

THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXVII. No. 852.

(Registered at
the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1926

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.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

A TURKISH WOMAN PIONEER.
OUR SPRING SALE.
WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.
IN PARLIAMENT. F. A. U.

"REGULATION" IN THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.
WE BELIEVE IN YOUTH. By Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence.
MARRIED WOMEN TEACHERS. By Muriel Pierotti.
WOMEN'S NEWS FROM THE FOREIGN PRESS.
By Marian Berry.

A TURKISH WOMAN PIONEER.

An interesting Turkish woman now in this country is Halide Edib Hanoum, the authoress, in private life the wife of Dr. Adnam Bey, who was the Angora Government representative in Constantinople during the occupation of the Allies. She divorced her first husband, a celebrated Turkish mathematician, because he took a second wife allowed him by the Moslem religion. She has two sons, one of whom is being educated at an American University, whilst the other is studying at the London School of Economics.

Mme. Adnam was the first Turkish woman to be educated at the American College in Constantinople, and the first to take her B.A. degree. When only 16 years old, she completed her first book about life in Turkey, making no secret of her views concerning the veiling of women and the system of the harem. She is now the author of 11 novels.

During the late war she not only helped to organise the Turkish Women's Transport Corps, but herself played a stirring part in the hostilities between her own country and Greece (1921-3), riding with the second section of the Turkish Army down through Asia Minor to the coast. She wore the uniform of a sergeant, and was told off to investigate and prepare official reports upon the Turkish casualties and the state of the districts invaded by the Greeks.

At a recent Meeting in London, convened by the Near and Middle East Association, Mme. Adnam gave an interesting description of "The Turkish Woman of To-day," to a crowded English audience.

Though described on the admission ticket as "Minister of Education in the first Turkish Republic," Mme. Adnam explained at the outset of her address that she had never held this position. The mistake arose owing to the fact that, in 1920, she had been one of a certain number of Turkish Nationalists who were condemned to death by the Government at Constantinople for inciting subjects of the Sultan to rebellion, and that when later the Turkish Republic was set up, the Constantinople Government tried to injure its prestige by spreading a report that it had appointed as Minister a woman who had been condemned to death.

Mme. Adnam then went on to describe the modern movement for the emancipation of Turkish women, which began as long ago as 1839, when schools for girls and women were first instituted, and many pens were exercised upon the question of women's rights.

The Turkish Revolution of 1908, Mme. Adnam said, was almost entirely due to the growing emancipation of Turkish women, and the new ideas which were rapidly being born from this connection. Women's Clubs sprang up everywhere in large numbers, and day and night schools became established, so that to-day in

Turkey there are hardly any illiterates amongst Turkish women.

In the Great War of 1914, Turkish women replaced their men at the front, in every department of civil life. They entered administrative posts as clerks and secretaries, and set up in trade and commerce on their own, whilst the peasant women kept the whole country in food



Photo by

MME. ADNAM.

(London News Agency.)

by their agricultural ability. In 1916, the Turkish family laws were considerably amended and brought up to date. The harem was abolished and polygamy was forbidden. Every Turkish woman, before marriage, was permitted a comprehensive contract reserving her full rights after the ceremony.

In 1916, women were admitted to the Turkish Universities, whilst the following year saw the adoption of a universal system of co-education, and the opening of the legal and medical professions to women. Later followed the abolition of the old dividing curtains between the sexes in trains, on the boats, and in all the public places. Women also appeared on the stage as actresses for the first time.

To-day, concluded Mme. Adnam, Turkish men and women go about freely together. The women shingle or bob their hair, and dress entirely in European clothing, with this exception that they do not always adopt the European hat, preferring instead to wind a silk handkerchief round their heads. Turkish women have no political status as yet, and although Mme. Adnam was of the opinion that they should be allowed the vote on the same terms as men, she considered eligibility to act as Deputies in the Angora Assembly, or Turkish Parliament, should be postponed for a little while longer.

OUR SPRING SALE.

Dr. Octavia Lewin will be "At Home" to the members and friends of the Women's Freedom League, on Friday, March 19th, from 3 to 7.30 p.m., for the Annual Spring Sale of the League. An attractive programme of entertainments has been arranged for the afternoon, including music, recitations, etc., also character reading and numerology.

Dr. Lewin will give a lecture at 5 o'clock, and teas will be provided from 3.30 to 5.30 p.m. The arrangements for tea have been most kindly undertaken by Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Lyndon, and Mrs. Pierotti. Gifts of cakes, scones, biscuits, butter, tea, sugar, etc. (also gifts of money for the teas), will be most welcome, and will be gratefully received by Mrs. Knight, at 7, Gainsborough Gardens, N.W.3; or may be addressed to Mrs. Knight, at the Women's Freedom League Office, 144, High Holborn.

There will be stalls for underclothing and overalls, fancy articles, spring cleaning and kitchen goods, cakes, sweets and preserves. Gifts are much needed for all these stalls. Will members and friends, therefore, be so very kind as to make a special effort to send some contribution to help the sale? Gifts for the stalls should be sent to the Office not later than March 18th.

E. BERRY, *Hon. Fair Sec.*

A CHAMPION OF FREEDOM.

We very much regret to note the death, on February 13th, at Westbourne Park, of Mr. George William Johnson, C.M.G., formerly Principal Clerk in the Colonial Office. Mr. Johnson had a distinguished University Career at Cambridge, taking both the Mathematical and Classical Triposes, entered the Colonial Office in 1881, and retired in 1917.

He could not imagine women as inferior to men, and worked throughout a long life for the recognition of their equal value. With his wife he was one of Mrs. Despard's comrades in Battersea many years ago in the struggle for Social Reform, and we had the pleasure of seeing him at our last summer's Birthday Party. He was a very keen supporter of the Equal Vote long before supporters became numerous. Fired, as a young man, by the enthusiasm and inspiration of Josephine Butler, he threw himself into the fight for Moral Reform. Here his trained intellect, determination and persistence were invaluable; no details or statistics were too much trouble for him to verify or put together, and no expenditure of time in research was too great, so long as absolute accuracy might be obtained.

As Vice-Chairman of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, he was ever on the alert to foil any attempt to reintroduce the principle of State Regulation at home, and to press for its entire abolition.

Mr. Johnson wrote a number of books, including "The State and Sexual Morality," the outcome of a Committee of Inquiry by a number of prominent men and women representing organised bodies which had united against Regulation 40D, and, in conjunction with his wife, a Memoir of Josephine Butler.

All women owe a debt of gratitude to this champion of freedom, and we join in sympathy with his wife and daughter.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

"Our Mary Ellen's" Scheme.

Mrs. M. E. Smith, who was the first woman Cabinet Minister in the British Empire, and who is known throughout British Columbia as "Our Mary Ellen," has taken the initiative in attempting to revive a big industrial development scheme involving the erection of a large steel works near Vancouver. In 1922, steps were first taken to raise £3,000,000, with the promise that £800,000 should be guaranteed by the British Columbian Government, a similar guarantee being forthcoming from other sources. Mrs. Smith has now filed a resolution in the Provincial Legislature, asking that the British Columbian Government's guarantee should be carried out.

Shire Society's Woman President.

For the first time in its history the Shire Horse Society is to have a woman as President in 1927. Lord Harlech announced that the Selection Committee had unanimously decided to invite Mrs. Stanton, of Snelston Hall, Ashbourne, to become President-Elect, and to occupy the office of President during 1927. In accepting this office, Mrs. Stanton said she greatly appreciated the honour conferred upon her. In 1928 this Society will celebrate its jubilee, and H.R.H. the Prince of Wales is to be asked if he can see his way to become President that year.

A Successful Hotel Proprietor.

Lady Honeywood, who is giving a monster house-warming at her newest London hotel, the Washington Palace, is one of the few society women who have made outstanding successes of their new jobs. Though she has three hotels in Mayfair, one in the New Forest, others at Weymouth, Shrewsbury, Cardiff, she studies all the time. She gave a period of months simply to the study of wines, while the selecting and stocking of linen was another branch of hotel management which demanded special study.

Modern Grace Darlings.

Thirty-five women of the fishing village of Boulmer, Northumberland, are to receive the thanks of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, inscribed on vellum, for helping to launch the lifeboat during the gale on December 20th last. The thanks of the Institution were presented to the women of Holy Island three years ago by Mr. Baldwin, then President of the Board of Trade. Two years ago the women of Newburgh, Aberdeenshire, were specially thanked for helping to drag the lifeboat seven miles along a soft sandy beach.

American Housewives Mobilise.

The mobilisation of housewives for combating "the ill effects of the formation of two gigantic foodstuffs corporations" has been ordered by Mrs. Julian Heath, National President of the Housewives' League, who has warned members throughout the country to communicate with Senators and Congressmen, and urge them that "the business of housekeeping must be protected."

IN PARLIAMENT.

Franchise.

MISS WILKINSON (Lab., E. Middlesbrough), asked the Prime Minister whether he can yet give any information as to when the Government intends to introduce a Bill giving equal franchise to men and women, or whether he proposes a Conference on the matter; and, if so, whether such Conference is likely to meet during the present Session? THE PRIME MINISTER: As I have already said, I can make no statement on this subject at present? MISS WILKINSON: May we take it that the Prime Minister is bearing in mind the definite pledges he gave to the women of the country that legislation would be introduced during this Parliament? THE PRIME MINISTER: Yes; but we are still young. MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE: Can the Prime Minister give us any indication as to whether it would be any use putting down this question again before Easter? THE PRIME MINISTER: I have never any objection to questions being put down, but I do not think a definite answer can be expected in the near future.

Women (Domestic Service).

MR. WARDLAW-MILNE (U., Kidderminster) asked the Minister of Labour what number of single women and married women, respectively, are now in receipt of uncovenanted benefit, and how many of the former are under the age of 17; and whether he can state the number of unfilled vacancies for domestic servants now on the books of the Employment Exchanges throughout the country? SIR A. STEEL-MAITLAND: Statistics are not available as regards the age or marital state of claimants to benefit authorised in respect of any recent date. The number of vacancies for women domestic servants notified to Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and remaining unfilled at 7th December—the latest date for which figures are available—was 4,594. SIR N. GRATTON-DOYLE (U., Newcastle, N.) asked the Minister of Labour whether he can give the total aggregate yearly cost of the Ministry of Labour Colleges for domestic servants in London and the Provinces respectively, and the probable amount to be realised by the sale of the buildings. SIR A. STEEL-MAITLAND: No Colleges for domestic servants are conducted by my Department. The Central Committee for Women's Training and Employment conduct a certain number of short courses designed to fit unemployed women for domestic service. The total net cost during the calendar year 1925 was £103,163, of which about £6,700 was spent on courses in London. As regards the last part of the question, the only charges for buildings incurred by the Committee are certain small sums for hiring.

Nursing Homes.

MR. GERALD HURST (U., Moss Side), asked the Minister of Health whether he intends this session to appoint a Committee to inquire into the desirability of legislation with regard to the registration of nursing homes; and, if so, what type of Committee will be set up? SIR KINGSLEY WOOD (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health): In accordance with the undertaking given by my hon. and gallant Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Health for Scotland, on the 19th June last, steps are being taken for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into this question.

Adoption of Children Bill.

SIR G. BUTLER (U., Cambridge University) asked the Home Secretary whether, in view of the fact that the Royal Commission charged with the investigation of the question recommended action and drafted a model Bill for the purpose, it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to introduce during the present Session an Adoption of Children Bill? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: The matter is still under consideration, but if my hon. Friend will repeat his question in a fortnight's time I hope to be able to give him an answer.

Legitimacy Bill.

Capt. BRASS (U., Clitheroe) asked the Prime Minister whether the Government intends to proceed with the Legitimacy Bill this Session? THE PRIME MINISTER: It is hoped to reintroduce the Bill at an early date.

Public Order (London Parks).

MR. W. BAKER (Lab., Bristol, E.), asked the Home Secretary whether his attention has been called to the evidence given at the London Sessions during the appeal of Sir Basil Thomson, and whether he will consider the desirability of using to a far greater extent the opportunities which police officers have of knowing the character and circumstances of women such as the co-defendant in that case for the purpose of befriending and helping them? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: Within the scope of their duty, Metropolitan police officers do all in their power to help women of the class referred to who desire help, but it is well known that many such women would resent police interference. Every Metropolitan constable—man or woman—has a pocket directory, with a list of places where women of different ages and of different mode of life can find shelter and friendly aid, and advice of this description is frequently given. LT.-COM. KENWORTHY (Lib., Central Hull) asked the Home Secretary whether he will inquire into the state of public order in certain of the London parks, which are open to the public after dark, with a view to better regulation and supervision? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I have had this matter under my consideration upon several occasions. I am satisfied that the Regulations for securing public order in the parks are sufficient, and that the police do everything in their power to enforce them. MR. HAYES (Lab., Edge Hill): Will not the right hon. Baronet consider the question of improving the lighting in the parks, which is the great thing? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: That is not under my Department. MR. HAYES: Will the right hon. Baronet consider that matter with a view to recommendations being made, as in fact was done some years ago, with regard to the Outer and Inner Circles in Regent's Park? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: If the police inform me that absence of light is a cause of misconduct, I will, of course, communicate with the London County Council, which is the proper authority.

Juvenile Offenders (Medical Examination).

MR. AMMON (Lab., N. Camberwell) asked the Home Secretary what is the standing or qualifications demanded of medical men engaged in prisons and remand homes to examine and report as to the mental condition of juvenile offenders brought before the magistrates? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: At places of detention to which young persons under 16 are remanded medical attendance is usually afforded by a doctor in general practice, but where mental trouble is suspected the case might be referred to a school medical officer or other specially qualified doctor. Offenders over 16 are remanded to prisons where the medical officers are experienced general physicians and surgeons of good qualifications, with special experience of insanity and mental deficiency. I may add that the medical examination of young offenders is being considered by the Committee which I appointed last year to inquire into the treatment of young offenders.

Smoke Abatement.

MR. CAMPBELL (U., Camberwell, N.W.) asked the Minister of Health when it is proposed to introduce a Bill dealing with smoke abatement? MR. CHAMBERLAIN: I hope that a Bill on this subject will be introduced at an early date in another place.

In Memoriam.

February 6th. MISS KATE CLOSE, of 48, Rutland Gardens, Hove. We are exceedingly sorry to record the death of our member Miss Close, who so gallantly took on the Secretaryship of our Brighton Branch three years ago, when her help was invaluable. We offer our deep sympathy to her relations.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.
Offices: 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19th, 1926.

"REGULATION" IN THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Last September the Advisory Committee on Social Hygiene (appointed by Mr. J. H. Thomas, Colonial Secretary, in July, 1924, and which numbered among its members the Viscountess Astor, M.P., and Mrs. Neville Rolfe) published its First Report in regard to a draft Ordinance dealing with Venereal Disease at Singapore, which had been prepared by the Government of the Straits Settlements for submission to the Legislative Council of the Colony. The following were the recommendations of the Advisory Committee:—

(1) *Social Measures*:—(a) We recommend that the Government of the Straits Settlements should take all possible measures to improve social conditions at Singapore, and especially as regards (i) encouragement of female with male Chinese immigration, and especially the immigration of wives and children with their husbands; (ii) housing; (iii) education; and (iv) recreational facilities. (b) That the Government should appoint a mixed Commission of Europeans, Chinese, and Malays to inquire into the social and economic conditions of the poorer classes in Singapore.

(2) *Medical Measures*:—(a) That the question of venereal disease should be regarded as an integral part of the field of preventive medicine, and the medical service at Singapore should be organised with this end in view; (b) that a scheme should be prepared and developed whereby free facilities for diagnosis and treatment may be available for the whole population.

(3) *Legal and Administrative Measures*:—(a) We recommend that the Government should frame its policy now with a view to making possible, at the earliest practicable date, the suppression of all brothels, whenever their existence is discovered; (b) that steps should be taken at once to increase the personnel, and extend the powers of the Chinese Protectorate in order that adequate protection may be afforded to all Chinese women and girls, and similar protection should be given to other races. In this connection it is urged that the Protector of Chinese should be allowed a well-qualified and experienced woman assistant.

At the end of this Summary, the Committee says:— "The distinction between East and West has been urged as a reason for the continuance in the East of a system which has been found unsatisfactory in the West. But, inasmuch as the limitation of disease is the primary objective of any system of State Regulation of prostitution, we wish to emphasise that the failure of such systems in Europe is explained on medical principles which are equally valid in any part of the world.

"We are not sanguine enough to think that any one of the measures which we propose is likely to provide an easy or immediate solution of this immense and complex problem, but we believe that the best hope of securing a marked diminution in the incidence of venereal disease lies in a combination of measures. In any event, we would point out that the problem cannot be regarded as exclusively medical.

"In conclusion, we would urge that a solution can only be reached by co-operation between the various Departments of the Government, and between the Government and the general public, whether represented by individuals or by societies engaged in social or philanthropic work. Especially do we recommend that every effort should be made to enlist the sympathy and good will of the Chinese community in any measures which are adopted."

Last Monday, Mr. PETHICK-LAWRENCE asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether action is

being taken along the lines of any, and if so, which, of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee's Report? Mr. AMERY replied: "Yes, Sir, action is being taken on the general lines suggested. I will take the Committee's recommendations *seriatim*. As regards the immigration of female with male Chinese, the Governor reports that the system in force is itself a direct encouragement of female immigration, and that for many years there has been a continued improvement in the sex ratio. The question of housing is receiving the constant attention of the Government and of the municipality. Education and recreational facilities have engaged the close attention of the Government for many years, and efforts will not be relaxed.

"The Government has full information regarding the social and economic conditions of the poorer classes, and the suggested mixed Commission is therefore not thought necessary.

"As regards medical measures, steps are being taken in organising the service on the lines suggested. Considerable facilities for free diagnosis and treatment already exist, and the accommodation for free treatment is shortly to be increased.

"Finally, there are the legal and administrative recommendations. The Colonial Government aims at the disappearance of the brothel, but holds that progress must be gradual. It will be remembered that the Committee recognised immediate closing to be impracticable. In carrying out its policy the Government will give careful consideration to the suggestions and recommendations of the Committee. Close attention is being given to the suggestion for the increase of personnel and extension of the powers of the Chinese Protectorate, and provision will be made for such increases of staff as may from time to time be necessary."

WOMEN POLICE.

The Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Bill introduced into the House of Commons last Session by Miss Wilkinson provided that it should be the duty of Watch Committees to appoint a sufficient number of fit men and fit women to be borough constables. Writing in last week's *Time and Tide*, Miss F. C. Joseph, Founder of the late Bristol Training School for Police and Patrols, states that, under this wording, the larger area of the country policed by Standing Joint Committees had been ignored, and that "not only rural areas, where in some respects—owing to the frequent absence of other trained women social workers—the need for policewomen is even greater than in cities, but large and small towns will be without their services. For example, the County of Somerset, with the exception of the Boroughs of Taunton and Bridgwater, and the County Borough of Bath, is policed by the Standing Joint Committees, and under its administration is Weston-super-Mare, with a residential population of over 31,000, and a large seasonal increase of summer visitors and excursionists. Similar conditions obtain in the other smaller seaside towns of the county, and in them and in industrial centres, such as Yeovil, Frome, Radstock, etc., policewomen are needed. The conditions that obtain in this county are typical of those in others, and although, at present, the general appointment of policewomen may be impracticable, they should be in towns such as those mentioned, while a certain number might well be attached to each County Headquarters, who could attend police courts whenever and wherever cases dealing with women and children are heard, and be available to discharge other duties for which the services of policewomen are specially indicated." The writer suggests that the omission could be rectified by inserting the words "and Standing Joint" between "Watch" and "Committees."

The comprehensiveness of Miss Joseph's amendment strongly appeals to us. We urge, of course, that women police should have the same status as men police, and should certainly have the power of arrest.

WE BELIEVE IN YOUTH.

By EMMELINE PETHICK-LAWRENCE.

Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, the well-known champion of woman suffrage, has recently joined the Women's Freedom League, and we give her a whole-hearted welcome. The following article is a challenge to the young women and young men of to-day to take a hand in their own affairs, and to insist upon wresting from the present Government the political enfranchisement of women at the age of twenty-one on a short residential qualification—upon the same terms as men are politically enfranchised.

In America, people are saying this old country is played out. We know that this is not true. But the Old Country is at a disadvantage compared with America, because in Britain the young women between the ages of 21 and 30, unlike those of the United States and Canada, are debarred from their influence in the councils of the nation. Youth is disfranchised at home, at the very moment when the Youth Movement all over the world is making headway. In many of the European countries which were almost ruined by the war the young men and women are taking hold of the present and future, and with courage and inspiration are rebuilding the shattered national life.

Do the young women of Britain love their country less than the young women of other countries? Are the young women of the Motherland inferior to the young women of the Dominions? The British Parliament seems to hold the opinion that the young are not to be trusted. The present Government has thrown out many hints and indications that they would like to reduce the influence of youth by raising the franchise to the age of 25 in the case of men. They would like, they suggest, to introduce a totally different voting system from that of our Dominions, totally different from that of any other civilised country; not by making the basis of free citizenship broader, but by taking up an ultra-conservative position in the rear. No wonder the new world of America thinks we are decadent. Not content with "too many old men in industry," and too many old men in all the Administrative Services of the country, the suggestion is now made that the young men, who are old enough to sacrifice their lives at 18 years at the bidding of the Government, are too young to have a voice in their political destiny till another seven years later.

YOU YOUNG WOMEN! You who are earning your own living in factories and shops and schools and offices, and you young mothers who are engaged in the most dangerous of all the vocations, are you content to accept the present belittlement of your status?

YOU WOMEN UNDER 30! who form the majority of women workers to-day, are you willing to remain as you are, to possess no voice in the legislation that determines the conditions of your industrial and economic life?

Every year, Parliament is considering matters such as the Factory Bill, and the Administration of Unemployment Insurance, and National Health Insurance. Do you realise how the young woman worker is defrauded in the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Pensions Scheme? Do you realise, in particular, that the woman worker who has paid her contributions to the Scheme from the age of 16 (if she loses her health or finds herself at the age of about 50 too old for her job, and too poor when she loses her work to continue as a voluntary contributor) finds herself deprived of all benefits and sees no return whatever for all the money she has paid into the fund for over 30 years? The Prime Minister expressed recently some very kind and sympathetic appreciation of the work and trials of shop girls. How many women shop-assistants retain their position after the age of fifty? All shop-assistants who are single women are likely to suffer from legal depredation under the Pensions Act. This is just one instance showing the price that women in industry pay as the result of their disfranchised condition. Do not be content with fair words that cost nothing, but make good your claim to common justice at the hands of the rulers of the country.

YOU YOUNG MOTHERS! some of you expecting the birth of your first child, others with one or two little ones just beginning their adventure of life, the great social questions of Housing, Health, the quality and

distribution of Food, the condition of Education, have an importance for you greater than for any other section of the people in the land. It is up to you, more than to any others, to construct a new world for the new human beings that you are bringing into existence. How can you do it if you are set at naught and held to be incapable of exercising the most elementary duty of citizenship? Yours is the most important of all services to the State. In other workshops things are made. In your workshop human beings are engendered and shaped. If there is to be a new and better race you must fashion it. Your work is dangerous to life and health. In the mining industry, the most dangerous of all the callings of men, between 1,200 and 1,300 deaths occur every year, in yours 3,000. And the injuries to health are far more numerous. Your work is done for love. That is no reason why your hands should be tied. Do not submit to it quietly. For your home and your children's sake claim the right to make your voice heard through the ballot box. Affirm the dignity of your calling, and put to shame those who belittle the status of the mothers of young children.

YOU YOUNG MEN! who have established a new relationship of comradeship with the women of your own age. Are you content to see your playmates and workmates handicapped in the serious game of life? Is it sporting? Is it right?

The world has changed in the last ten years. This question of equal citizen rights is not a question any longer of sex. It is a question of Youth against stereotyped, unimaginative Old Age.

Will you stand by the young women who are sharing your ideals now, and will help you to carry them out in the social and political field when they have the power to do so?

Young Women and Men! Come out into the open. Do not let those who disregard or despise you say, as they are saying to-day, "The young women are quite indifferent to their disfranchised position, and the young men do not care." It is not true. But how is the world to know it is not true if you make no sign? Rally to those who are raising the standard on which is inscribed, "The Enfranchisement of Youth." Write to the Women's Freedom League, at 144, High Holborn, London, W.C. There is very much that can be done, and trained political minds will be at your service. We will have Meetings and Deputations and Processions, and everything that appertains to a great campaign. But nothing really effective can be done without great numbers of you enrolled for service.

Will you get into touch with us at once by calling to see us, or writing for all information to the Women's Freedom League?

EQUAL PAY IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

A meeting on the subject of Equal Pay in the Civil Service was held for Members of Parliament, on February 9th, in the House of Commons under the Chairmanship of Major Clifton Brown, M.P. for Hexham. Three short addresses were given, the views of the men and women in the Service being represented by Mr. Walter G. Boys, O.B.E., of the Executive Officers' Association and Miss D. Smyth, of the Federation of Women Civil Servants. Dame Millicent Fawcett, who was to have been the third speaker, was unavoidably prevented from being present, and Mrs. Oliver Strachey, Chairman of the Joint Committee on Women in the Civil Service, spoke instead of her on behalf of the Women's Organisations outside the service.

The meeting was well attended, over 60 M.P.s being present, and many questions were asked.

MARRIED WOMEN TEACHERS.

A lively debate took place at the Meeting of the London Education Committee, on Wednesday of last week, when Sir Harry Stephen moved the reference back of a Report in which the opinion was expressed that it was undesirable to reopen the general question of the employment of married women teachers.

Sir Harry Stephen asked that those responsible for the report should state, clearly and intelligently, reasons why married women should not be employed. So far as he could see, three reasons had been advanced. The first was that it would be unjust to employ married women as teachers when they are not employed on the administrative side of the work—but no definite reason had ever been given for the non-employment of married women on clerical work. Secondly, there was the well-worn statement that women's place is the home, but, he reminded the Committee, they did not inquire whether their voluntary helpers on Care Committees and other Committees were married or single. The third reason advanced was that it is undesirable for two incomes to go to one home. That, he described as intolerable interference with the private lives of their employers. Also, since no inquiry was made as to whether the wife of a teacher has a private income, it virtually means that a woman is only entitled to a private income when she does not earn it.

The resolution was seconded by Miss Agnes Dawson, who said that the dismissal of married women teachers seemed a remnant of the old idea that women should not have the same freedom as men have in their citizen life. She was of the opinion that it would be an incentive to parents not to have their girls trained as teachers, since they would be cast adrift on marriage, and the operation of the Standing Order would mean eventually that the schools would be staffed by the very old and the very young teachers. Boys were not condemned to be educated wholly by celibate men, and yet it was proposed that girls should only be educated by celibate women.

Under some circumstances married women teachers are employed by the Council, but Miss Dawson maintained that the teachers have a right to employment without an inquiry being made into their private lives as to their husband's capacity or willingness to support them. She urged that the schools need the best teachers that can be provided, and the records show that amongst these are the married women.

A married woman member of the Committee made her maiden speech in support of the women, and said she had not noticed that women members of the Council were required to resign on marriage. Nevertheless, a gallant Admiral protested in the old style, that woman's place is the home, that a married woman's heart should be with her children—and so forth.

The reference back was lost by eight votes. Last Tuesday, the matter was considered by the full Council on a joint Report of the General Purposes and Education Committees, who recommended that the Standing Order should be retained, but amended so as to permit the employment of married women teachers on "supply" when others were not available; and as part-time teachers, and of married women attendants at conveniences and baths in parks and open spaces. Sir Harry Stephen moved the reference back of the recommendation, and Dr. Scott-Lidgett seconded it. Sir John Gilbert opposed this, maintaining that young married women with children could not give their undivided attention to teaching. Mrs. Wilton Phipps declared she was strongly in favour of a woman resigning on marriage; and Dame Beatrice Lyall said that if a woman married and did her duty at home, she had no time for anything else. If that is so, why, in the name of common sense, are Dame Beatrice Lyall, Mrs. Wilton Phipps, and other married women, members of the London County Council? The amendment was defeated and the recommendation carried.

MURIEL PIEROTTI.

WOMEN'S NEWS IN THE FOREIGN PRESS.

The German Women's International League is convening a Conference in Berlin, this month, of representatives of their Branches and of women members of the Reichstag, to consider the possibility of supporting a roll of women candidates for Parliament and Local Authorities.

The February organ of the League—*Die Frau im Staat*—speaks of the concern that is felt that the number of elected women has decreased since the first elections in 1920, and states that many of the women leaders feel that an adequate representation will not be attained owing to the party machinery. There is no desire to form a Women's Party, but many questions—such as the suppression of the brothels in Hamburg—which directly affect the interests and well-being of women and children will not be improved until there are a sufficient number of women representatives who can act independently of the various parties. The small number of women candidates included in the Party lists has long been a source of vexation to the organised women, and the paper further states that women are powerless to prevent this because they have little or no influence within the Party organisations.

There is a strong desire among many women for an increased number of women in Parliament and on Local Bodies, but appeals to the various Party organisations pass unheeded, and it would appear that success is only likely to be achieved through "Selfhelp." If the claims of women candidates are to be brought before the women voters, there must be an effective election organisation which will raise the necessary funds and secure publicity in the Press, and the proposal is made that a great women's Conference should be arranged to initiate such an election organisation.

The Swiss Women's News Sheet includes an interesting account of the celebration of the jubilee of the entrance of women to Copenhagen University.

Many of the professors, including the Rector of the University, were present to express their congratulations to their former students and co-workers. The thanks of the women graduates were given by Fru Nina Bang, the first woman to attain Cabinet rank in Denmark, who referred to the interesting fact that the University owed its origin to a woman. In 1478, Queen Dorothea, the wife of Christian I., made a pilgrimage to Rome, and returned with a Papal Bull that contained permission to found a university. Four hundred years later another woman pilgrim, Rielsine Nielsen, came to the University and prayed to be allowed to study medicine. Permission was given, only one member of the Medical Faculty making any protest. In conclusion, Fru Bang dwelt on the cordial relations and good fellowship that had always existed between the men and women students. A book commemorating the event has been published, which includes a short biography of the 400 women who have taken their degree during the last fifty years.

MARIAN BERRY.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

(MID-LONDON BRANCH)

ARE ARRANGING A

PUBLIC DEBATE

AT

CAXTON HALL

ON

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd, at 7 p.m.

BETWEEN

Miss CICELY HAMILTON

and

Miss NINA BOYLE.

Subject:

"Is Democracy a Failure?"

Admission.

Collection.

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Tuesday, February 23rd, at 7 p.m.

Mid-London Branch. Public Debate at the Caxton Hall, Westminster. "Is Democracy a Failure?" Affirmative: Miss Cicely Hamilton. Negative: Miss Nina Boyle.

Friday, March 19th at 3—7.30 p.m.

Spring Sale at 25, Wimpole Street, W. (by kind permission of Dr. Lewin).

Saturday, March 20th, at 10 a.m.

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

Friday, March 5th, at 3 p.m.

Hampstead Branch. Members' Meeting at 53, Willow Road, N.W.3.

Saturday, April 24th, at 10 a.m.

Women's Freedom League Annual Conference, Caxton Hall, Westminster.

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, February 24th, at 3 p.m.

Portsmouth Branch. Members' Meeting at 2, Kent Road. To consider amendments to Resolutions for Annual Conference. Other business.

Wednesday, February 24th, at 5.30 p.m.

Hastings Branch. Members' Meeting at 1, St. Paul's Place. Chair: Mrs. Darent Harrison.

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

Middlesbrough Branch. Public Meeting at St. Barnabas' Hall, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough. Speaker: Commandant Allen. Subject: "Women Police during the War."

Friday, February 26th, at 3 p.m.

Ashford Branch. Public Meeting at the Hempstead Street Hall. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Subject: "What women are demanding from the present Government." Chair: Mrs. Kither.

Saturday, March 6th, at 3 p.m.

Portsmouth Branch. Jumble Sale at Long's Memorial Hall (Small Hall).

Friday, March 12th, at 3.15 p.m.

Portsmouth Branch. Public Meeting. Speaker: Dr. Mary Scharlieb. Subject: "Conception Control, from a Doctor's point of view."

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, February 20th, at 3 p.m.

Saturday Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. "The Elizabethan Era." Speakers: Mrs. Morris Wood, Miss Wyatt, Miss Solomon.

Monday, February 22nd, at 7 p.m.

Electrical Association for Women. E.L.M.A. Lighting Service Bureau (top floor), 15, Savoy Street. Subject: "Use of Electricity for Heating and Cooking."

Monday, February 22nd, at 8 p.m.

Fabian Women's Group. Parliamentary Labour Club, 11, Tufton Street, Westminster. Speaker: Miss Iris Wingate (Investigator for the Y.W.C.A.). Subject: "Industrial Conditions of Women and Children in India."

Tuesday, February 23rd, at 5.30 p.m.

London Society for Women's Service, 35, Marsham Street, Westminster. Speaker: Mr. J. M. Rendel (Chairman, Board of Guardians). Subject: "The Government Poor Law Consolidation Bill."

Tuesday, February 23rd, at 6 p.m.

Central London Y.M.C.A. Buildings, Tottenham Court Road, W.C.1. Speaker: Miss Barbara Low, B.A. Subject: "The Unconscious at Work in the Classroom."

February, 24—27.

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Annual Council Meetings, King George's Hall, Caroline Street, W.C.1.

Wednesday, February 24th, at 6.30 p.m.

Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries. Public Meeting at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C. Speakers: Mr. Frank Briant, M.P. and Dr. Marion Philips, J.P. Subject: "The Handbag and the Trade Union Card." Chair: Miss D. E. Bodley.

Thursday, February 25th, at 5 p.m.

Six Point Group, 92, Victoria Street, S.W. Lecture by Mr. Clough Williams-Ellis, on "Architecture, its Pleasures and Pains."

Thursday, February 25th, at 5.30 p.m.

League of the Church Militant, The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square. Speaker: Miss J. E. Francis. Chair: Mrs. De Bunson.

Thursday, February 25th, at 8 p.m.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Public Meeting at Caxton Hall, Westminster. Speakers: Mrs. Corbett Ashby and Mme. Malaterre Sellier. Subject: "The Paris Congress." Chair: Councillor Mrs. V. M. Crawford.

Friday, February 26th, at 8 p.m.

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, Mass Meeting on Equal Franchise at the Central Hall, Westminster. Speakers: Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., LL.D., Miss Maude Royden, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P. Chair: Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., C.C., M.A.

Sunday, February 28th, at 11 p.m.

Hampshire House Educational Association, Hog Lane, King Street, Hammersmith. Speaker: Mrs. M. W. Nevinson, J.P. Subject: "The Tragedies and Humours of the Courts."

BRANCH NOTES.

PORTSMOUTH.

Two lectures have been given in Portsmouth in favour of Birth Control. Our members felt they would like to hear the case "against" by a competent speaker, so Dr. Mary Scharlieb has promised to give an address on Conception control, from a doctor's point of view, on Friday afternoon, March 12th, at 3.15. Place of meeting will be announced next week. The handbills will state that the Woman's Freedom League has expressed no opinion either for or against Birth Control.

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

GLASGOW.

The annual meeting of this branch was held in the Central Halls here on February 4th. We were fortunate in having Miss Munro to speak for us. She recapitulated our gains in the last 25 years, and the notable changes in public opinion, and ended by stressing the need for further activity, both to keep our present gains and to attain more power for the good of the race, pointing out that it was in those European countries where the women stayed at home that the infant death-rate was at its highest. A vote of thanks was proposed by Miss Irwin, the report of the National Executive Committee meeting was read, and officers were elected for the incoming year. Miss Eunice Murray was asked to be President, and has accepted the position, and Miss Jane Thomson has been added to the list of Vice-Presidents.

DUNOON.

On Monday, February 8th, a Dunoon Branch of the Women's Freedom League was officially formed, and office bearers appointed, Councillor Mrs. MacPherson presiding. We are very grateful to the following ladies for accepting office: President, Mrs. Clark; Vice-President, Mrs. Nimmo; Treasurer, Miss Ramsay; Secretary, Mrs. Robertson May; Lit. Secretary, Miss Millar; Committee, Mrs. Heddie, Miss Plack, Mrs. Stewart, Miss Currie, Mrs. Hanley, and Miss Welch.

A Committee meeting was held on Monday, February 15th, at Gowie House, by kind permission of Mrs. May, to discuss future activities. LILIAN LENTON.

ROTHERSAY.

Last Friday, at a meeting of members held in the Norman Stewart Institute, it was decided to reconstitute the Rothersey Branch of the Women's Freedom League. Councillor Miss Arrol, who presided, was appointed President, Miss M. Park Treasurer and Secretary, and a Committee was formed consisting of Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. McLean and Mrs. Kennedy.

We offer our sincere thanks to these ladies for the great help they are giving in accepting office. LILIAN LENTON.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Married Women Eligible!

The *Poor Law Officers' Journal* states that "The Uxbridge Guardians have decided to invite applications for a lady to fill the position of Infant Protection Visitor, in succession to Mr. Crook, at a salary of £50 a year. Mr. Garrod wanted the Board to stipulate that the applicants should be single women, or unprovided widows, but it was agreed to leave the qualification open and judge each application on its merits." Probably because of the size of the salary! We wonder what was the amount Mr. Crook received?

Praise for Women Jurors!

The Recorder, Sir Ernest Wild, K.C., at the opening of the Old Bailey Sessions last week, said his experience of women jurors was that they had added considerably to the due and proper administration of the criminal law. We are glad that his experience has changed his earlier views in regard to women jurors.

Women in the Churches.

At the annual meeting of the Liverpool Congregational Council, Mr. F. G. Thomas, the new Chairman, pleaded that better use should be made of women's greater qualities for service. At present, their services were confined to public teas, singing in the choir, and teaching in the Sunday school. Their practical sagacity, initiative and perception would be of the greatest value to the Council of the Church. The United Free Church Presbytery of Glasgow has turned down a proposal that the General Assembly should be asked to introduce such legislation as would enable women to be admitted to the study of theology in the Church's Colleges, and authorise Presbyterians to take women on trial for licence and ordination on the same terms as men. Hamilton Presbytery, however, by a majority of four, has approved of the same proposal. In a letter to the *Glasgow Herald*, Miss Eunice Murray pertinently asks, "Had we women preachers in the Church, would we not have fuller churches? Surely it is an anomaly that women may successfully preach the Gospel of Christ with the sanction of the Church to the coloured races, but must refrain from doing so to the white people!"

Park for Women and Children.

Mrs. Smithson, of Hitchin, has presented the Hitchin Urban Council with a small meadow, to be used as a recreation ground, on the condition that it is used by women and children. Football and band music are banned. It is said to be the first public recreation ground in the country to be reserved for women and children.

FRIDAY,
FEB. 19,
1926.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Please send me *THE VOTE* every week, post free, for 6 months, for which I enclose 3/3.

Name

Address

THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

BOARD RESIDENCE.

LADY requires Paying Guest, very comfortable modern home, Stoke Newington district. Young business or professional lady preferred. 30/- weekly, partial board.—Write Box K.B.A., THE VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

TO LET.

FURNISHED COTTAGE, in Suffolk, 21/- weekly. Simply Decorated. Oak beams exposed.—Apply HAYLAND, The Peasant Shop, 41, Devonshire Street, Theobald's Road, W.C.1.

TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS AND HOW TO USE THEM. 2d. Send for one.—TRIMNELL, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond Road, Cardiff. Est. 1879.

SMART CUT, AND PERFECT
TAILORING.

COSTUMES MADE TO
ORDER FROM 7 GUINEAS

H. Melissen,

Ladies' Tailor,

PERSONAL ATTENTION.

62, GREAT PORTLAND STREET, LONDON, W.1.

CLUBS.

ISIS CLUB, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue (2 minutes Hampstead Tube Station). Magnificent Reception Rooms. Central heating. Sunny bedrooms. Sandy soil. Lectures, dancing, listening-in. Telephone: Hampstead 2869.

PIONEER CLUB, 12, Cavendish Place, Oxford Circus, W.1. Bedrooms. Debates. Concerts. Town Membership, £5 5s.; Professional and Country, £4 4s.

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: Museum 4791.

NOTICES.

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 377.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, February 21st. 3.30 p.m. Music. Lecture. Sir Henry Maybury, K.C.M.G., C.B. (Director-General, Roads Department, Ministry of Transport): "Traffic Reforms." 6.30 p.m. Miss Maude Royden.

PUBLIC SPEAKING AND CHAIRMANSHIP. Classes, Private Lessons and Lectures, also Saturday Speech Club. New term now beginning—Miss Lucy BELLI, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

REST AND HOLIDAYS.

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

CORNWALL.—Paying Guest received in modern farmhouse. £2 2s. week. Clotted cream 3/- lb., post free.—SELSEY, St. Stephen's, St. Austell, Cornwall.

RYE, SUSSEX.—OLD HOPE ANCHOR. Ideal Guest House. Modern comforts; good cooking. Separate Vegetarian cooking a speciality. Write for booklet.

STRESA.—The most delightful spot on Lake Maggiore, Italy, for spending a quiet summer holiday.—MRS. COSTA, Hotel St. Gothard. Terms *en pension* £3 weekly.

SAND BANKS. 3 miles Bournemouth. Board Residence. Winter terms very moderate.—MISS ALLEN, "Cosy Nook," Sand Banks, Dorset.

MISCELLANEOUS.

DANCE PIANIST and Accompanist requests engagements for Piano/orte Lessons or Accompanist.—Apply MRS. SILVESTER SPARROW, 43 Black Lion Lane, W 6.

CORSETS made to measure from 12/6. Patterns and instructions for self-measurement sent on request. Corsets and Belts cleaned and repaired.—ROZE POINTON, 88, Caledonian Road, King's Cross, London, N 1.

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, 1s.