

THE VOTE,  
NOV. 21, 1924.

NEXT WEEK IS "FAIR" WEEK!

# THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXV. No. 787.

(Registered at  
the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1924

**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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ONE MORE BUSY WEEK FOR YOU!

# GREEN

CENTRAL HALL,  
WESTMINSTER.

# WHITE

AND

FRIDAY,  
NOVEMBER 28

# GOLD

SATURDAY,  
NOVEMBER 29

# FAIR!

*Make haste to the Fair, not a minute to spare,  
We are counting on YOU for a splendid time there!*



## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

**Woman Omnibus Owner.**

Probably the first woman to own a fleet of London omnibuses is Miss Helen Jane O'Farrell Kelly, whose name already appears on the side of three omnibuses. She is not a mere figurehead, but is a woman who takes a keen and personal interest in the running of her new enterprise from an office in Kensington. Assisted by two cousins, both ex-captains in the Army, she is doing well with her venture, and is shortly increasing the size of her fleet.

**Mrs. Catt's Tour.**

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, honorary president of the National League of Women Voters (U.S.A.), left New York recently for a month's tour in Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky and West Virginia. Mrs. Catt will speak on world peace, sounding the keynote of the national peace conference of women which will take place in Washington from January 18th to 24th, 1925.

**Jugoslav Women and Suffrage.**

At the conclusion of the Women's Little Entente Congress, held recently at Belgrade, the Roumanian delegate, Princess Cantacuzene, begged Queen Marie to use her influence with King Ferdinand for the attainment of political rights for Jugoslav women. The new President of the Congress is the Serbian delegate, Leposava Petkovich. The next Congress will be held in Athens in 1925.

**Honour for Miss Joan Fry.**

Miss Joan Mary Fry has had the honorary degree of Doctor of Political Economy conferred upon her by the University of Tübingen as a tribute of thanks for what she and other members of the Society of Friends have tried to do to relieve suffering in Germany since the war. Miss Fry is a sister of Miss Ruth Fry, who was for so long secretary of the Friend's War Victims' Relief Committee.

**Mussolini and Woman Suffrage.**

Among the measures about to be submitted to the deliberation and vote of the Italian Chamber, Signor Mussolini has included the administrative vote for women, which is the first step towards woman suffrage in Italy. Signor Mussolini has always been in favour of the partial admission of women to political suffrage, but he is opposed to women becoming Members of Parliament, and perhaps eventually Ministers or Under-Secretaries of State.

**A Bishop Compromises!**

During discussion on the work of women in the Church at Manchester Diocesan Conference, recently, the Bishop of Manchester said, in principle, there was no reason why women should not be admitted to the priesthood, but there were questions of expediency which ought to be determined by the Church as a whole.

**More Women Barristers.**

"Call night" at the Inns of Court, last Monday, saw the admission of seven more women students to the English Bar, making 41 women barristers in all. The latest are Miss Irene Cooper Willis, M.A., Miss Olive Catherine Clapham, Miss Henrietta Gibbs, Miss Elsie Bowerman, Miss Kathleen Sissmore, Miss Dorothy Jeffery, and Miss Venetia Stephenson.

**Enterprising Woman Farmer.**

One of the most famous breeders of shorthorns in Scotland is Lady Gordon Cathcart, the owner of Cluny Castle. She is an intimate friend of the Royal Family, and takes the deepest interest in the model farms that are the pride of King George's heart.

**A Munificent Gift.**

A gift of £1,000 has been made to the Jubilee Endowment Fund of the London School of Medicine for Women by Lord Glendyne, head of R. Nivison and Co., stockbrokers, Princes-street, E.C.

## NEWS FROM INDIA.

We are indebted to *Stri Dharma*, the official organ of the Women's Indian Association, for the following paragraphs:—

**The First Indian Woman Member of Parliament.**

The great honour of being appointed Darbar (State) Physician has been conferred on Mrs. Lukhose Ponnem, the doctor in charge of the Women's and Children's Hospital in Trivandrum, the capital of Travancore State. The appointment carries with it a nominated seat in the Legislative Council, as Mrs. Lukhose is now in charge of one of the major departments of the State. On taking the oath as a new member, she received a hearty ovation. Later on, making her maiden speech when she had to ask for the grant in the budget for the medical services, she was congratulated by the non-official members, who said they were proud of their Government for so impartially ushering such a worthy lady into the Council and into high and responsible office. In reply, Mrs. Lukhose said she would aim at serving the best interests of the people.

**Assam Province Grants Woman Suffrage.**

Assam Legislative Councillors have granted the suffrage to women on the same terms as to men, and have passed a Resolution recommending the Government to remove the disqualification of sex, which debars women from entering the Council itself. It is a State comprising about seven millions of people, and a very large percentage of its people are women workers on the famous Assam tea estates. These working women need some means of improving their conditions of labour. The rights of enfranchisement and direct representation will act as great awakeners to them. Assam is now the fifth Province of British India to give women the suffrage.

**Simla Women's Activity.**

On account of the number of subjects relating to women which have come before the Central Legislatures in Simla, and also the sitting there of the Reforms Inquiry Committee, the Simla women have had fine opportunities of serving their sex, and they have taken full advantage of them. They have held most successful meetings, at one of which Dr. Besant was the speaker. She referred to the grave danger to the health of the nation in consequence of child marriages, and deplored that there should be any opposition to raising the age of consent. Women would hasten such necessary legislation, for women's attitude and outlook were different from men's.

The objects of the Women's Indian Association are as follows:—(1) To present to women their responsibility as daughters of India; (2) To help them to realise that the future of India lies largely in their hands, for as wives and mothers they have the task of training and guiding and forming the character of the future rulers of India; (3) To secure for women the vote for Municipal and Legislative Council as it is or may be granted to men; (4) To secure for women the right to be elected as members on all the Municipal and Legislative Councils; (5) To band women into groups for the purpose of self-development, education, and for the definite service of others.

**DO YOU WANT TO UNDERSTAND THE GENEVA DRAFT PROTOCOL?****FOUR LECTURES**

will be given at the

**ESSEX HALL, ESSEX STREET, STRAND,**

**ON THURSDAYS, AT 8 P.M.**

November 27th. **The Peaceful Settlement of Disputes.** H. M. Swanwick, M.A.  
December 4th. **Economic and Military Sanctions.** W. Arnold-Foster.  
" 11th. **Reduction of Armaments.** Philip Baker, M.A.  
" 18th. **Further Development of International Relations.**  
C. Delisle Burns, M.A., Lit.D.

Syllabus and Tickets from The Secretary, Women's International League,  
55 Gower Street, London, W.C.1.

## GREEN, WHITE, AND GOLD FAIR.

The Annual Green, White, and Gold Fair will be held on Friday and Saturday, November 28th and 29th, in the Basement Hall, at the Central Hall, Westminster, and will be formally opened each day at 3 p.m.—on Friday, November 28th, by Mrs. Hilton Philipson, M.P., and on Saturday, November 29th, by Miss Susan Lawrence. The Fair will remain open each evening until 9 p.m., and will be open on Saturday, November 29th, from 11 a.m.

The Chair will be taken on Friday by Mrs. Juson Kerr, J.P., and on Saturday by Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P.

**STALLS AND STALLHOLDERS.**

The Stalls arranged for the League are:—

**Hampstead Branch.**—Handkerchiefs, Soap, Scent, Antiques, and White Elephants. Miss Goodliffe, Miss Lyndon, Miss Vibert, and Miss Elsie Armstrong.  
**Letchworth Branch.**—Lavender Stall. Mrs. Lynn, Miss Ironside, Mrs. Muncöster, Miss Perry, and Miss Sugden.

**Middlesbrough Branch.**—Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates and Members.

**Montgomery Boroughs Branch.**—Welsh Produce and General Stalls. Miss Alix Clark and Friends.

**Portsmouth Branch.**—Household Goods. Mrs. Whetton, Mrs. Brading, and Miss Mottershall.

**South-Eastern Branches.**—General Stall. Miss White, Mrs. Asser, Mrs. Kither, and Miss Margery Dunhill.  
**Children's Clothing, Overalls, and Aprons** (supported by the Thames Valley Branch).—Miss A. Underwood, Mrs. Brewer, Miss Brewer, Miss Double, Mrs. Foster Lumb, Mrs. Nicholls, Miss Stone, Mrs. Turriff, and Miss Warriner.

**Shilling Stall** (supported by the Minerva Club Branch).—Mrs. Delbanco, Mrs. Arney, Miss Atkinson, and Mrs. Jacoby.

**Scotch Stall.**—Cushions, Tea-cosies, and Haberdashery.—Mrs. Mustard, Mrs. Lindus, Mrs. Rose, Miss D. Sidley, and Miss Steven.

**Grocery Stall.**—Mrs. Sutherland, Mrs. Charles Sutherland, Mrs. Padfield, and Mrs. Watts.

**Hygiene Stall & Pottery.**—Dr. Octavia Lewin and Friends.  
**Literature Stall.**—Miss Harverson, Miss Elsie Morton, and Miss M. Pierotti.

**Sweet Stall.**—Miss Mary Knight and Friends.

**Toy Stall.**—Mrs. Knight and Friends.

**White Stall.**—Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. Trafford Williams.  
**"Vote" Stall.**—Toilet and Chemists' Goods.—Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Flowers, Mrs. Clifford Jones, Mrs. Newsome, Mrs. Northcroft, and Miss Sutherwood.

There is now only a week left before the Fair; will members and friends do their very utmost during this time to provide gifts for the various stalls?

**COMPETITIONS AND GAMES.**

The Competitions and Games have been kindly undertaken by Mrs. Preece, who will be assisted by little Miss Margaret and Master Donald Munro Ashman, and will include, among other attractions, a HIDDEN TREASURE HUNT.

**ENTERTAINMENTS.**

Madame C. M. Carr's String Orchestra will play at intervals, from 3.45 until 8.30 p.m., on both days of the Fair. On Friday evening, at 6.30 p.m., and on Saturday at 4.30 p.m., little Miss Margery Dunhill (semi-finalist All-England Classical Dancing Competition, 1924) will give a Dancing Display. On Saturday evening, Miss Grace Woollacott's little pupils will give two Dancing Displays at 6 and 7.30 p.m.

A THE CHANTANT will be held each day from 4 to 6 p.m.; the following have kindly promised to assist—Miss Lucy D. Bell, Miss Beryl Brown, Mrs. Cunningham, Miss Barbara Davy, Miss Howells, Miss Lettice Newman, Mr. Eric Richmond, Miss Muriel Mollison, Mrs. Sparrow, and Mrs. Morris-Wood. There will be Character Readings by Miss Geddes and Mrs. Spon. Numerology by Miss Fitzsimmons. Phrenology by Mr. Sons.

**TEAS AND REFRESHMENTS.**

Mrs. Fisher has most kindly undertaken the teas and refreshments, and will be assisted by the staff of the Minerva Café and members of the Minerva Club. The teas will be served from 4 to 6 p.m., and refreshments will be served at moderate prices after 7 p.m.

Mrs. Harvey James has consented to take charge of the Tea Room, and special arrangements will be

made for "Tea Parties" for the "Thé Chantant." Tables can be reserved (for any number) if booked for a specified time beforehand.

The Bureau for the sale of tickets for Refreshments, Character-Reading, Phrenology, etc., will be in charge of Mrs. Pierotti.

**SOCIETIES TAKING STALLS.**

Council for International Service.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

The British Esperanto Association.

The Food Education Society.

The International New Thought Alliance.

The London Association for the Blind.

The Montessori Society.

The New Education Fellowship.

The League of the Church Militant.

Miss Burwood (Beads).

Miss E. Elin Carter (Decorative Leatherwork).

Miss Maud F. Edwards (Handweaving).

Miss Nettleton (Association for the Deaf and Dumb).

Mrs. Rogers (South Indian Village Industries).

Dr. Jessie White (Auto-Education Institute).

Henry Farmer (Hand-made Pottery).

Tickets—(including Tax) 2s. 6d. the first day until 5 p.m.; after 5 p.m. and on the second day 1s. 2d. (including Tax)—are now on sale at the Offices, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

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

## HEALTH OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Sir George Newman, Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education, has just issued his Annual Report on "The Health of the School Child in 1923." During the year 1,754,919 elementary school children were medically inspected; and about 19.4 per cent. of these were found to be suffering from more or less serious physical defects which required treatment. Over 880,000 such defects were treated in England and Wales, the great bulk of them at the 1,076 school clinics established by the local education authorities, or at 390 hospitals with which the authorities had made arrangements. Some cases, especially in rural districts, were dealt with by private medical practitioners. There were 32,000 operations for adenoids or enlarged tonsils in the school clinics, and 15,000 in hospitals or private practice; and there were another 32,000 cases of disease of nose and throat which received non-operative treatment. In 1923, the London County Council provided treatment for 218,000 children. Sir George Newman emphasises the necessity for proper after-care in throat and nose operations. He says that "for children to be left to recover after operation, with bleeding throats, on the floor of a hospital waiting room, or to be sent home suffering from hæmorrhage or vomiting in a tram-car, or to be allowed on the day following the operation to play in the street, and eat anything they like, is obviously improper." The Chief Medical Officer also points out that out of 130,000 children suffering from physical or mental defect (blindness, deafness, epilepsy, feeble-mindedness, tuberculosis, and crippling), there is only accommodation for 41,000 in the 530 special schools or sanatoria. He adds, "These figures point to a mass of misery and waste that should no longer be tolerated." We are glad to see that Sir George Newman deplors the absence of systematic instruction and daily practice of hygiene, and that he commends to authorities the overhauling of present facilities for securing for the children sound nutrition, sunlight and fresh air, and rest for the infants, means for personal cleansing and bathing, clean and well-ventilated schoolrooms, and adequate health instruction. The sanitation in elementary schools, he says, is in urgent need of reform, and he considers that the chief defects are (1) Unpaved or unsuitable playgrounds; (2) Lack of water facilities for washing or drinking; (3) Inadequate cloak-room accommodation; (4) Uncleanliness of classrooms; (5) Insufficient heating in the winter; (6) Unsuitable desks.



## THE VOTE.

Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.  
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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21st, 1924.

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 a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

### AND NOW TO WORK!

The Government's majority is more than two hundred over all other Parties, so that in the ordinary course of events there is unlikely to be another General Election for at any rate five years. In the meantime, what are women going to do in order to secure more women Members at the next General Election, whenever it may come? Last week, a representative of the *Western Morning News and Mercury*, when interviewing Lady Astor, asked, "Then you think that women will have a long, hard fight, if they are to get anything like a representative number in the House of Commons?" Lady Astor's reply was, "Women will have to fight every inch of the way, just as they had to for suffrage." This is absolutely true, and not another week should be allowed to pass without women bestirring themselves in preparation for that fight. The first object of the Women's Freedom League is to secure for women the Parliamentary vote at the same age and on the same terms as men, and we never lose sight of that object. The second object of our League, however, is to use the powers already obtained to elect suitable women to Parliament, because we are convinced that an adequate number of suitable women Members of the House of Commons, no matter to which political Party they belonged, would secure the real equality of status, opportunities, rewards, and responsibilities of women with men more quickly and more surely than by any other method. Hard work, sound finance, and good organisation are necessary to return women to Parliament. Wherever we have a branch of the Women's Freedom League, or a group of members, that branch or that group should now get busy, and aim at establishing at once twenty, one hundred, or three hundred members determined to have as soon as possible a prospective woman candidate, preferably a woman known locally for her public work. If she happens to belong to any political Party, that Party should be urged to adopt her; but in any case the members of the Women's Freedom League who have made up their minds to send her to Parliament at the next Election should start immediately to take the lead, and get definite promises of support from members and sympathisers. With an enthusiastic local organisation in good working order, a suitable prospective candidate in readiness, and funds in hand for Election expenses, there could surely be no more favourable opportunity to send her to Parliament! In the old pre-suffrage days, women who demanded political power were quite willing to pay for their politics; we are very sure that women are now equally and fully prepared to pay their just share to send the right type of woman to the House of Commons. But work—hard, regular work—is as essential as money. Five years? Yes, maybe and maybe not; but not one week to spare if women candidates are to be successful at the next General Election!

### THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

#### OUR SPLENDID NAME.

A correspondent who wrote to us at the beginning of this week, after expressing herself as entirely in favour of equal franchise, proceeded as follows:—"But I am not in sympathy with other of your activities, such as birth control propaganda. What is the use of preaching a single moral standard on the one hand, and on the other encouraging people in self-indulgence? When I meet your poster women, I tell them there is one thing much better than birth control, and that is self control. What are we coming to when women no longer preach the ideal?"

Without expressing any opinion on this subject, we are glad, on behalf of our members, sympathisers, and readers of THE VOTE, to take this opportunity of making our position quite plain.

The Women's Freedom League has nothing whatever to do with birth control; and no connection at all with it. The whole question lies entirely outside our interests as an association of women and men banded together for definite objects stated on the front page of THE VOTE, and emphasised week by week in our columns.

First and foremost, we work for the equal enfranchisement of women with men; then for the return of women Members to Parliament; and continuously for equality of status, opportunities, rewards, and responsibilities as between men and women throughout all branches of our national life.

Unfortunately this confusion has arisen through the action of some persons under the title of "Freedom League," who apparently advocate the practice in question, and advertise by means of posters, etc.

They have, of course, a perfect right to assume this name, and it is quite distinct from our own title, of which we are so proud, but to avoid any possible misunderstandings, we ask all our friends to help us by using upon all occasions our full and proper title—the Women's Freedom League—and not to abbreviate it in any way. In this way we shall avoid erroneous ideas in the future, and we are convinced that the more widely known the objects of the Women's Freedom League become, the more they will attract women into our organisation to work with us to attain them.

### WOMEN INSPECTORS.

In a very interesting article on the above subject, the *Daily Telegraph*, after stating that the announcement that women may enter for next year's examinations for the administrative grade of the Civil Service is a step towards redressing what was fast developing into a real grievance among educated women seeking a suitable career, proceeds to compare the number of Inspectorships held by women in 1920 with the number at the present time. In 1920, the personnel of women inspectors of factories under the Home Office consisted of one principal, one deputy, and six senior inspectors, while there are to-day, one principal, and two deputy chief inspectors, with two superintending and five deputy superintending inspectors, as well as eight district inspectors. In 1920, the Board of Education had a chief woman inspector, five staff, and fifty-four inspectors. To-day it has a chief, six staff, and sixty-two women inspectors. Numerically, though the titles have been a little changed, its medical staff is precisely the same. The Ministry of Labour, which has the reputation of being one of the most progressive departments in regard to women, has an assistant woman secretary, which is an important rank. In 1920, women held thirty-four posts of responsibility, and now they have fifty-one. In the Post Office there is now a woman establishment officer, one principal, and three assistant medical women officers, and fifty-one women filling other administrative posts, as compared with four medical women and forty-four in other branches in 1920.

## N.U.S.E.C. RECEPTION TO MRS. SWANWICK.

On Wednesday of last week the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship held a delightful reception at Caxton Hall, Westminster, to meet Mrs. Swanwick (British substitute delegate at the Fifth Assembly of the League of Nations), women Members of Parliament, and women Parliamentary candidates at the recent General Election. Miss Eleanor Rathbone (President of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship) acted as chairman, and speakers, in addition to Mrs. Swanwick, included Lady Astor, M.P., Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., and Mrs. Corbett Ashby. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Fawcett, the Duchess of Atholl, M.P., Mrs. Wintringham, Miss Margaret Bondfield, Miss Susan Lawrence, and others. Lady Rhondda and Dame Edith Lyttelton, J.P. (British substitute delegate to the League of Nations Assembly in 1923), were amongst the representative women upon the platform.

Mrs. Swanwick's address dealt chiefly with the valuable work women had already achieved in the various sections of the League of Nations, especially in the Secretariat, on the Advisory Commissions, and as substitute delegates in the Assembly. She registered two protests. One was that no woman as yet had been appointed a full delegate to the Assembly, and that it was high time some of the countries should do so. Mrs. Swanwick, however, did not consider this would take place, or that women would hold any really important positions in the League, until more women Ministers were appointed by Governments. The position of full delegate to the Assembly was usually, though not necessarily, a Ministerial appointment. Mrs. Swanwick also protested against women being automatically placed on the Fifth, or Humanitarian, Assembly Committee. The comparative absence of women on other of the Assembly Committees, Mrs. Swanwick considered, gave a suggestion of inferiority as to women's capabilities. Women who were technically equipped for any of the Assembly Com-

mittees should be placed on these as a matter of course. She, personally, had given a great deal of thought to subjects other than humanitarian questions, but her advice was not asked.

Lady Astor voiced her deep disappointment at the return of so few women Members of Parliament at the recent General Election, and expressed a conviction, that, until there were more women in the House of Commons, the handful already there should stand above Party politics, and put women's interests first. This meant a hard fight for women in the House, where there were thousands of years of prejudice to overcome. The only reasons why women M.P.s were necessary was because they could put forward the woman's point of view. The recent Election, though inimical to women, was not a reproach, but was owing entirely to a Party sweep, and incidentally to the fact that women had scarcely ever been given hopeful seats. She (Lady Astor) was grateful to the Unionist Party for having included a woman in the Government; she was thankful, however, that there was no chance of her sharing the Duchess of Atholl's fate, as her own work lay rather in "gingering" up whatever Government was in office!

Miss Wilkinson informed her audience that this was the first public meeting she had addressed since her election to the House of Commons. She was first and foremost a Socialist, she said, but at the same time was a firm believer in the good comradeship which women, even though of differing opinions, showed one another, whatever men might say to the contrary. Women to-day were proud of having the vote, and valued it all the more because they had had to fight for it. They were also profoundly grateful to those pioneers who had made the vote possible. But if the vote was to continue to be a weapon, women must insist that future Elections should be fought on issues, and not on slander, as happened at the last Election.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby made an appeal to the young enthusiasts among women to take a larger share in the Woman's Movement in its every aspect.

## HOUSEWIVES AND ELECTRICAL POWER.

A number of representatives of women's organisations, and associations interested in housing, including the National Council of Women, the Women's Local Government Society, the Women's Housing and Village Councils' Federation, the Women's Co-operative Guild, the Housing Sub-Committee of the Consultative Committee, the National Women Citizens' Association, etc., etc., attended a meeting last week, organised by the Women's Engineering Society, at the house of Lady Parsons, J.P., President of the Women's Engineering Society, to launch formally a new society called "The Women's Electrical Association."

This Society is the outcome of a recently formed provisional committee, under the Chairmanship of Lady Parsons, which had for its object the broadcasting of practical information on electricity to the housewife, and its application to home life, so as to bring this country more into line with America, Canada, Norway, etc., where electrical developments are far more advanced. It has the moral and financial support of the British Electrical Development Association, a Director of which, Mr. J. W. Beauchamp, M.I.E.E., was present at the meeting, and expressed his conviction that in the near future electricity would be used in the home as much as it was used at present in the factory.

Interesting papers were read by Miss Irwin and Mrs. Matthews, two practical women electrical engineers. Miss Irwin, who has been working in America as an expert on illumination, described the labour-saving American home, where the standardisation of current made it possible for a

woman to buy lamps and wires, and do her own fixing without any fear of fusing, or of having the globe break in her hands. Mrs. Matthews, who is responsible for the idea behind the formation of the Society, read a paper contrasting the days of home-made candles with the present time, and pointed out how electrical development would enable women to practise thrift of energy, which was far less common than thrift of money, and just as important. Another practical woman engineer, Miss M. Partridge, emphasised the ignorance of even the educated woman of the most elementary facts about electricity.

The scope of the newly formed Women's Electrical Association promises to be remarkably comprehensive. Its chief asset will be the opportunity which it will afford to women in general to express their point of view with regard to electrical development, whilst by means of sub-committees the Association will find out in what way its work is most needed at present. The ordinary housewife will be catered for by demonstrations of existing electrical apparatus arranged on social afternoons, and by the help of simple lectures, if the need for these arises. Already a list of subjects of practical knowledge for the housewife has been drawn up. The point of view of women as citizens will also be brought to bear in this connection, and women will be encouraged, by means of propaganda work and popular lectures, to take an interest in electricity as a servant of the public, especially in connection with public welfare and smoke abatement, and in remedial and medical work, agriculture, transport, etc. The election of women on local electricity committees will be stimulated, in order that they may



take a greater interest in the problems of supply and distribution in different districts. The Association will also give special consideration to the question of electrical development in relation to housing.

A juvenile section of the Association will be formed with the idea of encouraging and assisting girls' schools, and also Girl Guides, to take a greater interest in acquiring electrical knowledge. It is proposed in this connection to draw up a syllabus for schools which will be more practical than theoretical. A test for Girl Guides has already been devised, and it is hoped to arrange a similar test for domestic servants. This test will be of quite an elementary nature, including the mending of fuses, and the tackling of similar emergencies.

#### LETTERS TO MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

The following letters have been sent by the Secretary of the Women's Freedom League:—

To the RT. HON. STANLEY BALDWIN, M.P., 10, Downing Street, S.W.

SIR,—On behalf of the Women's Freedom League I am writing to say how genuinely pleased we are that you have appointed the Duchess of Atholl to be a Member of H.M. Government. We are indeed glad that you have so publicly recognised the value of a woman's work, and that the office she has been given is one for which the Duchess is so eminently fitted. We of course hope that it will not be very long before a woman is given a post in the Cabinet itself.

Now that you have formed your Cabinet and your Government, may I again, on behalf of the Women's Freedom League, urge you to consider the possibility and the advisability of including in the King's Speech a simple franchise measure which would give the Parliamentary vote to women at the same age and on the same terms as men. You may remember that there are in this country nearly four and three-quarter millions of voteless women over the age of twenty-one, and less than three hundred and four thousand voteless men over twenty-one.

In the hope that you will give your kind consideration to this matter,

I am, Sir, yours etc.

To LT.-COL. WILFRID ASHLEY, M.P., Ministry of Transport, 6, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.

SIR,—Will you kindly consider the possibility of promoting legislation whereby railway companies shall be compelled to reserve for women one or more compartments on all trains? We understand that by the Railways Act, 1868, railway companies are compelled to provide smoking compartments for each class on all trains, but there is no provision for women passengers who for any reason wish to travel only with members of their own sex.

We urge the provision of carriages reserved for women in the interest of:—(1) women or girls travelling to and from business or school, the return journey often having to be made fairly late at night; (2) nervous women, women invalids, and women travelling with young children; (3) women who prefer to travel only with members of their own sex.

May I remind you that scarcely a week passes without a report appearing in the Press of a woman or girl being assaulted or annoyed by some man in a railway carriage? We think that women who form such a great part of the travelling public are as much entitled to consideration as the men for whom smoking carriages were made compulsory in 1868; and that they should not be forced to run the risk of violence or annoyance, for it must be conceded that men do not run similar or equal risk in this matter.

I venture to enclose you copy of this week's VOTE, on page 362 of which we have an article which gives recent instances of annoyance to women in railway carriages.

In the hope that you will give your kind consideration to this matter,

I am, Sir, yours etc.

#### CHIEF MEMBERS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

The chief Members of the new Government are:—  
MR. STANLEY BALDWIN: Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury, and Leader of the House of Commons.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and Deputy Leader of the House of Commons.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY: The Lord Privy Seal.  
THE MARQUIS CURZON OF KEDLESTON: Lord President of the Council, and Leader of the House of Lords.

VISCOUNT CAVE: Lord Chancellor.  
MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL: Chancellor of the Exchequer.

SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS, BT.: Secretary of State for Home Affairs.

MR. L. C. M. S. AMERY: Secretary of State for the Colonies.

SIR L. WORTHINGTON-EVANS, BT.: Secretary of State for War.

THE EARL OF BIRKENHEAD: Secretary of State for India.

SIR SAMUEL HOARE, BT.: Secretary of State for Air.

MR. W. C. BRIDGEMAN: First Lord of the Admiralty.

SIR PHILIP LLOYD-GREAME: President of the Board of Trade.

MR. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN: Minister of Health.

MR. E. F. L. WOOD: Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

SIR JOHN GILMOUR, BT.: Secretary for Scotland.

LORD EUSTACE PERCY: President of the Board of Education.

THE DUCHESS OF ATHOLL: Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education.

SIR ARTHUR STEEL-MAITLAND, BT.: Minister of Labour.

SIR DOUGLAS HOGG, K.C.: Attorney-General.

VISCOUNT PEEL: First Commissioner of Works.

VISCOUNT CECIL OF CHELWOOD: Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

MAJOR G. C. TRYON: Minister of Pensions.

SIR WILLIAM MITCHELL-THOMSON, BT.: Postmaster General.

LT.-COL. WILFRID ASHLEY: Minister of Transport.

LT.-COL. WALTER GUINNESS: Financial Secretary to the Treasury.

MR. WILLIAM WATSON, K.C.: Lord Advocate.

SIR THOMAS INSKIP, K.C.: Solicitor-General.

#### BOOK REVIEW.

*Mary Wollstonecraft.* By Madeline Linford. (Leonard Parsons.) 4s. 6d. net. (Can be obtained from this Office.)

This book contains no new facts about Mary Wollstonecraft, and no fresh information about her friends or her work; but it is brightly written with sympathy and understanding; and it can be read with profit by every worker in, and every well-wisher of, the Woman's Movement. The life of Mary Wollstonecraft, the great pioneer of the education and the emancipation of women, is a very fascinating one, no less from the point of view of the failures, than the outstanding courage and remarkable achievements of this very lovable and attractive woman. Mary Wollstonecraft died in 1797, but her *Vindication of the Rights of Women* can still be used as a text-book by women struggling for the advancement of their sex. As Miss Linford says:—"Her brave mind pushed its way through the boundaries that would have hemmed it in. Beyond her own struggles and humiliations she saw a free sex. She saw women the proud equals of men, not the petted inferiors whose happiness in life was solely dependent on their sexual charm. She saw them following honourable professions, sharing in the Government of the country, dividing the opportunities of life fairly between their sons and daughters. She saw, indeed, what we, in the twentieth century, have watched slowly growing before our eyes." F. A. U.

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Thursday, November 27th, at 7.45 p.m. (prompt). Dinner to Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.A., M.P., at Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Short speeches by Miss Wilkinson and others. Tickets (which must be obtained from Miss Reeves, Minerva Club, not later than Monday, November 24th), 3s. 6d. each.

Friday and Saturday, November 28th and 29th. Central Hall, Westminster. Green, White, and Gold Fair. To be opened on Friday, at 3 p.m., by Mrs. Hilton Philipson, M.P., and on Saturday, at 3 p.m., by Miss Susan Lawrence.

Saturday, November 29th, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Sunday, November 30th, at 4 p.m., at Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Rally of members and friends. Tea. Short speeches. Discussion.

SCOTLAND.

Saturday, November 29th, at 3 p.m. Glasgow. Public Meeting in the McLellan Galleries, Sauchiehall Street.

PROVINCES.

Monday, November 24th, at 2.30 p.m. Middlesborough. Branch Meeting, at "Agecroft," Linthorpe Road.

Tuesday, November 25th, at 7.30 p.m. Portsmouth. Public Meeting at 2, Kent Road. Speaker: Councillor Leonard Blake. Subject: "The new Housing Act." Chair: Mrs. Brading.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, November 26th, at 8 p.m. Oak Room, Kingsway Hall, W.C. Women's League of Union. Speaker: Miss M. Otley, M.A. Subject: "Can we change our Characters?"

BRANCH NOTES.

THAMES VALLEY.

Miss Underwood cordially thanks Mrs. Wise for 2s. 6d. and Mrs. Sutcliffe 5s. donations to the Aprons, Overalls, and Children's Clothing Stall.

GLASGOW.

During the last fortnight THE VOTE has been sold outside some social or political meeting almost every night, a few new members have been enrolled, and arrangements made for a meeting to take place on Saturday, November 29th, at 3 p.m., in the McLellan Galleries, Sauchiehall Street. Miss Mary Dixon has very kindly promised to bring her famous choir to entertain, and Mrs. Hunter, of the Vigilance Society, and Miss Isabel Hamilton, of the Women's Freedom League will speak. There will probably be other speakers, whose names it is hoped to announce next week.

(Organiser) Miss LILIAN LENTON,  
59, Waverley Gardens, Seymour Street, Shawlands.

#### A WHITE LUNCHEON.

The Six Point Group are arranging a White Luncheon at the Hyde Park Hotel, Tuesday, December 16th, in honour of Lady Astor, and the Members of the White List, who have been returned to the House of Commons in the recent Election.

#### RALLY OF MEMBERS.

Our London Branches, Minerva Club and Mid-London, are arranging a Rally for members and friends at the Minerva Club, on Sunday afternoon, November 30th. Tea 4 p.m. Some members of the Executive Committee are expected to remain in town, and there will be short speeches by Branch and Committee members. All members and friends are cordially invited to come to this Rally, and to take part in an important discussion on the work to be done in the immediate future by the Women's Freedom League.

#### "THE VOTE" STALL PLEASE HELP!

Will every Reader kindly send a Contribution to this stall by November 25th?

Donations or Gifts suitable for our Chemist's Shop, such as Soap, Perfumes, Toilet Powder, Tooth Paste, Tooth Brushes, Sponges, etc., will be welcomed.

#### OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

MADAM,—I see with interest your able advocacy of the provision of "women only" carriages on every train, and it has my hearty support. I am only too aware of the dangers which may accompany railway travel. But may I at the same time suggest that, as advocates of sex equality, you should also press for the provision of carriages for "men only"? There seems to be no way of making ample provision for smokers apart from this proposal, as every male traveller can witness to the fact that non-smoking women have a habit of crowding out those for whom the smoking carriage are provided. Again, it does not seem to be recognised that many men, as well as many women, prefer to travel only in the company of their own sex. I urge, therefore, that you should so amend your suggestion as to conform to the principle of equal privileges for both sexes.

(REV.) JOHN CORNER SPOKES.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

MADAM.—The following table is a summary of the results of the General Election (so far as known) in respect of the contested seats in Great Britain.

GREAT BRITAIN, 1924.

Contested seats—Boroughs and Counties (except Inverness, Inverness).

Party	Votes	Seats	Seats in proportion to votes.	Votes per seat.
Unionist	7,470,154	383	261	19,504
Labour	5,496,252	141	192	38,980
Liberal	2,954,125	33	103	89,518
Independent	123,629	4	5	30,907
TOTALS	16,044,160	561	561	—

The figures show to what extent representation in the House of Commons departs from the opinion held in the country, as expressed by the votes of electors.

Yours faithfully, JOHN H. HUMPHREYS,  
Sec., Proportional Representation Society.

#### NOTES AND COMMENTS.

##### Why not Women on Watch Committees?

At a Conference on Moral Welfare held by the National Council of Women, last week, in Manchester, Inspector Champneys emphasised the necessity for more women police, and one speaker suggested that women should be on the Watch Committee. This is an excellent suggestion; it has been pressed upon local authorities for many years. Women are absolutely necessary on local Watch Committees, and we hope that they will agitate until they get there.

##### Child Adoption Committee.

The Home Secretary has appointed Mrs Wilson-Fox to be a member of the Committee appointed on April 4th, 1924, to examine the problem of Child Adoption, in place of the Duchess of Atholl, M.P., who has resigned from the Committee in view of her appointment as Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education.

##### The Premier's Woman Secretary.

Miss E. M. Watson has been appointed as one of the private secretaries of Mr. Baldwin. Miss Watson became Mr. Bonar Law's private secretary when he was Secretary for the Colonies, nearly ten years ago, and continued with him when he became Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Lord Privy Seal, until his health broke down in 1921. Then she became private secretary to Mr. Austen Chamberlain when he became Lord Privy Seal, and rejoined Mr. Bonar Law when he became Prime Minister, staying on with Mr. Baldwin when he succeeded him as Premier. During the last Government, Miss Watson was one of Mr. J. R. Clynes's private secretaries.

##### Underpaid Women Church Workers.

At the Manchester Diocesan Conference, held last week, Canon Guy Rogers, of West Ham, stated that "Women are working in the Church for what can only be called starvation wages," and declared that for some full-time appointments women were only given £80 a year, and were fortunate if they ended their days in some charitable almshouse. He pleaded for a minimum wage of at least £100, and hoped to see it raised to £120 or £130. He considered that women could do a great deal more in the Church than distribute magazines, and said that if he were confined to the choice of two workers, he would have only one curate, and an expert, trained, and spiritually minded woman.

##### A Sign of the Times.

By a majority of 16 votes to 7, Twickenham local parliament recently decided to admit women members—all previous efforts to do so having failed. The majority of members at the meeting were Conservatives.



FRIDAY,  
NOV. 21,  
1924.

# THE VOTE

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WEEKLY

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

**MINERVA CLUB**, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Open to non-residents. Restaurant. Smoking Room. Papers. Library. Bedrooms available during summer months. Membership, £1 1s. Entrance Fee suspended during present year. All particulars from the SECRETARY. Telephone: Museum 4791.

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

**ATTRACTIVE**, Old-fashioned House, now a residential hotel. Winter, 2½ guineas.—MISS BUTTERWORTH, Jesmond Cottage, Church Square, Shepperton-on-Thames.

### NOTICES.

**INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED.** Consult H. M. BAKER, the woman Income Tax Expert, 275, High Holborn. Telephone: Holborn 377.

**FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.**—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, November 23rd. 3.30. Music. Lecture, Miss Margaret Bondfield. 6.30. Dr. Percy Dearmer.

### TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

**BARGAIN**—list free. Plants, Garden Utensils. Beautiful dwarf roses, named varieties, 6/- dozen, carriage paid.—MCELROY, 33, Saville St., South Shields.

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

**ANCONAS** lay the largest eggs. Hand-some birds, good layers. Sitings 6/- Chicks 12/- doz., carriage paid.—PARRIS, Danecroft Poultry Farm, Bagshot.

**WANTED.**—Second-hand Clothing, best prices given; parcels sent, valued, and money sent by return. Stamped addressed envelope for reply.—RUSSELL, 100 Raby Street, Byker, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

### TO LET.

**VICAR'S** daughter offers comfortable furnished Flat; also bed-sitting room. Moderate. Two minutes Wandsworth Common, 6 minutes station and bus.—15, Henderson Rd., Wandsworth Common.

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20	1	6	4	0	7	6
30	2	3	6	3	12	0
40	3	0	8	6	16	0

**Displayed Advertisements,**  
8/- per inch.

### REST AND HOLIDAYS.

**BOURNEMOUTH.**—"Loughtonhurst," West Cliff Gardens. Food Reform Guest House. Best situation. Old established. Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. Hume.—Apply SECRETARY.

**JERSEY.**—Paying Guests received. Every Comfort. Terms from 2 guineas per week.—PROPRIETRESS, Ashton House, Rouge Bouillon, St. Helier, C.I.

**CORNWALL.**—Superior Farmhouse board-residence, one mile city and River Fal. Splendid centre. Moderate terms.—LAMBESSOW, Truro.

**THE GUILD HUT**, Cranbrook, is the place for your holiday. Furnished for 3. Tents available. Full particulars—SEC., 2, Upper Woburn Place, W.C.1.

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

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**FURNISHED** or **UNFURNISHED** Rooms, £1 1s. Breakfast. Electric light, gas fires, telephone, constant hot water, use of kitchen, tennis.—11, Holland Park, W. Telephone: Park 4878.

**HAMPSTEAD SUBURB**, near Heath. Gentlewoman offers accommodation to another (worker). Quiet, moderate, every convenience.—M.Z. VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

**BUNGALOW—TOWN SHOREHAM**, Sussex. Three bedrooms. Water laid in bedrooms, gas fires, sitting-room, bathroom, kitchen, telephone. Three guineas per week.—Apply A.B.C., VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

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## Membership Application Form.

To be returned to The Secretary, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C.1;

Please enrol me as a Member of the Women's Freedom League.

Name .....

Address .....

I enclose £ : s. d. as my first Annual Subscription.

Minimum Annual Subscription, 1s.