

THE VOTE.
OCT. 21, 1927.

WHEN WE HAVE THE VOTE!

THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXVIII. No. 939. (Registered at the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1927

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

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A CHAMPION FROM YORKSHIRE.

IVY GILL CONQUERS THE CHANNEL.

Again an Englishwoman has conquered the blue strip that is such a desirable bait for our athletes.

Mrs. Ivy Gill, of Sheffield, started on Thursday, at 9.11 a.m., from Cap Gris-nez and landed just after midnight, at 12.20 a.m., on Friday, October 14th, on Shakespeare Beach, Dover, having accomplished the swim in 15 hours 9 minutes, which is six minutes shorter than Miss Gleitze's time on October 7th, just a week previously.

After an hour's calm water, followed by a rough two hours, she had calm and good conditions; the water was cold (59 degrees) in starting and much colder in mid-Channel after sunset and during the night. She used the trudgeon and breast strokes; fine rain fell most of the time, and there was some haze.

Mrs. Gill makes light of her fine success. The swimming of the Channel, she says, is "just a question of endurance and a favourable tide." She had been training for the last five weeks, and has already made arrangements to try and swim from England to France next year; she is also intending to compete in the International Swimming Contest. She "loves swimming, and it is a wonderful exercise."

Mrs. Gill is an expert typist in her husband's office. She has been swimming since she was 9, was senior swimming champion of Sheffield at 15 years of age, and now at 24 is considered by North Country athletes, who are familiar with her home performances, to be a swimmer in a class by herself.

Broad and muscular, with magnificent physique and great staying power, our most recent Channel champion will, we hope, give a splendid account of herself when the International Swimming Contests come round. Meanwhile, a civic reception by the Lord Mayor and Council of Sheffield is to be arranged in her honour.



Ivy Gill walks up the Beach.

As we go to press, we learn that Miss Mercedes Gleitze has crossed to Boulogne to undertake another Channel swim. Unfortunately, she arrived to find the western gale strongly blowing and beating up the sea into savage waves, so the only thing to be done was to wait in the hope that after midnight the wind may have dropped. Miss Gleitze will have general good wishes for success and hopes that she may lower her time and regain the position of woman record holder.

Occasionally we are surprised to come across disapproval of long-distance swims for women; this is based, not on reason but on prejudice. Swimming is the one form of athletics which calls upon all parts of the body, demands the harmonious co-operation of every muscle, requires long,

careful training, itself most beneficial to health and development of mind and body, and brings as its reward the priceless crown of courage, steadfastness and endurance.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Miss Woodman and the Stationers' Company.

We are glad to learn that Miss G. V. Woodman, general manager of the Fisher Bookbinding Company, has denied the rumour that she had withdrawn her application for admission to the Livery of the Stationers' Company.

Woman Secretary of a Chamber of Commerce.

Miss M. Verity is the only woman secretary of a Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain, having for some years given every satisfaction to the Walsall (Staffordshire) Chamber. Miss Verity is also secretary of various Walsall trades organisations—the Malleable Ironfounders' Association, the Harness Furniture Manufacturers' Association, and the Master Carriers' Federation, while she is unpaid secretary for the London Chamber of Commerce commercial examinations. She has travelled abroad a good deal, and is a capable linguist.

Women in Printing Trades.

A new wing for the Caxton Convalescent Home was begun last week. This has become necessary, the speakers on the occasion declared, by the entrance of women into the printing trade and their need for a share of the Printers' Convalescent Home. We hope the next step will be the admission of women to all sections of the printing trade, an admission long overdue and quite inexcusably refused.

A New Woman Candidate.

Lady Iveagh has consented to stand in the Conservative interest for Southend, where a vacancy is caused by her husband's elevation to the peerage on the death of his father. The Press have shown a tendency to bewail the succession by a wife to her M.P. husband's seat, a succession that has occurred several times. If the wife had no other qualification, the practice would be ludicrous, but fortunately, so far, the husbands seem to have shown excellent judgment in their choice of wives, and the voters in the several constituencies as good judgment in their choice of Member.

Labour Party L.C.C. Women Candidates.

Miss Agnes Dawson is again standing as a Labour Party candidate for North Camberwell, and Miss Amy Sayle for North Paddington, at the forthcoming elections to the London County Council, to be held next March.

The Wonderful 21.

Sir Burton Chadwick, Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, has announced publicly that, "as far as common sense is concerned, the young woman of 21 could make rings round the young man of the same age."

Women as Secretaries.

When women first entered clerical and secretarial work, it was against the usual opposition, and all sorts of nonsense was talked of their unsuitability. Now that women crowd both the clerical and secretarial field, it is amusing to read of a learned philosopher and psychologist, German, discovering that the work of a private secretary is peculiarly suitable for a woman. Further steps into public secretaryships, he declares unsuitable. He evidently has no faith in any pudding until he eats it.

Women Decorators.

The controversy over Lead Paint Poisoning legislation has had one effect of bringing together the established firms of painters and decorators run by women. Their livelihood threatened by mistaken protective legislation, they were drawn together in defence, and are now forming an organisation, by means of which they may influence legislation and retain their threatened businesses.

Woman Cyclist Barber.

A young woman claims to have worked up a paying, full-time business by cycling to villages and cutting the hair of both men and women in their own homes. Her expenses are few, her clients many.

Woman Preacher at Sherburn (Yorks).

Miss Nellie Ireland, of Knapton, was the preacher at the Wesleyan Methodist Church last Sunday evening.

Women's Mission to China.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom is sending three women—Miss Edith Pye (England), Madame Drevet (France), and Mrs. Grover Clark (U.S.A.)—on a mission of friendship and goodwill, on behalf of women of the West to the women of China.

The Next Step.

Dean Virginia Gildersleeve, in her annual report on Barnard College, uses the following striking phrases: "For the last half-century, women's energies in the academic world and in the professions have been largely occupied in battering open . . . the doors of opportunity. . . . now we should turn our attention in another direction. . . . Let them forget that they have ever been a martyred sex, struggling against handicap and obstacles; let them take the opportunities now open to them as human beings, and produce work as good as that of the best men."

Women Officers in the Red Army.

The *Times* reports that special attention has of late been devoted to the training of women for various forms of military service in Russia. In a recent speech, the Commissar for War, Voroshiloff, said that the Red Army already had 72 commissioned women officers or commanders. During the Russian Civil War, he added, 29 women fought alongside men, and were awarded the Order of the Red Flag. Eight women had just passed through the General Staff Academy. He predicted that when war came women would play a great and active part in the Red Army.

Equal Civil Rights in Mexico.

President Calles of Mexico has issued a decree, which confers on the women of that country the same civil rights as the men.

Three Women Members of a Royal Commission.

The *Bulletin* (International Council of Women) reports that Dr. Suze Groeneweg, Dr. C. Frida Katz, and Dr. J. A. Meyer have been nominated members of the Dutch Royal Commission, which has been set up to inquire into the question of continuation schools for young people. Dr. Katz represents the Dutch National Council of Women on the International Standing Committee on Laws.

Argentine Woman as University Teacher.

Dottressa Maria Teresa Ferreri de Gandino has been appointed deputy-professor in the Obstetrical Clinic by the Council of Management of the Faculty of Medicine of Buenos Aires. This is the first time a woman has been appointed to a teaching post under this Faculty.

Women's Revolt Against Veil.

Last month, certain Moslem women in Damascus decided to appear in public unveiled, but the Chief Ulema (religious body) objected, and the Government forbade the women to unveil. The *Westminster Gazette* now reports that 500 Moslem women have agreed to despatch a delegation to the French High Commissioner in Beyrout, urging him to use his influence with the Government at Damascus to permit Moslem women to go about unveiled.

GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR.

The Green, White and Gold Fair will be held this year at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Wednesday and Thursday, November 23rd and 24th, and will be opened each day at 3 p.m. On Wednesday, November 23rd, by Mrs. Elliott Lynn; and on Thursday by The Lady Balfour of Burleigh. The Chair will be taken on Wednesday by Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence (President of the Women's Freedom League), and on Thursday by Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P.

STALLS AND STALLHOLDERS.

Hampstead Branch.—Handkerchiefs, Antiques, and White Elephants. Miss Goodliffe, Miss Lyndon, Miss Vibert, Mrs. Beville, Mrs. Ostler and Mrs. Williams.
Mid-London Branch.—Stationery Stall. Mrs. Legge and Members.
Montgomery Boroughs Branch.—Country Produce, Cakes, and General Goods. Miss Alix M. Clark and Friends.
Portsmouth Branch.—Household Goods. Mrs. Whetton, Mrs. Brading, and Members.
South-Eastern Branches.—Dairy Produce and Pound Stall. Miss White and Members.
China Stall.—Mrs. Lindus, Mrs. Tanner, and Miss M. A. Sidley.
Great North Stall.—Mrs. Mustard.
Literature Stall.—Mrs. Pierotti, Mrs. Sutherland, and Miss D. Sidley.
Overalls and Aprons.—Miss Underwood, Miss F. A. Underwood, Mrs. Turriff, Miss Brewer, and Miss Charles.
Shilling Stall.—Mrs. Delbanco, Mrs. Jacoby and Mrs. Wilss.
Sweets.—
Toy Stall.—Mrs. Knight and Friends.
Underclothing.—Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. Boxall.
General Stall.—Mrs. Lloyd.
"Vote" Stall.—Mrs. Flowers, Miss Barton, Mrs. Evans, and Miss Burgoine.

PLEASE HELP!

We want all the help we can possibly have for our stalls. Will members and readers of *THE VOTE* make a point of sending some dainty or useful article for one or other of the stalls? Among the things that are most needed are gifts for the Stationery Stall, such as note-paper, blotters, pens, pencils, postcards, Christmas cards, etc. The Overall and Apron Stall is always a particular feature of our Fairs; all kinds of overalls are required, with sleeves or without; also pretty little aprons for afternoon use. *Lingerie* of every description will be very acceptable for the Underclothing Stall, and gifts of tea-cloths, dusters, sheets, pillow-cases, towels, tablecloths, pots, pans, etc., are all required for the Household Stall. The Handkerchief Stall is always very popular; therefore many handkerchiefs of every description are required if it is to be well supplied. Will all our readers remember the White Elephant and Antique Stall, and send us the things they no longer want or have room for; everything will be acceptable for this stall. Dolls and all sorts of toys are wanted for our Toy Stall; and cake, jam, butter, tea, eggs, etc., will be most helpful for our Dairy Produce and Pound Stall. We shall be very glad of really *nice* books suitable for children for our Literature

Stall, and gifts of china, especially useful cups and saucers, teapots, etc., for our China Stall. Sweets of every kind are much needed; these always sell well, so we require a large supply; and, last but not least, everything will be welcome for our General Stall (the Great North Stall).

Please give us all the help you can. If you cannot do anything else, write to the Hon. Fair Secretary for 20, 30, 40 or 50 handbills of the Fair, and send them to your friends and ask them to come and meet you at the Caxton Hall on one of the days of the Fair; they are sure to have a happy time and enjoy themselves.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

A good programme of entertainments is being arranged, and will include a Display on Thursday, November 24th, at 6 p.m., of Operatic, Classical, and Character Dances by the pupils of Miss Grace Woollacott. There will be music and various other entertainments during the afternoons, and after 6.30 in the evenings. The following have most kindly promised to assist—Miss C. O'Brien, Miss Joan Dunsford, Miss Lilian Foulis, Mrs. Harvey James, Miss Betty Lowe, Mrs. Sparrow, Miss Annie Stevens, also Madame San Carolo, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., Professor Laubach, and Mayor Sinkinson.

Character Readings will be given by Miss Wall and Mrs. Gilchrist, and Numerology by Miss King.

TEAS AND REFRESHMENTS.

Miss Reeves has most kindly undertaken the Teas and Refreshments, and will be assisted by the staff of the Minerva Club and Branch. Teas will be served in the Lounge from 3.30 to 6 p.m., and Refreshments will be served after 7 p.m.

THE INFORMATION BUREAU.

Mrs. Seymour Pritchard has most kindly undertaken the charge of the Bureau.

Societies and friends taking Stalls:—

The Alliance of Honour (The Women's Section).
Barclay Workshops (For Blind Women).
The British Commonwealth League.
The Dewdrop Curtain Co.
The Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee.
The St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.
The Nine Elms Settlement.
The Town Crier, Ltd.
Miss Burwood (Beads).
The Baroness Halse De Ville (Devon Stall).
Miss Ida Stamm (Veloutine Work).

Tickets—1s. 10d. (including tax) the first day until 5 p.m.; after 5 p.m. and on the second day 1s. 2d. (including tax)—are on sale at 144, High Holborn, or from the Societies and Friends taking Stalls.

All communications and gifts (also applications for Stalls) should be sent to Miss E. Berry, Hon. Fair Sec., at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

A CURIOUS FORGETFULNESS.

A former chairman of the North St. Pancras Conservative Association writes to the *Morning Post* about equalising the franchise. He says that the "suggestion" is "viewed with great alarm and concern by many Conservatives who fail to remember any pledge given by the Premier at the last election." This sentence is full of deceit. "Fail to remember" and "at the last election" and "suggestion" are all false in implication. "Suggestion" should read "definite undertaking"; "fail to remember" should read "hate to remember"; "at the last election" should read "to Parliament and the country." With these alterations, one may arrive at the truth. Fortunately for the peace of the country, other Conservatives appreciate, with Mr. Baldwin, the value of a promise and the political wisdom of fulfilment.

One regrets that anyone with such a mentality as the writer of the above letter could ever rise to be chairman of any Association, in any Party, in any locality. One also regrets that a paper of the standing of the *Morning Post*, for whatever reason, gives such a letter publicity. It does not harm the intelligent reader, but if there is one to write such misleading stuff, there may be many who believe it, and, having paid one penny for it, accept it as true and spread it as fact. One hesitates to think that any of the editorial staff of the *Morning Post* are not cognisant of the truth concerning the pledges of the Prime Minister and of his Cabinet. If it was such ignorance that allowed this letter the shelter of the *Morning Post* columns, one can only long more keenly for the day of woman's equality of opportunity, in the journalistic as in other spheres.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21st, 1927.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.
To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders,
printing, and merchandise, etc.

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."
Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

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.

WHEN WE HAVE THE VOTE!

A BIG PROGRAMME.

On more than one occasion lately, we have been asked, "What is the Women's Freedom League going to do now that we have the vote?" While we agree, of course, that Equal Franchise is within sight, we emphasise the fact that it cannot be within women's grasp until an Equal Franchise measure is actually on the Statute Book. Then, and not till then, can we say that British women have the vote on equal terms with men. When that is an accomplished fact, our great task will be to get women and men to use their votes to secure real equality of opportunity, reward, and responsibility for women and men throughout all branches of our national life. The Women's Freedom League has always made the political equality of the sexes its first object, because we believe that, until women get political equality with men, they cannot achieve equality with them in any other direction. Even when women have the vote at the same age and on the same terms as men, they cannot by any means claim to have political equality with men. Before they can do that, they must see many more women in the House of Commons, and women not only members of the Government, but members of the Cabinet. They must also see women in the House of Lords. It is said that the present Government is considering the question of the Reform of the Upper House. We must make it quite clear to the Government that no measure of reform of the House of Lords will be acceptable to the women of the country which does not provide for the membership of women in the Upper House. While all legislation has to come before both Houses of Parliament, to be debated and voted upon by Members of both Houses, women are as necessary in the Upper as they are in the Lower House. It is clear, therefore, that there is a good deal of work to be done before women in this country have political equality with men.

Then the present position of married women in this country has to be altered. It is intolerable that married women alone of all adults are not allowed to decide for themselves whether or not they shall earn money. While local governing bodies and the Government refuse to employ them solely because they are married, married women have no legal claim to any proportion of their husband's income, salary or wages, a husband is not obliged to supply his wife with any pocket-money, and can will all his property and money to an outsider, leaving his wife practically penniless at his death. Under our nationality laws, a British woman who marries an alien automatically loses her nationality and herself becomes an alien. We want that altered. A woman should have the same right as a man to retain or change her nationality. For the purposes of income tax, a married woman's income, either earned or unearned, is lumped together with that of her husband and taxed on the joint amount, which makes the amount of tax to be paid by her very much heavier than it would have been if she had paid the tax only on her own income. We want to see the incomes of husband and wife separately assessed and taxed, and each responsible for the payment of his or her own income tax.

Women have also to secure for themselves real equality of opportunity and rewards with men throughout the professions and industry. It is true that women are working with men in the professions, with the exception of the Church, but no one can claim that at present women have anything like an equal opportunity with men to secure the best posts in those professions. And we certainly want to see women granted equal opportunity with men to fill all the offices of the Church. With regard to the Civil Service, at home and abroad, all posts should be thrown open to women and men on equal terms. At present, comparatively few of the higher posts in the home Civil Service are open to women, and these only to unmarried women, while the Consular Service, the Diplomatic Service, and the Indian Civil Service are entirely closed against women. In the teaching profession also, women have not the same opportunities of promotion that men have. They have quite as big classes as the men and get quite as good results, but women are paid less than their men colleagues, not because they do less work, have less education, less training, and less experience than men, but simply and solely because they are women! In the schools, girls have fewer advantages and fewer scholarships than boys. Our business is to see that boys and girls have equality of opportunity along the highway of education.

In commerce, women are winning their way, but they find many of the strongholds guarded jealously by men. Women are not yet on the Stock Exchange. We hope there will be a woman Lord Mayor of London within the lifetime of many of our readers, but at present the Livery Companies and all their long traditions bar the way of women. Norwich, some time ago, had, and soon Liverpool will have, a woman Lord Mayor, and there are next year to be several women Mayors, but there are very, very few women Councillors throughout the country, compared with the number of men. The Women's Freedom League must do its part to increase the number of women Councillors, and that policewomen are appointed throughout the country.

We must protest also against the small number of women Justices of the Peace who are being appointed compared with the number of men, and insist that the new appointments should consist of an equal number of women and men. At present, we have sometimes 12 men and only one woman appointed; occasionally, all men and no women! With regard to Departmental Committees and Royal Commissions, we must press continuously that they shall consist of equal numbers of men and women when the question at issue is of equal concern to men and women citizens.

When we come to industry, how rarely do women workers get equal opportunities and equal chances of pay with men workers! Even now, women are excluded from some trades. Our work is to strive our utmost to secure equal opportunities, equal conditions, and equal pay for similar work for all men and women workers. We want to see the best possible conditions for all workers—men and women alike; but we want real equality for men and women workers, and we emphatically oppose the placing of any restrictions upon women's work which are not also placed upon the work of men. We are convinced that the differential treatment of men and women workers under the guise of protection for the woman creates unequal conditions and lowers the status and wages of the woman worker. The Women's Freedom League, therefore, must fight its hardest against all such difference in the treatment of men and women. This means, of course, that we must work and organise harder than we have ever done before; that we want all the support for our work that our members can give us; and that we want more members to help in it. We cannot win the cause for women without women's co-operation, and now is the time for old members and new members to come forward and strengthen their League by throwing in their lot with us in order to break down all the barriers now standing in the way of women's full emancipation.

The NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN & WOMEN POLICE

Last week, over 700 women delegates from various parts of Great Britain met at Bournemouth to take part in the Annual Conference of the National Council of Women, among them the Women's Freedom League delegate, Miss Anna Munro. Equal Franchise, the Treatment of Young Offenders, Inspection of Institutions, Protection for Young Stage Performers, More Women on Advisory and Administrative Bodies of Emigration Boards, and the Raising of the Age of Marriage were all dealt with in the discussion on resolutions concerning these subjects, and some excellent speeches were made. We are not surprised that the resolution proposed by Lady Frances Balfour—that the Council should concentrate on one great reform yearly—was defeated. The different women's organisations all have their own different objects and programmes, and women, like men, are working actively in so many directions and have such diverse views on matters of reform, that we think it would be an impossible task to get them all to agree to concentrate their energies on any one of them. We frankly admit, however, that we did not expect that our amendment to the resolution on Women Police would receive such scant support. On behalf of the Standing Committee of the Scottish Branches, Mrs. T. Johnston moved a resolution to the effect that the Home Secretary and the Scottish Office should issue more circulars on the subject of Women Police, detailing the duties on which women police would be employed by police authorities! What we want to see is the appointment of women police through-

out the country. Previous circulars issued by the Home Office and the Scottish Office on this subject have not resulted in the appointment of one policewoman anywhere! Chief Constables and members of Watch Committees have openly flouted these circulars. Why try a further number? The amendment moved by Miss Munro, on behalf of the Women's Freedom League, definitely asked these Government Departments to promote legislation making it compulsory on Watch Committees to appoint an adequate number of women police as an integral part of the Police Force. In proposing this amendment, Miss Munro said it was all very well for the Home Secretary to give the idea of women police his blessing, but he told them they must go on trying to persuade local authorities on the subject. Local authorities are compelled by law to appoint an adequate number of men police in their area, and have not to be "persuaded" to do this by outside bodies. Since the National Council of Women believe that women police are necessary, why should they not ask that local authorities be compelled to include women in their police force? Miss Munro pointed out that Chief Constables have an official mind, and are naturally opposed to any change including the appointment of women police, and she asked if we were to wait for their appointment until all these Chief Constables were dead? The amendment was lost, but we ourselves feel convinced that women police will not be appointed in anything like adequate numbers throughout the country until legislation makes it compulsory upon Watch Committees to appoint them.

INQUIRY INTO STREET OFFENCES.

At long last, the Home Secretary has appointed his promised Committee to inquire into the law concerning certain types of offences in the public streets. This Committee consists of 15 members, five of whom are women—Miss Margery Fry, J.P., Lady Joynson-Hicks, Miss E. H. Kelly, J.P., Bailie Mrs. Ella Morrison Millar, and Mrs. Wilson Fox. The terms of reference are to inquire into the law and practice regarding offences against the criminal law in connection with prostitution and solicitation for immoral offences in streets and public places, and other offences against decency and good order, and to report what changes, if any, are, in their opinion, desirable.

MISS MARGERY FRY, J.P., was for some years Hon. Secretary to the Penal Reform League, and since 1926 has been Principal of Somerville College, Oxford; LADY JOYNSON-HICKS is the wife of the Home Secretary; MISS E. H. KELLY, J.P., of Portsmouth, was made C.B.E. for her war work for women and children, and in Pensions administration; MRS. ELLA MORRISON MILLAR is one of the Bailies of Edinburgh; and the HON. MRS. WILSON-FOX was made C.B.E. for her war work in Pensions administration.

Our view is that more than five women should be on this Committee. The number of girls and women charged with soliciting in our streets is far greater than the number of men, and this Committee ought to consist of women in at least equal numbers with men. Why should not Commandant Allen and Miss Alison Neilans be added to the Committee? Their experience would be most valuable in this Inquiry.

FAMILY ENDOWMENT.

The Family Endowment Society held a Conference last Saturday, at the London School of Economics. Miss Eleanor Rathbone presided, and made a forceful speech claiming that a case had been fully made out for the appointment of a Royal Commission on Family Endowment. Various aspects of the problem were taken by different speakers. Mr. J. L. Cohen spoke on "Family Income Insurance," expressing the view that insurance for a family could come side by side

with Health Insurance and with Unemployment Insurance. Professor Mottram spoke on the definition of a minimum subsistence wage. Mr. Brailsford, speaking on "The State and Family Allowances," said that the State should be responsible and should find means by taxing higher incomes. Mr. Maxton, M.P., said that the Independent Labour Party included on its political programme a definite scheme of allowances. Professor J. Murray expressed himself in favour of allowances, but opposed to the present scheme, in which he discovered "a taint of feminism," and also found to be "too composite and inconsistent."

SHOULD WOMEN HAVE THE VOTE AT 21?

This was the subject for discussion at a very successful meeting of the Balham Commercial Evening Institute Debating Society, on Friday evening, October 14th.

The Chair was taken by Mr. J. Ascher, B.A. (Hons., London), Head of the Language Department of the Institute. Over a hundred students and friends were present to hear Miss Marian Reeves, of the Women's Freedom League, give a splendid summary of the facts and arguments in favour of the motion, and Mr. J. G. Kelly, M.A., Barrister-at-Law, make out a very skilful and well-reasoned case for the opposition. Miss Reeves dwelt upon the justice of equal franchise as between men and women, showing at the same time that any idea of raising the age at which the vote is now granted to men was not practical politics. Mr. Kelly relied chiefly on the argument that women do not assume the responsibilities of citizenship at as early an age as do men, and should therefore not be allowed the vote on equal terms.

From the great enthusiasm shown at the conclusion of Miss Reeves' speech, it appeared that the battle was already as good as won, but Mr. Kelly put up such a clever fight as to leave matters still in doubt. Following the principal speakers, many of the students and instructors took part in the debate, several of the males supporting the motion, and, strange to say, one lady speaking against.

All present were sorry when, because of time, the chairman put the closure. The result was a clear victory for Miss Reeves, the vote being 52 for and 30 against, some doubtful ones abstaining.

LUNCH TO MRS. MOSS.

The British Commonwealth League entertained Mrs. Moss, the Australian substitute delegate to the Assembly, at lunch, at the Forum Club last Friday. Mrs. Corbett Ashby, who presided, said how delighted British women were to have the opportunity of meeting distinguished women from the Dominions. Mrs. Moss had borne the heat and burden of the day at Geneva, and it was more than kind of her to come and tell members of the League of her impressions at the Assembly. Mrs. Moss, who, before the meeting of the Assembly had attended the Congress of the International Council of Women at Geneva, gave an extremely interesting description of the chief personalities at the Assembly, the difficulties confronting it, how those difficulties are being overcome, and the achievements of the League of Nations. Mrs. Moss is an enthusiastic supporter of the League of Nations, and declared that she would work in every possible way for it on her return to Australia. She believed that the peace of the world was the greatest cause for which women could work. At the same time, she was tremendously keen that women should take their proper share in the work of the League of Nations itself, and she looked forward to seeing women serving in adequate numbers with men on all the League Committees. She was herself the first woman to sit on the Fourth (Finance) Committee. She also wanted to see every country sending women in its delegation to the League Assembly. At the close of the proceedings, Mrs. Moss was accorded a very hearty vote of thanks, and the wish was unanimously expressed that she would, at some future time, again be a delegate to the Assembly and a guest of the British Commonwealth.

WHY ONLY MALE APPLICANTS?

In the public Press we notice advertisements under the heading "Official Appointments," to the effect that a Metropolitan Borough Council invites applications for the appointment of an Assistant (Male) in the Public Library. The advertisements state the age and qualifications required, and all of these can be found among women just as easily as among men. We want to know why appointments are not thrown open equally to men and women, and the best person chosen for the job. There are women ratepayers as well as men ratepayers, and we see no reason why appointments under the Council, paid for by the ratepayers, should be restricted to men. We hope this question of throwing open all appointments under the Council equally to women and men will be brought to the notice of all candidates at the forthcoming Borough Council elections.

BOOK REVIEWS.

Women's Suffrage and Women's Service. By Ray Strachey. Price 1s. 6d. Published by the London and National Society for Women's Service.

In this history of the London and National Society for Women's Service, Mrs. Ray Strachey has given us an admirable account of the very early days of the struggle for women's emancipation from 1856, when Barbara Leigh Smith (afterwards Madame Bodichon) collected a small group of women, whose object was to obtain signatures to a petition in favour of the Married Women's Property Bill, and onwards. It was in 1858 that Madame Bodichon formed another Committee, with the object of bettering the economic position of women by increasing their opportunities of employment, the same cause that the London and National Society for Women's Service is supporting still. Mrs. Strachey gives a graphic description of the position of the needy woman of that time, when "practically no employments were open to educated women, save teaching and needlework, and the pay and conditions in both these occupations were deplorable. £20 a year was a normal salary for a governess, and 3d. an hour a normal rate for a dressmaker; and

even this miserable reward was only to be secured in the teeth of the most fierce competition." In this little book we meet again such champions of the women's cause as John Stuart Mill, Miss Emily Davies, Elizabeth, Rhoda and Agnes Garrett, and last, but not least, Millicent Garrett (Dame Millicent Fawcett), happily still with us and beloved by members of all women's organisations. All suffragists owe Mrs. Strachey a debt of gratitude for this record of the work of those early pioneers. Women of to-day are reaping a rich harvest of what they sowed. We are all looking forward to securing Equal Franchise with men next year; but, so far back as 1868, those pioneers thought "Just one push, and the thing would be done!" This book has some delightful illustrations, and we recommend all our readers to purchase a copy at once.

The National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child. Ninth Annual Report. Price 6d.

This is an excellent report of the work of this Council during the past year. The Council was responsible for the first Bastardy Bill, introduced by Mr. Neville Chamberlain in 1920, and of the five principles embodied in this Bill, the Council has now seen all but one placed on the Statute Book, i.e., legitimation by subsequent marriage; an increase in the maximum payment under an affiliation order; the transfer of an affiliation order obtained by a Board of Guardians without rehearing of the case; and power for a summons to be issued by another magistrate in case of the death or removal of the justice to whom the application has previously been made. The principle which has been so far rejected was a proposal that a magistrate's clerk should automatically become the collecting officer to the Court; but the Council has succeeded in securing better enforcement of the existing law, and a more general appointment of collecting officers. The Council was also instrumental in securing the inclusion in the Legitimacy Act of a clause under which an illegitimate child is entitled to share in the property of its mother, if she dies intestate and without legitimate children.

This Report also gives a clear survey of the provisions of the Legitimacy Act, 1926; and the Council has issued an exhaustive pamphlet, entitled "A Few Points of the Law of England and Wales, Relating to Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children," which gives very valuable information on this subject. It is sold at 3d. a copy. The Report itself gives a very interesting account of the Individual Inquiries Department, and the Council is to be congratulated on its splendid work.

"THE ELECTRICAL AGE."

The October number of *The Electrical Age* is an up-to-date, practical issue, containing valuable information as to the present use of electric power, and much interesting surmise for future development. It opens with an account of the new premises of the Electrical Association for Women in Kensington Court, where not only the necessary offices are provided, but, in addition, a Club Room for members and a model electric kitchen and demonstration room. The whole premises are wired for electric light and heat with the latest improvements. The site is that of one of the earliest plants for supplying electricity to adjacent houses, being the home of the original Kensington Court Electric Lighting Co., which, in 1887, supplied 360 lights; in 1888, 1,440; and has grown now into the Kensington and Knightsbridge Electric Lighting Co., supplying a huge district. The Electrical Association for Women premises are in a sub-station of this company.

A vivid article on electricity in rural areas gives some idea of the possibilities and of the difficulties, but also shows a right spirit setting out to develop the first, and to surmount the second. A third article well worth noticing is a description of the West Ham Electricity Service. Lucky West Ham has developed the use of electricity in the smallest of homes, and has a complete scale of charges for installation, hire of implements, maintenance, etc., and brings the labour-saving electric power within the reach of all.

Women's Freedom League.

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Saturday, October 22nd, at 3.0 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting in Hyde Park. Speakers: Miss Winifred Mayo, Miss Ada Moore, and others. Chair: Mrs. Flowers.

Thursday, October 27th, at 7.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting at Highbury Corner. Speaker: Miss Olive Be mish.

Wednesday, November 2nd, at 4 p.m.

Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Tea and Politics - up-to-date. Leader of Discussion: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence.

Thursday, November 3rd, at 7.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting at Highbury Corner. Speaker: Mrs. Lawry.

Friday, November 4th, at 8.15 p.m.

Meeting at the Minerva Club. Speaker: Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington (Member of the Dublin County Council) on "The Women's Movement in Ireland." Discussion invited.

Thursday, November 10th, at 3 p.m.

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

Wednesday and Thursday, November 23rd and 24th, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Green, White and Gold Fair at Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W.

PROVINCES.

Friday, October 21st.

Darlington. Whist Drive at the Temperance Institute. Tickets 1s. 6d.

Monday, October 24th, at 8 p.m.

Wallasey. Whist Drive at Memorial Hall, Manor Road. Tickets 2/-, Chair: Councillor Nurse McFall.

Saturday, October 29th, at 2.30 p.m.

Newtown, North Wales. Jumble Sale in Congregational Schoolroom. Admission 2d.

Tuesday, November 8th at 7.30 p.m.

Portsmouth. Equal Franchise Meeting in Grand Jury Room. Speaker: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence.

Monday, November 21st, at 8 p.m.

Walla ey. Public Meeting in the Central Liberal Hall. Speaker: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence on "Will 1928 bring us Democracy?"

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, October 22nd, at 3 p.m.

Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Debate on "That it is more rational than not, to believe in the claims of Spiritualism." Proposer: Mrs. Tom Gallon. Opposer: Mr. D. F. Brundrit.

Sunday, October 23rd, at 3.30 p.m.

Guildhouse, Ecclest n Square, S.W.1. Professor C. Delisle Burns, M.A., D.Litt., on "Marriage."

Monday, October 24th, at 8 p.m.

League of Nations Union. Public Meeting in Queen's Hall, on "Disarmament." Speakers: Mr. Lloyd George, M.P., Mrs. Philip Snowden and Professor Gilbert Murray.

Tuesday, October 25th, at 11 a.m.

Public Speaking Class. Course A. Miss Lucy D. Bell at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square.

Tuesday, October 25th, at 5 p.m.

Six Point Group. Miss Chave Collisson, British Commonwealth League, on "The Woman Citizen and Realism in Politics." Chair: Mrs. Bruce Dick. 92, Victoria Street.

Thursday, October 27th, at 5.30 p.m.

St. J an's Social and Political Alliance. Meeting at the 1920 Club, 2, Whitehall Court, S.W.1. Speakers: Dr. Mary Beadon, W.M.S. (Superintendent, Govt. Victoria Hospital, Madras) on "Experiences in India," and Miss H. Douglas-Irvine, M.A., on "National Council of Women's Conference at Bournemouth." Chairman: Miss Fedden.

Monday, October 31st, at 8 p.m.

Bexley Heath Congregational Guild Lecture Hall. Debate on "Equal Franchise." Proposer: Miss Marian Reeves. Opposer: Miss Carthew.

Thursday, November 3rd, at 8 p.m.

Natio al Council for the Abolition of the Death Penalty. Public Meeting at Friends' House (opposite Euston Station). Speakers: Commander Kenworthy, M.P., The Hon. Lady Barlow, and Sir Robert Newman, M.P.

Saturday, December 17th, at 3 p.m.

Speech Club. Debate between Dr. Marion Phillips and Miss Marian Reeves on "Protective Legislation for Women," at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

BRANCH NOTES.

MID-LONDON.

A mid-London branch meeting was held on Wednesday, October 12th, at 144, High Holborn, at 6.30 p.m., when Mrs. Legge presided. Plans were made for the winter's work. The branch decided to continue to support Headquarter's open-air meetings, held at Highbury Corner each Thursday. A number of our members have already done yeoman service in this direction, and we should like to thank them very cordially. The branch also decided to be responsible for the Stationery Stall at the forthcoming Green, White and Gold Fair, to be held on November 23rd and 24th. Mrs. Legge has undertaken to be in charge of this stall, and she will be glad to receive offers of help, goods or donations from all members.

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Wednesday, November 2nd, and is to be held at 144, High Holborn, at 6.15 p.m. After the business of the branch has been transacted, there will be a discussion on the book, "The Science of Power," by Benjamin Kidd. All members and friends are cordially invited to this meeting. We do hope as many members as possible will come to this meeting, because, if it is successful, the branch propose to have regular monthly meetings and discussions on subjects of special interest to women. Will members please book this date? If you cannot come early, come as soon as you can. Hoping to see you all on Wednesday, November 2nd.

(Hon. Sec.) G. FLOWERS.

HAMPSTEAD.

A meeting of the branch was held, by kind invitation of Miss Lyndon, at 53, Willow Road, N.W.3, on Monday, October 10th. Miss Lyndon presided, and there was a good attendance of members. A letter was sent from the meeting to the Town Clerk, saying that the branch would like to be represented on the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee of the Borough Council, and, in case a vacancy should occur for a co-opted member, we should like to nominate one of our members.

Discussion took place re the long hours that girls in sweetshops work, and it was decided to write to the Secretary of the Board of Trade for definite information on the subject. The subject of Lodging Houses for Women was discussed, and the following resolution was sent to headquarters: "That the Women's Freedom League should work for and do all in their power to urge the London County Council to erect lodging houses for women (on the lines of the Bruce House for men in the West Centre). Arrangements were made to hold the Annual Social Gathering of the branch early in February.

The Branch Stall at the Green, White and Gold Fair was discussed, and it was agreed that the branch should again undertake the Handkerchief, Antique and White Elephant Stall. Miss Goodliffe, Miss Lyndon and Miss Vibert agreed to take charge of the stall, with Mrs. Beville, Mrs. Ostler and Mrs. Williams to assist. Contributions will be most welcome for this stall. Gifts in kind should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, and donations to the Hon. Treasurer (Miss Lyndon, 53, Willow Road, N.W.3), before November 20th.

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

PORTSMOUTH.

A very pleasant evening was spent on Friday, October 14th when Miss Whitehead's girls gave an entertainment at our monthly meeting. The short play, "Keziah's Luck," was excellently performed; the verse-speaking, too, was splendid. The girls received great applause, and Miss Whitehead was congratulated on their ability. The hope was expressed that they would give us another evening later on. After coffee, a short business meeting was held, and arrangements were made for Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence's meeting on Equal Franchise. The Secretary reported she had engaged the Grand Jury Room (Guildhall), and one or two societies had already promised to co-operate.

(Hon. Sec.) MRS. WHITTON.

WALLASEY.

At our Equal Franchise Meeting, to be held at the Central Liberal Hall, November 21st, when Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence will speak on "Will 1928 bring us Democracy?" we shall also have two young women speakers—Miss Hilary Airey, B.A., who gained a scholarship from our local High School to Oxford; and Miss P. Hall, B.A., a former member of the Minerva Club (London) Branch—and the chair will be taken by Councillor Nurse McFall.

We are pleased to record that the first chairman of our branch Mrs. Gertrude Leeson, is standing as candidate for the Marlowe Ward of the County Borough of Wallasey at the municipal election, November 1st, and we rely upon all our members to give her every possible support in this contest. Mrs. Leeson is a member of the Birkenhead and Wallasey Board of Guardians and chairman of the Children's Boarding-out Committee. She is a co-opted member of two Committees of Wallasey Council, a vice-chairman of Wallasey National Savings Committee, and a member of the new Assessments Committee. Mrs. Leeson has been actively engaged in public and social work in Wallasey for the past 25 years, and has proved herself capable, practical and energetic on all Committees of which she has been a member.

(Hon. Sec.) MRS. ANDAIN, 22, Cromer Drive.

TEA and POLITICS-UP-TO-DATE

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NOTICES.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, October 23rd, 1927. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Prof. C. DeLisle Burns, M.A., D.Litt. 6.30. Maude Royden: "Our Mistakes."

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