bill was rejected by 63 votes to 39—the Nationalist Party being solid in their opposition. In 1928, a Bill, which passed the Second Reading in the Assembly by 53 votes to 50, was thrown out later. The Premier, General Hertzog, has now promised to re-introduce the Bill in 1930.

### QUEBEC WOMEN'S DEFEAT.

We learn from *Equal Rights* that the Quebec Legislative Assembly has again defeated a Bill granting women the right to vote in provincial elections by a vote of 50 to 16, which represents a gain of five votes since last year.

The Canadian Minister of Justice recently informed the Quebec Provincial Franchise Committee that Quebec women had the right to vote, if they owned property, at the beginning of the nineteenth century. As early as 1667 women acted as advocates in the courts of Canada during the French régime.

Minister Laponite urged that the women of Quebec should be allowed to take a greater share in public life.

### THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN HUNGARY

Hungarian women were given the vote on equal terms with men during the revolution which followed the war. Subsequent governments, however, have not confirmed the law. Not only are women debarred from voting till the age of thirty, but they are discriminated against in other ways. As an instance, whereas a man is required to have attended an elementary school for four years, a woman is required to show six years' attendance. A mother with three living children is entitled to a vote. At present, only the women of Budapest have the right to stand for county and municipal councils, and a strenuous campaign is being carried on to win that right outside the capital.

The present position of women in Hungary is a retrogressive one. In the Middle Ages, Hungarian women possessed more civil rights than the women of any other European country.

### UNEMPLOYED SCOTTISH WOMEN.

According to the *Edinburgh Evening News*, the recently-issued Report of the Scottish Council for Women's Trades for 1927-1928, states that, in view of the continued urgency of the unemployment problem, the Council continued throughout the year to devote its activities mainly to its schemes for training and providing work for unemployed women and girls. About 1,400 girls have now been placed in domestic service at farmhouses, and the standard of success has been maintained, fully 85 per cent. of the girls having done well. The work which has been done in connection with the emigration scheme is also detailed, and it is reported that up to the end of September twenty-nine girls sailed under the auspices of the Council and twenty-three subsequent to that date.

### FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE'S HOME.

It is regrettable at a time when Florence Nightingale is being so much discussed, and the value of her work accredited, to find her house in South Street, off Park Lane, in the hands of the house-breakers.

In the old horse-bus days, drivers in Park Lane used to point their whips to a small balconied, second-floor room, which was said to have been built especially for Florence Nightingale in her old age to look out on Hyde Park.

### FRENCHWOMAN VOTES BY STRATEGY!

Mme. Dupont, a militant suffragist, disguised as a man, voted at the recent elections in Paris.

The *International News Service* report Mme. Dupont to have said:—

"Why should I not vote? We have a child; I rear it. We have a home; I run it. We have a motor-car; I drive it. We have a voting card; I intend to use it!"

### NO PRECEDENT!

Grazia Deledda, the Italian woman novelist, who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1927, has been omitted from the new Italian Academy of thirty members on the ground that there is no precedent for the admission of a woman.

### MRS. DESPARD'S BIRTHDAY PARTY.

EIGHTEENTH YEAR.

Dear Fellow-members and VOTE Readers,  
You will be glad to know that Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party is fixed this year (the eighteenth in succession) for Thursday, July 4th, at Caxton Hall, Westminster, at 7 p.m.

This year we shall be more particularly rejoiced to gather round our beloved First-President with congratulations and best wishes in the big family of the Women's Freedom League, of which she is the centre, in company with the many friends who prize this annual opportunity of uniting in affectionate greeting to our great pioneer.

Last autumn, Mrs. Despard made a wonderful recovery from a bad accident, and she has lately surmounted a trying spell of the general influenza. We shall have the great pleasure, too, of coming together after our Victory General Election, when all adult women have for the first time been able to record their citizen vote.

At the party we shall have music and song, flowers, fruits, and pleasant reunions. Mrs. Despard will talk to us, and she will be presented with the Birthday Fund for the work of the League. This Fund, as you know, supports the Women's Freedom League during the summer months, and it is most vital that this year it should reach a record amount; and this both in honour of the occasion itself and because our funds are now entirely exhausted, whilst we have before us a very busy time with the new Parliament, to establish real equality of opportunities between women and men in all branches of our national life.

Many important advances—women magistrates on every Bench and women police as a component part of every Police Force in the country, equal pay in the Civil Service, women full delegates to the League of Nations, etc.—are ripe and long overdue; they will need a hard push for success. You will, I know, agree that we must not be held back for lack of funds, but must take every advantage of the ground now won, and I am relying on every member, friend, and reader to do all that is possible both in coming to the Birthday Party and making it a great success, and in helping to swell the Birthday Fund to a record amount.

With gratitude for all the assistance of the past, and with confidence for the future.

Yours sincerely,

E. KNIGHT (*Hon. Treasurer*).

Women's Freedom League,  
144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

### WOMEN GUARDIANS AND COBWEBS.

The *Daily Telegraph* reports that women members of the Abergavenny Board of Guardians complained at a recent meeting that the room in which the Board met was dirty. They drew attention to the dusty walls and the cobwebs in the corners, and said it wanted spring-cleaning. The Clerk admitted he was ashamed of the room, but it was the best one available. The Chairman said he doubted if they could spend any money on it pending the transfer of the Poor Law, but he promised it would be swept and the cobwebs cleared away.

**SPECIAL  
ELECTION  
FUND**

**Though we had no money we decided to launch out in every way that seemed useful, trusting that the money would come later. Now the fight is over and the bills must be paid, including printing and carriage of some 200,000 special leaflets. Warmest thanks to all our kind contributors, and an urgent appeal to all who approve this enterprising policy to free us from debt for the Special Election Work.**

**E. KNIGHT, *Hon. Treasurer*, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.**



## THE VOTE.

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### EDITORIAL.

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

### AND NOW TO WORK!

As we go to press the General Election has not taken place, but in next week's issue of THE VOTE we look forward to recording the successes of women candidates and of our men friends who are also standing as candidates. Whichever party secures a majority, the Women's Freedom League will make it clear to the Government that we demand full equality of opportunity, rewards, and responsibilities for women and men in all branches of our national and international life.

What we are immediately working for is embodied in the following list:—

- (1) More Women Members of Parliament.
- (2) Women Members of the House of Lords and Women on the Privy Council.
- (3) Women upon every Magistrates' Bench throughout the country; and women on all Juries.
- (4) Women on the Prison Commission, Women Governors and Women Medical Officers of Women's Prisons; Women Inspectors of Prisons; Women Police Commissioners; and Women Police in every Police Force in the country.
- (5) An equal number of women and men of equal status on the Board of Control.
- (6) More women on all local governing bodies, all committees of which must be open to women equally with men.
- (7) Equal opportunities and equal pay for men and women in all branches of the Civil Service at Home and Abroad, including the Diplomatic, Consular, Trade Commissioner Services, etc., and in the teaching profession, and the opening of all trades and professions to women, with equal opportunities, equal responsibilities, and equal pay for equal work.
- (8) The right of married women to work for pay.
- (9) Automatic separate assessment and separate taxation of incomes of husbands and wives for the purposes of Income Tax.
- (10) The immediate restoration to British women of the right to retain their own nationality on marriage with an alien.
- (11) The recognition of an equal moral standard for men and women, and the passing into law of the Public Places (Order) Bill, under the provisions of which no man or woman charged with soliciting or similar offence shall be convicted on the uncorroborated evidence of the Police.

### WOMEN'S LEAD IN THE CONSTITUENCIES

There is certainly no political apathy in the constituencies of the women candidates with whom we are in touch, and from whom we are getting news. Their appeal is always for more and still more workers; and constant "liveliness" is reported from Miss Beavan's constituency, the Evertton Division of Liverpool, and from Lady Astor's, the Sutton Division of Plymouth.

The final figures issued from Somerset House show that in England and Wales there are 1,357,776 more women electors on the Parliamentary Registers than there are men. Including Scotland, women have a majority of 1,510,831. The electors of Great Britain now number 28,072,795. Before the recent extension of the franchise they numbered 22,238,068. It has been increased by 5,834,727, of which new women

voters are responsible for 5,151,021. These figures do not include returns from Northern Ireland.

The following are the details of the new Voters' Lists for Great Britain:—

ENGLAND AND WALES.			
	Men.	Women.	
Parliamentary Boroughs	6,022,369	6,921,908	
Parliamentary Counties	5,788,010	6,287,545	
Universities	57,001	15,793	
Totals	11,867,380	13,225,156	
SCOTLAND.			
	Men.	Women.	
Boroughs	676,801	791,254	
Counties	704,791	764,221	
Universities	32,010	11,182	
Totals	1,413,602	1,566,657	
GREAT BRITAIN.			
	Men.	Women.	
Aggregate	13,280,982	14,791,813	

For purposes of comparison, the totals of the previous Registers are given below:—

ENGLAND AND WALES.			
	Men.	Women.	
England and Wales	11,226,396	8,640,253	
Scotland	1,370,880	1,000,539	
Aggregate	12,597,276	9,640,792	

Women are also acting as Election Agents at this election—Miss Ruth Pierce, for Miss Eleanor Rathbone, Independent candidate for the English Universities, Miss Kate Rutherford, for Miss Enid Laphorn, the Liberal candidate for the Hitchin Division, and, according to *The Labour Woman*, no less than nineteen women are acting as Agents for Labour candidates, the following being the list:—Mrs. Church (Northern Cornwall), Mrs. M. Lees (Belper), Miss J. Stephen (South Portsmouth), Mrs. Watson (Gillingham), Mrs. A. G. Stock (Canterbury), Mrs. J. Harcourt (Thanet), Miss M. Welch (Blackley), Miss D. Seed (Southport), Mrs. B. I. Stevenson (East Islington), Mrs. G. Dalton (Norwood), Mrs. D. Thurtle (Shoreditch), Mrs. A. Wilson (Balham and Tooting), Miss M. Crout (West Woolwich), Mrs. Reader (Salisbury), Mrs. Smith (Evesham), Miss M. Kelley (Bradford, N.), Mrs. M. Gibb (Sheffield Central), Mrs. Jones Roberts (Merioneth), and Mrs. Nichol (Dumbarton). *The Labour Woman* adds that in one or two cases wives are acting as Agents for their husbands, and in two cases the women are full-time Agents who earn their living at this work, but the rest have stepped into the job for the period of the election.

### HEADQUARTERS' NOTES.

Next Wednesday evening, June 5th, there will be a Special Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1, of all London members to review the work of our League during the last month, and to discuss plans of work for the immediate future. Dr. Knight, Miss Underwood, and Miss Auld will take part in the discussion, together with as many members of our Executive Committee as can arrange to be present. The following Friday afternoon, June 7th, we shall have a Tea and Politics-up-to-date Meeting at the Minerva Club, to discuss the results of the General Election. All members and friends will be cordially welcomed at this meeting and invited to join in the general discussion. On Thursday afternoon, June 13th, we shall have another meeting at the Minerva Club, when Miss Casey, an old member of the Women's Freedom League, who has recently returned from Japan, will speak on *The Life and Work of Japanese Women*. This subject is a specially interesting one, and we hope that our members and friends will come to the Minerva Club in good numbers that afternoon. We also ask our members to keep free the evening of Thursday, July 4th, when we are looking forward to having Mrs. Despard with us and celebrating her birthday at Caxton Hall.

## WOMAN AND THE FUTURE.

This year the British Commonwealth League has chosen "Woman and the Future" as the subject for its Conference, which will be held next Wednesday and Thursday, June 5th and 6th, at the Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, W.C.2, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Corbett Ashby.

In the discussions at both the morning and afternoon sessions women from various parts of the British Empire will take part, so that those attending this Conference will have the opportunity of learning at first hand something of the problems with which their sisters overseas have to deal.

On Wednesday morning the subject before the Conference will be "Women of the less forward races within the British Commonwealth—their need and our responsibility." Miss Sara Burstall (member of the Advisory Committee on Education to the Colonial Office) will speak on *New Departures in the Work of the Colonial Office* in regard to Education for the Future. She will be followed by Miss Wrong, who will deal with the education of women in Tropical Africa, and by Mr. Lathom (Director of Native Education), who will speak on the same subject in regard to Northern Rhodesia. Our responsibility in these matters will be emphasised by Miss Ruby Rich (Australian Racial Hygiene Centre), who will speak on *Problems of Social Hygiene*, and by Professor Seliquan, who will deal with other problems.

The session of Wednesday afternoon will be full of interest. A resolution will be moved on *The Imperial Government and Responsibility*, and there will be a discussion on "Some Urgent Problems and Ways of Meeting Them." Speeches will follow by Mrs. Bennett, on the Federal Ordinance relating to Aboriginal Women in Australia; our old friend, Mrs. Haslewood, on *Mui-tsai in Hong Kong*; and another old friend, Mrs. Jinarajadasa, on *Vice Regulation*, dealing specially with the *Devadasi* Bills.

The first part of the session, Thursday morning, will be given up to resolutions dealing with the nation-

ality of married women; franchise in South Africa; franchise in Ceylon; franchise in Bermuda; and franchise in Quebec. A representative of the Australian Federation will speak on *Women on Film Boards*, and Miss Musson (Secretary to the National Council of the Unmarried Mother and her Child), on *Affiliation Orders*. The *Enfranchised Woman* and the *Future* will then be the subject for discussion. Mrs. Waterworth (of Tasmania) will speak on the *Co-ordination of Marriage Law*; Mrs. Helena Normanton, on *Divorce Law and Co-ordination*; and Miss Douglas Brown, on *Social Insurance and Empire Co-ordination*.

On Thursday afternoon Mrs. Rama Rau will address the Conference on *What the Indian women are doing*; Mrs. Gordon Wilson, on *The Future in the Civil Service in Great Britain*; Miss B. A. Bicknell, on *The Mother as Guardian of her Child*; and Miss Chave Collisson, M.A., on *The Future in the Civil and Administrative Services outside Great Britain*.

The discussion following all the above addresses by women from different countries within the British Commonwealth will certainly be stimulating, and the British Commonwealth League, in addition to giving these women the chance of meeting each other at its two days' Conference, has arranged some delightful social functions, at which they will have still further opportunities of getting to know each other better. On Tuesday, June 4th, there will be a Reception at the Suffolk Galleries, Haymarket, to meet Lady Bailey, Miss Maude Royden, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, and Miss Jean Iris Howard. At this Reception Mrs. Naidu has promised to recite some of her own poems, and Miss Stella Murray, the New Zealand contralto, to sing. On Friday, June 7th, there will be a Luncheon at the Criterion Restaurant, when the guests of honour will be Lady MacLaren Brown, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Lady Simon, Lady Allardyce, and Miss Ruby Rich; and on Saturday, June 8th, there will be an all-day Motor Excursion and afternoon Garden Party at Guildford.

## PROPOSED ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE CIVIL SERVICE.

We reprint the following article from *Opportunity* (organ of the Federation of Women Civil Servants), with the contents of which we are in cordial agreement. The Women's Freedom League has never welcomed the proposed Royal Commission. We have of course noted it in our paper, but the proposal itself has not appealed to us from the point of view of its use to women civil servants any more than the proposal made in 1924 of a Conference to deal with the equal suffrage question, and we feel the same singular lack of enthusiasm now as then. The late Government decided upon a Royal Commission. What women must press for is that no Royal Commission must be set up without sufficient suitable women in its personnel.

"The announcement that the Government, if returned to power, intended to set up a Royal Commission to consider among other questions Equal Pay and the Removal of the Marriage Bar has been received with more satisfaction by the feminist organisations outside the Service than by the Civil Service itself.

"The Service sees in the reference to a Royal Commission on the question of Equal Pay an attempt to re-open the merits of a principle already agreed by the House of Commons eight years ago, or at the best, an attempt to postpone the application of the principle for another two years.

"Further, it is considered that questions such as Bonus and the Super-cut, which are expected to be referred to the Commission, should be dealt with on the National Whitley Council and Arbitration Board rather than be subjected to the deliberations of a Royal Com-

mission. The bonus agreement was made as recently as 1920 and made with the National Whitley Council, and it is felt that any revision should be made with the same body.

"At the same time, apart from the question of Equal Pay, the setting up of a Royal Commission can only be welcomed by women Civil Servants. One of the extraordinary difficulties with which they have had to contend in the past is the difficulty of persuading the general public that neither the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act nor the pious aspirations of the National Whitley Council Re-organisation Committee had really given equality of opportunity to women inside the Civil Service. A Royal Commission which can make it its business to ascertain why there are only thirty-five Executive women as against over 2,000 Executive men, and why a boy of 16½ is not as suitable as a girl of the same age to handle files in a Registry or to work a Burrough's calculating machine, will let much-needed light of day into the mentality of those Civil Service chiefs whose early Victorian views on women have effectually withheld from her that Equality theoretically supposed to be hers.

"The vital questions of the moment are the terms of reference and the personnel of the Commission. We must ensure, and in doing so we shall have widespread support, that the terms of reference on the Equal Pay question do not admit of discussion on a principle already conceded, and for the rest that they enable us to raise those long outstanding grievances as to the unequal assimilation of the sexes to the new Grades which the Treasury has so long consistently ignored."



## OUR BOOK REVIEW.

*A Woman of India*, being the life of Saroj Nalini (Founder of the Women's Institute Movement in India). By G. S. Dutt (Indian Civil Service). Published by The Hogarth Press. Price 4s. 6d. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

Saroj Nalini, whose death at the age of thirty-seven inspired her husband to record her life—beautiful in its selfless simplicity and remarkable in its influence on Indian womanhood—possessed a national understanding of both East and West, which made it possible for her to hold advanced views without abjuring racial customs and traditions.

Intimately associated as she was with the women's movement, her death, tragic in that it occurred when her powers of service were at their height, made her name a symbol for the whole movement, not only in the Province of Bengal, where her husband was Collector and Magistrate, and where she set herself the definite task of educating and awakening the women, but far beyond that Presidency. In Bengal, she accompanied her husband on his tours, and while he enacted his business with the men of the village, entered the homes and talked freely with the women. While Mr. Dutt "met them through the relation of the law—as an official of the Government, she mixed with them on a basis of love—as a friend whose heart went out to them in eager sympathy."

Saroj Nalini realised that if India is to advance, its women must be awakened, and that, however much men may assist, the desire for emancipation must come from the women themselves. With the object of encouraging them to meet and exchange ideas, she established Mahila Samitis (Women's Institutes) wherever possible, and spared no effort to rouse women to a realisation of their potentialities.

In an article in the *Kamala*, advocating the establishment of Mahila Samitis as centres for disseminating knowledge among women, Saroj Nalini wrote:—

"I say to the mothers and sisters of our country: 'Wake up from your sleep! Organise a Mahila Samiti in every district, in every town, in every village. Flood the land with the light of women's education!' Otherwise there is no hope for this country. Women of this land, awake! Otherwise freedom for this country will be a dream that will never come true."

Saroj Nalini kept herself informed of the progress of each of the Samitis she established, and after she left the district remained its chief inspiration. In her home life, Saroj Nalini neglected nothing which concerned the happiness of her husband and son, or her guests. During the eighteen years of their married life she was her husband's constant companion, often travelling with their child many miles in a bullock-cart to accompany her husband on tour from one camp to another. She would never allow her husband to go tiger-shooting without her, and once when a tiger got scent of them in the darkness in the forests of the Sundarbans and was on their track, she walked calmly by Mr. Dutt's side through the terrifying moments when the animal's footpads could be heard behind them.

Saroj Nalini endeared herself to her relatives and to many of her countrywomen by remaining a true Hindu woman. Unlike educated Indian women who become "mens" (a corruption of "ma'am" or "madam"), she showed respect for all the old customs of her country and retained her innate simplicity and modesty of manner.

Rabindranath Tagore paid her a fitting tribute when he wrote in the Foreword to the present work:—

"It is no longer the woman whose life is cast in the time-worn mould of provincial custom and tradition that is most needed, but she in whom the streams of intellect and emotion emanating from this vast universe are not hindered from mingling in a deep and beautiful harmony."

It is this ideal which we find realised in Saroj Nalini's life." E. A. H.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## Equal Pay.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

Dear Madam,

As one of the members of the militant suffrage movement from its earliest days, I have attended very few meetings where some reference was not made to the subject of Equal Pay for Equal Work.

I should very much like to know how far this principle can be carried out. Does it apply only to professions safeguarded by the examination system? To careers and occupations such as the Stage, Literature and Journalism? To skilled work in factories and elsewhere? Then there are industries where unusual physical strength is demanded. But, during the war, there were few occupations with regard to this point in which women were unable to "do their bit."

I believe that young people in shops and offices are paid at fairly equal rates. Nursing and domestic work are such exclusively feminine occupations that no actual comparison is possible. After four years' training a nurse is offered very much the same salary as a cook, but with a slightly higher social status.

An educated woman applying for one of the many domestic situations advertised in *The Times* and the *Morning Post* will find herself up against the conditions laid down by her own mother and grandmother as regards "servants." She will be turned down if she refuses to wear a cap and apron and live on the premises.

When reading "Sorrell and Son," and after seeing the film version of the story, it occurred to me that had Mrs. Sorrell been left in the same position—without money, references, or friends in a strange town—she would have found it difficult to keep both herself and her child. Later on, at the "Pelican," Sorrell manages to save £1,000 and send his boy to a public school. It does not state whether the little housekeeper, Fanny Garland, was equally prosperous.

Up to a certain point, the story is not impossible; head waiters and hall porters do sometimes manage to save considerable sums of money and keep up a good home as well.

The fact is that in so many occupations a woman is not expected to keep up a home at any stage of her career. . . . She is paid a salary averaging, say, £1 a week in cash, and the remainder in accommodation and food supplied by her employer. In the early days of the factory system, part of a man's wages was sometimes paid on this principle, which has long ago been declared illegal under what is known as the Truck Act.

There is another point I should like to put before my fellow-members of the Women's Freedom League. I find that an indirect result of the housing shortage and the post-war cost of living is that many situations are offered "on mutual terms," with no salary at all. Waitresses in tea shops are recruited in this way; assistants in boarding-houses, housekeepers, companions, governesses, and caretakers. The latter are offered unfurnished rooms, for which there is a great demand. When a married couple are engaged on these terms, the husband follows his usual occupation. The wife is expected to put in several hours of domestic service, and very often a "reduced" rent demanded as well!

Yours truly,

E. H. B.

## The Association for Moral &amp; Social Hygiene

(FOUNDED BY JOSEPHINE BUTLER.)

## ANNUAL MEETING

At GAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER,  
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## Membership Application Form.

To be returned to the Secretary, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C.1.

Please enrol me as a Member of the Women's Freedom League.

Name

Address

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

Minimum Annual Subscription, 11s.

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## WHERE TO GO.

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

DARE TO BE FREE. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Wednesday, June 5th, at 7.30 p.m.

London Members' Meeting, at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speakers: Dr. Knight and Miss Underwood. Chair: Miss Reeves.

Thursday, June 6th, at 3 p.m.

Brentford and Chiswick Branch. Meeting at 1, Fairlawn Avenue, Chiswick (by the kind invitation of Mrs. Bass).

Friday, June 7th, at 4.30 p.m.

Tea and Politics-up-to-date Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speakers: Miss Underwood on "What we think of the Election Results" and Mrs. Bigland. Tea at 4 o'clock.

Thursday, June 13th, at 4.30 p.m.

Public Meeting at the Minerva Club. Speaker: Miss E. Casey on "How Japanese Women Live and Work."

Thursday, June 20th, at 3 p.m.

Hampstead Branch. Meeting at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3 (by kind invitation of the Misses Berry).

Tuesday, June 25th, at 8 p.m.

Finchley and Golders Green Branch. Meeting at Oak Cottage Brookside Road, N.W. (by the kind invitation of Mrs. Burnett).

Wednesday, June 26th, at 8 p.m.

Meeting at 94, Cambridge Gardens, North Kensington (by the kind invitation of Mrs. Boyd). Speaker: Miss Reeves: "The Work of the Women's Freedom League."

Thursday, June 27th, at 8 p.m.

Barnsbury and District Branch. Social Evening at 15, Richmond Crescent, N.1 (by the kind invitation of Mrs. Potter), preceded by a Business meeting.

Saturday, June 29th, at 10 a.m.

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

Monday, July 1st, at 4 p.m.

Hampstead Branch. Garden Party (to be held by kind invitation of Mrs. Waring, at Althorpe House, Branch Hill, N.W.3) to meet Mrs. Despard who will speak. Tickets (in aid of the Birthday Fund), price 2/- including Tea, from the Hon. Secretary, 16, Denning Road, N.W.3. Members and friends of all Branches will be most welcome.

Thursday, July 4th, at 7 p.m.

Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, at Caxton Hall, Westminster.

## PROVINCES.

Friday, May 31st, at 3 p.m.

Ashford Branch. Meeting at Hempsted Street Hall.

## OTHER SOCIETIES.

Monday, June 3rd, at 8.15 p.m.

Speech Club. At the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Symposium: Five-minute speeches on "The best summer holiday."

Tuesday, June 4th, at 9 p.m.

British Commonwealth League. Reception at the Suffolk Galleries. Guests: Lady Bailey, Miss Maude Royden, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu and other distinguished persons. Tickets 3/6, from 17, Buckingham Street, W.C.2.

Wednesday, June 5th, at 3.30 p.m.

Amalgamated Society of Locomotive Enginemen and Firemen (Women's Society). Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood, on "Solicitation."

Wednesday, June 5th, Thursday, June 6th, 10 a.m.—2.30 p.m.

British Commonwealth League. Conference at the Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi. Subject: "Woman and the Future." Chair: Mrs. Corbett Ashby. Representatives and speakers from different parts of the British Commonwealth.

Friday, June 7th, at 1 p.m.

British Commonwealth League. Luncheon at the Criterion. Tickets 5/6.

Saturday, June 8th, at 11 a.m.

British Commonwealth League. Motor Excursion to Guildford and Garden Party (by kind invitation of Mrs. Powell). Return fare 7/6.

Eleventh Congress of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, Berlin, June 17th—22nd. July 10th—12th (inclusive).

The Electrical Association for Women. Fourth Annual Conference to be held at the North-East Coast Exhibition, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Full particulars from E.A.W. Headquarters, 46, Kensington Court, London, W.8.

## BRANCH NOTES.

## FINCHLEY AND GOLDERS GREEN.

The first meeting of the Finchley and Golders Green Branch (amalgamated) was held at 15, Ravenscroft Avenue, N.W.11, on Thursday, the 23rd inst., when Mrs. Zangwill presided, and Miss Reeves spoke on the work of the Women's Freedom League. Members at this meeting learned with great regret of the illness of Mrs. Pierotti, Hon. Treasurer of the Branch. Mrs. Pierotti had taken a keen interest in the meeting and was looking forward to holding it at her house. Mrs. Gugenheim, on hearing that Mrs. Pierotti was unable to have the meeting, kindly lent her room at very short notice. The object of the meeting was to re-start activities in the branch, and Mrs. Zangwill, in her opening remarks, clearly set forward the need for the work of the League. Miss Reeves gave a splendid address on the inequalities still to be removed. Tea was served at the close of the meeting, and future activities decided upon. Miss Stephens has very kindly consented to act as Hon. Secretary *pro tem.*, and will be glad to give any information concerning the branch on application to her at 11, Fallowcourt Avenue, N.12.

## HAMPSTEAD.

A Garden Party for members and friends to have the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Despard, and in aid of the Birthday Fund, is being arranged, by kind invitation of Mrs. Waring, at Althorpe House, Branch Hill, N.W.3, on Monday, July 1st, at 4 p.m. Mrs. Despard has promised to speak; and the tickets, price 2s., including tea, can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, or from Miss Reeves, the Minerva Club, 56, Brunswick Square, W.C.1; or from the Women's Freedom League Offices. Members and friends of all branches will be most welcome.

The branch has undertaken the Flower Stall at Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, and the Hon. Secretary will be most grateful for any promises of flowers or plants for same. The branch is also making its usual branch collection for the Birthday Fund. Donations should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Miss Lyndon, at 53, Willow Road, N.W.3, before the end of June.

The next Members' Meeting will be held, by kind invitation of the Misses Berry, at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3, on Thursday, June 20th, at 3 p.m.

(Hon. Sec.) Miss ELIZABETH BERRY, 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

## HASTINGS.

Mrs. Zangwill has very kindly promised to speak at the Garden Meeting, which will be held at "Rossiana," Pine Avenue, St. Helens, at the end of July.

## LEEDS.

The Equal Rights General Election Campaign Committee arranged a meeting for women voters at the Church Institute, Albion Place, Leeds, on Saturday last, May 25th, the National Union of Teachers and the Women's Freedom League being the only two constituent bodies represented. A candidate from each of the three political parties was asked to give an address on his party's political programme.

Mr. T. E. Harvey (Lib.) spoke chiefly on the educational policy of his party, and Mr. T. McCall (Soc.), who deputised for Sir Henry Slessor, K.C., spoke somewhat on the same lines. Major Birchall (Con.) gave his address on the achievements of the Conservative Government. Each candidate was asked if he believed in Equality as given in the Equal Rights Election Address. Mr. T. E. Harvey said Equal Pay for Equal Work was a desirable principle, but did not see much hope of bringing this about immediately. Major Birchall said "that if the work were really equal, he saw no reason why the pay should not be equal." Mr. McCall said he was a believer in equal rights.

The meeting was particularly well attended, and the speeches and questions very much enjoyed. Miss Stainton, who is a member of both societies, was in the chair, and Miss Fearnside, the Hon. Secretary of the National Union of Teachers, Mrs. Hopwood Hall, and Miss Roach (Women's Freedom League) assisted in the arrangements. Dr. Marion McKenzie was unable to be present.

## Women's Peace Crusade.

A Mass Meeting was held at the Rialto Cinema, Briggate, Leeds, on Sunday, May 26th, Brigadier-General F. B. Crozier, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., giving an eloquent speech for peace from the soldier's viewpoint.

Dr. Marion MacKenzie dealt with the results of war on children. The Rev. Margaret Hardy, Miss T. Lambert, and Miss Vivian Harrison were the other speakers, and Dr. Hilda Robson presided.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

Dear Madam,—In my review in THE VOTE of May 17th reference to the "Kaiser's four Rs" should read "four Ks" (fault, no doubt, due to my script). These were Kleider, Küche, Kinder and Kirche—clothes, kitchen, children and Church—which the ex-Kaiser believed to be woman's sphere.

H. S. SKEFFINGTON.

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