

WOMEN'S SERVICE
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THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

The Edinburgh Protest.

We print in another column an appeal issued by the Edinburgh Corporation Bill Protest Committee. This Committee is making a gallant effort to defeat the attempts of the Corporation of the City of Edinburgh to introduce by means of a private Bill modifications in the law relating to the treatment of venereal diseases so far as Edinburgh is concerned. The facts have here been commented on from time to time and are well known to our readers and in last week's issue Mrs. Robertson, Hon. Secretary of the Edinburgh Society for Equal Citizenship brought the position up to date. We realize that a sharp difference of opinion exists on this subject, but we imagine that for the most part our readers will agree with us in recognizing the insidious dangers which attend the proposals outlined in the proposed Bill. Though this is not an "equality" question in the narrow sense of the term as men and women are both involved, experience has shown that compulsion tends to bear more heavily on women than on men. Moreover, it is inevitably the poor who are exposed to compulsory methods while the rich who can afford to pay doctors' fees escape unchallenged. The policy of this paper is quite clear in the matter. It is opposed to the compulsory examination of women for venereal disease whether by medical or police authority, and consequently since it stands for equality, it is opposed equally to the compulsory examinations of men. Efforts at compulsory cure not only act inequitably, but they engender a false sense of security in the community which in the long run must impede real progress. The Bill referred to will be introduced early either in the House of Lords or House of Commons and we hope it will be suppressed before it reaches the committee stage. But campaigns of this kind cannot be undertaken without money and already the Edinburgh Committee has had to meet heavy expenses which will swell to large amounts if it should pass its second reading and be referred to a Select Committee. We commend the appeal to the never-failing liberality of our readers.

County Council Elections.

Fifty-one women have already been nominated for election to the London County Council, including 21 Municipal Reformers, 20 Labour, and 10 Liberals. With the exception of Miss Susan Lawrence in South Poplar, where Miss Ishbel MacDonald is standing in her stead, all the present women members are standing for re-election. We print elsewhere a list of the women candidates for the L.C.C. whose names have already been received, and

this will be followed next week by a list of those who are standing in the provinces. So far we have only received about 30 names. Help is already solicited in our correspondence columns for the candidates whose association with St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance guarantees their faith in the objects of our programme, and we hope in a later issue to give the replies of other women candidates to the questionnaire which is being sent by the N.U.S.E.C. In this connection we urge with more than usual intensity those who can possibly give the time, to take some share in increasing the meagre number of women on the County Councils of this country.

A Woman By-election Candidate.

Lady Clare Annesley is to be the Labour candidate at the by-election in West Bristol. A woman standing at a by-election gives an opportunity for a more concentrated effort on the part of women to secure the return of another woman to Parliament than is possible during a General Election; we shall shortly know her views on the reforms for which we stand and if these are satisfactory we hope that at least some women with Labour sympathies, or women who are feminists first and party politicians afterwards, will find their way to Bristol. At present so far as women are concerned the Conservatives are one up—four Conservative women and three Labour. For our own part we want as many more as possible of both parties already represented, but, as we have often said before, it is high time that we saw the return of some of the women of the Liberal party who have done so much to hold the party together and who are so peculiarly well fitted for Parliamentary responsibilities. We believe that many women of all parties would rally to secure the return of Mrs. Wintringham who served us so well when she and Lady Astor were the solitary representatives of their sex, and there are other Liberal women well known in international and public life who could safely count on a strong backing if they came forward at a by-election.

Women Mayors.

The gathering of women mayors held in Liverpool last week at the invitation of its Lord Mayor, Miss Margaret Beavan, appears to have been a huge success. The Press described it as "an historic event", the Vice-Chancellor of Liverpool University declared that the speeches of the assembled mayors had been "a revelation to him". It must have been, of course, a very awe-inspiring event for the people of Liverpool. We ourselves always feel overawed and somewhat enchanted by the presence of one mayor alone—provided robes or chain are worn. To have seen so many all at once, quite apart from the fact that they were women, must have been an overwhelming experience. The Mayor of Southampton was there, the Mayors of Tenby, Lichfield, Wrexham, West Bromwich, Deptford, Eastbourne, Whitehaven, and Pudsey. But though we might have been overwhelmed, we should not have experienced the crowning emotion of the Vice-Chancellor. Their speeches would not have been to us, as they were to him, "a revelation". We should have known what to expect beforehand because, after all, women are only made mayors when by outstanding personal merit they have disarmed a load of prejudice. And yet—the Vice-Chancellor did not say of what these speeches were a revelation. Now that we come to think of it, not long ago a woman mayor (not a member of Miss Beavan's gathering) made a speech that was a revelation to us, when she refused to discharge the ultimate duty of a magistrate on the ground that the actual pronouncement of a sentence should properly be left to men. That was indeed a revelation, but of a kind, we hope, wholly different from that experienced by the Vice-Chancellor on the auspicious occasion of Thursday, 19th January.

The Perils of Consistency.

The Manchester Education Committee was placed in a very ambiguous position on Monday afternoon when Councillor Shena Simon moved, and Councillor Annie Lee seconded, a resolution calling upon the Committee "to adopt a consistent attitude to the work of married women." The present policy of the Committee appears to be as follows:—Women teachers are dismissed on marriage unless they can successfully plead "special circumstances". In the evening schools, however, married women are allowed to teach without any questions being asked. Thus it is considered desirable that if married women are to be away from home they should be away during the evenings when their husbands have presumably returned from work. But though married women are precluded from engaging in intellectual labours during the normal working hours of the day, they are encouraged to do hard manual work. Male applicants for the job of School-cleaner are required to fill up forms stating the age and physical capacity of their wives, who are expected to take part in the work of school cleaning. It would seem that what the Committee really objects to is the idea that married women should possess independent financial resources rather than the idea that they should work outside their homes, since the wages of the married women school-cleaners are paid not to them but to their husbands. The position of the Education Committee on Monday was clearly not an easy one. If they voted in favour of Mrs. Simon's motion a drastic change of policy would be implied. If they voted against it they would—to put it frankly—look very silly. They preferred not to vote at all, the whole matter being relegated to a committee to be called specially for the purpose of discussing this particular question. We shall await with impatient interest the result of its deliberations.

"And yet it moves."

Pessimism is sometimes rebuked by facts. A recent issue of this paper gave reasons for feminist disappointment as to action of the two Governments in Ireland. Now it seems that progress can be traced even in isolated instances. In Northern Ireland, Belfast has for the first time put a woman in the first place in its Rota for High Sheriff, which means of course that the Governor-General will ratify the appointment. Mrs. McMordie, the lady nominated, has been for many years a leading member of the Ulster Unionist party, and is one of the original members of the Women's Unionist Council. About twelve years ago, her name was put forward for co-option on the Corporation by leading members of her own Ward. The co-option was refused though afterwards accepted. Things have changed since then. In the Irish Free State, Miss Lamb, Town Clerk, Longford, was congratulated by the Chairman of the Urban Council, Senator McGuinness, and the members of that body, on the very creditable manner in which the accounts of the Council were presented by her for audit. Miss Lamb is the only woman Town Clerk in Ireland, and was appointed to the post on the retirement of her father. Those who recall the years of effort made by another lady in Ireland to secure a similar appointment, efforts in which she was encouraged and aided by the Irish Women's Suffrage Association, as it then was under the leadership of Mrs. Haslam, will appreciate that the tide, though certainly "slowly onward moving", is at least never "wholly retrograde".

Economy of Life.

On 20th January the Registrar-General issued his preliminary table of vital statistics for 1927. Their outstanding feature was a fall in the birth-rate and a fall in the infant death-rate. It is strange how persistently these two rates move together and how persistently the Press chooses to "headline" the former only! Taking the actual figures, we have a birth-rate of 16.7 per 1,000 population, a crude death-rate of 12.3 per 1,000 population, and an infant death-rate of 69 per 1,000 born. For 1926 the comparable figures are 17.8, 11.6, and 70, respectively. Thus it will be seen that we have in both years a substantial survival rate (excess of births over deaths) which is the condition, for good or ill, of an increasing population. It is necessary continually to insist on this obvious arithmetical fact, in view of the tendency of superficial readers of press headlines to assume that a falling birth-rate necessarily indicates a diminishing population. Meanwhile the declining infant death-rate is a matter of congratulation both for mothers and public health authorities. Slowly but steadily the members of this great national occupation are

diminishing their "working costs" in terms of life and energy and happiness.

A Wife's Maintenance.

We read in *The Times* of 19th January of an important legal decision with regard to a wife's maintenance, as follows:—"A Divisional Court—the President (Lord Merrivale) and Mr. Justice Bateson—yesterday decided an important case in the Divorce Division. A wife, who was entitled under a separation deed to a weekly allowance for life, later proved in the bankruptcy of her husband for the estimated capital value of the weekly payments, and received a dividend out of the estate. The husband subsequently obtained his discharge. The Court held that the husband was not relieved from his common law liability, and that the wife was entitled to maintenance. The Court also held that an undischarged bankrupt was similarly liable on adjudication."

The Police Chronicle and Women Police.

An interesting extract from the *Police Chronicle* of 16th December, 1927, is quoted in the January number of the N.C.W. News. We are told that the Chief Constable of Nottingham, Lieut.-Col. Brook, is loud in his praise of the women police of his force. He finds that they get statements from children more easily than their mothers, and he expresses his view that the two women police officers save in a year around a certain square in the city more than it costs Nottingham to pay them. The women officers in Nottingham are sworn in as constables and possess powers of arrest, but they do not wear uniform.

The Day.

Suffragists of every school of opinion, young and old, should make an effort to celebrate in some way the tenth anniversary of the granting of the vote "to some women." On the evening of Monday, 6th February, which is the actual anniversary, suffragette ex-prisoners will speak at a public meeting in Essex Hall—a place full of suffrage associations. The keenest of the younger suffragists, to whom the more violent stages of the pre-war struggle must now seem a sort of myth, should make a point of being present to see in the flesh and hear those who actually figured in them. Those whose efforts lay along "constitutional" lines will also wish to join hands in the celebration of the "Common Cause." The speakers include such well-known names as Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Evelyn Sharp, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss Nina Boyle, and Mrs. How Martyn, who will preside.

A "King's Speech" Meeting.

Two days later, 8th February, the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee, composed of twenty-six women's organizations, will hold a "King's Speech" meeting in the Caxton Hall, presided over by the Viscountess Rhondda, when the speakers will be Mrs. C. F. Abbott, Miss Froud, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, and Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell. It will be known before this meeting takes place whether the promised measure is the pure milk of the promised word or is adulterated by the introduction of other contentious matter. This meeting, falling as it intentionally does on the day following the opening of Parliament, should be the occasion of another rally of suffragists.

Ourselves—Our New Home.

After February 2nd the address of our office will no longer be 15 Dean's Yard—but 4 Tufton Street. We have been fortunate enough to secure very commodious quarters at the back of the N.U.S.E.C. office, which may be approached on foot through the archway leading from Dean's Yard to Tufton Street, or from Great College Street or Great Smith Street. The new premises are on the ground floor, for which all associated with the paper give thanks, and boast of two rooms with a large shop-window, which will for the first time give an opportunity of display, with the result, we hope, that our existence may be made known to a wider circle. We propose in the early future to have something of the nature of a house-warming, and in the meantime we invite our readers from near or far to call on us when they are in Westminster, and see our new home for themselves.

POLICY.—The sole policy of THE WOMAN'S LEADER is to advocate a real equality of liberties, status and opportunities between men and women. So far as space permits, however, it will offer an impartial platform for topics not directly included in the objects of the woman's movement but of special interest to women. Articles on these subjects will always be signed, at least by initials or a pseudonym, and for the opinions expressed in them the Editor accepts no responsibility.

THE NEW SESSION.

Before the beginning of the Parliamentary Session it is our custom to give some kind of estimate as to what is likely to come before Parliament during the year of especial interest to women. Pride of place must, of course, inevitably be given to *Equal Franchise*, which is certain to figure in perhaps the most important place in the King's Speech. Another Government measure likely to prove of interest to many of the readers of this paper will be that to be introduced by the Home Secretary, which will carry out some of the recommendations of Departmental Committee on *Juvenile Offenders* and possibly some of those of the Departmental Committee on Sexual Offences against Young Persons. Should it be the intention of the Government to proceed with the *Factories Bill*, this would also be mentioned, but as we pointed out last week its non-introduction appears likely, whereas the abandonment of any attempt to reform the Poor Law is a practical certainty.

Can we hope for anything more from the Government? Will the Home Office Street Offences Committee have reported in time to embody any change they may wish to recommend in legislation? Will any attention be taken at all of those interesting and important reports of the recent Royal Commissions on National Health Insurance and on Lunacy Laws? Will any legislation which might help to combat the evil of maternal mortality find a place? Alas! we fear not, but we hope that we may prove wrong when the King's Speech appears. Political opinion points to a rather empty programme and to a parliamentary year which will be devoted more to setting the electoral house in order than to social reform. Controversial subjects such as the reform of the House of Lords, which, whenever it comes must also bring with it the right of peeresses to sit, must also inevitably be postponed.

Can we look for much in the House of Commons? We do not confess ourselves very hopeful. At present each of the three parties tends increasingly to use any day which has been won by the ballot by any of its members, to introduce a Bill embodying one of the points on its programme. Unless, therefore, any Bill has the backing of the whole party it is very difficult nowadays to find Members inclined to push legislation embodying points in which they themselves are interested, or on which they are prepared to help organized bodies. The *Bastardy Laws (Amendment) Bill* will be introduced under

LEAGUE OF NATIONS TRAFFIC IN WOMEN REPORT.

The Report of the Special Body of Experts on the Traffic in Women and Children has been issued in two parts. Part I contains the comments and conclusions of the Experts based on the evidence laid before them. Part II contains facts about traffic in twenty-eight countries which were studied, and the study was supplemented by investigations on the spot.

Part II also contains six annexes: a list of countries and towns in which inquiries were conducted and time spent by investigators in observing traffic conditions; the questionnaire issued in 1924 and the countries which replied to it; a table showing the position as regards ratifying, or adhering to, the International Agreement of 1904 and the International Conventions of 1910 and 1921; and copies of this Agreement and the two Conventions.

Some doubt having been thrown on the reports of the investigators engaged on this work, it is of special interest to note the methods which were used by them. First, the Council of the League sent out a Questionnaire to States, members and non-members of the League, asking the Governments for evidence of the existence and extent and character of traffic in women and children. The Experts' Committee then studied the Annual Reports of Governments and the Memoranda by Governments on the relation between licensed houses and the traffic. Then the investigators betook themselves to the countries where first-hand inquiry was necessary. Interviews were first held with the chief officials whose duties gave them knowledge of the traffic. These were the chiefs of Police and of emigration and health services as well as many other experienced officers. Information was asked from Police Authorities as to the names, photographs, fingerprints and records of known or suspected traffickers, and as to how far such records were exchanged with other Governments. This preliminary inquiry gave the Director of Investigations a general idea of the knowledge possessed by the authorities. With this material the investigators then went down into the underworld and checked the official information as far as possible, supplementing it considerably with material received day by day from the underground investigations.

The investigators deserve appreciation. They were employed

the Ten Minutes Rule by Sir Walter Greaves-Lord. This Bill, which is being initiated by the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child, deals with points such as the hearing of affiliation cases before the birth of a child and the making of orders for the support of the mother during the later months of pregnancy, and expenses in connection with the birth of a still-born child. The only refuge left, but one certainly not to be despised, is action which might be taken by private Members in the House of Lords, and it appears as if many interesting problems are to be tackled there.

Lord Astor has promised on behalf of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship to move a motion to provide for testamentary provision for wives and children. Should it prove impossible to persuade our English lawyers in the Upper House to accept what will appear to them a revolutionary proposal, though it has for centuries been the law in Scotland and many continental countries, a valuable *pis aller* can be found in the practice in Australia and other Dominions, where maintenance for a wife and dependent children left without means is a first charge on the husband's estate. The N.U.S.E.C. is also preparing a *Women Jurors Bill* to provide that "a married woman shall, unless exempt, be liable to serve if her husband is qualified to serve, and shall not be exempt on the ground that her husband is exempt", and is hoping also to see introduced the *Coverture Disabilities (Abolition) Bill* which will wipe away all those annoying restrictions which still affect the married woman, especially with regard to property. The *Edinburgh Corporation Bill*, referred to in our columns last week, will come up as a private Bill in one of the two Houses. Opposition will be considerable, and it is hoped that this Bill, which provides for the compulsory notification and treatment in certain cases of those suffering from venereal disease, will be defeated before it has proceeded very far.

We much hope that the Government will introduce legislation raising the *minimum legal marriage age* to 16 for both sexes. The Home Secretary has already intimated his interest. Should the Government find it has no time to deal with this legislation itself, there is every reason to hope that the Bill will be initiated in one or other of the two Houses both by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship and by the British Social Hygiene Council, and it is hoped that the Government will take it on.

on the difficult task of establishing contact with the underworld and of obtaining first-hand information as to its activities. They were given introductions from members of the underworld in one country to those in another; they were told how to obtain false documents, how to smuggle women in by sea or across unguarded land frontiers and where to purchase obscene photographs and literature. A very special study was made of every method by which the underworld claimed to be able to evade official restrictions. It is evident that information of such nature could only be obtained by skilled persons, full of resource, able to extricate themselves from difficult situations and prepared to risk the dangerous consequences which would follow detection.

It is obviously true, as the Report states, that "every effort has been made to see that the information published in this report is as accurate as possible". In August, 1926, a letter was sent to all countries visited "asking them to report if there were any material changes since the investigation and, where such changes have been notified, they have been included in the report".

The arrangement of Part II of the Report is good. Countries are dealt with in alphabetical order. There is first an introductory note as to whether the country is or is not a party to the International Agreement for the Suppression of Traffic in Women, and then a few sentences as to the method of obtaining the information adopted in the country. This is followed by an account of the actual internal conditions in relation to traffic in women, which is most useful to social workers as it gives them a summarized idea of the conditions in the various countries in regard to tolerated brothels, registered prostitutes, etc., or whether Abolition has been accepted as a policy, and, if so, to what extent. Then the conditions with regard to women coming into the country and going out of the country are given and the dangers in regard to that.

We note that since the investigation began licensed houses have been made illegal in Antwerp, Geneva, and throughout Germany, and in Uruguay. There is considerable evidence that the Report will have a far-reaching effect in abolishing licensed houses altogether or at least in removing some of the more obvious dangers to young women which exist in certain parts of

Europe and South and Central America. Severe anti-traffic laws have already been passed in Cuba, Poland, and Uruguay.

The annexes at the head of the Report are of particular interest as they give the comments of various Governments on the League's Report and the replies of the Experts to the Governments' criticisms. Among these criticisms Czechoslovakia rightly points out that licensed houses were closed in Prague in 1922. The French protest against accepting statements from traffickers without verification and against the publication of confidential information. The French Government also asks for a statement as to the amount of time spent in each city; this is given at the end of the Report. In replying to the French Government the Experts reiterate that they did not publish anything except statements the accuracy of which had been checked very carefully and in many cases cross-checked. Perhaps the sentence which will be of most interest to feminist readers is in the report on Great Britain, where it is stated "it was the universal opinion of *souteneurs* and of owners of houses of prostitution in most of the countries visited that Englishwomen were too independent to make good prostitutes."

The following alphabetical table which I have compiled from the Report gives at a glance the existing situation in the 28 countries investigated.

ALGERIA	Licensed houses and registered women.
ARGENTINE	Ditto.
AUSTRIA	Ditto. (Vienna houses closed 1922).
BELGIUM	Ditto. (Antwerp houses closed 1925.)
BRAZIL	Segregated Districts. Houses and women licensed.
CANADA	Segregated Districts eliminated 1917. Some few towns have open brothels. No licensing.
CUBA	State Regulation and licensed houses abolished 1913. Severe measures against traffickers, 1925.
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	State regulation and licensed houses abolished 1922.
EGYPT	Licensed houses and registered women.
FRANCE	Ditto.
GERMANY	Abolished licensed houses and registration, 1927.
GREAT BRITAIN	Regulation abolished 1886. Brothels illegal.
GREECE	Licensed houses and registered women.
HUNGARY	Ditto.
ITALY	Ditto.
LATVIA	Licensed houses abolished 1923. Women are registered.
MEXICO	Licensed houses and registered women.
NETHERLANDS	Abolition of regulation since 1906.
PANAMA	Licensed houses and registered women.
POLAND and FREE CITY OF DANZIG	Licensed houses abolished 1922. Women are registered. Severe anti-traffic law, 1927.
PORTUGAL	Licensed houses and registered women.
ROMANIA	Ditto.
SPAIN	Ditto.
SWITZERLAND	Abolition. Last licensed houses, Geneva, closed 1927.
TUNISIA	Licensed houses and registered women.
TURKEY	Licensed houses and registered women.
U.S.A.	Similar to Canada (see above).
URUGUAY	Licensed houses closed 1927. All alien procurers expelled and severe anti-traffic law adopted.

ALISON NEILANS.

STREET OFFENCES COMMITTEE. FROM A CORRESPONDENT

At the sitting on 13th January, Mr. S. E. Short (Deputy-Chairman, Birmingham Justices) was first heard, and after him, Mr. M. L. Pugh, solicitor for the Birmingham Police. Mr. Short did not like a woman to be introduced to Court as a "common prostitute" as the Bench should preferably know nothing of the character of an accused person, but on being pressed by the Bishop of Durham, he said it was desirable to keep the term in the law as it makes it possible to keep the streets clean and protects innocent women from being charged. (It is noteworthy that every defender of the term "common prostitute" says it is a protection to other women, admitting that acts, innocent if committed by respectable or merely "adventurous" women, may be judged by the police to call for arrest in case of a "prostitute"). In Birmingham a woman is not arrested until she has been seen to accost three men. The third is then asked, in her presence, what she said to him, does he charge her, and will he come to the police-station? Usually he will have nothing to do with the case, but states that she accosted him for an immoral purpose. Miss M. Fry and others brought out clearly the fact that the man is apparently never asked if he was "annoyed". The annoyance is inferred. Mr. Short and Mr. Pugh both subsequently admitted there is in fact no real annoyance or obstruction. One man was subpoenaed by police to give evidence, and Mr. Pugh thought he was probably annoyed at having to come to Court! These two Birmingham witnesses were interesting in their attitude to the problem. Mr. Short was, we should say, a good and kind man with a real desire to be just and to rescue women who were not hardened offenders. He must have dealt with hundreds of solicitation cases in his thirty years

experience as a magistrate, yet he obviously thought solicitation for purposes of prostitution was in itself an offence and he did not seem to know that the accused had the right to refuse to be put on probation. He wanted increased detention for repeated offences, but not necessarily in prison; his object was reformatory not punitive. Mr. Pugh wanted a £10 penalty for a first offence and up to three months' hard labour for repeated offences. It seemed a new idea to both these witnesses that mere solicitation to an act not itself illegal scarcely justified such heavy penalties, whether regarded as reformatory or punitive.

Mr. Robert Bell (Clerk to the Manchester Court) followed and then the Chief Constable of Manchester. A point referred to by the latter has come up again and again, namely, that although plain-clothes men are almost always used for this work, yet the mere presence of a uniformed officer, man or woman, prevents the offence being committed. Another item is the very striking decrease all over the country in the number of arrests. Birmingham and Manchester thought prostitution had changed its character, gone into country or suburban districts by use of motor-cars and also passed over to "amateurs" to some extent. Some real improvement in morals, perhaps, but they were not very optimistic. Manchester magistrates require woman's evidence when men are charged with annoyance. The Chief Constable agreed that probably this was because it does not seriously affect a "prostitute" to be convicted of soliciting but would ruin a man.

Mr. Bell said that in 1890 Manchester was crowded with prostitutes and now one is rarely seen. The Chief Constable said that up to 1921 one in three charges against prostitutes were dismissed owing to lack of proof of annoyance. Woman must now be seen to accost three men and must first be cautioned. Men solicit women from motor-cars, and on observations made on twenty-three nights between 7-11 p.m., there were 117 instances of this, 90 unsuccessful and 27 successful.

On 14th January Liverpool witnesses were heard. Mr. Stuart Deacon (Magistrate) said Liverpool required from the police evidence of visible annoyance; his development of this theme led the Chairman to ask, "How do three unannoyed men make one annoyed man?" The Bishop of Durham suggested that the police know what the Bench require, and give their evidence accordingly, but the witness did not accept that; he would say they only charge when the proper evidence is possible. Liverpool justices do not generally believe in fines for these offences, but would not abolish fines as they are useful in some cases. Mr. Deacon was concerned about diseased prostitutes. He would like progressive penalties for second and subsequent offences up to twelve months hard labour as an "incorrigible rogue". Then there was a chance for medical treatment: "I regard a diseased woman much the same as a contagious animal in this connection". The women are sometimes glad to go to prison for a rest. As a lawyer Mr. Deacon did not like the term "common prostitute", but it did not create a prejudice in a trained legal mind. Immediately after he said it was impossible to ignore other considerations than technical matters of "annoyance" since a "common prostitute" was a source of danger to others as many of them were badly diseased. He thought these women do not resent being called "common prostitutes". They admit it but often deny that they were soliciting or annoying people at the time they are charged. He thought a new law would be desirable based on disease rather than morals.

A brilliant piece of examination by Mr. Jowett, K.C., followed. Arguing that, for legal purposes, questions of morals and disease must be eliminated from these particular laws and that application of legal force is itself an evil unless there is some balancing social gain, Mr. Jowett proceeded to make the witness admit that public order is better, arrests are fewer, "amateurs" are taking place of prostitutes, prostitutes neither really annoy people nor are they riotous or indecent, yet, if they are charged by the police they have, in fact, practically no chance of getting off. Why not sweep all these artificial offences away and rely simply on the Vagrancy Act to deal with conduct genuinely indecent!

Mr. Everitt (Chief Constable of Liverpool) followed. Liverpool has not had a case of a man accosting women for five years. It occurs to some extent from motor-cars and otherwise, but the police feel it difficult to diagnose the offence in men, and that they must act with extreme caution. He produced the "Police Instructions" for dealing with such offences by prostitutes, and the Chairman pointed out that there was not one word as to the fact that an essential ingredient of the offence is annoyance. Mr. Everitt would like prostitutes dealt with as "habitual criminals" with compulsory detention, not necessarily in prison, with view to health and their reformation. There is little solicitation at the docks and in Roman Catholic districts of docks a brothel is almost unknown.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS.

By BERTHA MASON.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

London C.C. Election.

We propose to devote this article to various items of news which have reached us in regard to the coming County Council elections in London and the provinces.

In the areas covered by the London County Councils, where, as usual, the election will be run on purely party political lines, we understand that for the first time in the history of any party the Municipal Reform Party, i.e. the Conservative Party, will contest every seat on 8th March. At present the Council is composed as follows: Municipal Reformers 84, Labour Party 34, Progressives 6. For the election of the 124 councillors there are, so we are informed, already 123 M.R. candidates in the field, of whom 21 are women.

The Labour Party, we are told, have 81 candidates ready to come forward. There are also a goodly number of Progressives ready to enter the field.

We print elsewhere a list of the names of women candidates for the London County Council election, which we have received up to the time of going to press.

It is interesting to note in connection with the London County Council election that the majority of those entitled to vote are women. As stated in our last article, the number of local government voters in the London County Council area is 1,949,152, of whom 977,748 are women, and 971,404 are men, i.e. 6,344 more women than men.

We repeat with all earnestness the hope expressed in our last article that these women upon whom rest a great responsibility will not fail to exercise their duties and privileges as citizens and voters. Chelsea, Dulwich, East Fulham, Hampstead, South Kensington, North and South Paddington are amongst the constituencies in which women electors are in excess of men electors.

Importance of Voting.

Addressing a meeting on 10th January, Miss Adler, in urging the importance of voting, said that she was one of those people who said: "Even if you vote wrongly, vote." It was in her opinion a thousand times better to vote wrongly than not to vote at all. At the last election in 1925, only about one-third of the London electorate went to the poll. (*This apathy is not peculiar only to London—the italics are ours.*) The great difficulty she and other candidates would have to face at the elections on 8th March was the apathy of the electors.

Public Health.

"Public Health," said Councillor Lusker-Pentney, one of the candidates for the London County Council, in a speech last month, "did not just mean the Borough Council department from which sanitary inspectors were sent out. It meant the health of humanity as a whole. In 1918, 100,000 persons in England and Wales died from influenza. When war was declared there were over a million recruits found unfit to fight for their country. This showed what a big thing local authorities which were responsible for public health had to tackle.

Surrey County Council.

The election for the new Council will take place on 2nd March. There are sixty-eight councillors to be elected. We have the names of fifteen members of the present Councils who are standing for re-election, all men, and the names of many new candidates, also men. Up to the time of writing, no names of women candidates have reached us. We hope this does not mean that no women are coming forward.

Tenth Anniversary Celebration of Votes for Some Women.

SUFFRAGETTE EX-PRISONERS will address

A PUBLIC MEETING

On MONDAY, 6th FEBRUARY, 8 p.m.,

ESSEX HALL, ESSEX STREET, STRAND.

Admission free, or Reserved Seats (1/- and 2/6), from Mrs. GYE, Ardslett, Ridgeway, Mill Hill.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

8th MARCH, 1928.

PRELIMINARY LIST OF WOMEN CANDIDATES.

* Stands for re-election.

Division.	Name of Candidate.
Battersea, N.	* Mrs. C. S. Ganley (Lab.).
Bermondsey, W.	* Mrs. E. M. Lowe, J.P.
	* Mrs. A. Salter.
	Dr. Sophia Jevons (M.).
Bethnal Green, N.E.	Mrs. H. L. Nathan (Lib.).
Camberwell, Dulwich.	Mrs. A. Anstey, J.P. (Lab.).
Camberwell, N.	* Miss Agnes Dawson (Lab.).
Camberwell, Peckham.	Mrs. Ruth Dalton (Lab.).
Chelsea.	Miss Huntingdon, J.P. (Lib.).
Deptford.	Mrs. Glenn-McCarthy (M.).
Fulham, E.	* Dame Beatrice Lyall, D.B.E., J.P. (M.).
Greenwich.	* Miss J. M. Hill, J.P. (M.).
	Mrs. C. L. Malone (Lab.).
Hackney, Central.	Miss Adler, J.P. (Lib.).
	The Lady Amherst (M.).
	Miss A. Sayle (Lab.).
Hackney, N.	* Mrs. Emmet (M.).
Hackney, South.	Mrs. V. Laughton Matthews (Lib.).
Hammersmith, North.	Mrs. Barbara Drake (Lab.).
	* Mrs. Worsthorne (M.).
Hampstead.	Miss Ida Homfray (Lib.).
Holborn.	Mrs. Howson (Lab.).
Islington, E.	* Miss Thelma Cazalet (M.).
Islington, W.	* Miss Rosamond Smith (M.).
Kensington, S.	* Lady Eve (M.).
Lambeth N.	Mrs. Adamson (Lab.).
	Miss Ida Samuel, J.P. (Lib.).
Lambeth, Brixton.	* Dr. Barrie Lambert, C.B.E. (M.).
Lambeth, Norwood.	* Mrs. Dunn-Gardner, J.P. (M.).
Lewisham, E.	Miss C. J. Robinson (Lib.).
St. Marylebone.	* Dr. Adeline Roberts, J.P. (M.).
	Miss Lilian Dawson, J.P. (Lab.).
St. Pancras, N.	* Mrs. Elliot (M.).
	Mrs. Harrison Bell (Lab.).
St. Pancras, S.E.	Mrs. M. M. Dollar (Lab.).
	Miss E. Edwards (Lib.).
St. Pancras, S.W.	Mrs. Tawney (Lab.).
Poplar: Bow and Bromley.	Mrs. Mudge (M.).
Poplar, S.	Miss Ishbel MacDonald (Lab.).
	Miss Macbeth (M.).
Shoreditch.	The Hon. Lois Sturt (M.).
Southwark, Central.	Mrs. Harry Day (Lab.).
	Miss Dowling (M.).
Southwark, S.E.	* Dr. Stella Churchill.
Stepney, Limehouse.	* Mrs. C. J. Mathews, J.P. (Lab.).
	Miss Annie Hill (Lib.).
	Miss Slattery (M.).
Stepney, Mile End.	Dr. Esther Richards (Lab.).
Stepney, Whitechapel.	Miss Sturgess (M.).
Wandsworth, Putney.	Mrs. Beavan (Lab.).
	Mrs. A. H. Horlock (Lab.).
Westminster Abbey.	The Hon. Lady Lawrence (M.).
Woolwich.	Miss Bright Ashford (M.).

ALGERNON BLACKWOOD'S STORIES.¹

Six of Algernon Blackwood's stories are collected in *The Dance of Death and Other Tales*. Opinions may differ as to whether, they are the very best he has ever written, but they are certainly quite good examples of his power of creating a weird atmosphere in which a story seems to happen by itself, rather than to be deliberately told. Whether the place in which his imagination is let loose be a house in a London suburb, or a vast North American forest, it does its work with equal subtlety and vigour, drawing from near or far the right persons to evoke the hidden mystery, and then setting them free to act. In one of the stories in this volume, the right persons include a cat and a dog whose behaviour under the influence of supernatural forces is convincing to anyone who knows canine and feline persons really well in ordinary, natural life. The book makes good reading for wintry evenings and its inclusion in "The Fireside Library" was a happy thought.

I. B. O'M.

¹ *The Dance of Death and Other Stories*, by Algernon Blackwood. (Published by Herbert Jenkins. 5s. net.)

CORRESPONDENCE (continued from page 415).

EDINBURGH CORPORATION BILL: PROTEST COMMITTEE.

MADAM,—We wish to call your attention to a matter of urgent importance, affecting not only Edinburgh, but ultimately every city in the United Kingdom.

As a result of the recommendations of the Royal Commission (1916) on the treatment of venereal disease, free, voluntary, confidential treatment centres were established in Great Britain at enormous public expense. During the ten years this voluntary system has been in operation, the incidence of venereal disease has steadily diminished, and Edinburgh has been one of the areas showing the best results.

Notwithstanding these facts, the Edinburgh Corporation is seeking by means of a Private Bill to introduce compulsion into the present system.

We consider this a very reactionary step and believe it will have the effect of wrecking the present voluntary system by deterring persons from coming for treatment in the early and more curable stages of the disease.

Moreover, the powers sought are very dangerous and will enable the Medical Officer of Health compulsorily to examine and detain any person, who he has "reason to believe is suffering from venereal disease and liable to infect others," and who neglects or refuses to undergo treatment or to continue treatment. Such powers will allow of the denunciation of one person by another, and experience has shown that they will be directed mainly against women, thus reintroducing the injustice and coercion which were so marked a feature of the Contagious Diseases Acts.

In addition, the persons who will be most affected will be those attending the clinics, thus penalizing the poorer classes of the community.

Ratepayers will surely not permit such a costly experiment in public health, nor such grave injustice to be inflicted on sections of their fellow citizens.

On the grounds of public health and of justice, we intend to oppose the Bill, and for that reason we require to raise a considerable sum and are opening a Guarantee Fund. We appeal for your help in combating this reactionary and unjust legislation, and we feel sure that we shall not appeal in vain.

Sums large or small, or promises to the Guarantee Fund will be gratefully received by the Hon. Treasurer, Miss F. H. Simson, M.A., 40 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh.

(Signed)

E. MACADAM, M.A.,
Hon. Treasurer, National Union of Societies for Equal
Citizenship.

E. KNIGHT, M.B.,
Hon. Treasurer, Women's Freedom League.

W. C. ROBERTS (Rev.),
Chairman, Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.

HELEN WILSON, M.D.,
President, Association for Moral and Social Hygiene

S. E. S. MAIR, LL.D.,
Hon. President, Edinburgh Equal Citizenship Society.

LOUISE FORRESTER-PATON,
Vice-President, British Women's Temperance Association.

GENERAL DISARMAMENT OR WAR?¹

"If we could have the mind of the nation stirred in 1927 (say 1928) for the righteous cause of general disarmament as it was in 1914 for the 'ideals' of war, the issue would not be in doubt. Every citizen can well feel that the task ahead is a personal one." These words occur in the concluding chapter of Mr. Rennie Smith's little handbook, and if they succeed in touching something in the heart and conscience of each reader the author will have done what is well worth doing. For those who cannot, and, indeed, for those also who can, read Professor Noel Baker's brilliant book on the same subject, published by Ernest Benn in 1926, Mr. Rennie Smith supplies a real need. He attains to the happy balance of significant facts well chosen and well marshalled, illumined by burning zeal for one of the greatest of causes. It may be assumed that nearly all those who study THE WOMAN'S LEADER are eager to find more and more ways in which the League of Nations Union Disarmament Campaign can be supported and more and more ways to secure that our own country shall lead the opinion of the world at the forthcoming International Disarmament Conference. This is just the book to clarify the thoughts and refresh the memory of anyone preparing a popular disarmament speech, or, which is perhaps of even greater value, to supply powder and shot, or, to put it more appropriately, to put seed into the hands of those who, in the home, the club, the office, the workshop, at the tea party or the dinner table, are able so to sow it that there shall, in the critical times ahead, be a rich harvest of enlightened public opinion.

The four appendices also make a good basis for a study circle to work upon. Altogether a book worth buying to keep.

A. H. W.

¹ General Disarmament or War. By Rennie Smith, B.Sc., M.P. George Allen & Unwin, Ltd.

CROSBY HALL (BRITISH FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN)

A CLUB AND HALL OF RESIDENCE FOR WOMEN GRADUATES of all Nationalities engaged in post-graduate work.

For further particulars apply to—

THE WARDEN, CROSBY HALL, CHEYNE WALK, S.W. 3.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: Miss ELEANOR RATHBONE, C.C., J.P. Hon. Treasurer: Miss MACADAM.
Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HORTON.
General Secretary: Miss HANCOCK.

Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.
Telephone: Victoria 6188.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING.

Wednesday, 7th March: 2 p.m., First Session.

8 p.m., Reception.

Thursday, 8th March: 10 a.m.—12.45 p.m., Second Session.

2 p.m.—4.30 p.m., Third Session.

8 p.m., Mass Demonstration, Queen's Hall.

Friday, 9th March: 10 a.m.—12.45 p.m., Fourth Session.

1 p.m., Public Luncheon, Criterion Restaurant.

3 p.m.—5 p.m., Fifth Session.

10 a.m.—1 p.m., Sixth Session.

All Sessions will be at King George's Hall, Central Y.M.C.A., Caroline Street, Great Russell Street, W.C. 1, and will be open to the public, the Gallery of the Hall being reserved for visitors who can obtain tickets price 6d. a Session or 2s. 6d. for the six Sessions. The Agenda will include resolutions relating to Equal Franchise and to the new measures which the N.U.S.E.C. is endeavouring to promote in both Houses of Parliament this year. Copies of the Preliminary Agenda (price 4d.) will be ready on 30th January, and may be obtained on application to the General Secretary at Headquarters, to whom also requests for further particulars and for tickets to any of the functions should be addressed.

QUEEN'S HALL DEMONSTRATION ON EQUAL FRANCHISE, 8th March, 1928.

It is now very necessary to start on preliminary work for decorations for the Hall. Miss Boileau, Hon. Secretary, St. Pancras Society for Equal Citizenship, has kindly undertaken to be responsible for making up the "name-boards" and she will require a number of helpers. For this, and other work in connection with the decorations, a room will be available (of which particulars will be given later) where helpers will be welcomed on any morning, afternoon or evening; all offers of help to be sent at once to Miss Boileau, c/o Miss Auld, N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

May we remind our readers of the next song practice to be held at 43 Grosvenor Road, S.W. 1 (by kind permission of Mrs. Eeles) at 7.45 p.m.

MRS. CORBETT'S OFFER.—THREE CHEQUES OF £25 STILL REQUIRED.

Money comes in with a fairly steady trickle. The Guarantee Fund and the Special Equal Franchise Funds are now closed. But that does not mean that donors cannot earmark their contributions to Equal Franchise or to any other object on the programme. The need of the moment is, however, new annual subscribers, and a special effort is being made to secure these. The treasurer has, however, to confess that she has failed to secure the £400 in amounts of £25 and over required to enable her to claim the £100 promised by Mrs. Corbett. £300, being three-quarters of the amount required, was, however, raised on these terms, the donors being Mrs. George Cadbury, Mrs. Gandell, Mrs. Eliot Nish, Miss Eleanor Rathbone, Lady Shelley Rolls, Miss Strode, the Liverpool W.C.A., and Sheffield W.C.A. Mrs. Corbett has generously sent to Headquarters three-quarters of her promised amount, £75, and has kindly promised to send the remaining £25 when the remaining £100 has been received. Mrs. Gandell has already generously promised a second £25 towards this; who will send or raise £25 towards this amount, earmarked, if desired, for the final efforts for Equal Franchise or for any other aspect of the programme in which the donor is specially interested? We give below a further list of new subscriptions and donations.

OBITUARY.

The Glasgow S.E.C. and W.C.A. regret the death of Mrs. Sage, 11 Wellington Road, Charlton, London, S.E. 7, who was for many years a member of the Executive Committee of the Glasgow Society for Women's Suffrage. She was a very ardent worker for the cause of Equal Citizenship, and did much to keep the Society in touch with the movement of the Women's Co-operative Guilds.

RESPONSE TO APPEAL SINCE 9th DECEMBER, 1927.

	Amounts promised per annum.	
	£	s. d.
GUARANTEE FUND.†		
Already published up to 9th December	929	8 0
*Applebaum, Mrs.	1	0 0
*Cartwright, Miss Mary	5	0
*Cutmore, Miss B. E.	10	0
*McCredendall, Miss J. Edith	5	0
	£931	8 0

RECEIVED AND PROMISED FOR ONE YEAR

Already published up to 9th December	217	4 6
*Banner, Miss	5	0
*Bentley, Mrs.	5	0
*Elliott-Nish, Mrs.	25	0 0
Gandell, Mrs.	25	0 0
*Hall, Miss G. M.	1	0 0
Highgate and Islington S.E.C.	2	7 0
*Jenks, Miss Gladys	5	0
	£1,202	14 6

NEW SUBSCRIBERS

Birkett, Miss	1	0
Gray, Mrs.	10	0
Horton, H. V., Esq.	1	0 0
Murray, Hon. Mrs. Graham	1	0 0
Reincke, Mrs.	1	0 0
Smee, Miss J. P. (Renewed)	1	0 0
Stepney, Lady Howard, J.P.	1	0 0
Wilkins, Miss Isabel E.	1	0 0
Woodhall, Miss Doris	1	0 0
	£7	12 0

DONORS TO GENERAL FUNDS

Adamson, Miss	5	0
Ashton-under-Lyne, W.C.A.	2	0 0
Gwynne-Vaughan, Dame Helen	2	0 0
How-Martyn, Mrs.	15	0
Leaf, Miss E. M.	1	0 0
Malvern S.E.C.	1	0 0
Procter, Miss E. (Equal Franchise)	2	2 0
Rammell, Miss	10	0
Redditch S.E.C.	1	12 0
	6	3 5
	£17	10 5

† This Fund is now closed.

* Responses to Liverpool W.C.A.'s Special Appeal.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"RETROSPECT"

MADAM,—Owing to pressure of work I have not even yet had the pleasure of reading the whole of the admirable "Woman's Year" issue of your journal. But glancing through last week's correspondence columns my eyes fell upon a letter headed "Retrospect" from Mrs. Abbott and Miss Beaumont. As I read on so filled with amazement did I become that I at once referred back to the report of last year from which they quote to see if inadvertently they had misquoted. But no, all was in order. There, sure enough, were the words quoted, that the choice presented to last year's Council was "between the advocacy of industrial regulations for both sexes equally and of industrial regulations for neither sex." I feel convinced that these words were written in good faith. Nevertheless, may I assure your readers that never, never, never could those who hold, as Mrs. Abbott, Miss Beaumont, and the N.U.S.E.C. Council hold, that "legislation for the protection of the worker should be based not upon sex but upon the nature of the work" consent to accept the words quoted as an accurate definition of their attitude. It would seem to us amazingly misleading.

But I am even more surprised and shocked by the editorial note appended to Mrs. Abbott's and Miss Beaumont's letter last week. This note speaks of "some holding that the only consideration should be expediency." Who are these expediency mongers? Who can they be? They most certainly are not those who, like Mrs. Abbott, Miss Beaumont, I, and a host of other feminists, voted against the famous amendment carried by the famous one vote. Rather have we, who so voted, been again and again accused of being merely doctrinaire. And, indeed, we are doctrinaire, if it is doctrinaire so to believe in a great principle that we are prepared to make bold stakes in its name in the face of every temptation to patch and tinker.

As I have said before, I did not resign from the Executive last year because I did not believe that the N.U.S.E.C. had betrayed the feminist cause and because there are certain points on which I agree more with my present colleagues than with those who resigned, but I trespass upon your space now as I agree with Mrs. Abbott that your "Retrospect" does not define the controversy in a way which we could possibly accept. It is to be hoped that the March Council meeting will devote itself to the great question of the franchise, but, after that, there must come further deliberations when one more attempt must be made to clear things up. The smoke screen has not rolled wholly away, we cannot yet see each others' faces.

34 Marlborough Hill, N.W. 8.

A. HELEN WARD.

[We have never said that the N.U.S.E.C. Council was presented with "the choice between the advocacy of industrial regulation for both sexes and of industrial regulation for neither". Miss Ward, like our earlier

correspondents, has quoted half a sentence in isolation from its context. We said that the Council was faced with "a conflicting view of the considerations which should determine the feminist choice between the advocacy of industrial regulation for both sexes equally and of industrial regulation for neither sex." Let us elaborate this statement further for the sake of others who are disposed to misunderstand it. The N.U.S.E.C. is committed to an equality of industrial regulation as between men and women. All who advocate such equality admit that it may, in any concrete case, take the form either of a demand that restrictions imposed on women shall be extended to men, or that regulations imposed on women shall be removed. What considerations, then, shall guide the N.U.S.E.C. Executive in choosing between these two alternative applications of equality to any given case? It was here that controversy arose. One section of the Council held that the only factor to be taken into consideration was the tactical factor, which of the two applications of equality was most likely "to meet with rapid and permanent success". This consideration we designated in last week's editorial note as "expediency". Another section of the Council held that consideration of the workers' well-being and wishes should also be a determining factor in making the choice between the two versions of equality. We hope that this elaboration will induce Mrs. Abbott, Miss Beaumont, and Miss Ward to accept the truth of our original statement that the Council was faced with "a conflicting view of the considerations which should determine the feminist choice between the advocacy of industrial regulation for both sexes equally and industrial regulation for neither sex."—ED.]

"SPLENDID ELIZABETH SCOTT."

MADAM,—One at least of your readers would have joined you instantly in your song and dance of triumph on learning from the Piccadilly posters of Miss Elizabeth Scott's success. All will thank you for expressing on their behalf the joy they feel in her success and the good wishes they send her for years of health and happiness and enduring success in her work.

None, however, will join more heartily in the chorus than the members of the London and National Society for Women's Service, who are rejoicing in reflected glory, for Miss Scott is a member of their Junior Council and one of those who helped to start it.

P. STRACHEY,
Secretary, London and National
Society for Women's Service.

35 Marsham Street, S.W. 1.

L.C.C. WOMEN CANDIDATES.

MADAM,—Mrs. Laughton Mathews, M.B.E., one of the earliest and most constantly active members of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, has been adopted by the South Hackney Liberals as their candidate for the L.C.C. Mrs. Laughton Mathews served with the Women's Royal Naval Service during the war, and was the first officer to be appointed to the charge of a unit. Mrs. C. J. Mathew, J.P., another member of St. Joan's Alliance, is also a candidate for the L.C.C. She has served on the council since 1923, and is standing for re-election as Labour candidate for the Limehouse division of Stepney.

Both candidates would be grateful for any help between now and polling day, 8th March.

FLORENCE BARRY,
Hon. Secretary, St. Joan's Social
and Political Alliance.

55 Berners Street.

[Readers may remember that Mrs. Mathews, then Vera Laughton, was at one time a member of the Editorial Staff of this paper.—ED.]

WOMEN AND THE OLD SCHOOL BOARD.

MADAM,—I notice a statement in your issue of 6th January to the effect that two women were elected as members of the first school boards in 1870. This is not quite correct; four women were elected—Miss Elizabeth Garrett and Miss Emily Davies in London, Miss Lydia Becker in Manchester, and Miss Flora Stevenson in Edinburgh. Miss Lydia Becker was afterwards well known as a leader in the woman's suffrage movement.

BARBARA STEPHEN.

(Continued on page 414.)

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE
(Twenty-six Affiliated Organizations).

VOTES FOR WOMEN!!

From 21 and on THE SAME TERMS AS MEN. Nothing More and Nothing Less.

A "KING'S SPEECH" MEETING

will be held in

THE CAXTON HALL,

On 8th FEBRUARY, 1928 (the day following the Opening of Parliament),
AT 8 P.M.

CHAIR: THE VISCOUNTESS RHONDDA.

SPEAKERS:

MRS. G. F. ABBOTT (Open Door Council). MISS E. E. FROUD (National Union of Women Teachers).
MRS. PETHICK LAWRENCE (Women's Freedom League). MISS NANCY STEWART PARNELL (St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance).

ADMISSION FREE. (A few reserved seats at 1/- each from Hon. Sec. 17 Campden House Road, W. 8.)

COMING EVENTS.

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE.

FEB. 3. 8 p.m. Caxton Hall. A "King's Speech" Meeting. Chair: Viscountess Rhondda. Speakers: Mrs. Abbott, Miss Froud, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss N. Stewart Parnell. Admission free.

JOSEPHINE BUTLER CENTENARY.

JAN. 31. 8 p.m. Kings Weigh House Hall, W. 1. Speakers: Miss Alison Neilans, Rev. W. E. Orchard, D.D.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Edinburgh S.E.C. *FEB. 2.* 7.30. Oak Hall, 70 Princes Street. Anniversary Dinner to commemorate passing of the First Women's Enfranchisement Act. Tickets 6s. 6d.

Glasgow S.E.C., W.C.A. *FEB. 6.* 7.15. Caldoro Restaurant. Dinner to commemorate the passing of the People Act (1918). Speaker: Mrs. Stocks, B.Sc. Reception 7 p.m.

Kensington and Paddington S.E.C. *JAN. 30.* 3.30. 11 Vicarage Gate, W. 8. Annual Meeting.

Preston W.C.A. *FEB. 2.* 7.30. Reunion in St. John's Ambulance Hall.

Southall W.C.A. *FEB. 14.* 3 p.m. Public Library. Mrs. Bell, "Mother India."

Sutton and District W.C.A. *JAN. 30.* 3.15 p.m. Throwley Road Hall. Miss Macadam, "Recent and Current Legislation affecting Women and Children."

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

FEB. 6. 8 p.m. Caxton Hall. New Year's Party. Attractive musical programme. Speakers: The Bishop of Pella, Hon. Mrs. Walton Roch, Mrs. Laughton Matthews. Tickets from 55 Berners Street, W. 1.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF VOTES FOR SOME WOMEN.

FEB. 6. 8 p.m. Essex Hall, Strand. Public Meeting. Speakers: Suffragette Ex-Prisoners. Tickets from Mrs. Gye, Ardsett, Ridgeway, Mill Hill. Admission free.

TYPEWRITING AND PRINTING, Etc.

M. McLACHLAN and N. WHITWAM—TYPISTS.—4 Chapel Walk, Manchester. Tel. 1 3402 City.

TO LET AND WANTED.

CUDWORTH, near Barnsley, Yorkshire, 6 King's Road.—APARTMENTS, bed and breakfast, 4s. 6d.

HAMPSTEAD.—Pleasant BED-SITTINGROOM, private flat; gas stove with ring; healthy neighbourhood, opp. Belsize Park Tube; 35s. weekly, including electric light, breakfast, bath. Recommended by Society of Friends. Seen by appointment. Miss Turner, 169a Haverstock Hill, N.W. 3.

WANTED.—Unfurnished or partly furnished, 3 ROOMS within easy access to West End; moderate terms.—Apply, Mrs. Thompson, Hayes Rectory, Kent.

22 OLD BURLINGTON STREET, Bond Street, W. 1.—Furnished SUITES and BEDROOMS; quiet; attendance.—Miss Bland. Tel., Gerrard 3101.

FRENCH LADY (Rouen) receives English girls. Comfortable home; bathroom; central heating. French spoken only. References.—Write, Mrs. Chesteron, 28 Warwick Gardens, W. 14.

HAMPSTEAD.—Pleasant BED-SITTINGROOM (gas stove); 21s. weekly, including light, bath, bi-weekly attendance. Co-operative diningroom. Seen by appointment.—Miss Edgell, 34 Meadway Court, N.W. 11.

LADY receives PAYING GUESTS, country home, overlooking golf course, delightful surroundings; every comfort, moderate terms; short or long visits.—Miss Knowles, Peppard Common, Oxon.

PROFESSIONAL.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED. Consult Miss H. M. Baker, 275 High Holborn, W.C. 1. Income Tax Returns, Super Tax Returns, Repayment Claims of all descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 0377.

PUBLIC SPEAKING.—Classes, Lectures, Private Lessons, Speech Club.—Miss Lucy Bell, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C. 1.

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

SALE.—LINEN HUCKABACK TOWELS.—White Irish linen, hemstitched, real good quality, 24x40 ins., 4 for 11s. Special cheap lot of fine quality linen huckaback hemstitched guest towels, 15x22 ins., 4 for 3s. 11d., or 12s. 6d. per dozen. Complete Sale List FREE.—HUTTON'S, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ulster.

HUTTON'S "NEVER-FADE" IRISH LINENS are Ideal for Dresses, Curtains, etc. Guaranteed absolutely fadeless. 2s. 10d. per yd. (36 in. wide). 64 artistic colours, including 10 newest shades. 64 Patterns FREE.—HUTTON'S, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ulster.

SECOND-HAND CLOTHING wanted to buy for cash; costumes, skirts, boots, underclothes, curtains, lounge suits, trousers, and children's clothing of every description; parcels sent will be valued and cash sent by return.—Mrs. Russell, 100 Raby Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. (Stamped addressed envelope for reply.)

POST WANTED.

LADY (29) desires PRIVATE SECRETARIAL POST; shorthand, typewriting, accounts; experienced; highest references; drive a car.—Box 1,461, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

POST VACANT.

WANTED, single-handed HOUSEMAID (thorough), 3 other maids, country; child not objected to.—Apply, Corbet, Woodgate, Danchill, Sussex.

DRESS.

SPECIAL.—LADIES' CHAMOIS GLOVES, white or natural 4s. 11d. pair, grey or fawn 5s. 11d. pair; exceptional value, guaranteed washable.—Mrs. Plevin, 126 Northgate, Chester.

FOR BUSY WOMEN.—Soiled Linen, Stockings, etc., washed and mended; moderate terms; send parcels, Miss Syred, 204 Tong Street, Dudley Hill, Bradford.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

SUFFRAGETTE DINNER, 5s., Craigs Court Restaurant, Saturday, 4th February, 7 p.m.—Tickets from Mrs. Elsa Gye, Adsett, Ridgeway, Mill Hill.

LONDON AND NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 35 Marsham Street, Westminster. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Members' Library, Books on Suffrage, Sociology and Economics, Hansard, latest Government Publications, Periodicals, Newsclippings. 10-8 (except Saturdays).

EDUCATED HOME HELPS BUREAU, 190 Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W. 1 (new address), requires and supplies educated women for all domestic work. Registration: Employers, 2s. 6d.; workers, 1s. Suiting fee: Employers, 7s. 6d.; workers, 2s. (Victoria 5940.)

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