THE VOTE. WHY WE FIGHT FOR POLITICAL POWER.

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

Vol. XXVIII. No. 900.

(Registered at the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 1927

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

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

WHEN I AM M.P. Miss Monica Whately. WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD. WOMEN'S BAR SUCCESSES. WHY WE FIGHT FOR POLITICAL POWER.

WOMEN BOARD OF CONTROL INSPECTORS. WOMEN AND ELECTRICITY. THE NEED FOR WOMEN POLICE. BOOK REVIEW. Dame Louisa Aldrich-Blake.

XXVII.-WHEN I AM M.P.

MISS MONICA WHATELY, Prospective Labour Candidate for Hythe.

Miss Monica Whately is the eldest daughter of Major give you the Programme on which I am working in my

and Mrs. Reginald Pepys Whately; she is also the great-great-niece of Archbishop Whately, of Dublin, the famous author of "Whately's Logic."
She was an active worker in the Suffrage Movement and a member of the Women's Social and Political Union.

After the war she did famine relief work and visited Austria. Hungary, Poland, the frontiers of Russia, and Germany.

She is on the Executive of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, the Committee for Information on India, and the Society of Labour candidates and is an Associate of the Women's Auxiliary Service, etc., etc.

She has been adopted as the prospective Parliamentary Labour candidate for Hythe, where, at the next election, she will be fighting Sir Philip Sassoon, the Under-Secretary for Air.

"You have asked me," says Miss Whately, "to tell you shortly what I would do if I were an M.P., and I think that the



MISS MONICA WHATELY.

Lafayette.

h I am we constituency."

constituency. Whately's wides: Programme includes the political, social and economic emancipation of the people, better housing accommodation, more schools and more school space, more teachers and smaller classes, work for everyone, the adop-tion of the recommendations of the Sankey Coal Industry Commission, the spending of less money in preparations for war and more money in housing and social services.

Especially for Women Voters.— Women in the House of Commons .-"Questions are coming up day after day in the House of Commons, which vitally affect the interests of women and the home. These questions must be better understood, and mean more to a woman than to a man, and for that reason it is most important to return more women to Parliament."

The Equal Vote .-"We must also protest against the injustice of making a dis-

best way in which I can answer that question is to tinction of age in granting the rights of Franchise to

women; we must demand that young women are given Woman Bible Lecturer. the same rights as are now enjoyed by young men.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Princess Mary an Honorary Fellow.

At a quarterly meeting of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, held last week, Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles, was elected an Honorary Fellow of the College, in recognition of her distinguished work in connection with the nursing profession and the many hospitals throughout the country. At the same meeting the Diploma of Membership was conferred upon Miss Joyce McConnell, Royal Free Hospital.

Army Nursing Services Amalgamated.

A Royal Warrant provides for the amalgamation of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service and Queen Alexandra's Military Families' Service. The combined nursing service will be named "Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service," and its members will wear the same uniform and badge as at present exist for the Q.A.I.M.N.S.

Another Woman Councillor.

the Wigan Borough Council, which now has three

Women Bell-ringers.

Seven women assisted Mr. R. Richardson, a wellknown Lincolnshire campanologist, to establish a new record for the county by completing his 400th peal. The peal, which was of 5,056 of Bob Major, occupied 3 hours and 20 minutes, Mr. Richardson himself conducting the peal off the tenor bell.

Women Weavers leave Bradford for Australia.

Last week a party of 50 young women weavers, 20 of whom were accompanied by their husbands, left Bradford for Australia, where they are to take up work at the Federal Woollen Mills, Geelong.

Woman Tea Taster.

Miss Margaret Irving, London's only woman tea taster, makes 200 tests a day.

Ban on Women Polo Players.

The County Polo Association has passed a new rule under which women are not eligible to receive a handicap or to play in tournaments.

Justices of the Peace.

Mrs. Keynes has compiled a List of Women Magistrates for the National Council of Women, which can be seen at Pariiament Mansions, Westminster, any day except Saturday, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. At a recent meeting, Mrs. Keynes said that there were from 20,000 to 25,000 J.P.s in England and Wales, of whom about 1,660 were women.

Another Woman for the Ministry.

Miss Nellie Leaton, Missioner of King Street Church, Yarmouth, has resigned in order to enter college for training for the ministry.

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Miss Marjory S. West, B.A., B.D., has resumed her courses of lectures on the Bible at University College. Students for this term may be enrolled by application to Miss Schofield, 112, Algernon Road, Lewisham, S.E.

Honour for Mrs. Sidney Webb.

The degree of Doctor, honoris causa, has been conferred upon Mrs. Sidney Webb by the University of

Empire Parliamentary Delegation's Woman Member.

Mrs. Tawse Jollie was the only woman delegate included in the Empire Parliamentary Delegation which visited Western Australia towards the end of last year to conclude the Australian tour. She is a Member of the Legislative Council of Rhodesia.

Tribute to Dr. Vera Scantlebury.

Dr. Vera Scantlebury has been appointed to the Milk Board in Victoria (Australia). The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Bourchier) said: "She is a qualified medical practitioner, and, as such, she is eligible for appointment; but she is more. She is the new Director of Infant Welfare, and has a special knowledge of Mrs. Hart was elected at a recent by-election to ment will be of great assistance to the Board."

Not Real Equality.

Last year it was reported in the Press that the Victoria (Australia) Legislative Assembly had passed a Bill to remove all sex disqualifications in the way of women holding public offices or entering professions. We now learn from The Dawn, the organ of the Women's Service Guilds of Western Australia, that the Bill was so amended that marriage was made a disqualification, as it was considered that otherwise the Bill might conflict with the Public Service Act.

Twenty-Three New Colleges for Women in U.S.A.

During the past four years 23 new Catholic Colleges for women have been established in the United States. They now number 77, and the pupils, 9,489.

Iowa Women Win.

Until November 2nd, 1926, according to The Woman Citizen (New York), Iowa was the only State in the 48 to exclude women from sitting in the Legislature. When the framers of the Iowa Constitution made the qualifications for Members of its General Assembly, they specified "male citizens." Several months before Election Day the Iowa League of Women Voters began to organise for the abolition of this discrimination by means of an Amendment. The final count was 239,999 for the Amendment, to 113,929 against. Thus the last barrier to women holding office in this Middle Western State has been removed by a vote of 2 to 1.

Woman Sheriff for Kiowa.

The Boston Herald reports from Greensburg (Kan.) (A.P.) that the next sheriff of Kiowa County will be woman. Her husband will be deputy. Mrs. Frank Chase, the mother of four children, won the office which her husband had held for the last four years. The law disqualifies a sheriff from holding office for more than four years consecutively, but he may accept appointment as the deputy.

Other issues of the series, "When I am M.P.":—Miss ELISABETH EDWARDES, January 7, 1927; Miss MARY RICHARDSON, September 24, 1926; The Lady RATHCREEDAN, August 27, 1926; Mrs. CECILIA STREETEN, April 2, 1925; Dr. STELLA CHURCHILL, March 12, 1926; Mrs. MURIEL MATTERS PORTER, September 12, 1924; Mrs. ANNE CORNER, August 29, 1924; Mrs. LOUIE SIMPSON, J.P., August 15, 1924; Councillor ELLEN C. WILKINSON, M.A., July 4, 1924; Miss MINNIE PALLISTER, July 6, 1923; Miss C. PICTON-TURBERVILL, September 8, 1922; Mrs. HAMILTON MORE-NESBITT, August 18, 1922; Mrs. BURNETT SMITH, June 30, 1922; Lady CURRIE, April 7, 1922; Mrs. STEWART BROWN, March 31, 1922; Miss HELEN FRASER, March 24, 1922; Lady COOPER, March 17, 1922; Commandant MARY S. ALLEN, O.B.E., February 17, 1922; Miss MARY P. GRANT, January 6, 1922; Mrs. MARJORIE PEASE, J.P., October 23, 1921; Mrs. AYRTON GOULD, October 21, 1921; Dr. ETHEL BENTHAM, Qctober 7, 1921; Mrs. WINTRINGHAM, M.P., September 23, 1921; Mrs. ELEANOR BARTON, August 26, 1921; Mrs. SCOTT GATTY, August 12, 1921; Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY, July 15, 1921.

THE "WILSON INCIDENT."

Since 1920 Miss Florence Wilson, an American, has been in charge of the Lib. ary of the League of Nations, a really wonderfully managed Library, which she has built up from very small beginnings. Miss Wilson's work has received the unstinted admiration and the keenest appreciation of all who have any knowledge of the Library. In 1926, Miss Wilson's contract came to an end, and to her great disappointment it was not renewed, the League authorities stating that it was no longer possible to nave subjects of States not belonging which she willingly agreed, and she remained at her to the League serving on the staff of the Secretariat. Yet the League authorities have only just renewed the contract for another three years of a fellow-countryman of Miss Wilson, who also belonged to the staff of the League of Nations. Women's organisations took up Miss Wilson's case, and a letter was addressed by the Joint Committee of the Women's International Organisations for the representation of women in the League of Nations to the General Secretary of the League, urging that Miss Wilson's contract should be renewed; but this letter had no effect. The Bulletin (organ of the International Council of Women) reports that on December 17th a luncheon was given in honour of Miss Wilson, Chief Librarian at the Secretariat of the League of Nations, at the Lyceum Club at Geneva, by women's international organisations having offices at Geneva. Mile. Gourd, of the International Alliance for Woman Suttrage, presided, and expressed to Miss Wilson women's admiration and gratitude for the splendid work she had accomplished as Librarian. Miss Doty spoke on behalf of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and Mme. Clara Guthrie d'Arcis on behalf of the World Union of Women for International Concord. Miss Wilson, who was moved by the many kind expressions of sympathy and appreciation, said she hoped that women might more and more make their voices heard, with a view to establishing justice, peace and mutual understanding throughout the world. Miss Wilson's work as Librarian terminated at the end of last year.

NEWS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

Mrs. Hana Sklilova writes to tell us that last November the oldest Czech poetess, Miss Eliska Krasnohorska, died in Prague. She was born in 1847. Although practically a lifelong invalid, she took an active part in the national movement among the Czech educated people in the second half of the 19th century. Miss Krasnohorska published several volumes of verse, and in 1871 was one of the founders, and afterwards secretary, of a Women's Club, at which afternoon and evening classes were held for working women and girls. She also became the Editor of the Women's Newspaper, which appeared weekly. For a long time there was great difficulty in arousing any interest among the public, or even among women, in the work for women's freedom, and it was difficult to secure any funds. In recalling those days only last summer to her friend, Mrs. Sklilova, Miss Krasnohorska said: "It happened very often that the Morning Star found me at my writing table, shivering with cold and excitement, when there was no money for our paper, or when we could not get permission from the Austrian authorities to open 'Minerva.' "'Minerva" was the first High School for Girls in that country, founded as the result of her hard work. Seven years later, when girls were leaving this school, Miss Krasnohorska succeeded with others in getting the doors of the University open to women. She was happy in seeing some of her lifedreams realised—her native country which she loved so dearly became free and independent; women were admitted to all branches of the University (except theology), and the women of her country secured equal voting rights with men at the age of 21. Miss Krasnohorska was a keen student of English literature, and was a great admirer of Mrs. Josephine Butler and Dame Millicent Fawcett.

NEWS FROM NORWAY.

Congratulations to our contemporary, Ny'aende, which entered on its forty-first year on 1st Ja having been founded in 1887 when interest in women's questions was at a low ebb. A Society had been formed, however, three years previously, devoted to women's special interests, and it was felt desirable that it should be furnished with a special organ of its own. The Committee applied to Miss Gina Krog, with the request that she should act as Editor, a request to post till her death in 1916. The paper had no capital at its back, its only capital was ideals, and who shall say that this is not the very best capital to have, in view of these forty years of successful effort, years that show such an enormous improvement in the position of women, who may be said, more perhaps in Norway than in most countries and certainly earlier than in many, to have entered into the inheritance of that "New Land" which gives its name to the gallant little enterprise which is still carrying forward the woman's banner and still "going strong.

WOMEN'S SUCCESSES IN BAR EXAMINATIONS.

The results of the Hilary examination of students of the Inns of Court, conducted by the Council of Legal Education last December, show that the following 17 women were successful, three of them passing the Final Examination :-

Roman Law.-Class 2: Jessie Marguerite Bowie, M.T. Class 3: Enid Mary Russell Russell-Smith, L.I. Constitutional Law and Legal History.—Class 3: Margery Lawrence, I.T.; Enid Rosser, L.I.; Fauline Elinor St. Clair Stephens, L.I.

Criminal Law and Procedure. - Class 2: Marie Angelo Carryer, M.T. Class 3: Lady Ankaret Cecilia Carolyn Howard, I.T.; Lucy Lee, I.T;. Pauline Elinor St. Clair Stephens, L.I.; Harriet Elizabeth Vaizev,

Real Property and Conveyancing .- Class 2: Phyllis Lucy Morgan Blake, G.I.; Louisa Beryl Gruchy, M.T. Dorothy Alice North Lewis, I.T.; Pauline Elinor St. Clair Stephens, L.I.; Lady Ankaret Cecilia Carolyn Howard, I.T.; Marion Alice Warner, G.I.; Marjory Kate Pearson Willison, I.T.

Final Examination.—Class 1: Certificate of Honour, Cynthia Nancy Rachael Gover, M.T. Class 2: Kathleen Anna Burgess, M.T.; Iris De Freitas, I.T.

Wednesday, January 26th, is Call Day at all the Inns

SHOULD WOMEN BE PROTECTED?

In view of the recent debate in Parliament on lead paint in industry and of the Government's Factory Bill, particular interest attaches to a debate, to be held at 92, Victoria Street, on the afternoon of January 27th, under the auspices of the Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations. The speakers will include Miss Doris Stevens, Vice-President of the National Women's Party of America, and Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., and it is expected that the whole case for and against industrial legislation differentiating by sex will be cogently put.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN.

In view of serious cases of molestation that have occurred, head teachers of London schools are being officially advised to warn their pupils on no account to enter into conversation with strangers in the streets, parks, or open spaces. The police are co-operating closely with the London County Council in endeavouring to prevent the molestation of children and to secure the conviction of offenders. If the alleged offender is an adult, head teachers are being instructed to communicate at once both with the local police station and

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 21st, 1927.

EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

WHY WE FIGHT FOR POLITICAL POWER.

We have been told that politics is of less interest to

the young women of to-day than their economic posi-

tion; that in the economic field there is a new spirit

among the younger thinkers, and that the women

especially who are entering the universities and professional life are directing their energies first and foremost to securing equal opportunities and equal rewards with men in the economic life of our country, in order to create a fuller and freer life for all being born into the world. But is not this putting the cart before the horse? Before women were partially enfranchised in this country, comparatively few remunerative avenues of employment were open to women. They had no chance, among other things, of entering the legal profession, of becoming chartered accountants, or of securing higher posts in the Civil Service. Even now women's progress in the economic life of our country, especially the progress of young women, is greatly retarded by the fact that no woman under 30 years of age has any political power. Women in the industrial world are more heavily handicapped than professional women by want of political power. The very great majority of women in industry are under 30 years of age, and voteless. For this reason the Government, with the full acquiescence of women's male competitors, but without troubling to consult women workers, are enabled to pass legislation classing adult women with young persons, determining their hours of labour, preventing them from taking any part in night work, and excluding them altogether from certain avenues of employment, while no such restrictions are placed upon men workers. Because women are only partially enfranchised and have so few women representatives in Parliament, so very, very few of the higher positions in the Civil Service are held by women. Men are pre ferred and promoted in all the man-managed Departments of State. We yield to no one in our efforts to secure for women absolute equality with men in regard to opportunities and rewards in the Civil Service, all the professions, in commerce, and in industry; but we are convinced that such equality or anything approaching it is unattainable until women 'nve first of all equal voting rights with men, and then many more women in Parliament. How would men fare, especially men in the industrial world, if none of them had a Parliamentary vote before the age of 30, and after 30 years of age had all the technical disqualifications that women over 30 now have? Would men not be quite sure that their economic position could only be improved by a more equitable franchise increasing their political power? Would men not use every means in their power to secure it? Again, take women's societies, which are specially and particularly working for equal opportunities and equal pay with men, such as the National Union of Women Teachers and the Federation of Women Civil Servants. Do they undervalue the importance of women's equal political enfranchisement with men? By no means. In the forefront of their programme they place Equal Franchise. We are firmly convinced that we must continue to work first and foremost for equal franchise as the first step towards securing equal opportunities and equal pay for women with men in the economic life of our country. The political inferiority of women is at the basis of their inferiority in our economic life.

EQUAL TREATMENT DEMANDED.

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Professor Winifred Cullis recently protested against the new arrangement in Tube trains, which now have only two non-smoking carriages—one at each end of the train. To the thousands of women who are obliged to travel daily by the Tube, this arrangement is most inconvenient if they really want to escape the heavilyladen smoke atmosphere in all the other carriages. Surely it is time the railway companies recognised that the comfort of their women as well as their men passengers should be catered for! Women, as usual, were not considered, and then the Press, with not the slightest pretence to accuracy, declared that more smoking carriages were necessary because so many more women travellers smoked in them. It is quite true that a great many women smoke at home or at their club, but everyone knows that a woman smoker in the Tube is still a rarity. On the suburban trains, too, there are at least 10 or 12 smoking carriages to one non-smoking carriage, whilst even into this men crowd in numbers and very often insist upon smoking. When will the companies realise that the women who pay the same fares as men have a right to equal consideration with men? Now Hastings has distinguished itself. A Hastings landlord, who wanted to give a supper party to his women customers, was refused an extension of hours by the local magistrates. We do not quarrel with that ruling if it would be extended in a similar way to the landlord's men customers, but the Chief Constable went out of his way to suggest that at 10 o'clock women ought to be in their homes, and the magistrates agreed with him. Could impertinence go further? Then, again, there seem to be an increasing number of public houses displaying the notice, "Ladies Not Admitted." Why this differentiation? If public houses publicly state that they are not fit places for women, then surely they are not fit places for men! Why cannot men and women be treated equally by our laws, our customs, our officials, and the public services which take their money? There is nothing more exasperating to the modern woman than this inferior treatment accorded to members of her sex by all kinds of men, from politicians downwards, and it is none the less, indeed it is even more offensive when it has a "protective" label. Women demand equal treatment with men; they do not ask for favours, will they tolerate special obstacles in their path placed there simply and solely because they are women.

WOMEN INSPECTORS UNDER THE BOARD OF CONTROL.

We are glad to see that the Board of Control has decided to appoint two more women inspectors. There are at present three men inspectors and one woman inspector, the men each receiving from £500 to £800 a year, and the woman, £400 to £650. The salaries the two women now to be appointed will be £500 to £650. For years the Women's Freedom League has urged that there should be Women Inspectors under the Board of Control. It is essential, since there are more women than men in mental hospitals, and the great majority of nurses are women, that there should be women to inspect these hospitals and that women inspectors should be available for making investigations into complaints which may arise in connection with their administration. We urge, also, that there should be more women Commissioners of the Board of Control. At present there are, in addition to the Chairman, Sir F. J. Willis, two unpaid men Commissioners and one unpaid woman Commissioner, Miss R. Darwin; six paid men Commissioners and one paid oman Commissioner, Mrs. E. F. Pinsent. Neither Miss Darwin nor Mrs. Pinsent is a medical woman. Surely there should be fully qualified medical women among the Commissioners of the Board of Control, and the numbers of men and women Commissioners should

WOMEN AND ELECTRICITY.

The recently formed Electrical Association for Women is making enormous strides, and the January issue of its official organ, The Electrical Age, under the able editorship of Miss C. Haslett, is full of the most useful information. Congratulations are offered to one of the members of this Association, Alderman Mrs. Hammer, on her election as Chairman of the Hackney Electricity Committee. Another member, Councillor Mrs. Gregory, is on the West Ham Electricity Committee; and two other members have given evidence before the Advisory Committee set up by the Electricity Commissioners on Domestic Supplies of Electricity and Methods of Charge, this being the first occasion on which the Government had heard the woman's point of view on the Uses of Electricity in

In an article on Electricity in the Schools, we are told that in the new Secondary School for Girls at Brighton a modern electric cooking equipment has been installed in its Domestic Science section, and that this excellent example will in time become a practice in every up-todate Domestic Science Centre, not only because it is necessary that the girls of to-day, who will be the wives of to-morrow, should learn at school the value and uses of electric cooking and other apparatus, but also because there will probably be a demand in the near future for girls trained in Domestic Electrical Science to act as demonstrators and saleswomen in Electric Shops and Showrooms.

Electric Washing Day is the title of a fascinating article. With an Electric Washer "the speed of washing is particularly fast; a tub full of clothes being washed perfectly clean in from six to eight minutes, according to how dirty they are." Add to this the swinging wringer, the electric drier and the electric ironer and the marvellous work they all accomplish with the minimum of human labour, and the drudgery of washing day will give place to a pleasant and

In another article we are told that 98 per cent. of

all American homemakers do their own housework, and in an amazingly short time, thus doing away very largely with the servant problem. This is made possible by the erection of smaller, more compact and step-saving houses, involving less maintenance and service; by the manufacture and installation of more efficient systems of general heating, water supply, lighting and power for household needs; and the adoption of countless electrical labour-savers, which have reduced the effort and time required in the special operations of the home-notably, the electric cooking unit, the power washer, the ironer and vacuum cleaner. How long will it be before the ordinary British housewife has similar advantages? It is curious that, while her husband can only be expected to succeed by the employment of the most up-to-date equipment in office and business, the woman at home is still expected to care for and bring up a modern family under out-ofdate conditions of dreary drudgery. Up till now the housewife has been unable to help herself in the matter, for she has always personally been the poorest member of her class. We hope sincerely that the all-electric flats now being erected for bachelor women in Liverpool and Kensington will come within the reach (and the purse) of thousands of busy women, who would warmly appreciate their cleanliness and easy working.

A visit is described to an all-electric farm at Heathfield, and a delightful description is given of an allelectric house in Switzerland. There is also an extremely interesting article on The Electrical Development of Great Britain, and now that the Electricity (Supply) Act is on the Statute Book, its effect on electrical development in this country is being keenly watched by women of all sections of the community If it can cheapen electricity and make it accessible to us all, it will indeed effect a revolution by driving a wedge between woman and drudgery, and giving us a clean, healthy and spacious civilisation to replace the dirty, unhealthy and congested one in which we now live, move, and have our being.

THE NEED FOR WOMEN POLICE

the Devon Council of Women attended the meeting of the Standing Joint Committee at the Castle of Exeter and urged the importance of engaging women police, their request being that a mobile force of four policewomen should be appointed as the initial step. Lady Florence Cecil, the wife of the Bishop of Exeter, Lady Clinton, and Mrs. Phillips were the speakers, and after some discussion the question was referred to a Committee for report. We have recently heard from Councillor Mrs. F. G. Browne, a member of the City and County of the City of Exeter Watch Committee, that she introduced a similiar deputation to the City Watch Committee on December 30th. The Press was not admitted on this occasion, but Lady Florence, who was unable to attend owing to her husband's illness, wrote, emphasising the usefulness of women police in dealing with offences against women and children. She expressed the earnest hope that the City Council would deal favourably with the suggestion, and this letter appeared in the Press. The Watch Committee intimated that they would give the matter consideration. The chief difficulty in the appointment of women police in Devon is the Chief Constable's opposition to them. He said quite plainly, at the meeting of the Standing Joint Committee, that if one policewoman was appointed he would not know what to do with In reply to this, Councillor Mrs. Browne points out that fully trained and capable women could easily find occupation for themselves, and they would justify their existence in a very short time. Indeed, Mrs. Browne considers that the need for women police is so great that she is sending to every member of the 53,700 policemen! Our firm belief is that only direct

Last December we reported that a departation from Watch Committee the Report of the Departmental Committee on the Employment of Policewomen, presented to Parliament in July, 1924, together with a copy of the report which appeared in The Vote three weeks ago of the letter sent to the Liverpool Press and signed, among others, by the Archbishop of Liverpool and the Bishop of Liverpool, submitting that the experience of the Liverpool Women Police Patrols during the last twelve years had proved the value of their work, and asking for their inclusion with full powers in the Police Force. Mrs. Browne is urging her fellow-members of the Watch Committee to give their full consideration to these reports.

> appointment of Women Police, was considered by the Somerset Joint Committee, but it unanimously decided that there was no justification for the employment of policewomen in the county. In Worcester also the demand for policewomen was dismissed at a meeting of the County Standing Joint Committee, the Chairman remarking: "It would be a great mistake to have a lot of women going about gossiping and saying they were policewomen"! Another member was sure the

A letter from the Home Office, in regard to the

Committee would make an error if they followed the Home Office advice.

All women's organisations are strongly of opinion that more women police should be employed; Departmental Committees have reported in favour of them, and the expressed opinion of the Home Secretary is that more women police should be employed. Despite all this support, there are at present only 137 women police throughout the whole country compared with

legislation on the matter will secure the appointment of women police in all areas. The Municipal Corporations Act enacts that Watch Committees of Borough Councils shall from time to time appoint a sufficient number of fit men to be Borough Constables. We urge that an Amending Bill be passed, enacting that Watch Committees and Standing Joint Committees shall from time to time appoint a sufficient number of fit men and fit women to be constables.

The following is a copy of the Circular sent by the Home Office to Local Authorities and Chief Constables:

Home Office, Whitehall.

Sir,-I am directed by the Secretary of State to advert to the Home Office circular (457,470/26) of the 21st November, 1924, on the subject of the employment of policewomen, and to say that he desires again to bring this matter to the notice of the Police Authority. The Secretary of State recognises that the need for the employment of policewomen depends in the main upon the local conditions of each Force, and in particular the question whether there is a sufficient volume of work of a kind which can most appropriately be performed by women, to justify the appointment of whole-time policewomen in addition to the regular police establishment. The Secretary of State hopes, however, that the Police Authority will not lose sight of the desirability of appointing one or more policewomen where the circumstances justify that course, and he will be glad if they will give the matter their consideration as occasion may offer.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN ANDERSON. 31st December, 1926.

Dame Louisa Aldrich-Blake. By Lord Riddell. (Hodder & Stoughton.) Price 6s. net. (Can be obtained from this Office.)

The object of this short biography by a distinguished writer is to reveal Dame Louisa's personality, "to show what she was as well as what she did," as seen through the eyes of a man friend and colleague for many years in public work, "as a token of admiration for a remarkable woman."

We are shown, among the chief influences in moulding a character where truth, kindness, courage and industry stand four-square, the rather stern, fair-minded and truth-loving father, the Rev. Frederick Aldrich-Blakeas particular for the development of his girls as of his boys, teaching Euclid to little Louisa at an early age because "few women reason well," and, later on, furthering her wish to become a surgeon by giving her the best general and professional education to be hadthe gentle mother devoted to her children, unselfish, sympathetic and determined, and the beautiful, lonely country home at Welsh Bicknor, on the Wye, where the six children ran wild, growing strong in body and mind, quick of eye, ready of hand, with perfectly balanced nervous systems, fearless riders and swimmers, skilled in navigating the treacherous river, capable veterinary surgeons, horse-breakers, carpenters and Two sayings of the child Louisa are gardeners. Two sayings of the child Louisa are recorded: "When you start a thing you must finish it " (the setting of a fierce-beaked hawk's broken wing) and "It is better to talk about what you like than about what you don't like.'

At 16, Louisa went for a time to a fashionable school at Great Malvern, "where the art of deportment ranked high," and later to Neuchatel, where her father had lived as a lad, helping the surgeons in the hospitals with the terrible operations of pre-anæsthetic days

In 1886, she matriculated and entered St. Hilda's, Cheltenham. Here she was popular, her friends called "Harry," and were proud of her strength and skill in boxing and cricket; her constant aim was for perfection in things small or big. She ever after had a warm affection for the College.

In 1887, Miss Aldrich-Blake with eight other students entered the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women, the beginning of a lifelong association. "At this time she was fair and fresh-coloured, the very picture of health and strength. Her blue-grey eyes, under the broad, level brow, were honest, keen Royal Academy Portrait, painted in 1921. E. K.

and dauntless. Work was all-absorbing and no burden." Sound judgment and critical acumen characterised her; she refused to give an opinion without reflection, so her opinions always carried weight.

She became a surgeon primarily because she loved it, and in the second place because she liked work and it was a useful thing to do, and having decided on her goal, she spared no pains in obtaining the best possible

With her keen intellect, industry and wonderful memory, her hospital life was a brilliant record of prizes and honours; she qualified in 1892, "never having had as much as a headache in her life," and three years later became the first woman Master in Surgery of the London University.

The next twenty years were spent in almost continuous surgical work, as the first woman Anæsthetist, the first woman Surgical Registrar and Consulting Surgeon at the Royal Free Hospital, as Assistant Surgeon, Surgeon, and Senior Surgeon at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital and on the staff of Canning Town Women's Settlement Hospital, as well as in a large private practice. Her patients trusted her at sight, and entered upon their operations with serene courage and hope; she was never tired, though often operating for eight or nine hours at a time, and no trouble was ever too much to take for any patient.

In an address at the opening of the School of Medicine in 1900 she emphasised the importance of character even more than of intellect—character including truth of accurate thinking as well as right speaking

From 1914 till her death in 1925, Miss Aldrich-Blake held the position of Dean of her Medical School, her chief object being to improve the technical education of the students. She was an able administrator, kind and accessible to all, enjoyed business, and was never bored by Committees, even when they numbered over 200 a year. The finances of the School she put in order, taking lessons in accountancy for this object, and she was also Treasurer of the Medical Women's Federation. The size of the School was doubled, the beds at the Royal Free Hospital increased from 165 to 248, and the Midwifery Unit was founded.

During the war the great surgeon longed to serve abroad, but her place at the School and the Hospitals was impossible to fill. She acted also as Visiting Surgeon to the W.A.A.C. Hospital at Isleworth and the Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, and, at the request of the Government, mobilised the British Medical Women, visiting on short holidays the Women's Unit at Cherbourg and the Anglo-French Red Cross Hospital, Royaumont.

As Dean of the London School and so an ambassador of women doctors, she was quiet and conciliatory, giving her opinion with modesty, reserve and dignity. Her mind was judicial. "She would have made an excellent judge," wise both with knowledge and intuition; jealousy and prejudice never affected her.

The D.B.E., bestowed in January, 1925, pleased her much, and was welcomed by all her friends as a recognition of her splendid work. Two years before her death Dame Louisa was stricken with a mortal disease, but with her outstanding courage, she "never discussed it with her friends, with characteristic fortitude dismissed it from her mind, and went on with her work until a few days before her death. The last and perhaps the greatest of her achievements was the self-conquest that enabled her to bow to the inevitable without bitterness, and on December 28th, 1925, at 17, Nottingham Place, the gallant and great lady met death with the same serenity and reserve with which she had encountered life."

The delightful portraits and photographs of this little volume are an essential and most welcome part of it: the beautiful home at lovely Welsh Bicknor, the young medical student of 22, the Royal Free Hospital, the London (R.F.H.) School of Medicine for Women, the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, the Dean in 1912 and 1924, and the reproduction of Sir William Orpen's

Women's Freedom League.

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



Wednesday, January 26th, at 8 p.m. Hampstead Branch. Social Gathering at the Isis Club, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue, N.W.3 (by kind invitation of Mrs. Harverson). Speaker: Commandant Mary Allen. Chair: Mrs. Wynne Nevinson, J.P., L.L.A. All friends of the

Monday, February 7th, at 8.15 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Minerva
Club Branch. Public Meeting at Minerva Club, DARE TO BE FREE. Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

Friday, February 11th, at 5.30 p.m.
Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.
Friday, February 11th, at 8.15 p.m.

Friday, February 11th, at 8.15 p.m.

Reception to Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1, informal dinner at 7.30 p.m. Tickets 3/6.

Saturday, February 12th, at 10 a.m.

National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Thursday, February 17th, at 8 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Hampstead Branch. Public Meeting in the Small Town Hall, Haverstock Hill, N.W.3. Speakers:

Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, Mrs. Costello (Conservative and Unionist Women's Advisory Committee), Miss. Pierotti (National Union of Women Teachers) Miss Myra Sadd Brown. Chairman: of Women Teachers), Miss Myra Sadd Brown. Chairman:

Monday, February 21st, at 3.30 p.m.

"Fair" Sub-Committee, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.
Tuesday, March 8th, at 7.30 p.m. uescay, March 8th, at 1.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign, Public Meeting at the Central
Library, Holloway Road, N. Speakers: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence,

PROVINCES.

Monday, January 31st.

Wednesday, January 26th, 4—6 p.m.
Bexhill Branch. Whist Drive at the Albany Hotel.
Monday, February 7th, 4—6 p.m.
Hastings Branch. Whist Drive at the Glenroyde permission of Mrs. Sparkss). Drive at the Glenroyde Hotel (by kind

Thursda , February 24th, at 8 p.m. Hastings Branch. Public Meeting in the Ball-room at the Queen's Hotel. Speaker : Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence. SCOTLAND.

Dunoon Branch. Public Meeting. Speakers: Miss Eunice Muray, Bailie Millar, Councillor Mrs. MacPherson. Chair: The Provost of Dunoon.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

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

Speech Club. Debate: "That in the opinion of this meeting Foxhunting should be abolished." At the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

Wednesday, January 26th, at 6.15 p.m.

Women's International League. Conference on "The Adoption of Computation of Additional Page 18 p.m.

Compulsory All-in Arbitration by Great Britain." At the Friends
House, Euston Road. Speaker: Mr. W. Arnold-Forster. Chairman: Miss K. D. Courtney.

Miss K. D. Courtney.
Thursday, January 27th, at 8 p.m.
Kingsway Hail, W.C.2. Debate: "On the Menace of the Leisured
Woman." Between Lady Rhondda and Mr. G. K. Chesterion. Woman." Between Lady Rhond Chairman: Mr. G. Bernard Shaw.

Friday, January 28th, at 8 p.m.

Demonstration for Equal Franchiss (organised by the N.U.S.E.C.), the Central Hall, Edinburgh.

Sunday, January 30th, at 11 a.m.

Hampshire House Discussion Circle, Hog Lane, King Street,

Hamme smith. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood. Subject: "The

Aims and Work of the Women's Freedom League."

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

Fabian Women's Group. Lecture at the Parliamen'ary Labour (lub, 11, fufton Street, Westminster, on "The Need for More Sanitary Inspectors," by Miss M. E. Davies (Public Health Department, Borough of Poplar).

PUBLIC SPEAKING.

Miss Lucy Bell is resuming her classes in Public Speaking at the Mirerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1, this week. The programme of the Speech Club for the coming session, which meets Saturday afternoons, is an excellent one. The Parliament Act of 1911 is to be defended and opposed; a Confidence Vote in the present Government is to be put to the test; Family Endowment, Trades Unions, and Citizenship are to be discussed; lectures are to be given on the modern Englishwoman in Art, Business, etc., and at one meeting Five-Minute Speeches will be invited on "The Book I most enjoyed during the past twelve months,"

BRANCH NOTES.

HAMPSTEAD

A Members' Meeting was held, by kind invitation of Miss Lyndon, at 53, Willow Road, N.W.3, on Monday, January 10th, Dr. Knight presiding. A letter was read from the Town Clerk, re the delay in commencing the building of the Flats in Sherriff Road; and a further letter was read, from Mr. Frank Howard, L.C.C., giving particulars of the L.C.C. Housing Scheme at Edgware. Arrangements were made for the meeting for Equal Political Rights, at the small Town Hall, Haverstock Hill, N.W.3, on February 17th, at 8 p.m. It was decided to send a delegate to the Annual Conference at the Caxton Hall in April, and resolutions on various subjects were considered and passed. Members and friends are reminded that they should make a point of being present at our Annual Social Gathering, which is being held by kind invitation of Mrs. Haverson, at the Isis Club, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue, N.W.3, on Wednesday, January 26th, at 8 p.m., when Commandant Mary Allen will speak on the present position of Women Police in this country and on the Continent. Mrs. Wynne Nevinson, J.P., L.L.A., will preside, and songs and recitations will be given by Miss Joan Dunsford (whose delightful recitations at our Fair last November amused so many of our members). The Isis Club is only three minutes' walk from Hampstead Tube Station, and therefore easy of access from all parts of London. Hon. Sec., Miss E. Berry, 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

GLASGOW.

Miss Eunice Murray presided at a very well attended Whist Drive and Cake and Candy Sale, held in the Athenæum last Saturday night, which resulted in a nice profit for the local branch. In the course of a few remarks, asking people to join and support the Women's Freedom League, Miss Murray drew attention to two meetings which are to take place in the near future, one at which Miss Nina Boyle will be the speaker, on about February 16th, and the other with Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, early in March. On the former occasion, the fate of the shawl which Miss Murray has embroidered, and in connection with which Miss Auguray denations. On the former occasion, the fate of the shawl which Miss Murray has embroidered, and in connection with which many donations of is, have been received, will be made known. Many thanks to all who helped by bringing to or buying from the Cake and Candy stall, and by taking tickets and sending donations towards the expenses. Bailie Mrs. Bell proposed a vote of thanks, which all heartily supported, to Miss Eunice Murray for all she had done and is doing to make the Glasgow branch a success.

(Organiser) Lilian Lenton.

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS.

As an outcome of the meeting organised by St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance in St. Marylebone on December 6th, on January 13th the Attorney-General, Sir Douglas Hogg, was waited on by a deputation of his constituents:—Councillor Mrs. V. M. Crawford, Dr. Elizabeth Jacobs (Under Thirties), Dr. Octavia Lewin (W.F.L.), Miss Nancy Lightman (N.U.W.T.), Miss Helen A. Ward (N.U.S.E.C.), Miss Florence Barry (St. Joan's S.P.A.), and Mrs. Young (Young Suffragists).

Councillor Mrs. V. M. Crawford, in the name of the deputation demanded the inclusion of a measure giving votes to women at 21 and on the same terms as men, in the King's Speech, and stressed the urgency of immediate legislation if the Prime Minister's pledge for "Equal political rights at the next election?" was to be fulfilled.

Miss Helen Ward pointed out how many young working women, Miss Helen Ward pointed out how many young working women, finding no constitutional scope, were being drawn into the Communist Party. Miss Nancy Lightman dealt with the bogey that an increase in women voters would put the country wholly into the hands of women. Dr. Elizabeth Jacobs, as an "under thirty," showed up the absurdity of a state of affairs in which she who had the responsibility, both of motherhood and of a large medical practice, was yet denied the right to vote.

Sir Douglas Hogg, in reply, said that he did not know what the Government was going to do, but that the subject of the alteration of the franchise was receiving its attention, and that, therefore, as a member of the Cabinet, it would be improper for him to make any statement.

SYSTEM OF FIXING MINIMUM WAGES.

A Conference, arranged by the League of Nations Union, will be held at the London School of Economics, Aldwych, W.C., February 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th, to discuss Systems of Fixing Minimum Wages and Methods of Conciliation and Arbitration. The Trade Boards Systems will be the subject of the Morning Session on February 1st, and among the speakers will be Miss Constance Smith, O.B.E., Miss Gertrude Tuckwell, J.P., and Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P. In the afternoon of February 2nd, Miss Dorothy Elliott (National Union of General and Municipal Workers) will be one of the speakers on Joint Industrial Councils—Proposals for Reorganisation, and on the afternoon of February —Proposals for Reorganisation, and on the afternoon of February 3rd, Miss Annie Ashley, M.A., will be one of the speakers on Conciliation Schemes. "Systems of Fixing Minimum Wages" is the subject to be discussed by the International Labour Conference, League of Nations, at its 1927 Session,

JAN. 21, 1927.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1.
Sunday, January 23rd, 1927. 3.30. Music.
Lecture. S. N. Mallik, Esq. 6.30. Maude
Royden: "To him that overcometh."

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OF INTEREST TO WOMEN CITIZENS.—The Edward Wright and Cavendish-Bentinck Library contains sections on current political and social problems, including the Woman's Movement, Family Allowances, and League of Nations. Book Boxes of 20 books available for Study Circles. — Apply Librarian, N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster.

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