

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

NON-PARTY.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 1928

OBJECT: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the powers already obtained to elect women in Parliament, and upon other public bodies, for the purpose of establishing equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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THE COUNTESS OF IVEAGH, M.P.

When Lady Iveagh became Member of Parliament for Southend, Conservative women scored a triumph. By tradition and inclination, Lady Iveagh is exceptionally well suited for a political career.

A descendant of Richard Onslow, Speaker and Solicitor-General in Elizabeth's reign, and daughter of the late Earl of Onslow, as a girl Lady Gwendolen took a keen interest in politics, and for some years acted as her father's secretary. In her early married life, as Lady Gwendolen Guinness, she gave her husband valuable assistance in his political work. His belief that a Member should live among his constituents led to their living in Haggerston. The experience gained during these years has greatly assisted Lady Iveagh in building up her political creed.

As Chairman of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Organisation, Lady Iveagh has had an excellent opportunity to become conversant with the political wishes of the women supporters of her Party. She does not believe in "feminism" in politics, and contends that the average woman, like the average man, votes consciously for the candidate whose programme appears to be in the best interests of the country as a whole. At the same time, her experience of the realities of life have convinced her that, on questions such as those of infant welfare, health, sanitation, house construction, town-planning, slum clearances, and juvenile employment, women are particularly well qualified to give sound advice. She considers the education of children a matter of greater concern to women than to men, and advocates a progressive educational policy.

Lady Iveagh believes that "the ideal Parliament

should be a microcosm of the whole community." For that ideal to be realised, women must be represented in much larger numbers than they now are. Legislation to-day affects every home and every woman much more so than half a century ago. It is Lady Iveagh's ambition to face these realities from the view-point of a woman.

The close connection between Lady Iveagh and the borough she now represents—which is of 15 years' standing—accounts for the widespread confidence placed in her by her constituents. Her many social and charitable activities have placed her in touch with all sections of the community. She is an able speaker, and one who inspires enthusiasm.

Lady Iveagh is a firm supporter of economy. She looks upon the business of a nation as upon the management of a household. In her own words: "The first thing to do is to pay our way and to remember that the prosperity of the country depends upon the success of its trade. Economy must be our watchword." Her grip of industrial problems, her political traditions and associations, and her power of quick decision, render her an important addition to the small



LADY IVEAGH, M.P.

group of women now in the House of Commons. Lady Iveagh is exceptionally well qualified to become a good legislator, and her election was welcomed by many women outside her own political Party.

Lady Iveagh has no personal ambition for a political career. Her aim is to serve her generation and, in doing so, prove of service to the nation. Her appointment as one of the Vice-Chairmen of the Council of the Conservative Associations puts her in the direct line of succession to the Chairmanship of the great Annual Conference of the Party.

EQUAL FRANCHISE PASSES THROUGH COMMITTEE.

On Wednesday, April 18th, the House of Commons went into Committee on the Government's Equal Franchise Bill. SIR ALEXANDER SPROT (U., Lanark, N.) moved an Amendment to make the full electoral age of both sexes 25, except in the case of a man whose name had appeared on the Register of Voters prior to the passing of the Act. He said his proposal was a good one, and if there was any danger in the extension of the franchise to women his Amendment would tend to modify it. He submitted we ought to be prudent and limit the vote to those who had had some experience of life. He illustrated his point by quoting the case of the Prodigal Son, who took all his goods and went into a far country when he was 21, and returned home to become a good citizen when he was 25. He was quite sure the young men of the country would be chivalrous enough to wait till 25 for their vote in order that young women might enjoy it on the same terms.

CAPT. CRAIG (U., Antrim) supported the Amendment; stated that there was really no demand whatever for the measure; that the Government ought not to have brought in the Bill; that there was no magic in the age of 21; and declared with confidence that "at least 99 per cent. of these young people think nothing whatever about politics."

MR. NAYLOR (Lab., Southwark, S.E.) opposed the Amendment, pointing out that young men and young women are eligible for election to Parliament at 21; that times had changed since the supporters of the Amendment were young men; and that the young men and young women of to-day were far more intellectual than at that time.

MR. HARMSWORTH (U., Isle of Thanet) was not wholeheartedly in favour of the Amendment, but said he would vote for it, or any other Amendment, which would prevent the Bill from passing. By conferring this right upon the electorate over 21, the Government was weakening the Constitution, and he asked the Home Secretary to take the Whips off and allow the Committee to give a free vote on the Amendment, when he was sure it would have an overwhelming majority.

MISS BONDFIELD (Lab., Wallsend), opposing the Amendment, said that, by the time the vast majority of our population reached the age of 21, they had had experience of life by knocking about the world, many suffering hardships of unemployment. It was that section of the community which was interested in politics because politics interested itself in them.

SIR WILLIAM DAVISON (U., Kensington, S.), supporting the Amendment, said that to fix the age at 25, would tend to increase the dignity of the vote; that the Registrar-General for England and Wales, in giving a table of accidents, especially drowning accidents, had pointed out that, of the total number of deaths, 84 per cent. occurred to persons below the age of 25; that the London General Omnibus Company did not take on drivers until they were 26, and conductors before they were 24; and that everything pointed to the age of 25 as the age at which prudence and responsibility were first shown. Then there was really no demand on the part of these young people for the vote.

MR. MACQUISTEN (U., Argyllshire) supported the Bill as it stood, and said we should have more enterprise in the land when young women had the vote. He quoted appreciative comments by an ex-Minister of Justice of New Zealand, where women had had the franchise since 1893, on the wisdom of giving the franchise to young women as well as to young men.

MR. GROVES (Lab., Stratford) opposed the Amendment, and pointed out that every movement for reform had been met by the cry that it would mean the breakdown of the Constitution.

LORD HUGH CECIL (U., Oxford University), supporting the Amendment, said that people over 25 were, in respect of judgment, more mature than people under 25, and the Bill did not complete democracy; it imperilled democracy. Under the franchise proposed by the Bill, it was not democracy that would rule. It

was not a free people governing themselves. It was government by bosses of an elective assembly of robots.

SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS (Home Secretary) said the effect of the Amendment would be to enfranchise two and a half million women, and at the same time disfranchise two and a half million men. He looked upon its supporters as prehistoric men and his noble Friend as the Piltown skull itself. The Government was absolutely united on the question, and he hoped that his hon. Friends would unite with the vast majority of the whole House and reject the Amendment.

LT.-COL. SIR FREDERICK HALL (U., Dulwich) repeated that he was "deadly opposed to giving the vote to women at 21," but, as he did not agree with setting the clock back by disfranchising men of 21, he could not vote for the Amendment.

SIR SAMUEL CHAPMAN (U., Edinburgh, S.) said that he was going to vote for the Bill, the whole Bill, and nothing but the Bill. He gave his wholehearted support to it.

On a Division, the Amendment was defeated by 359 votes to 16. For this Amendment the Tellers were Sir Alexander Sprot and Sir William Bull (U., Hammer-smith), and those who voted for it were the following: Col. Applin (U., Enfield), Capt. Bourne (U., Oxford), Lord Hugh Cecil, Capt. Craig, Sir Thomas Davies (U., Cirencester), Sir William Davison, Col. Gretton (U., Burton), the Hon. E. C. Harmsworth, Capt. Holt (U., Upton), Lt.-Col. Hon. Cuthbert James (U., Bromley), Mr. O. W. Nicholson (U., Westminster), Sir Herbert Nield (U., Ealing), Sir Charles Oman (U., Oxford University), Mr. D. D. Reid (U., Co. Down), Sir Berkeley Sheffield (U., Brigg), and Mr. A. A. Somerville (U., Windsor).

Miss Bondfield then moved an Amendment to delete paragraph (c) of Clause I, which states that a person shall be entitled to be registered as a Parliamentary elector if he or she is the husband or wife of a person entitled to be so registered in respect of a business premises qualification. On Division, this Amendment was defeated by 208 votes to 138.

Clause 5 makes special provisions with regard to the Register of Electors to be made in 1929, and provides that it shall come into force on May 1st, 1929, and remain in force until October 15th, 1930. MR. RHYS DAVIES (Lab., Westhoughton) moved that the Register should only remain in force until October 15th, 1929, but this Amendment was negated by 206 votes to 130.

Last Monday, the House of Commons again went into Committee on the Bill, and after considerable discussion and two Divisions it was decided that in county constituencies the candidate's expenditure will be restricted to 6d. per voter, instead of 7d. as hitherto, but that in the boroughs, the maximum figure of 5d. will remain.

The Committee stage then concluded, and the Bill, as amended, was reported to the House.

WOMEN NOT "PERSONS."

Last Tuesday, the Supreme Court of Canada delivered a verdict that women were not "persons" within the meaning of the British North America Act, and therefore were not eligible for seats in the Canadian Senate. Following the judgment, Mr. Lapointe announced in the House of Commons that the Government intended to take steps to introduce Amendments to the British North America Act, which would render women eligible for the Senate.

Following a petition by Canadian women, the Federal Government recently asked the Supreme Court to decide whether the term "qualified person" in Section 24 of the British North America Act, which determines eligibility for appointment to the Senate, included women.

EDINBURGH CORPORATION BILL.

The Second Reading Debate took place last Thursday, April 19th.

MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE (Leicester, W.) moved the rejection of the Bill. Both sides, said he, were agreed as to the gravity of these diseases and the need to eradicate them, but the promoters of the Bill believed that compulsion was the best means to that end, whilst its opponents believed that compulsion would have precisely opposite results. This was proved both by experience and by the common-sense view of human nature. Compulsion, they were told, was to be very sparingly applied and only to defaulters, but compulsion could not be grafted on to the voluntary system. We must have either a voluntary or a compulsory system; to have both is impossible. Voluntary patients would hesitate to start treatment, and would postpone it as long as possible. The conscripts would be the poor only; mothers would be deterred from coming to pre-natal clinics; and very likely in the end it would be prostitutes only who would be conscripted. Edinburgh Corporation said that defaulters fell from 44 per cent. in 1922 to 29 per cent. in 1926; in New South Wales, under compulsory treatment three-quarters of the defaulters escape. Are we to reverse the whole principle of our treatment on the chance of catching this small proportion? In Melbourne, in 1922, a medical conference found no evidence under compulsory treatment of any reduction of congenital venereal disease. The bulk of the women's societies opposed the Bill. It would be a strange irony if, at the Centenary of Josephine Butler, such a retrograde measure should be passed.

DR. GRAHAM LITTLE (London University) seconded the rejection. He argued solely on medical grounds, having been for 26 years head of two London hospital clinics, treating venereal disease. Defaulters were made too prominent. It was far more important to get a new case, both for ultimate cure and to check infection of others, than to go on treating an old one. Under the voluntary system, only started in 1916, venereal disease is rapidly diminishing. Compulsion was condemned by the Royal Commission in 1916, by the British Medical Association in 1923, and by the Trevelthick Committee in 1923. At a meeting of the Edinburgh Division of the British Medical Association, held in Edinburgh, a majority supported the Bill, but there were only 60 doctors at this meeting out of the 1,500 doctors in Edinburgh. The vast majority of the profession opposed compulsion because it threatened professional confidence. If officials were to be sent foraging in poor neighbourhoods, they would receive more brickbats than information. This was a bureaucratic, not a medical Bill. It would not stop at Edinburgh; other cities would have to adopt it, and it would finally destroy our voluntary system. There was no reason for panic legislation. Improvement in administering our present system was better than scrapping a going concern for such very doubtful advantage.

SIR PATRICK FORD (North Edinburgh) defended the Bill as being needed to deal with defaulters, some 900 to 1,000 persons, irresponsible, reckless, and recalcitrant, who were going about as centres of infection. He felt that voluntary treatment of other cases would go on just as before. They had dropped the clause for compulsory detention, because they had that power already as a last resource under Section 54 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897. The Bill was not compulsory notification, or examination, or treatment, but it gave the power of segregation, and if the patients' sense did not teach them to take treatment, they remained segregated. This was better than for innocent people to suffer because of false sentimentality. He would have preferred compulsory notification. The Convention of Burghs, in January last, called for compulsion, also the Edinburgh Branches of the National Council of Women's Societies, and of the Women Citizens and the Scottish Co-operative Women's Guild, and all the M.P.s for the City of Edinburgh, except

the Member for the Port of Leith. The opposition was in the South, in London, Plymouth, etc.

DR. SALTER (Bermondsey, W.) opposed the Bill on practical grounds. Evasion was very easy, and poor patients would be compelled to undergo treatment which sometimes had fatal results. Compulsion was also entirely unnecessary. Officials of Edinburgh Corporation had given figures to the Medical Committee of the House, showing that defaulters were falling steadily from 18 per cent. of all cases who came for treatment in 1922 to 11 per cent. in 1927, and this though Edinburgh employed only one official as follower-up. With better methods he thought defaulters would almost disappear. Holland and Great Britain alone had no compulsion, and they had the fewest defaulters. In Amsterdam, only 5 per cent. of men, and 15 per cent. of women, venereal disease patients failed to attend continuously for the two years of this system. He thought the Bill would increase the amount of disease instead of lessening it.

DR. DRUMMOND SHIELS (East Edinburgh) said the Bill filled a gap in the Infectious Diseases Acts. He believed the voluntary system could go on perfectly well, supplemented by compulsion. Edinburgh, it was true, had only one almoner; she was sent to women. Men defaulters had a confidential letter only. Edinburgh thought that the pledge of confidentiality prevented them from sending a man to visit them at their homes. They wanted the Bill for a residue, after everything had been done, which could not be touched by the voluntary system at all. He was surprised at the unscrupulous use which had been made of the memory, which they all revered, of Josephine Butler. He was surprised to find some women's societies (in Edinburgh, small ones) against the Bill. Was it equal citizenship for men to get infected and disease their wives? He gave instances of infection of children.

SIR JOHN GILMOUR (Secretary of State for Scotland) advised the House to reject the Bill. Progress must be in proportion to public opinion. Was it quite certain that compulsion would help in dealing with these cases of infection?

LIEUT.-COL. FREMANTLE (St. Albans) supported the Bill.

MR. E. BROWN (Leith) said the whole case had been based upon defaulters, but the Bill did not deal alone with defaulters, or alone with Edinburgh. It raised the whole issue of voluntarism, honesty, faith, and moral forces, as against legal and medical compulsion. Edinburgh Corporation realised that there was great opposition in Edinburgh, and cut out of the Bill its powers of arrest and detention. Both he and his wife proposed to speak against the Bill in Edinburgh and Leith, and put the other side of the case. In Edinburgh there was a great body of public opinion of practical people against the Bill. This was the worst of all conflicts, a conflict of idealists; they had the same end in view. He was profoundly convinced the Bill was a mistake.

SIR S. CHAPMAN (South Edinburgh) was puzzled over the Bill, for which he was sponsor, and asked for its elucidation in a Select Committee.

MR. STEWART (St. Rollox) had been a member of the Lunacy Board and knew the ravages of venereal disease, and opposed the Bill in the interests of the children and other patients now treated, who would not be taken to clinics or start treatment under compulsion. He believed under the voluntary system we manage much better.

LADY ASTOR (Sutton) understood the longing for compulsion when contemplating isolated grievous cases of infection. But these were particular diseases, not to be compared with others, moral diseases. In dealing with them, man has always trusted to confinement and compulsion to abolish them. We have found that it does not. That was the flaw in the Contagious Diseases Acts—instead of abolishing, it increased them.

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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.

UNCORROBORATED EVIDENCE AGAIN.

An interesting case, illustrating the need for corroborating police evidence, came before the Bow Street Police Court last week. According to *The Times* report, a police charge of insulting behaviour was preferred against a young tailoress, of Great Ormond Street. Two police officers gave evidence that at midnight the girl placed herself in front of two separate men in Southampton Row, and spoke to them. The police officers said that both these men appeared to be annoyed, and had to step aside to pass her. Neither of the officers had seen her before, or knew anything of her character. The young woman declared that she had been speaking to a friend, and after he left her she was followed for about ten yards by another man. He spoke to her, but she took no notice of him. She asked one of the constables how he could tell which spoke first if he was on the opposite side of the road? The Clerk said: "Isn't it rather difficult to see who spoke first at that distance?" to which the constable replied: "I could see by her action in placing herself in front of the man." For the defence, a tailor who lived in Millman Street, Holborn, said he was engaged to be married to the girl, and met her by arrangement in Southampton Row. He was with another man, and left him talking to her while he went away to buy some fruit. When he returned the man had gone and the girl was in custody. She was in respectable employment. This other man, also a tailor and living in the neighbourhood, said that he remained for a time with the young woman while her fiancé was away, but had to leave before he returned. The magistrate, Mr. Graham Campbell, said he would give the girl the benefit of the doubt, and dismissed the charge. We do not see how he could have done otherwise, but we are entitled to ask how this young woman would have fared if these two men had not of their own accord come forward to prove her innocence? Can we doubt that she would have had a first conviction on the uncorroborated evidence of these police officers? And after a first conviction, is it not specially easy for police officers to get further convictions if they happen to see her in the streets? What redress would she have? If she had money to pay for legal aid, she might be able to get a conviction quashed, but as she would most probably not have the necessary money for legal expenses, she could not buy justice, and therefore her conviction would stand. Can the ordinary citizen help feeling distinctly uneasy about the administration of justice to women if they happen to be poor under the present laws governing the conditions of our streets, despite protestations to the contrary by magistrates, chief constables, and other officials? We are firmly convinced that justice is only possible if the person, whether it be a man or woman who is said to be annoyed, molested, or solicited, will come to Court and substantiate the charge. We further believe that if an appeal were made to members of the public, in the interests of justice and good order, to come forward in such cases, they would be less reluctant to do so than they are now said to be.

WOMEN IN THE PRESBYTERIAN MINISTRY?

Will women become ministers in the Irish Presbyterian Church? The Rev. Principal Paul, M.A., D.D., giving an account of the work at the Presbyterian College, Belfast, in a public lecture recently, said that for the first time they had in their college this session a woman student, who had taken the full college course. He was not going to discuss whether women should be ordained to the ministry, because the question did not arise, but there could be little doubt that properly-qualified women could render great services to the ministers, especially in cities and large towns. Some of the duties undertaken by the minister's assistant could be done better by a woman than a man, and he hoped that their woman student would be followed by others. We hope so, too. We also hope that when these women students have completed their college course, they will have equal opportunities with men to become ordained and to take their part on an equal footing with men in the ministry. We are quite sure that properly-qualified women will be willing to act as assistants to properly-qualified ministers to gain what all ministers need—useful experience. But we do not think, nor do we believe that Principal Paul thinks, that a properly-qualified woman should be content to remain anywhere indefinitely as a minister's assistant. We sincerely hope that the Irish Presbyterian Church will take a broad view of this matter of women in the ministry, and throw open that ministry to women on equal terms with men. The time has gone by when the world can believe that men alone, without the full co-operation of women, can minister to the needs of women either in Church or State. The State has gradually come to recognise its responsibility in this matter, and in nearly all countries, women are now being conceded equal political and civil rights with men. The Church ought not to hesitate in its action. Women have been very loyal members of the churches to which they belong, and, like men, have given their unswerving adherence to their tenets in the unpopularity, as well as in the popularity, of those churches. The teachings and the welfare of the Church mean as much to the women as to the men of to-day. Ought they not to meet on an equality in the Church as well as in the State? We hope that the Irish Presbyterian Church will give a favourable decision.

WOMEN ARMY COOKS.

In the early stages of the war the Women's Freedom League urged upon the War Office the great advisability of employing women cooks in the training camps at home. We were convinced that women generally would do a great deal better than a great number of the men cooks then employed by the Army, and subsequent reports of the men who were being trained and fed in these Army camps more than confirmed our belief. We now learn that the French Minister of War has decided to make a trial of women cooks in the Army. Women cooks were employed by the French Government during the war, taking the places of men who were required for the fighting line, and they discharged their duties satisfactorily. Each woman will be required to cook for 400 men, and will replace two soldier cooks, who will fulfil the usual duties of a soldier. The colonels of the regiment will engage them, after having satisfied themselves as to their professional qualifications. The maximum wages will be 500 fr. a month, and they will be lodged in the barracks. The *Daily Telegraph* assures us that the announcement of this decision of the Minister of War is hailed as a triumph of feminism in France. It seems to us that this decision is plain common sense.

YOUNG MARRIED WOMEN AND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT.

By WALTER BAKER, M.P.

On April 4th, Mr. Walter Baker, M.P., again interrogated the Minister of Labour regarding the attitude of his Ministry towards claims to Unemployment Benefit which are made by young married women.

The questions and answers were as follows:—

MR. WALTER BAKER (Lab., Bristol, E.) asked the Minister of Labour whether he is aware of the dissatisfaction with the Regulations governing the payment of unemployment benefit to young married women; whether he is aware that many young women give up work in industry on marriage, only to find that the family income is insufficient to support them; and whether he will take the necessary steps to see that benefit is payable to all persons who are genuinely unemployed and seeking work, or see that all contributions are refunded to women who leave industry on marriage? MR. BETTERTON (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Labour): Young married women are eligible for unemployment benefit on the same conditions as all other insured contributors, and the question whether they satisfy conditions is decided by the same machinery. With regard to the last part of the question, I have no statutory authority to refund contributions to women on marriage. The recommendations of the Blanesburgh Committee were against any change in the law on this point.

MR. BAKER: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that a number of women in Bristol are being refused unemployment benefit although they are genuinely seeking work, and will he cause special inquiry to be made to see that the conditions are satisfied on both sides? MR. BETTERTON: I will certainly look into any cases the hon. Member brings to my notice, but, as I pointed out, there is no special Regulation dealing with young married women. The question in this case, as in others, is whether they fulfil the statutory condition that they are genuinely seeking work.

MR. BAKER: Is it not absolutely certain that a young married woman seeking employment after marriage has to obtain work before she can secure unemployment pay? MR. BETTERTON: No. I cannot accept a generalisation of that kind.

MR. MARDY JONES (Lab., Pontypridd): Is it not a fact that a considerable number of young married women have had to resort to employment to maintain the home, owing to the low wages of the husband? Has the hon. Gentleman no data in his Department dealing with this, and, if he has not, will he get them?

MR. BETTERTON: No; nor would it be possible to obtain them.

At our request, Mr. Baker has very kindly written the following in further explanation of the young married woman's position under the Insurance Act.

Despite Mr. Betterton's inability to accept the generalisation that "a young married woman seeking employment after marriage has to obtain work before she can secure unemployment pay," it is unfortunately true that many young married women who are genuinely seeking work are being refused unemployment pay.

A girl who leaves industry in the belief that her husband's wages will be sufficient to maintain the home, frequently finds that the family income is quite insufficient, with the result that she seeks to re-enter the industry she has left, only to discover that no employment is to be had. In these circumstances, being a person compulsorily insured against unemployment, the young married woman registers at the Unemployment Exchange and claims the unemployment pay to which she believes she is entitled.

The official reply appears to be: "We admit that you are unemployed, but seeing that you left your employment to get married, there is no proof that you are genuinely seeking work, and, in the absence of such proof, no payment can be made."

A young married woman, therefore, who finds that her husband's income is not sufficient for the domestic expenses, and who desires to supplement that income by her own earnings, is in the remarkable position that, until she has found work, it is impossible to persuade the Ministry that she is genuinely seeking work, and until a period of employment has occurred, she has no chance of receiving the benefit towards which she has been compelled to subscribe.

Many of these young women are keen in their resentment of what they regard as an injustice. They ask that an insured woman who declares her intention to re-enter industry after marriage shall be treated as an insured person entitled to all the privileges of the Unemployment Fund, or, alternatively, that all women leaving work in order to be married shall be repaid the whole of their contributions.

The request appears to be a logical one. In any case, there can be no doubt that the words, "not genuinely seeking work," are frequently used to avoid the payment of benefits to which the applicant would appear to be morally, if not legally, entitled.

THE STREET OFFENCES COMMITTEE.

Further evidence was taken by the Street Offences Committee on Friday, April 20th. The Chairman, Mr. H. P. Macmillan, K.C., cross-examined Lord Balfour of Burleigh on the Public Places (Order) Bill, introduced by him in the House of Lords in 1926. Lord Balfour of Burleigh maintained that the law should not take cognizance of solicitation unless it amounted to disorderly conduct or annoyance, and declared that this provision would abolish legal proceedings against common prostitutes as such. The Chairman remarked that such a law would treat solicitation as one of a species of acts involving disorder or annoyance, instead of as a special genus of offence as at present. Lord Balfour agreed, and stated that the aim of his Bill was to get away from all special laws against prostitutes. Lord Balfour objected to the present laws on the grounds that they are: (1) Out of date; (2) evidence is taken on the word of the policeman only; (3) they keep alive the idea of a double moral standard. In Lord Balfour's opinion, the abolition of special laws against prostitution is essential, as the door to the recognition of an equal moral standard.

Lord Balfour denied that women need special legislative protection. He further maintained that a law against solicitation, as such, was unnecessary, as

men are not solicited unless they invite solicitation. In his opinion, the person who does the active solicitation is the man! His remedy to get rid of prostitution and solicitation is: "Get rid of your promiscuous men." Prostitutes would then be non-existent. It was to this end that he was attacking laws which supported a double moral standard. Laws, as they exist, protect the men, who are the real transgressors and need no protection.

The Rev. R. C. Gillie suggested making the laws equal. Instead of relaxing the existing laws, he considered they should be made more stringent, and applied equally to men and women. He himself had two daughters, and if they were out at night and molested, they ought to be able to claim police protection. Lord Balfour replied: "That leaves me cold. I have three daughters, who will be brought up to protect themselves, the only sure protection that any woman can have."

In conclusion, Lord Balfour remarked that the police have considerable powers over the women of the underworld, and are said to use them in a way which formed them into an unofficial branch of the Criminal Investigation Department.

Dr. Mary Gordon (formerly H.M. Inspector of Prisons) next gave evidence. While supporting Lord Balfour's Bill, she said that she regarded it as a model skeleton, and, upon a request from the Chairman, undertook to clothe it, and to furnish the Commission with suggestions for improving it. Dr. Mary Gordon said that, in its present state, the present law was not worth dealing with. A further definition of "annoyance" was necessary, and she objected to the use of the word "prostitute." Asked by the Chairman if she considered we had reached a state of civilisation in which the word "prostitute" could be abolished, she replied: "I do think that." Further questioned, Dr. Mary Gordon stated that she did not deny the existence of prostitution, but maintained that no definition of prostitution is possible for purposes of legislation. In her opinion, the term "prostitute" is exceedingly unjust. She objects to women being so defined and placed in a class by themselves.

A FAMOUS CAMBRIDGE WOMAN.

On April 16th there passed away in London, at the age of 77, Jane Ellen Harrison, a famous Cambridge lecturer and a well-known authority on the archaeology, art, and religion of Greece.

Born on September 9th, 1850, in Yorkshire, the third daughter of Charles and Elizabeth Harrison, little Jane grew up, teaching in Sunday School and playing the organ, following the prayers in Latin, the lessons in German, and the Gospel in Greek. After English education at home, she went at 15 to Cheltenham Ladies' College, under Miss Beale. She obtained a scholarship, and entered Newnham in 1874; here she took up Classics, being deterred from Mental and Moral Science by Henry Sidgwick. In the Classical Tripos, 1879, she was said to head the Second Class, a record position for either of the baby women's colleges.

Her first publication, "Myths of the Odyssey in Art and Literature," appeared in 1882, followed in 1885 by "Introductory Studies in Greek Art." Then the religious aspect of Greece called her. In 1894 came "Greek Vase Paintings," and in 1906 "Primitive Athens." Her masterpiece, "Prolegomena to the Study of Greek Religion"—a vividly written work, in which she shows a mastery of her subject—the result of many years of deep study, appeared in 1902 after she had returned to Newnham as a Fellow and later a staff lecturer, there to do work of great importance to classical studies.

Both as a writer and teacher, Miss Jane Harrison has left a noble record. Her infectious enthusiasm was an inspiration to generations of students, and her knowledge of life and letters brought her work into line with contemporary life. Her thirst for learning was unquenchable. She took up Hebrew again in old age, learnt Persian when over 70, and to the end never lost her youth of mind, and kept herself acquainted with contemporary thought and culture.

In 1921 she brought out a little book, "Epilegomena to the Study of Greek Religion," and in 1925 the charming "Reminiscences of a Student's Life," declaring old age good and pleasant, and that the young are probably right in literature, manners, and morals.

She was accorded hon. LL.D. of Aberdeen and hon. D.Litt. of Durham, was Vice-President of the Hellenic Society from 1889 to 1896, and a corresponding member of the Institute of Archives, Berlin. She was one of the first women Cambridge borough magistrates.

JOSEPHINE BUTLER CENTENARY.

On Tuesday evening, a Special Commemoration Service was held in Westminster Abbey, the Bishop of Lichfield preaching.

Later, a talk on Josephine Butler, by Lady Astor, M.P., was broadcast from the London studio.

Whilst the first and only woman inspector of prisons, many thousands of women sentenced for soliciting came under her notice year by year. A frequent remark made by such women was: "That time I hadn't done it." One such case was that of a mother charged with a child in her arms at a time when in the company of a woman with two children!

Miss M. A. Snodgrass, Bailie of the City of Glasgow, gave evidence on behalf of the Glasgow Society for Equal Citizenship. She supported Lord Balfour's Bill, and contended that if the law were made equal between men and women, and the present stigma attached to appearing in Court in connection with such questions removed, there would be no difficulty in getting those who had suffered annoyance to come forward. As much of the evidence Miss Snodgrass wished to bring forward appertained to her work as a magistrate, the Committee sat in private in the afternoon.

WOMEN'S LAW SUCCESSES.

The following women were successful in the Easter Examination, held in Inner Temple Hall on March 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd:—

Roman Law.—Class 2: Joan Meredyth Chichele Julien (Inner Temple); Class 3: Grace Geraldine Prescott (Gray's Inn), Helen Rushton (Middle Temple).

Constitutional Law and Legal History.—Class 2: Edith Ferguson-Murdoch (Middle Temple); Class 3: Norah Mary Brooks (Gray's Inn), Evelyn Garth Moore (Gray's Inn), Sibyl Gertrude Overton (Middle Temple), Helen Rushton, Evelyn Adelaide Sharp (Inner Temple).

Criminal Law and Procedure.—Class 1: Kathleen Bruce Anderson (Middle Temple); Class 2: Josemeem Marguerite Greenwood (Gray's Inn), Jessie Edson Hendrick (Middle Temple), Katherine Mumford Hendrick (Middle Temple); Class 3: Ruth Haring (Middle Temple), Cecilia Lucy Cavendish Wolseley (Gray's Inn).

Real Property and Conveyancing.—Class 2: The Hon. Sylvia Fletcher-Moulton (Middle Temple); Class 3: Margery Lawrence (Inner Temple), Mary Christina Sheppard (Gray's Inn), Doris Tempest (Middle Temple).

Final Examination.—Class 2: Louise Beryl Greechy (Middle Temple), Sophy Sanger (Gray's Inn); Class 3: Marie Angela Carryer (Middle Temple), Lady Ankaret Cecilia Carolyn Jackson (Inner Temple), Harriet Elizabeth Vaizey (Inner Temple).

EDINBURGH CORPORATION BILL.

(Continued from page 131.)

She wished every hon. Member would read the life of Josephine Butler. She advocated in 1864 voluntary free treatment, and, after trying everything else, we have come back to it. The only way to protect the children is by a single moral standard. There were two entirely different types of thought on this subject. Many people thought if you could lock up the people suffering, you would get rid of the disease. That was not practicable, and the Bill was not practicable in itself. It was neither compulsory nor voluntary, and it fell between the two. It was a backward step. England had led the way in this moral question. They all had but one idea—to eradicate the diseases, though they differed in methods of treatment.

MR. WILLIAM GRAHAM (Central Edinburgh) entirely disputed the argument that compulsion made ancillary to the broad voluntary method would kill the voluntary system.

MR. SCRYMGEOUR (Dundee) supported the Bill for Dundee Corporation, indicating that its passage would make possible more effective general legislation later.

On a Division, the Bill was defeated, 93 voting for it, and 156 against—majority against, 63.

WHERE TO GO. WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Saturday, April 28th, at 10 a.m.
Twenty-first Annual Conference at Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Sunday, April 29th, at 3.30 to 5.30 p.m.
Reception and Tea to Delegates, Members and Friends of the Women's Freedom League, by kind invitation of the Minerva Club Branch. Short speeches.

DARE TO BE FREE. Monday, April 30th.
Jumble Sale, Finchley. Please send goods to 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Wednesday, May 2nd, at 3 p.m.
"Fair" Sub-Committee, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Wednesday, May 2nd, 4-5.30 p.m.
Tea and Politics up-to-date. Meeting at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Mrs. Bigland on "The recent meetings at Geneva of the Traffic in Women and Children Commission."

Thursday, June 7th, at 3 p.m.
Hampstead Branch Meeting at 7, Gainsborough Gardens, N.W.3.

PROVINCES.

Monday, May 7th.
Swansea Branch. Paper to be read by Miss Birchall on "Should women continue to work for pay after marriage?"

Thursday, May 10th, at 7 p.m.
Portsmouth. Members' Meeting, 25, Shaftesbury Road. Report of Conference—Mrs. Poole. Politics-up-to-date—Miss Brown. Coffee. Collection.

Tuesday, May 15th, at 8 p.m.
Portsmouth. Joint Public Meeting. Sailors' Rest, Commercial Road. Josephine Butler Centenary. Speakers: Miss Higson and others. Chair: The Lord Bishop of Portsmouth, C.B.E., D.D.

Saturday, May 26th, at 3 p.m.
Portsmouth. Jumble Sale. Unitarian Schoolroom.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Sunday, April 29th, at 6.30 p.m.
Finchley Unitarian Church, Granville Road, Finchley. Preacher: Mrs. Marriot.

Monday, April 30th, at 8 p.m.
Speech Club. Debate at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. "That Co-operation is a better motive power than Competition." Opener: Mrs. Hilliard, Opposer: Miss Bromley.

Tuesday, May 1st, at 8.45 p.m.
British Commonwealth League. Lecture by Mrs. Patrick Ness, the Explorer, on "From the Nile to the Zambesi," at 50, Porchester Terrace (by kind invitation of the Hon. Mrs. Franklin). Tickets 5/- each, obtainable in advance only.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, May 1st, 2nd and 3rd.
Annual Meeting of the Women's National Liberal Federation, at the New Scala Theatre.

Saturday, May 5th.
National Union of Women Teachers. Educational Week-end Conference at the Central Hall, Westminster.

Monday, May 7th, at 6 p.m.
St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Public Meeting at St. Patrick's Club Room, Scho Square. Speaker: The Lady Balfour of Burleigh on "Josephine Butler." Chairman: Councillor Mrs. V. M. Crawford.

Thursday, May 10th, at 4 p.m.
Women's International League. Reception to Miss Edith Pye on her return from China at Crosby Hall, Cheyne Walk, Chelsea. Tickets 2/6 each.

Saturday, May 12th.
Josephine Butler Centenary Conference. The Guildhouse, Eccleston Sq., Belgrave Rd., S.W.1. Sessions: 2.30, 4.45, 6.5.

Wednesday, May 16th, at 2.30 p.m.
Special Matinee of "The Pelican" at the New Scala Theatre in aid of the Extension Fund of the National Council of Women.

Thursday, May 17th, at 3 p.m.
Women's Section, East Islington Labour Party. Meeting at 16, Highbury Grove, Highbury, N.5. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood on "Women and Equality."

Sunday, May 20th, at 7.30 p.m.
John Stuart Mill Dinner at Craig's Court.

Monday, May 21st, at 8 p.m.
Lecture on Mary Wollstonecraft by Miss Evelyn Sharp, at Essex Hall.

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BRANCH NOTES.

HAMPSTEAD.

A Meeting of the Branch was held, by kind invitation of Miss Armstrong, at 28, Well Walk, N.W.3, on Thursday, April 19th; Dr. Knight presided. Miss Armstrong was appointed as delegate to the Conference. The resolutions and amendments were voted on, also members for the N.E.C. All the reports of work done by the League throughout the year were read, and much satisfaction was expressed by those present in regard to the work done in the various departments. It was decided that the branch should run women candidates at the Borough Election next November.

A letter of sympathy in her long illness, with hopes for her speedy recovery, was sent to Miss Vibert. At the close of the meeting, thanks were recorded to Miss Armstrong for her kind hospitality. The date of the next meeting was fixed for Thursday, June 7th, at 3 p.m., Dr. Knight kindly saying that she would have this meeting at her house.

(Hon. Sec.) MISS E. BERRY, 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

PORTSMOUTH.

A well attended Members' Meeting was held on Thursday evening, April 19th, at 25, Shaftesbury Road, when Mrs. Poole was instructed how to vote at the Conference. An animated discussion took place on "What the Women's Freedom League will do when Equal Franchise is won." It was enthusiastically decided to vote for "carrying-on," and our delegate was requested to say that Portsmouth would give the same support in the future as it had done in the past.

Mrs. Brading very kindly offered her room for a Meeting on Thursday, May 10th, at 7 p.m., at which Mrs. Poole will give a report of the Conference, and Miss Brown will open a discussion on Politics-up-to-date.

The Jumble Sale has had to be postponed until Saturday, May 26th, when it will be held at the Unitarian Schoolroom, at 3 o'clock. Parcels may be sent to Mrs. Whetton, or to the room on the morning of the sale.

(Hon. Sec.) MRS. WHETTON, 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

WOMEN TEACHERS' CONFERENCE.

Once again the National Union of Women Teachers has decided to hold an Educational Week-end Conference on Saturday, May 5th, at the Central Hall, Westminster. Mrs. Tidswell will preside, and at 10 a.m. Professor Winifred Cullis, Professor of Physiology, University of London, will speak on "Health and Education"; at 11.15 a.m., Prof. J. Emile Marcault, formerly of the Universities of Grenoble and Pisa, will speak on "What Do We Educate?" At the afternoon session, Miss L. de Lissa, Principal, Gipsy Hill Training College, will speak on "Nursery Schools," and Miss Eileen Power, Reader in Economic History in the University of London, will speak on "Women in the Middle Ages." Tea will be served in the Central Hall at 5.15 p.m.; tickets, 1s. each. The same evening, at 7.30 p.m., the Lena Ashwell Players will give a special performance of "French Leave," by Reginald Berkeley, at the Century Theatre. Tickets for the Conference and Theatre are to be obtained from the N.U.W.T., 39, Gordon Square, W.C.1.

On Sunday, May 6th, at 11 a.m., there will be a Special Service at the Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1, the preacher being Mrs. Parker Crane, M.A., formerly Principal of St. Hugh's College, Oxford, and Warden of Canning Town Women's Settlement, and first woman Secretary of the London Missionary Society.

"THE PELICAN."

Mrs. Arthur Saunders' Special Matinee in aid of the National Council of Women's Extension Fund will take place at the Scala Theatre, Charlotte Street, Tottenham Court Road, on Wednesday, May 16th, at 2.30 p.m., when "The Pelican" will be presented, a play in three acts, by Tennyson Jesse and H. M. Harwood. Tickets, from the Scala Theatre, from 2s. 6d. to £1 1s.

JOSEPHINE BUTLER'S CHALLENGE.

An important Conference is to be held at the Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1, on Saturday, May 12th, on Josephine Butler's Challenge and the Position to-day. Sir Robert Newman, M.P., will take the Chair. At 2.30 p.m., the Hon. Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton, D.B.E., and Dr. Louisa Martindale, J.P., B.S., will speak on "The Traffic in Women and Children"; at 4 p.m., there will be an interval for tea; at 4.45 p.m., Miss Alison Neilans and Miss Chrystal Macmillan will speak on "Street Offences"; and at 6 o'clock, Miss Jessie March will speak on "Constructive Rescue Work."

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REST AND HOLIDAYS.

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

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, April 29th, 1928. 3.30. Music. Lecture. **G. K. Chesterton, Esq.,** “Beauty in the Commonplace.” 6.30. The Hon. **Dr. Edward Lytton.**

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