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NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL
CITIZENSHIP.

15 DEAN'S YARD, S.W. 1.

WOMEN GRADUATES: CLAIM YOUR
VOTES.

A good deal of misunderstanding prevails on the technicalities of the registration of University voters. This should be cleared away at once, because for many women graduates the time left for claiming their votes is all too short. The practice of different Universities varies. The object of this leaflet is to state briefly the position with regard to University electors generally, and the arrangements peculiar to each University.

Who may Qualify for a University Vote?—Any person of British nationality who has received a degree (other than an honorary degree) at any University forming a constituency or part of a constituency is entitled at the age of 21 years upwards to be registered as a voter. In the case of the Scottish Universities in addition to actual graduates, the Chancellor, members of the University Court and Professors are, by an Act of Parliament of 1868, qualified for registration. In the case of Cambridge, women though still excluded from University membership, may, if they have passed the final examination and kept the period of residence necessary to qualify a man for a degree, have at least the satisfaction of claiming their University votes.

Voting by Post.—University graduates have the privilege of voting by post. Thus a graduate who has a vote for the constituency in which she lives and another in respect of her University degree, may do her duty in her own constituency on polling day and yet may record her vote for her distant Alma Mater by post.

Voting by Proxy.—In addition the privilege of the proxy vote is enjoyed by any person whose name is registered

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on the absent voters' list and who makes a formal statement that at the time of a parliamentary election he will be at sea or out of the United Kingdom. The proxy must be the husband, wife, brother, or sister of the elector or a registered parliamentary elector for the same constituency. An absent voter may have two proxies if he has votes in different constituencies. Thus a University graduate now abroad or likely to be so at the General Election should take care to appoint a proxy for her University vote and also, if qualified, for the constituency in which she habitually resides.

Method of Election.—University candidates, with the exception of those in London and Wales, are elected by the method of Proportional Representation. One member each is returned by the Universities of London, Wales, and Northern Ireland, two by Oxford, two by Cambridge, two by the eight combined English Universities, three by the combined Scottish Universities. The Vice-Chancellor is the returning officer in the case of Oxford, Cambridge, Wales, and London, and the Vice-Chancellor, Principal, or Corresponding Officer for the combined English Universities. The Vice-Chancellor of Edinburgh University is the returning officer for the combined Scottish Universities. The poll is open for five days at university elections in England and Wales, and four in Scotland. The names of candidates on ballot papers in elections conducted under Proportional Representation are marked in order of preference, namely, by figures, 1, 2, 3, 4, etc., and the ballot paper must be duly signed in the presence of a witness.

How to Claim your University Vote.—Regulations vary in different Universities. In most, those who have graduated since a given date (which varies according to the University) have paid a composition fee on graduation, which entitles them to be put on the Electoral Roll without further payment and (in some Universities) without the necessity of filling in a claim form. Graduates prior to the specified date have to make their claim and pay a fee.

The following particulars summarize the steps that have to be taken at the several Universities, by those who are not yet on the Electoral Roll. Any graduate who feels a doubt whether her name is included or not should write to the Registrar of her University to inquire. The printed claim form contains fuller particulars than those given here.

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OXFORD UNIVERSITY.

A woman graduate must apply to the Assistant Registrar, University Registry, Oxford, for the necessary form to be filled up. This must be returned to the Registrar accompanied by a fee of 10s., unless University Dues have been compounded for. The Parliamentary Register is made up twice a year, at the end of the Trinity and Michaelmas Terms. It is proposed in 1929 to have the Register made up to 1st May, and the Vice-Chancellor will doubtless authorize a special issue of the Register as near to the date of the General Election as possible. But until that date is known, details cannot be given.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.

The conditions of registration for women who have fulfilled the conditions necessary for titular degrees are the same as those for men graduates, viz. a graduate prior to 6th February, 1918, is required to make a claim to the Registrar, but graduates since that date are automatically placed on the Parliamentary Roll having filled in the necessary form in proceeding to their degrees. No fee is payable by a woman. The register may be kept open to within a short time of the election.

LONDON UNIVERSITY.

A woman graduate who has attained the age of 21, but is not yet a member of Convocation, must apply to the Registrar, London University, S.W. 7, for a Convocation form. This must be filled up and returned to him with a fee of £1. The graduate is thus placed on the Roll of Convocation and thereby automatically on the University of London Parliamentary Register, which is open until a few days before the actual election.

COMBINED ENGLISH UNIVERSITIES.

(a) *Birmingham University.*—A woman who graduated prior to December, 1923, must apply (enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope) to the Registrar of the University for a claim form. This must be received by the Registrar, together with a cheque or postal order for 10s., on or before 31st December, 1928. A woman who graduated since December, 1923, should have been, if she has attained the age of 30, or should be if she has attained the age of 21, included in the Roll by automatic procedure without application or payment on her part.

(b) *Bristol University*.—A woman who graduated prior to 1918, must apply (enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope) to the Registrar of the University for a claim form. This must be received by him, together with a fee of 10s., on or before 30th March, 1929. The envelope should be marked "Parliamentary Register." A woman who has graduated since 1918 should have been, if she has attained the age of 30, or should be if she has attained the age of 21, included in the Electoral Roll by automatic procedure, without application or payment on her part.

(c) *Durham University*.—A woman who graduated before June, 1925, if not already on the Electoral Roll, must apply (enclosing stamped, addressed envelope) to the Registrar, University Offices, 38 North Bailey, Durham, for the necessary form to be filled up. This must be received by the Registrar, together with a fee of 10s., on or before 31st December, 1928. A woman who has graduated since 1925 should have been, if she has attained the age of 30, or should be if she has attained the age of 21, included in the Electoral Roll by automatic procedure, without application or payment on her part.

(d) *Leeds University*.—A woman who graduated prior to 1st June, 1926, must apply to the Registrar, The University, Leeds, for a form to be filled up. This must be received by him, together with a fee of £1, or 9s. 6d. if the applicant was a member of Convocation before 1918—on or before 1st January, 1929. A woman who has graduated since 1st June, 1926, should have been, if she has attained the age of 30, or should be if she has attained the age of 21, included in the Electoral Roll by automatic procedure, without application or payment on her part.

(e) *Liverpool University*.—A woman who graduated prior to 1st July, 1926, must apply to the Registrar of the University (enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope) for a claim form. This must be received by him, together with a fee of 10s., or if a member of Convocation a reduced fee of 5s., on or before 31st December, 1928. A woman who has graduated since 1st July, 1926, should have been, if she has attained the age of 30, or should be, if she has attained the age of 21, included in the Electoral Roll by automatic procedure, without application or payment on her part.

(f) *Manchester University*.—A woman graduate must apply to the Registrar of the University for a claim form, enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope. This when filled up must be

received by the Registrar on or before 31st December, 1928. If the graduate has graduated before 1st December, 1925, a fee of 10s. must accompany the form. No fee is required for graduates of a later date.

(g) *Reading University*.—A woman graduate must apply to the Registrar of the University for a claim form. This, when filled up, must be received by the Registrar on or before 31st December, 1928. No fee for the present will be charged for registration.

(h) *Sheffield University*.—A woman who graduated prior to 1st February, 1927, must apply to the Registrar of the University (enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope) for a claim form. This must be received by him, together with a fee of 10s., on or before 31st January, 1929. A woman who has graduated since 1st February, 1927, should have been, if she has attained the age of 30, or should be, if she has attained the age of 21, included in the Electoral Roll by automatic procedure, without application or payment on her part.

SCOTTISH UNIVERSITIES.

(a) *Aberdeen University*.—All graduates on obtaining their degree are required to pay a registration fee of £1 which automatically places them on the Electoral Roll on obtaining the necessary age. It is not yet certain whether women graduates under 30 will be placed on the register in time to vote at the next General Election.

(b) *Edinburgh University*.—The names of all graduates are placed on the University Register which closes on 30th November of each year, so that all who have obtained a degree by that date appear on the register which is published on 1st January annually. No claim need be made therefore. As the new Equal Franchise Act does not come into force until 1st May, it may be that women graduates under 30 will not be eligible for the University vote during 1929.

(c) *Glasgow University*.—When a student graduates for the first time, he or she pays a fee of £1 and is registered as a member of the General Council. This registration involves that the graduate is to be entitled to vote as an elector in the Parliamentary Election for the Universities Constituency for Scotland provided that he or she is subject to no legal incapacity. The

attainment of the franchise is thus quite automatic. No claim need be made to be registered and no fee is paid for apart from the registration as a member of the General Council.

(d) *St. Andrew's University*.—When a student graduates for the first time, he or she pays a fee of £1 and is registered as a member of the General Council. This registration involves that the graduate is to be entitled to vote as an elector in the Parliamentary Election for the Universities Constituency for Scotland provided that he or she is subject to no legal incapacity. The attainment of the franchise is thus quite automatic. No claim need be made to be registered and no fee is paid for apart from the registration as a member of the General Council.

WALES.

Graduates in and prior to 1926 are required to make a claim for admission to the Parliamentary Register, and to pay a registration fee of 5s. Graduates in and after 1927 are automatically placed on the Parliamentary Register on admission to their degrees and on payment of a fee of one guinea. The Register is revised every year for the qualifying periods ending on 15th April and 15th October.

NORTHERN IRELAND.

Queen's University, Belfast.—The position with regard to women graduates is a little complicated at present, but in 1929 they will be practically on the same footing as men, viz.: on graduation each year and on payment of 10s. registration is automatic; graduates of previous years must make a special claim on or before 1st October.