

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

NON-PARTY.

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 1929

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

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Equal Franchise.

The present year will see all Ireland on the same equal footing as to voting. Though in the Free State women have voted since 1923 on the same terms as men, in Northern Ireland (the Six County area) they were, as in Great Britain, allowed the vote only on attaining the age of thirty. Now that Great Britain has moved, Northern Ireland has swung into line. The newly-enfranchised women are already presenting a problem to the male politicians, for it seems that, in certain areas, where the political balance is delicately adjusted, notably in the counties of Fermanagh and Tyrone, the younger women will vote Nationalist or Labour, and may thus cost the Conservatives a few seats. If this should happen it will be but a just return, for the Unionists of the north-east corner have usually been anti-suffragists of the deepest dye!

Jury Service.

To balance the slight advantage which the women in the Free State area hitherto possessed, comes the special disability they suffer under, as contrasted with their sisters in the Six County area. In Southern Ireland women were deprived by the late Mr. Kevin O'Higgins, Minister for Justice, of their right to sit on juries, on the plea that women "did not like" jury service, and that it was indelicate to force them to act! When the various women's societies and other bodies interested in citizenship, child welfare, and the like, protested, vigorously lobbying Members of both Houses on the question, a sop was thrown to them in the form of a "voluntary panel," women (and men, did they so desire) being asked to send in their names to the sheriff if they were desirous of serving on juries. Some women (not a large number, it is true, because many objected on principle to the discrimination, and others, though prepared to take their turn if called upon, could not, if they were working under employers, claim to get off for a service not required by law) sent in their names over a year ago, but nothing has been heard since of the voluntary panel, which does not seem to have materialised. As far as one can gather, in the North of Ireland, as in Great Britain, the jury service for women is well maintained and has proved a success.

Judiciary and Police.

There are, so far, no women judges in the Free State or in Northern Ireland, though there is an increasing number of women barristers and solicitors. There is a woman probation officer in the Children's Court in Dublin, though the presiding magistrate is a man. There are no women police, though women act in the detective and secret service force, in a few cases, having, however, no power of arrest. In the Bridewells (or temporary prisons) policemen are in charge, having access to the cells where women prisoners are kept, the so-called "matrons" of such places being merely cleaners or charwomen without authority or status.

Justices of the Peace exist only in Northern Ireland. In the Free State paid magistrates take their place, the newly-created Peace Commissioners being largely honorary officials for the administration of oaths and the like minor offices. Of these there are several hundred men, but not, I believe, more than a dozen women, if there are even so many. I know personally of only five. All are supporters of the Government, such appointments being made on party lines.

Married Women.

In the Civil Service, the teaching profession, and local government appointments, women are usually paid less than men—sometimes for the same, sometimes for more onerous work. They are excluded from many of the higher Civil Service posts, and they are invariably dismissed when they "lapse" into marriage. Only National teachers are exceptions to this rule, because they have a powerful trades-union and are employed directly by managers and not by the Government. Of late, the rate of pay offered to nurses for Government and local appointments is so low that there is a shortage of qualified nurses, many emigrating to the U.S.A. or to Great Britain, where pay is higher and opportunities of advancement in their profession wider. £40 a year for a qualified nurse or midwife is no unusual offer! It is not surprising, therefore, that many local bodies have had no applications in answer to their advertisements for trained, qualified nurses, "who must know Irish." Irish nurses, through their union, are practically on strike against such conditions.

The "Indelicacy" Complex.

When women were taken off juries by Mr. O'Higgins, he also (at the instance of male stenographers) removed them from the position of court stenographers on the ground that their morals would suffer as a result of transcribing certain indelicate cases. Many Irishmen (practically all lawyers, I have observed, and, of course, clergymen of all denominations) seem to suffer from this "indelicate" complex. The proposed Censorship Bill is another case in point. Divorce (even in the case of non-Catholics) is not permitted in the Free State, and, as the husband's residence is by law the wife's, a man may obtain such divorce by residing for a time in Northern Ireland or in Great Britain, while a woman may be prevented from obtaining relief on this technical ground of residence.

The Unmarried Mother.

The laws regarding illegitimacy are badly in need of amending in the Free State, no inquiry being permitted into paternity, and no attempt possible to bring the male parent to book or to compel him to provide for his illegitimate children. The scandal of unhappy, unmarried mothers (many of them mere girls), who destroy their unwanted babies is one that, so far, none of our male legislators has made any attempt to cope with, though judges, social workers, and women's societies have asked in vain for special legislation dealing with this problem, for raising the age of consent, etc., and though a Government Commission made, some years ago, special recommendations regarding such matters. Last month a great-grandmother was found guilty of killing the new-born child of her granddaughter, and was condemned to be hanged two days after Christmas Day. Owing to an appeal, which won in a higher court, a re-trial has been ordered, so that the woman's fate is still uncertain. It is unlikely, of course, that this poor woman will be executed; still, the fact that she has been condemned to death and has to suffer all the torture of suspense, is in itself an indictment of our male-run State. Women are still hanged in Ireland, though there is, as in Great Britain, a growing feeling of revolt against capital punishment. No official hangman has been appointed by the Governments, either of Northern or Southern Ireland, and the hangman from Great Britain still officially obliges, coming over regularly, as required, to Dublin or Belfast, to carry out the hangings.

Women M.P.s and Senators.

I noted recently in THE VOTE that there are now eight women M.P.s. In Ireland there are now but two—one in Northern Ireland and one in the Free State. In the recent Senate elections, held last December to fill nineteen vacancies (the Senate is elected in sections, never entirely dissolving), another woman was returned, making the number of women in the Free State Upper House now five. It is curious that the British House of Commons has eight women Members, while its Upper House still excludes all women, and while the more democratic Lower House in the Free State has but one woman deputy and its Upper House five women Senators. Ireland, on the other hand, before Great Britain, elected a woman to Parliament (in 1918), Constance Markievicz being returned for St. Patrick's Division, Dublin, many months before Lady Astor was returned for an English seat. In the following Irish elections seven women were returned. All opposed the Treaty, a fact that no doubt militated against the return either of these or other women, for the entire sex became, in the eyes of certain politicians, "suspect" in consequence. In Ireland, as elsewhere, the women favoured by the party machines tend, for the most part, to be mere replicas of the men. They are the sisters, wives, widows, or mothers of politicians, and are chosen no doubt on what men consider a "safe" principle, because men are still afraid of the unknown quantity, the independent woman, who may turn out to be a feminist rather than a party henchwoman.

Women on Local Bodies.

On local bodies a certain number of women serve, still a very small number. In fact, there are only about twenty-two women on public bodies in the entire Free State, as far as I can ascertain from official inquiry. In the borough of Rathmines there are seven women (of all parties) in a council of twenty-four, and a woman is chairman, but this is quite exceptional. On the Dublin County Council there are three of us, one being vice-chairman. Many councils, urban and county (rural counties have been abolished save in one or two cases, and so have the old poor law boards), have not a single woman member, and I note with amusement that our chairman (on the Dublin Council) cannot yet get his tongue around "Ladies," and continues, in spite of coaching and protest, to address us women as "Gentlemen." Prejudice and custom die hard.

No "Surplus" Women.

An interesting fact in connection with the division of the sexes in the Free State has emerged in the recent Census returns. There are no "surplus" women here—men predominate by some thousands, and only in Dublin City are women in the majority, being 55 per cent. of the population. In the country parts the difference is still more marked, men in rural areas far exceeding women. On the other hand, the births are fairly equal. Women and girls emigrate in larger numbers, and that is why, almost alone among European countries, we have an excess of men over women. In Northern Ireland (ever different, it would seem, from the rest!) women are slightly in excess, but the balance there is almost equal. A feminist friend of mine (a Civil Servant) holds that the fact that there are no "surplus" women in Ireland militates further against women's advancement: we are, at any rate, in a vicious circle. I had always believed the contrary, that, where women were in the minority, they were prized, being scarce! Such was the explanation we suffragists used to get as to why the women of the Western State of Wyoming won the vote so easily (it being the first American State to grant equal suffrage). Being a rare commodity, women were in a position to control. Well, that rule does not work in Ireland, anyhow. Perhaps it is but another myth!

The Moral.

We women in Ireland need badly a progressive women's organisation. The militant movement (twin sister of your Women's Freedom League), the Irish Women's Franchise League, was broken up during the War. The Irish feminist paper, *The Irish Citizen*, had its type broken up at that time, and no printer dared to print it under such conditions. Irishwomen need both an organisation and a paper to voice their needs and grievances. Whether 1929 will see that need catered for, it is for women themselves to answer. "Who would be free herself must strike the blow" applies just as forcibly to women's emancipation, still far from complete in any land to-day.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LADY BAILEY.

Lady Bailey has just completed a remarkable lone flight from South Africa to this country, being not only the first woman, but the first pilot, to fly alone over the route from Rhodesia to Europe, via the Belgian Congo, French Equatorial Africa, and the West Coast of Africa. Lady Bailey covered this route on nothing more powerful than a Moth aeroplane, with a Cirrus engine of only 30-80 horse-power. Last March, she flew from this country to South Africa, and after several adventures arrived at Cape Town on April 30th. *The Times* states that, at the lowest estimate, Lady Bailey cannot have flown less than 18,000 miles since she left England, and gives the highest praise to her reliance on her own resources, her skill in navigating almost uncharted spaces of Africa, and to her pluck and persistence in face of bad weather, high mountains and inhospitable country.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Success for Woman Doctor.

Dr. Florence Stephen, of the Manchester Royal Infirmary, has been awarded the British Journal of Anæsthesia £50 prize. Dr. Stephen's work has recently been in studying the chemical changes which occur in the body when a patient is under an anæsthetic.

All in the Day's Work.

Last Saturday, probably for the first time, a colliery rescue was led by a woman doctor. Accompanied by a priest, Dr. Anne Mitchell descended the mine and crawled through the water-logged workings of No. 3 Pit, Blantyreferme Colliery, Cambuslang, near Glasgow, to rescue two miners who had received violent electric shocks. She found one already dead, but the other revived after treatment.

Woman's World Record.

Driving a cycle-car with a 6 horse-power engine on the Monthéry track, Mrs. Stewart, the British motorcyclist, has beaten the two hours' world record, making 162 miles, an average of 81 miles an hour.

Woman's Record Climb.

Miss K. Gardiner, of Liverpool, has established a new record for women climbers by her ascent of Mount Cook, the culminating peak of the Southern Alps—the extensive range in the southern island of New Zealand, which rises to a height of 12,349 ft. Her time was 15 h. 45 min.

Woman Breaks New Ground.

Miss Blanche Tucker, of Regent's Park, chief cashier on R.M.S. "Majestic," is the first woman to pass the Board of Trade's examination for lifeboat efficiency.

Another Woman Candidate.

Mrs. Beta Hornabrook, has been adopted as Liberal Candidate for the Deritend Division of Birmingham.

Midwinter Championship.

Miss Mary Reich, of Finsbury Park, won the Fitzroy Cup for the 50 yards race at the midwinter swimming championships of the Excelsior Club, recently held at Ken Wood Pond.

Woman R.A. at Olympia.

Mrs. Laura Knight, the Royal Academician, who has painted a number of pictures of circus life, has been making sketches of girls at the circus now being held at Olympia.

Nurse's Forty-Two Years' Service.

Miss C. H. Keer, R.R.C., late Matron-in-Chief of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, joined the Army nursing service in 1887. She was one of the first nurses to be sent out during the South African war, and continued her service until 1902. On the formation of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, she became principal matron in South Africa, and in April, 1906, matron-in-chief at the War Office.

To Represent England.

Miss Durelle Sale Barker and Miss "Di." Crewdson have been chosen to represent England in a Polish ski-ing championship.

Women Exhibitors.

Twenty-four out of the seventy exhibitors at the Pastel Society's Exhibition are women. Their work is of a high order, and has aroused much interest. Mrs. Esther Sutro, Mrs. Anning Bell, and Mrs. Nance Pflaum are among the exhibitors.

Another Woman for Prescott Board of Guardians.

The election of Miss Ellen Rennie, a retired school teacher, to the Prescott Board of Guardians for East Sutton, brings the number of women members up to six.

Women Judges at Foal Show.

The twin daughters of Mr. Robert Park, Brunstane, Portobello, Edinburgh, were the judges at a recent local Clydesdale foal show in Fifeshire, and are stated to have acquitted themselves with distinction in a task of no little difficulty.

Woman's Appointment in Western Australia.

Mrs. Amelia Macdonald, J.P., of Perth, Western Australia, has been appointed President of the Australian Auxiliary Immigration Council.

Women Police in Paris?

The *Sunday Times* reports that although the French authorities have made a study of the question of the appointment of women police, it is improbable that they will at present make use of them. M. Guichart, Director of the Municipal Police, points out that last year the special police arrested more than 64,000 women on the streets. French manners and morals, he says, are different from English, and, while women police might possess the necessary authority, it is likely that much more violence would be offered to women than to men police.

Brazilian Woman Honoured.

Maura De Senna Pereira, a professor, journalist and novelist, is the first woman to gain admission to membership of the Academy of Santa Catharina in Brazil.

The First Spanish Woman Pilot.

Margot Soriano has the distinction of being Spain's first woman air pilot.

Women Doctors and Chemists give their Views.

At the Frankfurt Conference last week, organised by the International Women's League for Peace and Freedom, women doctors from several countries described the effects of poison gas and the sufferings of those attacked. Dr. Gertrude Woker, a research worker in poison gas in Berne University, disproved the contention that the use of gas humanised war, and said that generals had been glad when one quarter of their men were alive after an attack. The new gases were far more swift and deadly, and survivors suffered agonies for years.

A Woman Freeman.

On the occasion of her seventieth birthday, Rosa Mayreder, the well-known authoress and writer on the woman's movement, was made a Freeman of the City of Vienna.

Progress in Brazil.

Since the enfranchisement of women in the state of Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil, a woman has been elected Mayor of Lages, and in five different towns women have been elected town councillors.

Woman's Claim to Cabinet Post.

Mrs. Alvin T. Hert, of Kentucky, who is vice-president of the American Republican National Committee, is claiming a post in the Cabinet. Mr. Hubert Work, the Republican National Chairman, is actively supporting her.

Woman Member of Iowa Assembly.

Carolyn C. Pendray, is the first woman to be elected to the General Assembly of Iowa.

"WHAT THEY SAID IN 1928."

Dr. Octavia Lewin was wise on nose-blowing: "If the girls who complain of headache in the middle of the afternoon blew their noses instead of taking tea, they would probably get much relief."—*The Daily News and Westminster Gazette*.

THE VOTE.

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EDITORIAL.

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

WHERE WOMEN ARE NEEDED TO HELP OUR COLONIES.

Yet another Governmental Committee has been appointed, this time by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to advise him on problems of educational development in the Colonies not possessing responsible government, the Protectorates, and Mandated Territories. The Chairman of the Committee will be the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, and, in addition to Colonial Office officials (all of whom are, of course, men), nine men have been appointed and two women—Miss S. A. Burstall, M.A., J.P., and Miss A. W. Whitlam, and two other men, who are to act as Joint Secretaries. When we remember that the education of girls as well as boys in these Protectorates and Mandated Territories is to be dealt with, we certainly think that there should be more than two women on this Committee. So long ago as the 8th of March, 1926, when it had been decided to appoint a Commission to consider the facilities for education of Indian children in Fiji, Mr. Pethick-Lawrence asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the proposed Commission would include any women members. Mr. Amery replied that the Commission was being appointed by the Governor of the Colony, and that inquiry would be made of him in regard to women members. Later, in June of the same year, Mr. Pethick-Lawrence received a letter from the Colonial Office, in which it was stated that the Governor had reported that it was not his intention to appoint a woman to sit as a member of this Education Commission. No reason was given for the refusal of the Governor of Fiji to appoint women to this Commission. We said at the time that, as British women, we considered it was essential to safeguard the interests of girls in Fiji, as of boys, in the matter of education. It is understood that Governors should be allowed to manage the affairs of their own Colonies in their own way to a certain extent; but British women have a right to ask for further inquiries to be made where the local Government has operated adversely to the interests of women, as it undoubtedly had in this case, and as it did in the case of the Civil Service of Palestine, where, it will be remembered, an arrangement was made in 1924, by which the rule that previously existed, that the office or capacity of the official should determine the rate of payment, and that the men and the women should be paid equally for the same work, was departed from, so that women in the Palestinian Civil Service now receive less salaries than the men. All these questions are of great importance to British women, and we look to our own Government to make this matter clear to local Governors by appointing women in equal numbers with men on all Committees dealing with questions of special concern in Colonies and Protectorates which equally affect the interests of boys and girls, men and women. Women in this country have now equal voting rights with men, and they see no reason for this differentiation in the treatment of women and men in the Colonies. Indeed, we look forward to the time when there will be women Governors of some of these Colonies.

HEADQUARTERS' NOTES.

The date of our Twenty-second Annual Conference has been fixed for Saturday, April 13th. We shall then not only have to report the great victory of Equal Franchise for men and women in this country and Northern Ireland, but we shall be looking forward to a General Election at an early date, at which men and women will be voting on equal terms. At the April Conference, the Women's Freedom League General Election policy will come up for review. Our present policy is, briefly, to support all suitable women candidates, irrespective of the party for which they stand. We define a candidate as "suitable" if she is willing to work inside and outside the House of Commons for women's equality with men, and if she is acceptable to Headquarters and to our local branch when we have one in her district. With regard to men candidates, our present policy is to submit to them questions concerning our equality programme, and to recommend our members in their district to support them, or otherwise, according to the answers they give to our questions. Resolutions for the Conference Agenda confirming or altering this policy, and all other resolutions from our Branches must reach the Women's Freedom League office not later than January 26th. All resolutions will, after being dealt with by our Agenda Committee, be sent round to Branches within the next week or ten days, and Branches will be asked to let us have at this office, not later than March 9th, all amendments, together with nominations for the President, Honorary Treasurer, and twelve members of our Executive Committee; and the final Agenda will be circulated to Branches shortly afterwards.

In view of the imminence of the General Election, the old demands of the Women's Freedom League should be pressed with vigour: the admission of peeresses in their own right to full membership of the House of Lords; equal pay for equal work; equality of opportunity as between women and men in the Diplomatic Service and in all branches of the Civil Service at home and abroad, and in the teaching profession; the right of married women to work for pay if they wish; the right of British women married to foreigners to retain their own nationality; the necessity for appointing women in adequate numbers on all Departmental Committees and Royal Commissions appointed by the Government, on all Government delegations to the Assembly of the League of Nations, and to the International Labour Organisations; and uncompromising opposition to restrictions being placed on the work of women which are not also placed on the work of men, etc. Our Branches will also have the opportunity of expressing their views on the recently issued Report of the Street Offences Committee, and dealing with the questions of women police and convictions for any class of street offence on the uncorroborated evidence of the police. What we want at our April Conference is an invigorating interchange of views on these and all other questions of importance to the Women's Freedom League, so that we can pull our full weight in effective work at the coming General Election.

The attention of members of the Women's Freedom League and readers of THE VOTE is directed to the following meetings:—

Friday, January 18th, at 3 p.m.—An At Home at Pitt's Restaurant, Kew Green, when Mrs. Bigland will speak on "Women at Work in the League of Nations," and Miss F. A. Underwood on "The Work of the Women's Freedom League." Tea provided.

Friday, January 25th, at 7.30 p.m.—Dinner to Miss Chave Collisson, M.A., at the Minerva Club. Miss Collisson has returned from a World Tour, and this will be a welcome opportunity of greeting her and of listening to her many and varied experiences.

Thursday, January 31st, at 4.30 p.m.—Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C., when Mrs. Cannon (of the Women's Indian Association) will speak on "Social Conditions in India." Tea at 4 o'clock.

ECONOMIC EQUALITY OF WOMEN WITH MEN.

A SUGGESTION FROM AMERICA.

In July of last year, a very interesting group of American business and professional women visited this country, partly on holiday and partly to meet representative business and professional women of Great Britain. With a view to giving these American women some insight into British women's activities, a reception was arranged by the Forum Club, during which our visitors learned something of the work being done by our women as magistrates, and other public work. On another evening, the Women's Provisional Club and the Soroptimist Club joined forces and entertained the visitors at the Florence Restaurant. Professor Winifred Cullis spoke on behalf of the Women's Provisional Club and Mrs. Tickell on behalf of the Soroptimist Club, the American point of view being very ably put by Miss Lena Madelin Phillips, the leader of the American women and an eminent New York lawyer.

Miss Phillips is also President of the National Federation of Professional and Business Women's Clubs in America, an organisation which numbers many thousands of members. This organisation is an extremely active one, including in its ranks some of the most outstanding business and professional women in the United States of America.

During her visit, Miss Phillips, the President, discussed with a number of business and professional women in this country, the possibility of forming an international organisation of business and professional women. At a time when everything is tending to become international, such an organisation of business and professional women would undoubtedly help considerably towards the closer understanding of women working for economic freedom. The interchange of ideas, the stimulation which is gained from hearing of the achievement of other women, the strength which comes from organisation, would undoubtedly all be factors in favour of such an organisation. Miss Phillips herself is fired with the idea, and, being a woman of tremendous power and personality, she will

no doubt in time achieve her objective. The difficulty so far in this country appears to be that the women who could normally help in such a venture are far too busy with their own particular jobs to spare the necessary time. This is probably due to the fact that women in executive and administrative posts find it necessary to give all their energy to their work, leaving very little time or thought for wider considerations. This, I think, is a state of affairs which is entirely wrong and will in time readjust itself. It should be possible for the woman doing highly responsible, administrative and executive work, to find time to take part in world-wide movements, such as those in which her male colleagues are engaged.

Another difficulty in the way of realising Miss Phillips' ideal in this country is the fact that we have no one organisation which represents all business and professional women. This may not necessarily be a drawback as a general working arrangement, but undoubtedly it would be an excellent thing if from time to time all the groups of women engaged in industrial and professional work would meet together and discuss common problems affecting all women, such as economic equality.

It is, of course, a fact that more and more women in the business world are achieving equality with men, as it is being increasingly recognised that the woman with ability is worth as much in the open market as a man doing the same job. Women are also more and more becoming employers and creating their own working conditions, which is probably one of the best ways out of the difficulty.

While I think that at the moment the main thing is for women to make good each in her own trade or profession, at the same time, an International Conference of Professional and Business Women would help considerably in enabling women to have a stocktaking as to how far they have achieved economic equality.

CAROLINE HASLETT.

WOMEN IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The Report for 1928 of the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations (to which the Women's Freedom League is affiliated) is just to hand, and records much useful work throughout the year. The names of suitable British women for appointments on the various Committees and Delegations of the League have been forwarded to the Joint Committee of Women's International Organisations, and have also been brought to the notice of our own Government—Dr. Hilda Clark and Miss Ruth Fry for the International Relief Union, Mrs. Margarita Beer for the Consultative Economic Conference, and Dr. Janet Campbell for the Health Commission.

There is no woman full member of the Health Commission of the League, but after much pressure from many quarters the Health Section has promised to consider including women members next year.

Our Council has continued to press for a woman full delegate in the British Delegation to the Assembly of the League, for women technical advisers to the Council of the League and for a woman delegate and women technical advisers to the Conferences of the International Labour Organisation.

"The progress made towards securing adequate representation of women in the various bodies of the League is slow if sure. There is every expectation that in the near future a larger number of the States-members of the League will include women in their delegations to the Assembly, while the practical assistance of women in the Commissions, Committees and Sub-Committees is receiving more general recognition.

On the other hand, it is regrettable that greater progress has not been made with regard to the position of women in the Secretariat. There is still every need

for the work of your Committee, and their efforts will not be relaxed until the principle of Article VII. of the Covenant is invariably carried out in the League."

At the Annual Meeting of the Council last November, resolutions passed included the following:—

"This Council notes that Dame Rachel Crowdy's contract in the Secretariat of the League of Nations has been renewed for one year. It strongly urges that her contract should be extended for seven years as in the case of other heads of Sections, in order to enable her to continue the work which she has so successfully carried on for the Abolition of the Traffic in Women and for an Equal Moral Standard."

"This Council welcomes the resolution of the Assembly of the League of Nations recommending Governments to take into consideration the inclusion of women in their delegations to the first Conference on the Codification of International Law."

"This Council notes with indignation that in spite of the protest made by women's organisations, no woman was included in the list of speakers at the Anniversary Meeting of the League of Nations Union in the Albert Hall on October 26th. The excuse put forward in the official reply to these protests to the effect that only Honorary Presidents of the Union were eligible to be invited to speak, and that Honorary Presidents are drawn exclusively from among Prime Ministers and ex-Prime Ministers, is not based upon the Statutes of the Union, and violates the principles of the League of Nations itself; deprecates the limitation in the selection of Honorary Presidents from the extremely narrow circle of Premiers and ex-Premiers, and in view of the support given by women to the Union, requests that the method of choice of the Honorary Officers and Speakers be reconsidered and placed upon a wider basis."

THE MARCH OF PROGRESS.

During the past week, the National Union of Women Teachers has held its Annual Conference at Buxton; and it is interesting to recall that, thirteen years ago, Miss C. Neal, who is a member of the National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League as well as of the Central Council of the National Union of Women Teachers, attended a Conference of the National Union of Teachers at Buxton, when she vainly attempted to move an equal pay resolution. Since that date, women have learned the wisdom of organising within their own union, and the N.U.W.T. is to-day one of the foremost equalitarian societies and is the only teachers' organisation actively working for equal pay.

The Conference was welcomed to Buxton by the Mayor (Councillor Stephen Pettitt), who held an evening reception for delegates, and the following morning accorded them a civic welcome, when prominent citizens extended cordial greetings on behalf of the various interests which they represented. This was followed by the induction of the President for 1929, Miss A. A. Kenyon, of Oldham, who, in her presidential address, made an urgent plea, not only for reforms in education, but for the better housing and protection of children, and for the establishment of equality in diverse ways.

One of the most important resolutions on the agenda maintained that educational efficiency is being impaired by the present tendencies in reorganisation of schools: it urged the need for separate infants' departments, each under its own headmistress, and for senior girls and boys to be taught in separate departments. Where, however, junior or senior schools take the form of a mixed department, it demands that the headship shall be open to men and women alike, in theory and in practice.

The need for the establishment of a truly national system of education was stressed by Miss Crosby (Chairman of the Union's Education Committee), in moving a resolution deploring the fact that the system of post-primary education outlined in "The New Prospect in Education" does not fulfil the recommendations of the Hadow Report. This Report suggested the breaking down of barriers between primary and secondary education; but, instead, the Board of Education is establishing a new form of intermediate education, which nobody asked for and nobody wants. It was maintained that all post-primary schools should

be regarded as types of secondary education, with staff, equipment, and buildings approximating to that required for existing secondary schools. Further, it was claimed that the conditions of work, size of classes, and the quality of the teaching staff for junior schools should be equal to that for senior schools.

Some striking figures were quoted by Miss A. M. Jackson, in moving a resolution urging the need for speeding-up the replacement of black-listed schools. Out of 2,827 schools on the Black List, only 575 have been closed, replaced, or satisfactorily repaired. If England has to economise, declared Miss Jackson, the one thing it cannot afford to do is to house the children, either at home or at school, in buildings which adversely affect the full development of a healthy body, mind, and soul.

Time after time, throughout the Conference, reference was made to the fact that women now have votes. Speaking to a resolution on unemployment, one delegate claimed that politics is only an extension of one's duty towards one's neighbours, and she urged her colleagues to use their votes to secure educational and social reforms.

Dealing with the question of equality of opportunity, another delegate declared that a woman in industry can only be classed as non-adult, since she is not an infant and yet has to be specially safeguarded; while a woman in the professions is a nonentity, since, at present, she must always be supplemented by some other element that makes her an entity in the eyes of administrators.

Resolutions were passed, claiming the right for women teachers to continue their work after marriage; and for British women to retain their nationality on marriage to an alien, unless this is renounced at the time of marriage. The Conference also asked for the appointment of an adequate number of women police, with full powers of arrest, and for women commissioners qualified to take evidence, when necessary. In addition, it asked for the appointment of a Commission to inquire into the question of child assault, at least half the members of the Commission to be women.

Most important of all, the Conference reiterated its demand for equal pay for men and women teachers of the same professional status, and pledged itself to work ceaselessly until this demand is conceded.

A. M. PIEROTTI.

OUR BOOK REVIEW.

Mary and Peter in Italy, by Eleanor Barton. (Thomas Nelson & Sons, New York). (Can be obtained from this office).

Mary and Peter, who stay at their grandmother's house in Italy, while their parents are in India, see the Italian year through, with its change of seasons and its festivals. The Easter celebrations; the blessing of the lambs; the procession of the sheep on their way to the mountains for the summer; the farewell of the shepherds before the march to the great lonely plains of the Maremma for the winter; the vintage: all are made graphically real to the reader.

The chapter on silkworms is especially delightful:

"The signora was trying to persuade some of the worms to move to a fresh tray of leaves. So she placed very fine meshed trays full of fresh food on the top of the old ones, and the ravenous creatures worked their way through in no time, and settled down to the contents of the new tray."

Christmas in Rome, with the *Pifferari* and the Signora Befana who—

"rides down the chimney on a white horse If you've been good, and if you remember to place a dish of bran and a drink of water for her poor horse who's travelled all night, she brings you presents. But if you've been naughty and disagreeable, she fills your shoes with charcoal"—

bring to an end this charming little book, which, by the way, is illustrated with attractive woodcuts. E. A. H.

WOMEN MEDICAL STUDENTS.

The Committee appointed by the Senate of London University to consider the proposed exclusion of women from all the London general hospitals, with the exception of the Royal Free Hospital, will present its report to the Senate on the 5th of this month.

Sir William Beveridge, Vice-Chancellor of the University, is reported to have stated: "The probability is that the line taken towards the hospitals will not be compulsion, but persuasion, which can be strongly reinforced by public opinion."

The result is awaited with great interest by the Women's Freedom League and by all Women's Societies which have justice as their aim.

Membership Application Form.

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

DARE TO BE FREE. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, January 14th, at 3 p.m.

Hampstead Branch. Meeting at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

Thursday, January 17th, at 6.30.

Mid. London Branch meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

All members are urged to be present. If unable to come please send suggestions for Resolutions for the Annual Conference.

Friday, January 18th, at 3.30 p.m.

"At Home" at Pitt's Restaurant (close Main Entrance Kew Gardens), Kew Green, by kind permission of Mrs. Gillett-Gatty. Speakers: Mrs. Bigland on "Women at Work in the League of Nations," and Miss F. A. Underwood on "The Work of the Women's Freedom League."

Friday, January 25th, Minerva Club, 7.30 p.m.

Congratulatory Dinner to Miss Chave Collisson, M.A., after her World-Tour.

Saturday, January 26th, at 10 a.m.

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

Thursday, January 31st, at 4.30 p.m.

Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Mrs. Cannon. Subject: "Social Conditions in India." Tea, 4 p.m.

Saturday, March 9th, at 10 a.m.

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

Saturday, April 13th, at 10 a.m.

Women's Freedom League Twenty-Second Annual Conference, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W.1.

PROVINCES.

Friday, January 11th, at 3 p.m.

Ashford Branch. Christmas Party at Hempstead Street Hall.

Tuesday, January 15th, at 6.30 p.m.

Rye Branch. Members' Meeting at the Mint Tea Room (by kind permission of Miss Boielle). Conference Business.

Thursday, January 17th, at 7 p.m.

Portsmouth Branch. Members' meeting at 25, Shaftesbury Road (by kind invitation of Mrs. Brading). Business and Politics up-to-date. Coffee. Miss Whitehead.

Friday, January 18th, at 7.45 p.m.

Leeds. Social Meeting in the Women's Leeds and County Club, 14, Albion Place (next door to "The Scala") to form a Leeds Branch of the Women's Freedom League. Speakers: Mrs. Aldridge and Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P. Dr. Marion Mackenzie will preside.

Monday, January 21st, at 3 p.m.

Hastings Branch. Meeting at Open Door Club. Annual Conference Business.

Wednesday, January 23rd, at 3 p.m.

Bexhill Branch. Whist Drive at the Albany Hotel.

Friday, January 25th, at 3 p.m.

Ashford Branch. Meeting at Hempstead Street Hall. Subject: "The Principles of the Labour Party."

Tuesday, January 29th, at 7.30 p.m.

Hastings Branch. A Public Meeting at Queen's Hotel. Speeches on the principles of the Conservative, Liberal and Labour Parties. Chairman: W. H. Dyer, Esq., Speaker of the Hastings and St. Leonards Parliament.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Tuesday, January 15th, at 11 a.m.

Miss Lucy D. Bell's London Classes. Voice Production (Practice Classes—Tuesdays at 6.30 p.m., Wednesdays, 12 noon.)

Wednesday, January 16th, at 8.30 p.m.

British Commonwealth League. Reception at 17, Buckingham Street, W.C.2., to welcome Miss Chave Collisson, who will speak on "Around the World and Back again." Tickets 2/6. Evening Dress optional. Refreshments.

Saturday, January 19th, at 3 p.m.

Saturday Speech Club, at the Minerva Club, 56 Hunter St., Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Debate: "That a Public Library in every town is a necessity to the community." Proposer: Lady Scott. Opposer: Miss Carthew.

Monday, January 21st, at 6 p.m.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Open Meeting at St. Patrick's Clubroom, Soho Square, W., on "Our International Responsibilities." Speaker: Mrs. Corbett Ashby. Chairman: Viscountess Dupplin. Admission free.

BRANCH NOTE.

LEEDS,

There will be a Social Meeting in the Women's Leeds and County Club, 14, Albion Place (next door to the "Scala"), at 7.45 p.m., on Friday, January 18th., at which to form a Leeds Branch of the Women's Freedom League.

Dr. Marion MacKenzie will preside. The speakers will be Mrs. Aldridge, and Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., supported by local women representatives of the three political parties.

Refreshments provided. Collection to cover expenses.

MISS LUCY D. BELL'S LONDON CLASSES.

On January 15th, Miss Bell is resuming her Voice Production and Practice Classes at The Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Private Lessons or a Course of Logic can be arranged for. The Saturday Speech Club will begin its Debates, Lectures, etc., on Saturday, January 19th, at 3 p.m., when the subject of debate will be "That a Public Library in every Town is a necessity to the Community," the proposer being Lady Scott, and the opposer Miss Carthew. A very interesting programme has been arranged for successive Saturday afternoons until March 23rd.

Further particulars can be obtained from Miss Bell at the Minerva Club.

WHAT WOMEN WANT?

The B.B.C. have arranged a women's programme and are asking women to let them know if they approve of it or could give suggestions for future talks.

Hints for the Bachelor Girl.—In February, March and April there will be a series of three talks intended to be of help to bachelor girls, especially those who live either in bed-sitting rooms (with gas-ring), or tiny flats which they run single-handed. These will be given from London and Daventry on Fridays, February 1st, March 15th, and April 19th, at 6 p.m. The first one on February 1st is by Mrs. D. Cottingham Taylor, Director of the "Good Housekeeping" Institute, and is entitled "Housekeeping for one."

On Saturday mornings at 10.45 from Daventry 5XX, a series of talks on fashions, home dressmaking, interior decoration, etc., will be broadcast by various experts.

On January 19th, Miss Julia Cairns, Woman Editor of "Britannia," will give some ideas for colour schemes, while on January 26th, Mr. F. Palmer will describe how to cut loose covers for furniture so that no material is wasted and good fit obtained.

On February 2nd, Mrs. Alison Settle, Editor of "Vogue," will describe some of the new spring styles, while on February 16th, Miss Violet Brand will give the first of a series of three talks on Home Dressmaking, when she will explain how to turn last year's coat and skirt into this year's coat-frock, and will follow this in March and April with advice on the cutting out of a short jacket and the making of a thin summer frock.

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NOTICES.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, January 13th 1929. 3.30. Music. Lecture Prof. E. W. Macbride, D.Sc., 6.30. The Rev. James Barr, M.P.: "The Great Christian Simplicities."

PUBLIC SPEAKING.—Lectures, classes, and private lessons. Saturday Speech Club.—Miss LUCY BELL, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Tel.: Museum 4791.

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