

## MEDICAL WOMEN'S JUBILEE.

# THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXV. No 784.

(Registered at  
the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 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.

### PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

BEST THANKS TO EVERY WOMAN CANDIDATE!

THE TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS, November 1st.

By Marian Berry.

GREEN, WHITE, AND GOLD FAIR.

QUESTIONNAIRES.

THE PAGEANT OF WOMEN'S PROGRESS, 1874—1924.  
By E. Knight.

WOMEN AND GIRL WORKERS.

WOMEN AS SHERIFFS.

## BEST THANKS TO EVERY WOMAN CANDIDATE!

The Women's Freedom League has sent its most cordial greetings, and its whole-hearted best wishes for success at the polls, to every woman candidate standing at this Election, quite irrespective of the political Party to which she belongs. As we go to press the Election has not taken place, and we have no means of gauging the results. But whatever these results may be, every woman who comes before the Electorate as a Parliamentary candidate makes it easier for other women to enter the House of Commons, and the more women we get into Parliament, the more certain we are of seeing the reforms for which we have been working for so many years carried into law. No woman standing at this Election has a chance of being returned unopposed; every one of them has had an exceedingly stiff fight, and whether they are successful or not, women owe them all a debt of gratitude for their gallant attempt to become Members of Parliament.

The accompanying picture shows that our Portsmouth Branch has been working hard for Miss Jessie Stephen; our Hastings Branch has been supporting Mrs. Muriel Matters Porter, and our Middlesbrough Branch Miss Ellen Wilkinson, in each case having a

member of our National Executive Committee to strengthen this support—Mrs. Whetton at Portsmouth, Mrs. Strickland at Hastings, and Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates at Middlesbrough. Miss Alix M. Clark, together with Miss Elias and other friends, have been working strenuously in Watford for the return of Mrs. Corbett Ashby, where Mrs. Mustard and Miss M. Reeves have also been speaking for her;

Mrs. Preece and others have been working hard for Miss Susan Lawrence in East Ham; Miss Lenton and others in Mrs. E. Elias's constituency for S.E. Southwark, and together with Mrs. Ewen for Dr. Ethel Bentham in East Islington; for Miss Sayle at Hemel Hempstead, for Miss Mary Richardson in Acton and for Dr. Stella Churchill in North Hackney, while Miss Anna Munro has been assisting Mrs. Corner in her very

vigorous campaign in Farnham. To the above women candidates, and to many others standing at this Election, we have sent thousands of copies of our special Election leaflet—"Why Women should be sent to Parliament." It was warmly welcomed, and we have every reason to believe, has proved as useful to them as we intended it to be. Again, our warmest thanks to every woman who has stood at this Election!



MISS JESSIE STEPHEN AND OUR PORTSMOUTH BRANCH POSTER PARADES,  
Reproduced by kind permission of the "Daily Graphic."

## THE TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

By MARIAN BERRY.

Seventeen years have now elapsed since women became eligible for election to Town Councils. In the autumn following the passing into law of the Qualification of Women Bill, eighteen women in England and Wales, and five in Scotland, were candidates for Town Councils. Eight of these were elected, of whom two, Miss Morgan of Brecon and Miss Sutton of Reading, are still serving.

It may safely be said that there is no prejudice in the majority of towns in regard to the service of women on the local council; the need for their co-operation is realised, and in each succeeding year the number of women nominated and elected has increased. Last November, 131 women stood for Town Councils, either as Party or as Independent candidates, and 52 were returned. The number will probably be larger this year.

In many towns, women who have done good service on their council, are standing for re-election. This is notably the case at Birmingham, where Miss Bartlett is the retiring member. She has served as Chairman both of the Asylums and Public Health Committees. In Cambridge, Mrs. Alan Gray and Mrs. Hartree (Mayor elect) are among those standing for re-election. Mrs. Keynes, who served on the Council from 1914 to 1919, is also a candidate.

It is of the first importance that local authorities should be composed of men and women who care for good and clean administration of local government. The duties devolving on local authorities, especially on county and county borough councils, are of great importance and new powers are constantly being given to them. One of the chief characteristics of English local government has been freedom from central control, but with the growth of "grants in aid" there has been a serious tendency for this control to increase. The co-ordination of local government is long overdue and must be faced before long. It is, therefore, important to elect councillors who will have the knowledge and experience to consider the difficult problems that must be faced when such legislation is before Parliament.

In many places, women local government voters are in excess of the men voters. Since 1918, when the local government franchise was largely extended there has been a marked decrease in the percentage of electors who record their votes. In the last elections for the London County Council only 36.8 of the electorate voted, and in the elections for the Metropolitan Boards of Guardians and Borough Councils in the same year, the percentage fell to 22.8 and 36.4 respectively. In the case of the Borough Councils, the percentage was the lowest on record in any election for these authorities.

We feel that the majority of women do not realise how closely their lives are affected by the work of Town Councils and similar authorities. The Public Health system which has grown up since 1875 touches every household, and ratepayers often forget the benefits received when grumbling at the rates levied. In addition to the upkeep and cleansing of the roads, Sanitary Authorities are responsible for the drainage, an adequate water supply, the collection and disposal of refuse, and the inspection of foodstuffs and of places where food is kept or prepared for consumption—viz., bakeries, kitchens of restaurants and hotels, dairies and milk shops. These Authorities must provide hospitals for persons suffering from infectious diseases who cannot be properly isolated in their homes, and they are also responsible for the disinfection of houses where such illness occurs, and the isolation of the other inhabitants.

In recent years, vigorous campaigns have been organised in respect to Maternity and Child Welfare work. As is the custom in this country, the initial steps were taken by voluntary agencies, but in nearly

all cases the work has now been taken over by the local authorities and plays an important part in their activities. In addition to the Maternity and Infant Centres, some authorities have established Maternity Homes where the expectant mother, for the sum of either 30s. or £2 2s. a week, can have every attention and comfort. Such a home has been started by the Eastbourne Council since the first woman councillor was elected. This Maternity Home also serves as a training school for midwives and mothercraft, and has, in addition, a babies' department for babies up to twelve months.

Town Councils, with few exceptions, are responsible for Elementary Education in their area. It is not possible to develop character without right education, and it is therefore of the first importance that teachers should be very carefully selected. In all types of schools the teaching of citizenship is becoming a usual practice, and the subject is one which should be included in every school syllabus. Recently, in a Welsh town, at a Band of Mercy gathering in connection with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, 16 schools were represented. Every child was given a paper bag containing buns, and was asked to return the bag to those in charge, so as to prevent any being thrown on the ground. Although over 400 children attended the gathering, every bag was handed in, and not a single one was afterwards found. We know that efforts are being made in many schools to prevent the littering of parks and open spaces with refuse. But in view of the large sums which are spent by local authorities in clearing parks and open spaces after public holidays, it is apparent that a stronger public opinion is wanted on this subject.

It will be seen that there is a wide field of usefulness open to women in civic life, and the opportunities for mutual intercourse and development are rapidly increasing. Women are learning that work in the home is incomplete unless they are also taking their share in making the locality in which they live a healthier and happier place for all who live within its borders.

### WHY RESERVED CARRIAGES FOR WOMEN ARE NEEDED.

The following paragraph is taken from the *Hackney and Kingsland Gazette*, October 17th:—

Charles Edward Thurston, of Clapton Park, was summoned by the London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company for committing an act of indecency with intent to insult a female in a railway carriage between Hackney and Dalston, and, on another occasion, interfering with the comfort of a lady passenger on the line between Victoria Park and Homerton.—The first case failed owing to insufficient evidence of identification, but the magistrate found against the defendant in the second, and imposed a fine of 40s., with three guineas costs.

### NATIONAL UNION of SOCIETIES for EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

are giving a

### RECEPTION TO MEET MRS. SWANWICK

at the

CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER.

On WEDNESDAY, 12th NOVEMBER, at 3.45 p.m.

It is hoped that women Members of the new House of Commons will also be present and speak.

Tickets (price 2/6, including tax) can be obtained from The Secretary, N.U.S.E.C., 15, Dean's Yard, S.W.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, 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 at present arranged for the League are:—

**Hampstead Branch.—Handkerchiefs, Soap, Scent, Antiques, and White Elephants.** Miss Goodliffe, Miss Lyndon, and Miss Vibert.

**Letchworth Branch.—Lavender Stall.** Mrs. Lynn, Miss Ironside, Mrs. Muncoster, 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. Armev, Miss Atkinson, and Mrs. Jacoby.

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

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

**Hygiene Stall.—Dr. Octavia Lewin and Friends.**

**Literature Stall.—Miss Harverson and Mrs. Preece.**

**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 Sutherland.

Many gifts are needed if these stalls are to be well stocked with useful and pretty Xmas gifts. The Shilling Stall should prove attractive to purchasers with light purses; therefore small articles are needed by Mrs. Delbanco for this stall, such as pincushions, photo frames, ash trays, needlebooks, inkpots, vases, lucky black cats, etc.—please remember this stall, it is sure to be a most popular one. Handkerchiefs of all descriptions are required for the Hampstead Stall, and every kind of handkerchief will be welcome, both large and small, fancy and white. Mrs. Whetton will gladly receive any articles suitable for the household, as for example dusters, tea cloths, towels, floor cloths, pots, pans, kettles, scrubbing brushes, etc. Cushions and tea-cosies are much needed for the Scotch Stall, also haberdashery. The Grocery Stall is very important—the goods most required by Mrs. Sutherland are tea, sugar, jam, currants, raisins, cake, butter, suet, etc. The Sweet Stall is much in need of support, and all kinds of sweets will be welcomed by Miss Mary Knight. Mrs. Holmes needs gifts for the White Stall—women's and children's under-clothing, etc., will be much appreciated. Books, both new and second-hand, are wanted, including picture books and stories for children; please send all you want to keep yourselves, and keep all you want to send away!! The Toy Stall has again been undertaken by Mrs. Knight, who will be glad of any gifts, especially dolls, and toy animals, dolls-house furniture, bricks, balls, boxes of toy soldiers, puzzles, etc. Miss A. Underwood will be in charge of the Children's Clothing, Overalls, and Apron Stall, and will be supported by the Thames Valley Branch—but many goods are needed for this Stall. Mrs. Mustard will

be in charge of the Scotch Stall, and will be very glad of gifts of haberdashery, cushions, or tea-cosies.

### COMPETITIONS AND GAMES.

The Competitions and Games will include, among other attractions, a HIDDEN TREASURE HUNT.

### ENTERTAINMENTS.

The Fair Committee have engaged Madame C. M. Carr's String Orchestra to play at intervals during the days of the Fair. There will be Solo Dancing on Friday evening by little Miss Margery Dunhill (Hastings), also two Dancing Displays on Saturday by Miss Grace Woollacott's little pupils at 6 and 7.30 p.m. A THE CHANTANT will be held each day from 4 to 6 p.m.; the following have already kindly promised to assist—Miss Lucy D. Bell, Miss Beryl Brown, Mrs. Cunningham, Miss Barbara Davy, Miss Howells, Miss Lettice Newman, Mr. Eric Richmond, and Mrs. Morris-Wood. There will be Character Readings by Mrs. Spon, and 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.

Special arrangements will be made for "Tea Parties" for the "Thé Chantant," and tables can be reserved (for any number) if booked for a specified time beforehand.

The Bureau for the sale of tickets for 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 Bucks Cottage Workers' Agency.  
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).  
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)—will shortly be 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.

### VOTES FOR WOMEN IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

The *Times* reports that an Order in Council is gazetted making provision for an elected element in the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago. Hitherto the unofficial members of the Council have all been nominated. In future the Council will consist of the Governor, as President, not more than nine nominated official members, not more than six nominated unofficial members, and seven elected members. The franchise is given to both men and women, but a woman must be 30 years of age before being qualified to vote, and persons seeking registration must "satisfy the returning officer that he or she can understand the English language when spoken." We greatly regret that in these British islands in the West Indies unequal franchise qualifications have been introduced for men and women. The inferior political status of women in this country is now to be imposed on the women of Trinidad and Tobago.

## THE VOTE

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31st, 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.

### QUESTIONNAIRES.

We have sent round our questionnaires to men and women candidates through our branch secretaries, or our members residing in their constituencies, and we find that many men candidates have come to the conclusion that it is wiser not to answer them, but to send instead an explanatory letter, more or less long and always very involved, stating their reasons for refusing to reply to our detailed questions. They have, of course, a perfect right to do this, but these candidates will probably lose a great deal more than they will gain by such action. The Women's Freedom League's Election policy in regard to men candidates is quite simple. The chief object of our existence is to secure equal voting rights for men and women, and then an equal status, equal opportunities, equal rewards, and equal responsibilities for women with men throughout all branches of our national life. We should not be members of the Women's Freedom League if we did not consider these matters of primary importance, and for eighteen years we have vigorously worked, in season and out of season, to secure them. When the various political Parties issued their recent Election manifestos, these questions, which we believe are of vital importance not only to women but also to men, were either forgotten by the Party managers, or brushed aside by them as having little or no significance. Candidates of all Parties asked us for our votes. Before we decided to give a vote to them, we thought we had a right to know their answers to the questions we put to them, and it has always been our custom strongly to advise our own members throughout the country to vote for, and to influence votes for, the candidate who most nearly satisfies them by the replies he gives to those questions, as well as by his conduct during the campaign and his past record in regard to them. This is a perfectly open and straightforward policy which we have pursued consistently at elections, and shall continue to pursue so long as our Annual Conference continues to endorse it. For candidates to hint darkly to us that this policy is "dishonest," "tends to blackmail," or that it makes a Member's life a continual "burden," is all moonshine. If a candidate is prepared to be frightened by such bogies, he is certainly not worth voting for. Electors have a perfect right to know a candidate's views on the questions in which they are most keenly interested before they give that candidate their vote; and women electors, at any rate, are not going to vote for a candidate who is merely prepared to stand by his Party's programme, and to follow blindly the Party Whip on all questions which do not happen to be mentioned in it. Women might just as well vote for an automatic vote-recording machine. Women electors have no kind of use for any candidate who is incapable of forming independent views, or is either too timid or too lazy to enunciate them. If a candidate does not think it worth while to give civil answers to a few civil questions, it is surely not worth a woman elector's while to trouble to vote for that candidate.

### BAN ON MARRIED WOMEN DOCTORS.

At a meeting of the London County Council, held last week, a proposal was considered that the standing order as to married women not remaining in the Council's service should apply in future to married women doctors. The General Purposes Committee reported that in the Public Health Department there were 34 women doctors, of whom three were married, and the proposed rule would not apply to them, as they had had very valuable experience of school medical work. Dr. Scott Lidgett proposed, and Miss Wallas seconded, an amendment asking the Committee to consider whether the standing orders should be altered, so that women doctors should not resign on marriage, but this amendment was defeated by 59 to 27 votes, and the Committee's resolution was agreed to. Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan's comment on this reactionary proceeding on the part of the London County Council was as follows:—"The country will not get the best work out of its workers if this policy is put into practice. It is the supreme qualification of a woman doctor to be also a married woman, and for her to be banned on that very account is extremely foolish." Not only do we think it a foolish policy, but we indignantly protest against this persistent inquisition into women's private affairs by the "meddlesome Matties" of the London County Council, or any other local governing body. For a public, or a private, employer to make celibacy for either man or woman a condition of employment is a gross interference with individual liberty, and should be resisted in every possible way. We hope that this matter will be made a vital issue at the coming County Council Elections, for we cannot afford in this country to allow these encroachments to be made on personal liberty. If a woman for any reason cannot fulfil her duties, she must take the same chance of dismissal as a man would have; but it is the business of local authorities, who spend the money of the rate-payers, to provide the best person available for the work that has to be done; and it is certainly not their province to fuss about the strictly personal affairs of the people whom they employ. Moreover, we should like once again to remind the London County Council and other local governing bodies that there is an Act on the Statute Book—the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919—which says, "A person shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from being appointed to or holding any civil or judicial office or post, or from entering or assuming or carrying on any civil profession or vocation." Why should local governing bodies be immune from the penalties incurred for deliberately breaking the law?

### AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S SOCIETIES.

The Women's League of New South Wales, Australia, has changed its basis of membership so as to make itself non-Party, placing principles before Party. The objects of the Women's League are:—(1) Loyalty to the King and Empire; (2) The enfranchisement of women on the same terms as men; (3) An equal moral standard between men and women; (4) Women in Municipal Councils and Parliament; (5) Equal pay for equal work, and the professions as between men and women; (6)—(a) Equal guardianship of children; (b) Reforms in child welfare; (7) The League of Nations and the practical application of the principle of equal opportunity for men and women within it; (8) The education of women on public questions on non-Party lines. The Women's Service Guilds, 191, Murray Street, Perth, have been in existence for fifteen years. Their objects are to educate women (1) On social and economic questions; to support, from the standpoint of women, any movement to protect, defend and uplift humanity; to be loyal citizens of State, Commonwealth, and Empire; to seek public good and not personal advantage; (2) To educate women on the moral, social, and economic disadvantages of the use of alcohol as a beverage, in order to secure National Prohibition.

## THE PAGEANT OF WOMEN'S PROGRESS, 1874—1924.

Jubilee of the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women (University of London).

That all progress is one was the dominant note in commemorating the 50 years' work of the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women.

Educational women pioneers, heads of women's schools and colleges, women teachers, nurses, civil servants, writers, journalists, barristers, solicitors, musicians, artists, actresses, engineers, accountants, surveyors, clerks, pharmacists, police, representatives of women's organisations, social workers, and many eminent medical men and others who have given invaluable assistance, all were invited, and joined with the women doctors in thanksgiving for women's progress along the path to freedom, and in honouring the Founders of the first Women's Medical School.

The celebrations started on Friday, when the City Corporation most kindly lent the ancient and historic Guildhall for the historic dinner, women for the first time being the hosts and men among the guests. Some 600 were present at the dinner, and enthusiastic students filled the gallery; the President and the Dean received the guests.

In the Chair was Dr. Mary Scharlieb, C.B.E., J.P., M.S., the President of the School.

Dean Inge (Dean of St. Paul's), proposing the toast of "Women's Work," said that the war had brought public recognition of the splendid work of women, which had been going on all unnoticed for many years before. Their rights of citizenship were given, not because they earned them during the war, but because during those terrible years their value was first seen.

Most callings were now open to them: the Church was an exception. He thought it most desirable that women should be admitted to the Ministry of the Church. Many of them were admirably qualified for the work. He suggested that a woman vicar in the pulpit would increase the proportion of men in the congregation; large numbers of people sought advice from the clergy, and women should be able to go to women clergy to advise them; it would also be a very good thing for women to be able to hear the confessions of women.

Lady Barrett, C.B.E., M.D., M.S., in responding, said that during their suffrage processions of the past every other person in the crowd would cry, "Go home and mind the baby!" yet in the last Session of Parliament a woman M.P. had to bring in a Bill to make mothers the guardians of their own children.

The work of women was not going backward. These times demanded the vision that came from a complete humanity. A complete view of an object could not be obtained with one eye alone; to see it in its three dimensions—its length, breadth, and thickness—we must use both eyes, looking from their slightly different angles; so, in public work, men and women must work together, for the work of either alone was incomplete.

Mrs. Fawcett, J.P., LL.D., who also replied, quoted a distinguished speaker at the International Federation of Medical Women's dinner last July, who said that from long observation he had discovered the main difference between men and women doctors to be that the men paid great attention to symptoms, while the women aimed rather at discovering the causes and preventing disease. This she thought the most tremendous possible compliment. People even now did not realise how many women doctors there were. A relative of hers told her that he was going to the service at St. Paul's "to help the women along." When she told him there were 2,000, he could not believe it. They did not require help so much as appreciation.

Professor E. A. Gardner, Vice-Chancellor of the University of London, proposed the toast of the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women, very appropriately, as he said, for the foundation of the School in 1874 received the seal of academic approval in 1878, when the University received a supplemental Charter opening every degree, honour, and prize to men and women students on

equal terms. London was the first British University to grant degrees to women—grasping a great opportunity—of this it was justly proud. As a Cambridge man, he had given the strongest support to efforts for the admission of women to that University. The 14 students of the School in 1874 had become 400, and of our 2,000 women in the Medical Register, 1,100 belonged to the School. Other Universities had followed their example. If some schools were now excluding them, the need for medical women was so great that there was all the more need to support and expand the London School to keep up the supply.

With acclamation and musical honours, Miss Aldrich-Blake, M.S., M.D., Dean of the School, rose to reply, making a strong appeal for the Endowment Fund for the three Professorial Chairs in memory of the three dauntless pioneers—the Founders of the School. In 1874, two women were already on the Medical Register—Elizabeth Blackwell, who had taken the Geneva University M.D. in 1858, and Elizabeth Garrett, who obtained the Diploma of the Society of Apothecaries in 1865, that Society having immediately taken steps to bar the door by which she entered. Meanwhile Sophia Jex Blake, after a long and bitter struggle in Edinburgh, ending in defeat in the Law Courts, came to London, and collecting about £1,000 the three women boldly started for women their own Medical School with 14 students. Brave men helped; among the first Governors of the School were Lord Shaftesbury, Darwin, Huxley, and Broadbent. Difficulties were almost overwhelming, but each was greeted as a call to stronger effort and triumphantly surmounted.

Last year, students came from all parts of the world—18 different countries being represented.

Medicine gave women most useful and interesting work and economic independence; their future was bright; they were very successful in private practice; many country districts still had no woman doctor within 50 miles; India was a boundless field; and the war showed that the treatment of men patients presented no inherent difficulty to women.

The Dean then handed to the Chairman of the Royal Free Hospital the roll of names of new subscribers and donors secured by past and present students during the Jubilee year.

Mr. Langton, Chairman of the Royal Free Hospital, thanking the donors, said that ever since, in 1877, Mr. Hopwood, the Chairman, succeeded in persuading the Hospital Authorities to admit women as students, the tie between School and Hospital had grown closer and closer, till now they were husband and wife and nothing could come between them.

Professor Winifred Cullis, O.B.E., D.Sc., proposing the health of the Chairman, said that Dr. Scharlieb was their universal touchstone, the first woman to take her degree at the London University, the first woman visiting physician to be appointed to the Royal Free Hospital; in these, as in all other positions, she had made it easy for women to follow.

Dr. Scharlieb, in reply, spoke of the Friends, the Future, and the Funds of the School. Their Founders would rejoice to see them now, their early troubles past, sound and vigorous.

The future of the School was in the hands of the students; those who knew them best trusted them most. They were in all lands; among many telegrams she had received one from an Indian former student—the first woman to be Chief Medical Officer of the State of Travancore, and Member of the Indian Legislative Assembly. Capital was wanted to ripen the natural fruits of a learned body, literary work, and patient medical study.

### THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT ST. PAUL'S.

Saturday afternoon saw the vast Cathedral completely filled with some 3,000 women and men, united

in gratitude to our pioneers, in thanksgiving for opportunities of training, work, and service opened to women during the last 50 years, and in hope for the future.

Never was the idea, which so poorly expressed in words as "Women's Freedom," so adequately presented as in this nobly planned and magnificently rendered service—its pride and humility, its struggles and hopes, and its inevitable victory.

Princess Beatrice and Princess Arthur of Connaught represented the Royal Family, and in the long, impressive procession, brilliant in gowns and hoods, which passed to its place as the service opened, were Dr. Mary Scharlieb, Miss Aldrich-Blake, the Dowager Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava and Mary Countess of Minto, representing the Medical Services for women in India, Miss K. Jex-Blake (late Head of Girton), Miss H. Jex-Blake (Principal of Lady Margaret Hall), Miss E. Jex-Blake, Mrs. Fawcett, Dr. L. Garrett Anderson, Dr. Jane Walker, Lord Dawson of Penn, many distinguished men and women surgeons and physicians, Miss Tuke (Principal of Bedford College), representing women's colleges, and headmistresses, including Miss Penelope Lawrence and Miss Dove.

"St. Patrick's Breastplate" was the beautiful professional hymn sung to an ancient Irish hymn melody, the Psalm was the 103rd, the lesson the Beatitudes, read by Dean Inge, and the hymn—"For all the Saints who from their labours rest," then while the great throng stood motionless the Archdeacon of London, in loud tones, recited the Commemoration:—

**Through the ages there have been women in spirit born before their time. They had vision and faith, and, by their toil and sacrifice, by their persistence and courage, opportunities for women in training, work, and service have been won.**

**Three Pioneers opened the doors of Medicine to Women: Elizabeth Blackwell, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, Sophia Jex-Blake.**

**With love and reverence our hearts turn to them.** A brief silence followed, then the Anthem—Blake's "Vision of Jerusalem," set to music by the late Sir Hubert Parry for the other great thanksgiving service for the enfranchisement of women.

The Bishop of Lichfield said they had rendered hearty thanksgiving, remembering by name the great pioneers they were following, to whose clear vision, intrepid courage, and dogged perseverance, they owed the success they had achieved.

The struggle to them had been no romance, but grim and heartbreaking. They had won. The claim of women doctors could not be isolated from the whole of the great movement for the emancipation of women, which had been one of the most significant facts in the history of the progress of our times. He thought its meaning was not equality or rights, but a claim for liberty to exercise duties, and women believed it their duty to make their own contribution to the life of mankind. He thought that future historians would judge the Women's Movement as of more importance than the Reformation or the Discovery of America.

Their School had the honour of the pioneer; from the first it had upheld a high ideal of soundness in knowledge and thoroughness in work. Its students learnt to study liberally, to think seriously, and to serve gladly. They had indeed a noble heritage.

The Celebrations were brought to a delightful and appropriate close on Saturday evening by an immense family party at the School itself.

The Dean received the 1,200 guests—chiefly medical women and men—and their friends; the students presented her with a bouquet of pink roses.

A most generous and excellent programme had been arranged by the students. In various halls and laboratories continuous concerts were given by the Choral Society, quickly repeated performances by the Dramatic Society—"Fame and the Poet," by Lord Dunsany; "Cophetua," by John Drinkwater; and three charming Mime Plays—"Banbury Cross," "The Secret," and "A Serenade," and a number of scientific and liquid air demonstrations. Scientific exhibits were on view, and dancing was vigorously pursued.

E. KNIGHT.

## WOMEN AND GIRL WORKERS.

The *Newcastle Daily Journal and North Star* reports that a baker was fined £1 and costs at Bishop Auckland, last week, for an offence against the Factory and Workshops Acts. There were five summonses against him, but after the hearing of the first the other four were withdrawn on payment of costs. For the prosecution it was alleged that on Friday, October 3rd, five girls employed by defendant worked from 8.30 a.m. to 11.30 p.m. The maximum hours that could be worked under the Acts was 12, in this case from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. For the defence, it was argued that the employees preferred to work late on Friday night in order to have Saturday afternoon off. They had Wednesday afternoon off, and they did not work 48 hours a week. In our view, there can be no excuse for keeping girls working from 8.30 a.m. to 11.30 p.m., and we think that the sooner the Factory and Workshops Acts are altered, so that the maximum of hours is reduced, the better.

At Birmingham, recently, according to the *Sunday Mercury*, a well-known theatrical costumier was fined for paying less than the rate of wages fixed by the Board of Trade. In one instance, a woman was being paid 16s. a week, where she should have received 25s. It reported also that the conditions of employment at a certain dressmaking establishment in that city would repay investigations. Most of the employees are girls between 16 and 23, and the chief work is the beading and embroidering of dresses. The piecework prices have been "cut" to such limits that the quickest girl can scarcely earn above 3s. a day. Their day rate of wages is 3d. an hour. And here is the method by which the employers keep within the law. Some time ago, all the employees, including a woman of 35, who had been for several years in the trade, were forced to sign a Trade Board declaration that they were "learners." This, presumably, entitled the firm to pay them what they pleased. They had no option about signing it; if they did not do so, they could leave. Once a Government Inspector came to the establishment. He asked one girl what her wages were. They were 6s, too little. The senior partner promised that she should receive the extra 6s. and the back pay for several months. The *Sunday Mercury* reports that he kept his promise—for one week, and that then the girl was dismissed. Had further inquiry been made, it would doubtless have been suggested that this girl's work was not satisfactory. We firmly believe that if all women employed in these trades, between 21 and 30 years of age, had a Parliamentary vote, they would not only secure the improvement of their own economic position, but also that of the girls working with them who are under 21.

Last week, the Urban District Council for Whitley and Monkseaton were informed that in connection with facilities for women registering at the Labour Exchange, the manager of the North Shields Exchange had written stating that arrangements would be made for women to register at Whitley Bay in future, instead of having to travel into North Shields three days per week for this purpose.

## WOMAN WELFARE WORKER.

The *Yorkshire Observer* reports that a suggestion to appoint a woman welfare worker to give assistance and guidance to women and girls who have to seek the shelter of the Poor Law Institution, was made at a recent meeting of the Leeds Board of Guardians. The suggestion was made by Mrs. Richardson, who said that the Board would do well to follow the example set in this matter by the Birmingham and West Derby Board of Guardians. She said it was their duty to see that unmarried mothers and others similarly circumstanced had some place to go to when they left the workhouse or infirmary. Mrs. Leigh and other members supported the proposal, and it was referred to a committee for consideration.

## Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.1.

Telephone:—MUSEUM 1429.

Telegrams:—"DESPARD, MUSEUM 1429, LONDON."

Colours:—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.

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General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, October 31st, at 3 p.m. Political Sub-Committee, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday, November 7th, at 8.15 p.m. Minerva Club Branch Whist Drive. Tickets from Hon. Sec., Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

Monday, November 17th, at 3.30 p.m. "Fair" Sub-Committee at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

**DARE TO BE FREE.** 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; 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.

PROVINCES.

Friday, October 31st, at 3.30 p.m. Ashford. Members' Meeting at the Hempsted Street Hall. Speaker: Mrs. Miles. Chair: Mrs. Kither.

Friday, November 7th, at 7 p.m. Swansea. Whist Drive (by kind permission of Mrs. Hutton), at 9, Sketty Road. Tickets (2/6, including refreshments) from the Secretary and Members of the Committee.

Monday, November 17th, at 3.30 p.m. Bexhill. Public Meeting at Glyne Hall Hotel. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Subject: "The Political Situation."

Tuesday, November 18th, at 3.30 p.m. Hastings. Public Meeting at the Eversfield Hotel. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Chair: Mrs. Darent Harrison.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Monday, November 3rd, 5 to 7 p.m. The Committee of the Six Point Group. "At Home," 92, Victoria Street, S.W.1. Chair: Lady Rhonda. Speaker: Mrs. Hubback, on "Family Endowment."

Wednesday, November 5th, at 8 p.m. Oak Room, Kingsway Hall, W.C. Women's League of Union. Speaker: Miss M. M. Jeffrey. Subject: "London Replanned."

Wednesday, November 12th, at 3.45 p.m. National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Reception to meet Mrs. Swanwick. Caxton Hall, Westminster. Tickets 2s. 6d.: from Secretary, N.U.S.E.C., 15, Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

## BRANCH NOTES.

THAMES VALLEY.

Questionnaires have been sent to the local candidates, and members of this Branch have been responsible for correspondence in the local press in regard to the subject of questionnaires and the need for reserved carriages for women on all railway trains.

Miss Underwood very cordially thanks Mrs. Foster Lumb and Miss F. A. Underwood for material; Mrs. Levy for children's dainty garments; and "N. B." for donation for the Aprons, Overalls, and Children's Clothing Stall.

HASTINGS.

At a members' meeting held at 44, Warrior Square, St. Leonards, it was unanimously decided to support the candidature of Mrs. Muriel Matters Porter. It was hoped that meetings might be arranged to enable members to hear the candidate, but Mrs. Porter could not give a date, as she was already booked to speak at Labour Meetings right up to October 29th. Members have been urged to attend her meetings, which have been held at the Committee Rooms, Claremont, daily. Although members are not individually compelled to vote for Mrs. Porter, we have strongly urged them to do so, and so carry out the policy of the League.

## LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

Now that the time of the "Fair" is drawing near, may I remind members and friends that we shall be grateful for any books they have finished with to sell at our Literature Stall.

E. PIEROTTI.

## WOMEN AS SHERIFFS.

The *Daily Mail*, in an interesting article under the above heading, reports that, next month, Mrs. Lucy Green ceases to be Sheriff of Canterbury. She was the first, and still is the only, woman sheriff in England. There are high sheriffs of counties and sheriffs of cities, the former usually being appointed by the Sovereign. Only cities, which are also county boroughs like Canterbury, have sheriffs, who are elected by the Council of the city. Mrs. Wells has been a member of the Canterbury City Council for five years. As sheriff, she wears a purple robe and a silver chain. In ancient times, sheriffs held their annual courts of justice, and were the Crown's financial representatives, and exercised military functions. The writer goes on to say that now the office has lost nearly all its judicial, financial, and military duties, and the sheriff is chiefly a ministerial officer. Legal powers, however, remain to the extent that the sheriff arrests or imprisons, summons and returns the jury, and carries the judgment of the court into effect. In the case of an execution, it is for the sheriff to make the arrangements, and, if necessary, to act as executioner. But usually the actual duties of the office are delegated to the under-sheriff. Sheriffs attend assizes, receive the judge, and have a seat on the Bench. In reply to an inquiry, Mrs. Wells stated that there were no expenses attached to her office, and added, in regard to women's suitability as sheriff, "So far as the duties of Sheriff of Canterbury are concerned, they can as well be carried out by a woman as a man, more especially as women now sit on the bench, and are members of the legal profession."

## THE WOMEN'S PARTY CANDIDATES IN AMERICA.

*Equal Rights*, the official organ of the the National Woman's Party in America, reports that the Woman's Party is conducting a non-Partisan campaign to elect women to Congress. While it wishes success to all women candidates, it is concentrating its strength on five candidates from Pennsylvania, believing that it can accomplish more by concentrating in one State than it could by scattering its forces over the country. All of these five candidates are members of the Woman's Party; all are strong feminists and supporters of the Equal Rights Amendment. They are:—Mrs. Jessie Collet (Democratic and La Follette Ticket), for the 2nd Congressional District of Pennsylvania; Mrs. Jennie Dornblum (La Follette), for the 3rd Congressional District; Miss Anna Van Skie (Prohibition), for the 9th Congressional District; Mrs. Daisy Detterlein (La Follette), for the 10th Congressional District; and Mrs. Elizabeth R. Culbertson (Prohibition and La Follette), for the 29th Congressional District.

## CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS.

At a meeting of the above, held last week, at 92, Victoria Street, S.W., the following resolutions were passed:—

(1) The undermentioned Societies express their grave dissatisfaction that not one of the three Party Manifestos has given any promise of legislation to enfranchise women on equal terms with men—Federation of Women Civil Servants; Guild of Insurance Officials (Women's Section); National Housing Councils; St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance; Six Point Group; Women's Freedom League.

(2) The undermentioned Societies call upon the Government to include in the King's Speech the promise of legislation giving the franchise to women on the same terms as to men, giving pensions to civilian widows with dependent children, and giving mothers and fathers equal rights and responsibilities with regard to their children—Federation of Women Civil Servants; Guild of Insurance Officials (Women's Section); Free Church Women's Council; League of the Church Militant; National Council of Women; National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship; National Union of Teachers; St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance; Six Point Group; Women's Freedom League; Women's Local Government Society; Women's Temperance Group of the Wesleyan Methodist Church; Women's Village Councils Federation.

## W.F.L. PAMPHLETS.

- "British Women M.P.s," by D. M. Northcroft ... 4d.
- "The Work for Women M.P.s," by Mrs. Helena Normanton, B.A. ... 3d.
- "The Need for Women Members of Parliament," (Second Edition), by Mrs. How Martyn, M.Sc. 3d.
- "Women's Right to Work," by Miss Lindaf-Hageby 3d.
- "Women and Income Tax," by Mrs. Ayres Purdie (Certified Accountant) ... 3d.
- "Race Motherhood. Is Woman the Race?" by Mrs. Montefiore ... 6d.
- "Women Police," by D. M. Northcroft ... 1d.
- "Women at Work in the League of Nations," by D. M. Northcroft ... 6d.
- "The Wrongs of Married Women," by Mrs. M. W. Nevinson, J.P., LL.A. ... 3d.
- "The New Humanism," by Laurence Housman ... 6d.

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## NOTICES.

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

**F** ELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, November 2nd. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Thos. Jesse Jones, Esq., Ph.D., of the Education Commission to East Africa. 63.0. Maude Royden.

## TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

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Name .....

Address .....

I enclose £ : s. d. as my first Annual Subscription.  
Minimum Annual Subscription, 1s.