

THE VOTE,
AUG. 3, 1928.

G.B.S. TO THE INTELLIGENT WOMAN.

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 1928

OBJECTS: To use the power of the Parliamentary vote, now won for Women upon equal terms with men, to elect women to Parliament, and upon other public bodies; to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes; and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.



GRADUS AD MILLENNIUM.

Mr. Bernard Shaw as the "Intelligent Woman's Guide" (with apologies to G. F. Watts's "Love and Life").

(By kind permission of the Proprietors of "Punch," June 13, 1928.)

BOOK REVIEW.

The Intelligent Woman's Guide to Socialism and Capitalism. By Bernard Shaw. (Constable and Company, Ltd., London, 1928.) Price 15s. net. (Can be obtained from this Office.)

We welcome with delight this new departure of the friend who has always been so staunch a champion of Women's Freedom. Dedicated "To my Sister-in-Law, Mary Stewart Cho'mondely, the intelligent woman to whose question this book is the first answer I can make," it is of enthralling interest, full of the thrills of discovery, without a dull page, and should be devoured by all our readers.

Engaging personal confidences are sprinkled over the pages. A few extracts will best convey the scope of the book.

Why this book was written.—"When I see that this moment of our utmost ignorance and helplessness, delusion and folly, has been stumbled on by the blind forces of Capitalism as the moment for giving votes to everybody, so that the few wise women are hopelessly overruled by the thousands whose political minds, as far as they can be said to have any political minds at all, have been formed in the cinema, I realise that I had better stop writing plays for a while to discuss political and social realities in this book with those who are intelligent enough to listen to me."

Why women are paid less than men.—"The most important and indispensable work of women, that of bearing and rearing children and keeping house for them, was never paid for directly to the woman, but always through the man; and so many foolish people came to forget that it was work at all, and spoke of Man as the Breadwinner. This was nonsense. From first to last the woman's work in the home was vitally necessary to the existence of society, whilst millions of men were engaged in wasteful and positively mischievous work, the only excuse for which was that it enabled them to support their useful and necessary wives. But the men, partly through conceit, partly through thoughtlessness, and very largely because they were afraid that their wives might, if their value was recognised, become unruly and claim to be the heads of the household, set up a convention that women earned nothing and men everything, and refused to give their wives any legal claim on the housekeeping money."

On women in business.—"The only disadvantage the woman is at in competition with the man is that the man must either succeed in his business or fail completely in life, whilst the woman has a second string to her bow in the possibility of getting married. A young woman who regards business employment as only a temporary support until she can find an eligible husband will never master her work as a man must." But the talented woman who really loves any particular work is in the same position as the man who has found his own particular job:—"He will work on any terms for the pleasure of working, and loathe any other job."

Moral questions.—"Capitalism acts on women as a continual bribe to enter into sex relations for money, whether in or out of marriage; and against this bribe there stands nothing beyond the traditional respectability, which Capitalism ruthlessly destroys by poverty, except religion and the inborn sense of honour which has its citadel in the soul and can hold out (sometimes) against all circumstances."

How to choose Parliamentary Candidates.—"If democracy is not to ruin us, we must at all costs find some trustworthy method of testing the qualifications of candidates before we allow them to seek election. When we have done that, we may have great trouble in persuading the right people to come forward. We may even be driven to compel them; for those who fully understand how heavy are the responsibilities of government, and how exhausting its labour, are the least likely to shoulder them voluntarily. As Plato said, the ideal candidate is the reluctant one."

We may not agree with much that the book contains, but it is all written in sincerity and with wit, and

should be read by both women and men, whatever their particular quota of "intelligence," or, as one might put it, "common sense."

The author, in 84 little chapters (this arrangement materially lightens the treatise), studies with his readers the ideas and methods of Socialism (equal income for all and work for all), Capitalism (Proletarianism and the possession of private property), Capital (spare money), Trade Unionism, Communism, etc.

Epigrams, of course, cheer us on our way:—"Virtuous indignation is a powerful stimulant, but a dangerous diet"; "It is no use facing the world to-day with the ideas of a hundred years ago, when it was practically against the law for a lady who was not a genius to be self-supporting"; "If a woman has been accustomed to go in chains all her life and to see other women doing the same . . . she will feel naked without them"; "It is easier to put chains on people than to take them off if the chains look respectable."

And, in conclusion, we have the Future when (under Socialism):—"The base woman will be she who takes from her country more than she gives to it; the common person will be she who does no more than replace what she takes; and the lady will be she who, generously over-earning her income, leaves the nation in her debt and the world a better world than she found it."

We thank Mr. Shaw for his enjoyable work.—E. K.

AFTER SEVEN YEARS.

Jacob waited seven years for Rachel, but after seven years of postponement Rachel has received a grudging acknowledgement of her right to enter the Wesleyan ministry under the same regulations as apply to men.

The marriage clause was contested, and aroused fierce controversy. The Rev. Ensor Walters opposed Dr. Russell Maltby's resolution on the ground that the ministry was a life vocation, which did not cease on marriage.

The Rev. T. Tiplady seconded the motion for the rejection of the resolution, whilst expressing more openly man's real objection to the ordination of women. Whilst pleading for a larger sphere for women as deaconesses, he contended that the real ministry of women must not be sacrificed merely to satisfy a few women's desire for the ministerial status. Women might administer the sacraments if necessary, yet there were certain distinctions, as in the matter of marriage. There would not be a dozen women ministers in ten years' time, whilst the influence and status of women missionaries and deaconesses would be lowered. Women's sphere in the parallel ministry could be widened, but they could not have a ministry of women on equal terms with the ministry of men. He wished women would cease from imitating men. They appeared to be suffering from an inferiority complex. Women were not the equals of men.

The Rev. Newton Flew, B.A., B.D., supported Dr. Maltby's resolution, and contended that Mr. Walters' objection to the marriage clause was not a reason for denying women's right to ordination, but rather it was an argument for the deletion of the restriction of marriage.

After heated discussion, the Representative Session voted in favour of the original resolution, including the marriage restriction, by 184 to 114.

Two days later, the Pastoral Session, after a lengthy discussion, by an overwhelming majority, passed the motion in favour of admitting women to the ministry. The retirement on marriage clause was retained.

ADELIN E. BROWNSON.

FIRST WOMAN AIR LINER PILOT.

Lady Heath, the pioneer woman aviator, whose feats are already well known to readers of THE VOTE, has the honour of being the first woman to act as pilot of a passenger air liner. She has been engaged in that capacity by the Dutch line, and has undertaken her present work in order to gain experience on big multi-engined machines. She has also been engaged to act as second pilot on a big Fokker air liner, which is to fly 20,000 miles from Amsterdam to Batavia and back in the autumn to inaugurate an air mail service between Holland and the Dutch Indies.

TEA AND POLITICS-UP-TO-DATE.

THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE.

At our Tea and Politics-up-to-date Meeting, held at the Minerva Club, on Wednesday, July 25th, our President, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, presided. She spoke of the Kellogg Peace Pact, and said that Austin Chamberlain's reply was unsatisfactory. The fact that seven of the States of Europe, that Japan and the United States of America had put their signatures to a pact whereby they renounced war as an instrument of national policy, and had agreed that no dispute should ever again be settled by war, marked a great advance towards the materialisation of the dream of world peace. It is significant that Russia has applied to come in. It cannot be denied that expenditure on preparation for war is heavier than ever; at the same time, the force of public opinion is so strong that it is undermining the war spirit. "Twenty-five years have seen the reversal of the subjection of women," said Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence. "I believe the same thing can happen as regards war."

Mrs. Percy Bigland, who has recently returned from a visit to the Peace Palace at the Hague, gave a most interesting account of the working of the International Court of Justice. In the Palace there are two Courts—the Arbitration Court and the World Court. For the World Court, the judges are appointed by the League of Nations. The case which Mrs. Bigland had an opportunity of hearing was a dispute between Germany and Poland in respect to a nitrate factory. When a dispute arises, each nation concerned has a right to appoint two judges.

The question often arises, has the World Court effected anything? At present, in its infancy, the World Court is an authorised, permanent institution with international authority. There are many difficulties to be overcome. For instance, our own code of laws is built up on precedent, whereas those of France and other countries follow set rules.

As an instance of the usefulness of the World Court, Mrs. Bigland quoted a disagreement which had been

settled between France and Great Britain. The dispute was in respect to British subjects on the North African coast under French rule, who claimed the right not to be conscripted into the French Army. French and English judges were present, and when the decision went against France, the French judge voted against his own country. Mrs. Bigland remarked that when a group of people are present, the opinion expressed is generally on the right side.

When a nation is a member of the League of Nations, that nation is pledged to give the Council three months in which to settle a dispute. When nations agree to settle disputes by arbitration, it is expected that they will abide by the rulings of the World Court.

The World Court is always ready to sit and give its best brains to the settlement of disputes. A number of nations are already committed to arbitration. Germany has signed the Optional Clause of the League of Nations, that disputes should be settled by arbitration; France is waiting to see what Great Britain does; and Italy and Switzerland have signed an arbitration treaty between themselves. Several other nations have made a move towards arbitration.

Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence thanked Mrs. Bigland for her most interesting address, and said that world peace is a challenge to women.

Miss Underwood said that International Law is a very fascinating subject to us, as British citizens are a law-abiding race. We want more security than we have at present. Women must do more than talk of Peace. What is before us is to make the new 5,000,000 women voters realise their powers and also realise that they are no longer subject to men. As regards war, it is for women to realise that, to make their voices heard, they must get themselves into positions of authority. They must use their vote to get women on international bodies. *We want to get power that will secure peace.*

international reduction of armaments, to secure the acceptance in advance of methods of peaceful settlement, and to facilitate the removal of causes of conflict."

The resolution was carried with acclamation, after which Miss K. D. Courtney proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers.

FRENCHWOMEN AND FREEDOM.

On August 10th last year, a new nationality law gave Frenchwomen who thereafter married foreigners the right to retain their own nationality, and those already married to foreigners received a year's grace in which to claim French nationality by the simple expedient of making a request in writing. The response has been disappointing. Only 15,000 requests have been received, and the majority of these not from the most desirable type of Frenchwoman citizen.

The delay of those Frenchwomen concerned to claim their right is not due to laxity, but to their knowledge that the restoration of French nationality would rob them of much of their freedom while on French soil, and, in certain respects, would reduce them to a state of servitude—as, for instance, inability to acquire a passport or to travel alone without the written consent of the husband deposited on each occasion with the Mayor, and the inability to have money of their own, or to have a cheque book, or draw a cheque.

"The strongest instinct of the modern girl is towards independence, and not nearly so much, as people think, towards the choice of a man."—Miss Newby, Vice-Principal of St. Christopher's College, Blackheath.

WOMEN'S PEACE PROPOSALS.

On Wednesday evening, July 25th, Lady Acland, J.P., presided over a crowded meeting at Queen's Hall in support of the British-American Women's Crusade. The speakers included Viscountess Astor, M.P.; Miss Ruth Morgan, Chairman of the National League of Women Voters, U.S.A.; Miss Minden Cole, of Canada; Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, President of the Women's Freedom League and Hon. Treasurer of the British-American Women's Peace Crusade; Miss Ruby Rich, Vice-President of the Australian Federation of Women Voters; Miss C. P. Smuts, of South Africa, who read a message from her father, General Smuts; Mrs. Jinarajadasa, of India; and Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell.

In addition to the above speakers, the following people were on the platform: Mrs. Swanwick, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, the Countess of Selborne, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., the Mayor of Deptford (Mrs. Drapper), the Minister of Salvador, the High Commissioner of Newfoundland, the High Commissioner of South Africa, the Rt. Rev. Canon Donaldson, and the Chief Rabbi.

Lady Acland put the following resolution to the meeting:—

"This meeting rejoices that the British Commonwealth of Nations, together with seven nations of Europe and the Empire of Japan, have accepted the invitation of the United States of America to join in signing a Treaty, whereby they mutually renounce war as an instrument of their national policy, and declare that settlement of their disputes shall never be sought except by pacific means; it trusts that all nations will accept this Treaty and will adhere to its principles without reservations; and trusts that the result may be to strengthen international co-operation, to hasten the

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To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.
To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders,
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Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."
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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.

A PUBLIC DEFENDER.

On July 24th, Mr. Purcell (Lab., Forest of Dean) moved in the House of Commons, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to make better provision for the defence of poor persons." Mr. Purcell stated that the object of the proposed Bill was to provide that the Secretary of State shall, from time to time, appoint an officer, to be known as the Public Defender, or Defender of the Poor, whose duty it shall be to prepare, undertake, and carry out the defence of all persons, unless they signify to the contrary, who may be summoned to appear before any Court of Law charged with an offence punishable by death. It sought to give to the prisoner charged with a capital offence equal facilities enjoyed by the Crown in regard to the availability of legal and technical experts. Mr. Purcell reminded the House that, in the recent case tried in Gloucestershire, there were arrayed against the prisoner two officers of the Criminal Investigation Department, who had been on the scene for nearly three months, prospecting and investigating in order to build up a case against the prisoner who was then being charged; and, in addition, no fewer than eight Crown experts. All of these were at the disposal of the State and were being used against the prisoner at the Bar. The Crown was also engaged in securing evidence of all kinds, including that of even a ten-year-old child, against the prisoner, who, in that case, was the child's mother. Further, at the trial itself four counsel were engaged for the prosecution, headed by the Solicitor-General. All together there were fourteen experts in the law, in matters of poisoning, etc., arrayed against one woman, who, but for a generous public, would have had no skilled assistance in any way equal to that which was at the disposal of the Crown; and Mr. Purcell urged that leave should be given to bring in his Bill, so that a prisoner who is charged with a capital offence may be placed in the same position as the Crown from the point of view of legal assistance and of securing technical evidence. The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read a First time. It is supported by Mr. Lees-Smith, Mr. Malone, Mr. Windsor, Mr. W. Thorne, Mr. Dennison, Mr. Trevelyan, Mr. Grundy, and Mr. George Hirst.

The Women's Freedom League is in cordial agreement with the object of the Public Defender Bill, but we should like to see it extended in its application. Our view is that in every Court, in the Police Court as well as a High Court, a person charged with any offence by the authorities should have the right to call upon the assistance of a representative of a Public Defender for his or her defence. The poorest and the most defenceless person in the land has as much right to even-handed Justice in our Courts as the most highly placed; and we are very far from being satisfied that girls and women charged with street and kindred offences in our Police Courts, on the uncorroborated evidence of policemen, always get justice there. If Mr. Purcell's Bill could be extended to provide for their defence, there would be greater safeguards against injustice.

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT.

On July 24th, Mr. Hurd (U., Devizes) moved: "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to amend the Law with respect to offences against persons under the age of sixteen." He said that this Bill seeks to amend the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1922, in respect of one word, substituting the word "twelve" for the word "nine." One section of that Act, which deals with offences against young persons, sets up a limit of nine months, and if that limit is exceeded between the commission of the offence and the beginning of proceedings, no proceedings can be taken against the offender. Mr. Hurd contended that this defect in the law has led in many cases to the breakdown of justice. In 1926, a very strong Departmental Committee, set up by the Home Office, had this matter, with other matters, under consideration, and, after going fully into the question, came to the conclusion that the wisest course would be to extend the period from nine months to twelve months, and that is the object of the present Bill. Mr. Hurd further stated that he brought this matter before the House as a somewhat urgent one, because in his own constituency a most distressing case had arisen, in which the daughter of an agricultural labourer—a girl between 13 and 14 years of age, was seduced, and, owing to the period of nine months being allowed to lapse, through carelessness or neglect on the part of the parents or for some other reason, no proceedings could be taken against the alleged offender. The child died of convulsions in childbirth. A great deal of distress had been created in the countryside, and he had been asked to do what he could to amend the law. Mr. Hurd had approached the Home Office on the matter, who made inquiries into this particular case, but found that no further proceedings could be taken because the time-limit of nine months had been exceeded. The Home Office approved of the Bill, which had the approval of all parties, and he urged the House to assist him in giving it a quick passage to the Statute Book. The motion was agreed to, the Bill receiving its First Reading the same day. On July 27th it was read a Second time, considered in Committee, reported without amendment, and read a Third time. It is hoped that it will have an equally speedy passage through the House of Lords and receive the Royal Assent without delay.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

We greatly regret to learn of the illness of Mr. Clarke Hall, the magistrate at Old Street, and sincerely hope that he will have an early recovery. Magistrates in London, especially at this time of the year when some are on holiday, are intolerably overworked, and in the interests both of their health and of the administration of justice, more magistrates ought to be appointed without delay in the Metropolitan area. We would also point out that the Courts themselves are likely to be responsible for a great amount of ill-health that prevails amongst those who have to pass their time in them. All who have spent a day, or, still more, a few days, either in a Police Court or in the Law Courts, know well the feeling of depression and exhaustion which overpowers them while they are in the Court, and how difficult it is to recover afterwards. There is no ventilation, and the stuffiness and heaviness of the age-old atmosphere are unbearable to anyone who has the slightest inclination for fresh air. That any magistrate manages to survive these evils for a term of years and to administer justice impartially is a wonderful testimony to his physique, brain, and character. But why tax anyone's strength in this way? Why should not a Court of Justice be as well ventilated as an ordinary Council school? We certainly think it ought to be, and the sooner a vigorous campaign is started for well-aired Police Courts and Law Courts, the better will be the health of magistrates and judges, and the easier will be the impartial administration of justice in all their Courts.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Board of Education (Women).

MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE (Lab., Leicester, W.) asked the President of the Board of Education whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that, excluding the inspectorate and those employed on clerical duties, there are no women in the Board of Education; and whether, in view of the desirability of associating women with this work, he will take steps, when future vacancies occur, to secure the appointment of women by promotion, transfer, or otherwise, to responsible posts under the Board? LORD EUSTACE PERCY: In addition to the women inspectors and women executive and clerical officers, the Board of Education staff includes a chief woman medical adviser, two women medical officers, a woman administrative officer, and a woman librarian. A woman was among the six candidates recently interviewed for a vacancy in the administrative class, which was filled by promotion, and women are equally eligible with men for vacancies filled from the Civil Service competitive examination.

Home Office (Woman Inspector).

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR (U., Plymouth) asked the Home Secretary what are the duties allocated to the woman inspector under the Children's Branch? SIR VIVIAN HENDERSON (Under-Secretary, Home Office): The woman inspector is mainly employed in the inspection of Home Office Schools, especially those for girls; she also inspects places of detention, visits certain homes in respect of which a visitation is ordered under Section 25 of the Children Act, and makes other visits and inquiries in connection with the work of the Children's Branch.

COL. WOODCOCK (U., Everton): May I ask whether this is a new appointment, and, if not, how long this inspector has been in office? SIR V. HENDERSON: It is not a new appointment, and I cannot say how long the inspector has been appointed.

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR: Does the hon. and gallant Member consider that one woman is enough for the work? SIR V. HENDERSON: At the moment. VISCOUNTESS ASTOR: Does the hon. and gallant Member consider that she can get round to all the reformatories and industrial schools, and also do the probation work she is supposed to do? SIR V. HENDERSON: I think she can carry out the work quite satisfactorily at the present time.

Public Trustee's Office (Lady Visitor).

MR. HAYES (Lab., Edge Hill) asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury what are the duties upon which the lady visitor attached to the office of the Public Trustee is employed? THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir Thomas Inskip): I have been asked to reply. The duty of the lady visitor is to advise the Public Trustee in his discharge of his duties as trustee or guardian for infant children, or in any other matter relating to the administration of any trust committed to him, upon which he desires her advice.

Office of Works (Women Employment).

MR. BRIANT (Lib., Lambeth, N.) asked the Under-Secretary, Home Office, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that there are no women, other than clerical workers, employed by the Office of Works; and whether, in view of the large numbers of women workers for whose welfare the Government is responsible, he will take steps when future vacancies occur to secure the appointment of women by promotion, transfer, or otherwise, to responsible posts under the Office of Works? SIR V. HENDERSON: There are no posts in the Office of Works from which women are definitely excluded by reason of their sex, but the First Commissioner cannot bind himself beforehand as to how he will fill appointments when they become vacant.

Treasury.

COL. CLIFTON BROWN (U., Hexham) asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many men and women, respectively, above the clerical grade are employed at the Treasury; how many of each sex have been appointed by transfer from other departments of the service; and how many under Clause 7 of the Reorganisation Report since the Resolution of the House giving men and women equal opportunities in the Civil Service? MR. SAMUEL (Financial Secretary to the Treasury): Ninety-six men and five women are employed in the Treasury in established posts above the clerical grade, of whom 54 men and three women had previous established service in other Government Departments before appointment to the Treasury. I assume that the reference in the latter portion of the question is to Clause 7 of the Order in Council of January 10th, 1910. This Clause has been repealed and replaced by Clause 10 of the General Regulations made by the Civil Service Commissioners under the Order in Council of July 22nd, 1920. Since the date of the resolutions referred to, one male officer has been appointed to the Treasury under the above Clause. This officer was transferred from another Government Department.

Junior Executive Grade.

COL. CLIFTON BROWN asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date was the junior executive grade first opened to women; what is the present number of men and women, respectively, in that grade; and how many vacancies have been filled by the appointment of men and women already in the service? MR. SAMUEL: The junior executive grade has been open to women since its creation in 1920, on the reorganisation of the Civil Service. The number of officers at present serving in the junior executive grade is approximately 2,230 men, and 33 women. With the exception of a few women admitted to the executive grade as the result of a special competition in 1922, limited to candidates with previous temporary service, all the existing junior executive officers were appointed to that grade from existing established classes.

Married Women Teachers.

MR. MACLEAN (Lab., Govan) asked the President of the Board of Education whether he can state the number of married women teachers, not widows, who are employed in the teaching profession? MAJOR SIR WILLIAM COPE (Controller of the Household): I have been asked to reply. The only figures available relate to teachers in public elementary schools. The number of married women teachers (exclusive of widows) employed in pensionable service in such schools on March 31st, 1927, was 14,109.

Female Prisoners (Matrons).

MR. HAYES asked the Home Secretary whether there are any police stations at which no provision is made for a female searcher or matron to be retained at the station after a female prisoner has been lodged in the cells; and, in that case, will he state the regulations governing the periodic visits of station officers to the cells without emergency having arisen? SIR V. HENDERSON (Under-Secretary): A matron is engaged to be and remain in attendance so long as a female prisoner is detained at any police station throughout the Metropolitan Police district, and a similar arrangement is general elsewhere.

MR. HAYES: Are the regulations perfectly explicit on that matter? SIR V. HENDERSON: So far as I am aware. If the hon. Member has any particular point in mind, perhaps he will let me know.

London Lock Hospital.

MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE asked the Minister of Health whether the Committee which is inquiring into the London Lock Hospital have now finished their labours; and when their Report is likely to be

published? MR. CHAMBERLAIN: I understand that the Committee are now considering their Report, but I cannot say when it will be ready for publication.

Straits Settlements (Social Hygiene).

VISCOUNT SANDON (U., Shrewsbury) asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Under-Secretary of State, on his recent visit to the Straits Settlements, investigated any of the problems dealt with in the 1924 Report on Social Hygiene; whether the situation is now better or worse than at that time; and whether any further steps are to be suggested or taken to remedy the evils that are therein stated to exist? MR. AMERY: The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies had some discussion about this matter with the Governor of the Straits Settlements and his advisers during his recent visit to Malaya. The Governments concerned are proceeding on the lines recommended by the Committee in question, which recognised that improvement in this, as in other matters of social welfare, must necessarily be gradual. I understand that the situation already shows some improvement, and that it is not considered that any steps other than those recommended by the Committee can usefully be taken at present.

THE CLYDE COAST CAMPAIGN.

Organiser and Speaker: Miss Lilian Lenton. Assisted by Mrs. Ash, Miss Ogg, Mrs., and the Misses Scott.

Another wet week! What's happened to the Clyde this year? But not so wet that we couldn't carry on. We have held ten open-air meetings (several in the rain) at Rothesay, Largs, Dunoon, Millport, and Helensburgh. We even tried Gourack for a change, four of us descending *en masse* on the surprised inhabitants, but so heavy was the downpour that we had to return, having achieved nothing. We have sold 1,000 copies of the VOTE, some hundred pamphlets, and taken collections, and we most sincerely thank the visitors and inhabitants of the places we visit, not only for the generosity of their response to our appeals, but also for their patience when asked for the umpteenth time to "buy a VOTE" or a pamphlet. For even as we travel from place to place, so do they, and the man who has responded in Helensburgh on Saturday may find himself attacked again in Millport the following week.

There is not very much opposition this year. Questions and interruptions at the meetings are few. We like questions, but hope that their scarcity indicates that all are convinced of the justice of our demands and the inevitability of our ultimate and early success.

Although there are still men who will fight us to the last, their efforts are now feeble—as one of our many male supporters said, "It is the last kick." Some of these, our few remaining opponents, are bitter, but others tend to be sweetly reasonable, asking a corresponding reasonableness in us! One gentleman, accompanied by two ladies, hearing from Mrs. Ash that we are a society to get equality of opportunity between the sexes, urged her to tell the truth and admit, what she certainly knew, that men and women cannot be regarded as quite equal. So patronising was his mien, so earnest his pleading, that Mrs. Ash thought a moment—hesitated—said, slowly, that maybe he was right, we could not claim equality—raised hopes of an easy victory, only to dash them by concluding that "perhaps, after all, women were a little superior."

The speaker is accused of being too hard on the man, of citing illustrations tending to suggest his inferiority. This is not meant. We but tell the truth in a belated effort to contest the age-long presumption of his claim to be treated as lord and master.

If it were only man's superiority complex we had to fight, our task would be easy. In many who have a sense of justice, it is rapidly disappearing. Our difficulty is the inferiority complex inherent in so many

women. It has its root, doubtless, in the desire to please men. It is shown here by those ladies who, abroad themselves, say women should stay at home and not interfere in man's sphere; in those who, offered a pamphlet on "Woman's Place in the Church," say it is that she should be silent there.

This week twice our meetings have been on difficult subjects. Despite warnings from well-disposed members of both sexes, that to do so would be inadvisable, we dealt with what is known as the "Savidge" case, leading from that to the inequalities and injustices to be found in our laws dealing with street offences, showing how these tend to perpetuate the present unequal moral standard. The following night we went into the question of vile outrages on little girl children, drawing attention to the inadequacy of the laws dealing with this offence, and also speaking of the white slave traffic, by means of which recruits are obtained for brothels, licensed or unlicensed. The speaker pointed out that but for man's demand this traffic could not exist, but at question time a man wanted to know if it was not a fact that it was the presence of the women in the houses which tempted the men there. He begged us to get to the root of the matter—to Adam and Eve—"the woman tempted me." The crowd was satisfied with the answer that man, being "of the stronger sex," should have strength to resist the temptation of the "weaker"!

This night, the elderly gentleman, whom, last week, we knew not whether to regard as friend or foe, seems to have shown his true colours. Because we know that wrongs will never be righted until the light of publicity is turned upon them, carefully the speaker dealt with these difficult matters, when, suddenly from the front of the crowd, this man, wildly waving his walking-stick, shouted that he protested against such things being said in front of children. We suggested that if there was any danger to the children—which we denied—their parents could take them home—it was after 8 o'clock—and the crowd agreed. He went away and has not been since.

That the fears of those who advised us to leave these questions alone were unfounded was obvious from the attention and sympathy of our audiences, showing itself unmistakably in the largest collections we have had this year.

To-day the sun is shining—it is Sunday—and we have no meeting. Let us hope that it will continue to shine during this coming week, that our activities may be continued under less difficult and pleasanter conditions.

Until August 10th we shall hold meetings nightly on the Pier Head at Rothesay, and during the day we shall visit the various watering places, holding more meetings in the morning or afternoon, and selling our VOTES and literature.

Personal help from all in the neighbourhood will be welcomed. Donations, too, will be gratefully received, as our expenses are heavy and our takings, owing to the weather, less than we expected them to be.

LILIAN LENTON.

A WOMAN THEOLOGIAN.

Mrs. Mabel Bickerstaff has passed the final Bachelor of Divinity examination (London University). Not only has she taken the first and final examinations in the shortest possible time allowed by the University, but she has achieved her success by private study. Mrs. Bickerstaff is the daughter of the late Professor Edwin Williams, of Trefecca, who was well known as a preacher and teacher, and is the wife of an Aberystwyth business man. She was already an M.A. of the Welsh University, and her sole motive in studying for the Divinity degree was a determination to take an intelligent part in the life and thought of the Church.

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

DARE TO BE FREE. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, September 28th, at 5 p.m.

Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

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

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

PROVINCES.

Clyde Coast Campaign.

Headquarters: Rothesay. Meeting every evening on the pierhead, and daily in Largs, Dunoon, Millport and Helensburgh.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

July 27th to August 10th.

Women's International League. International Summer School in Westhill Training College, Selly Oak, near Birmingham.

September 4th to September 11th.

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Summer School at St. Hilda's College, Oxford.

Wednesday, October 24th, at 1 for 1.15 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee. "Victory-and-After Day." Luncheon at the Hotel Cecil. Chairman: The Viscountess Rhondda. Tickets 5/- each from Women's Freedom League Office.

Wednesday, October 24th, at 7.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee. "Victory-and-After Day." Reception at Caxton Hall.

BRANCH NOTE.

ASHFORD.

There was a good attendance of members at the delightful Garden Meeting held in the Grammar School Wood last Friday. Our cordial thanks are due to our kind hostess, Mrs. Lamprey, who made everything so comfortable for us. Everything went off without a hitch. First of all, we had sports, which were arranged by our President, Mrs. Miles, and Miss Richardson. Prizes for these were presented by various members of the Committee; then we had tea. Special thanks to Mrs. Turvey, Mrs. Knock and Mrs. Turner, who had charge of the tea room. During tea, Miss White was able to sell a good many VOTES. We congratulate Mrs. Miles on the wonderful scene from Shakespeare, performed by members of the Hothfield Women's Institute. A vote of thanks to all those who had helped to make the gathering a success terminated a delightful afternoon's entertainment.

TO "THE VOTE" READERS.

Vols. No. 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 14 of "The Vote" are urgently required by the Women's Freedom League. The gift of any or all of these volumes to Headquarters would be much appreciated.

THE BIRTHDAY FUND.

Belated contributions are still coming in and are met with a warm welcome. Please swell the stream and send yours this week.

144, High Holborn, W.C.1. E. KNIGHT (Hon. Treas.)

HOLIDAYS.

The Offices of the Women's Freedom League and the Minerva Publishing Co., Ltd., will be closed from Friday, August 3rd, 5.30 p.m., until Tuesday, August 7th, 9.30 a.m.

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, 1/-

ST. JOAN'S VICTORY PARTY.

By kind invitation of Mrs. Laughton Mathews, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance enjoyed a very delightful Victory Party at her house in St. John's Wood, on July 25th.

In honour of the occasion, flowers in the colours of the Alliance as well as its banners decorated the rooms, while in the centre of the main table was a "Winged Victory" and a model of a ship come safe to port.

After brief speeches by Miss Fedden, one of the earliest members, and by Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell, representing the Liverpool Branch and the younger members, a presentation was made to Miss Jeffery, co-founder of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, to Miss Barry, Hon. Secretary, and to Miss de Alberti, Editor of the *Catholic Citizen*, in grateful recognition of their many years of devoted service to the Alliance and to the woman's cause.

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN FOR SUFFRAGE & EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

As in previous years, the Alliance will open temporary Headquarters in the delightful Foyer du Travail féminin, 11 Cours de Rive, Geneva, from August 27th to September 22nd, during the Assembly of the League of Nations. This is intended to serve as a centre and meeting-place for the feminists of all countries who may be visiting the town. There they can read the women's papers, consult the publications of the League, etc. Several members of the Board of the Alliance have announced their intention of being in Geneva during the Assembly. Mrs. Corbett Ashby, the President, will be there at the beginning of September; Miss Sterling, the Hon. Treasurer, will spend the whole month at Geneva, thus giving valuable support to the Secretary, Mdlle. Gourde; Frau Schriber Krieger, First Vice-President of the Alliance and Member of the Reichstag, will also be there, as well as Madame Malaterre-Sellier. Feminists of all countries are invited to take advantage of the facilities offered by the Headquarters of the Alliance directly they arrive in Geneva.

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, ANNUAL REPORT

The Seventh Annual Report (1927-1928) of the Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations has just been issued. The constituent societies of this Committee number fifty-two, among them being the Women's Freedom League. Three ordinary meetings, besides the annual meeting, have been held during the year, under the able chairmanship of Lady Galway. All were well attended, and the subjects discussed have, as usual, ranged over a wide field, including Equal Franchise (twice), Equal Opportunities in Education, Factory Legislation, Unemployment Insurance, Militarism in Schools, Slum Clearances, Maternal Mortality, Women Health Workers, Women in the Service of Hospitals, Reform of the Marriage Age, the Edinburgh Corporation Bill on Compulsory Notification, the Indian Statutory Commission, and the United States Proposals for the Renunciation of War.

A SUMMER SCHOOL at ST. HILDA'S COLLEGE, OXFORD,

4th—11th September,

(for ALL VOTERS, particularly the NEWLY ENFRANCHISED), is being organised by the

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

The Courses will include:—

I.—PROBLEMS OF DEMOCRACY: Miss Majorie Maxse, Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, Mr. Blanco White, and others.

II.—THE WOMAN'S MOVEMENT: Miss Vera Brittain, Miss Eleanor Rathbone, Mrs. Blanco White, and others.

III.—INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS: Miss K. D. Courtney, Mr. Walter Layton (engagements permitting), and others.

DISCUSSION GROUPS will be formed on such subjects as "WORK OF WOMEN MAGISTRATES," etc., i. sufficient numbers of students desire them.

PRACTICE CLASSES for SPEAKERS will also be organised.

Full particulars with regard to fees, etc., may be obtained from N.U.S.E.C., 15, Dean's Yard, S.W.1.

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MINERVA CLUB, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Open to non-residents. Restaurant. Smoking Room. Papers. Library. Bedrooms available at holiday times. Membership, £1 1s. Entrance Fee suspended during present year. All particulars from the SECRETARY. Telephone: Terminus 4791.

REST AND HOLIDAYS.

BRIGHTON.—"Sea View," Victoria Road, Midday dinner. Gas fires in Bedrooms. Wireless. Vegetarians catered for.—Hostess: MISS TURNER.

BOSCOMBE, Bournemouth, 39, Parkwood Road. Comfortable Board-residence; 2 mins. cliffs; good locality. Terms from 2½ gns.—MISS MILLER.

BATH.—2 miles, ¼-hour by tram. Vegetarian Holiday Home. Parties taken. Cubicles 30/- week; single rooms £2 5s.; shared rooms £2 2s. 6d.—Batheaston Villa, Bath.

CHILTERNES.—Attractive little house, fine view, 3 bed, 2 sitting-rooms. Modern conveniences. Electric light. July-August.—COBB, Chinnor, Oxon.

CORNWALL.—Well-furnished kitchen and double bedroom to let in farmhouse. No attendance; every convenience. Garage, if required. Good motoring centre.—SELSEY, St. Stephen's, St. Austell.

CORNWALL.—Farmhouse, Board Residence. Near sea, Golf links and town. Indoor sanitation. Healthy situation. Photos sent.—MRS. JELBERT, Trewiddle, St. Austell.

CORNWALL.—Newquay Line, board residence, modern sanitation, garage—only a few accommodated. Terms moderate. Box VOTE "K.S." 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

FRENCH ALPS.—Furnished Châlet to let. View Mt. Blanc, Seven beds, bath, inside sanitation.—"E.C.F.," 31, Meadhurst Road, Leicester.

HAMPTON COURT (near to).—Paying Guests required. Golf, river, railway station, 5 mins., Waterloo station, 33 minutes.—APPLEBY, Wolsey Road, E. Molesey, Surrey.

KENDAL.—Residential or Holidays, from 2½ guineas a week. Altitude 350 ft. Grounds 5 acres, open view to the sea. Tennis, golf links, motor-buses to all parts. Garage. Excellent cooking. Recommended.—MRS. WILLIAMSON, Underfell, Kendal.

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YORKSHIRE MOORS.—Apartments. Sitting and 1 or 2 bedrooms; inside sanitation; bath; garden.—ROBINSON, 6, South View, Eldwick, Bingley, Yorks.

FOR SALE.

COMPACT BUNGALOW in Surrey Hills, Pine and Heather, 400 feet up. Sandy loam gravel; 4 miles Hindhead and Haslemere; secluded, good view over extensive country; living room, two bedrooms; ¼-acre. Cash sale, £275.—ARCHDALE, Moordell, Brier Avenue, Witley, Surrey.

FREEHOLD, grass farm 7½ acres, new house, 2 reception, 3 bed-rooms, bath (h. & c.). Garage and building, close, village main road. Price £950. Ashford 4 miles.—MOCKFORD, "Rosecote," Kingsnorth, Ashford, Kent.

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NOTICES.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, August 5th, 1928. 6.30. Rev. W. B. Selbie, D.D.: "Religion and Revelation—"

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED—Consult Miss H. M. BAKER, 275, High Holborn, W.C.1. Income Tax Returns, Repayment Claims of all Descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 0377.

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