

THE VOTE,  
MAY 11, 1923  
ONE PENNY.

FIRST WOMAN STOCKBROKER.

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, MAY 11, 1923

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

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## THE ROME CONGRESS.

The Ninth Convention of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, which opens at Rome to-morrow (Saturday) and ends the same day of the following week, is likely to be one of the most interesting, and the most fruitful of results, yet held. Previous Congresses have been held in Berlin, London, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Christiania, Stockholm, Budapest, and Geneva, but this year's Congress is the first to receive a personal greeting from the Prime Minister of the country in which the gathering takes place. In the present case, too, the greeting has been coupled with an assurance of Signor Mussolini's sympathy with our objects, and of his intention of taking practical steps to carry them out. Another notable feature of the Rome Congress will be the presence of women delegates from the East, from China, Japan, Egypt, and Palestine, where no franchise yet exists for women, and from Bombay, Madras, Travancore, the North-West Provinces, and Burma, where women are newly enfranchised.

Eight Governments, so far, have appointed official delegates to represent them at the Rome Congress. They are the Governments of Czecho-Slovakia, Esthonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Portugal, and Sweden. It is hoped that other Governments will appoint official delegates before the Congress actually opens, including, of course, Great Britain, from whom no definite reply has yet been received up to the date of going to press. Family illness, in the case of Lady Astor, and pressure of work, in the case of Mrs. Wintringham, will, unfortunately, prevent either of our two women M.P.s from being present at Rome. It will be remembered that at the Geneva Congress, in 1921, Great Britain appointed Lady Astor as official delegate. Other countries, however, are sending a goodly muster of women M.P.s to Rome, including Miss Annie Furuholm, M.P., the pioneer woman M.P. of the world.

Four burning topics will be discussed at the Rome Congress. Equal Pay and Right to Work, under the chairmanship of Dr. M. Ancona (Italy), will include discussion on women's pay and opportunities in all countries, under the headings, Industrial, Civil Service, and Professional, including laws preventing women's

work in trade, the legal profession, civil service, etc. Moral Questions, presided over by Mme. de Witt Schlumberger (France), will include consideration of the equal moral standard in connection with recent legislation on the compulsory notification and treatment for venereal disease, self-disinfection, and ablution centres. Nationality of Married Women, under the chairmanship of Miss Chrystal Macmillan (Great Britain) deals with Bills proposing to give married women the right to their own nationality in the Parliaments of Canada, France, Germany, and Great Britain, and will include the discussion of a draft international agreement to be submitted to the Governments of all nations. Maintenance of Motherhood and the Illegitimate Child, presided over by Miss Eleanor Rathbone (Great Britain), will include reports from many countries on maintenance and its legal enforcements; the right of wives to a share of their husband's income; State or municipal allowances for mothers and widows; and the position of the illegitimate child in relation to its parents and the State. Other resolutions include one from Great Britain urging the League of Nations to set up a Commission of Investigation, consisting of an equal number of men and women, to inquire into the various forms of slavery and quasi-slavery which exist in the world to-day. France urges all women to unite against war. Roumania asks for the establishment of an international woman's political party.

The British contingent to Rome is of special interest this year, as it includes enthusiastic delegations from many of the British Dominions, more especially Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. To all these representatives from our Overseas Dominions, and the delegates from the various British women's societies, including our own Women's Freedom League delegation, Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., our Hon. Organising Secretary, Miss F. A. Underwood, our General Secretary, Mrs. Yates (Blackpool) and Mrs. Spiller (Geneva), our alternates, we send our cordial hopes and good wishes for a fruitful Conference, and subsequent furthering of the Woman's cause in the unenfranchised and other countries.



## IN PARLIAMENT.

### Census Returns.

Replying to MR. SNOWDEN (Colne Valley), MR. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN said that complete 1921 Census returns were not as yet available, and no Census was taken in 1921 in Ireland. On an approximate estimate, however, the total number of persons aged 21 years and over in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the 1921 Census might be taken as approaching 30 millions, comprising about 13½ million men and over 16 million women.

### Juveniles.

MR. GRAHAM WHITE (E. Birkenhead) asked the Minister of Labour if his attention had been drawn to the fact that some employers of juveniles made a practice of dismissing them when they reached the age of 16, and of replacing them by boys or girls who had just left school; and, if so, what steps he proposed to take to discourage that practice? SIR MONTAGUE BARLOW said he had no evidence that the practice referred to was at all general, and for obvious reasons it would be difficult to deal with by means of official action. The Juvenile Employment Committees, however, which existed in most of the larger towns were well qualified to take such action as was likely to be useful by way of persuasion and advice.

### Women Police.

MR. FOOR (Bodmin) asked the Home Secretary the number of police authorities throughout the country who employed women police? MR. BRIDGEMAN replied that at the date of the last available returns (September 29th last) women police were employed in the Metropolitan Police district, five counties, and 26 boroughs. Particulars were given in the Report of His Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary, which had just been published.

### Temporary Officers (Committee).

Replying to CAPT. FOXCROFT (Bath), MR. BALDWIN said that the members of the Committee which is to inquire into the case of Lytton entrants were as follows: Lord Southborough (Chairman), Lt.-Com. F. W. Astbury, M.P. (Salford, W.), Mrs. W. L. Courtney, O.B.E., G. W. S. Jarrett, Esq., M.P. (Dartford), F. Martin, Esq., M.P. (Aberdeen), G. Middleton, Esq., M.P. (Carlisle), Major A. C. Morrison-Bell, M.P. (Honiton), A. A. Somerville, Esq., M.P. (Windsor), Lt.-Col. H. Spender-Clay, M.P. (Tonbridge), Dame Meriel Talbot, D.B.E., and R. Young, Esq., M.P. (Newton)—ten men and two women!

### Women in Government Offices.

MR. BRIANT (N. Lambeth) asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury whether the principals of the women staff in the Admiralty, the Inland Revenue, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the Public Trustee Office were acting as women establishment officers; and, if so, whether they were consulted on all questions affecting the allocation of work as between men and women, the desirability or otherwise of appointing women to vacancies hitherto held by men, and on all questions of policy arising out of the interpretation of Clause 2 of the Resolution of the House on August 5th, 1921? MAJOR BOYD-CARPENTER replied that it was not possible, within the limits of question and answer, to enter into a detailed description of the duties of individual officers. He understood, however, that, while the wide differences of function and organisation of the four Departments concerned ruled out anything like a standardised set of duties of the principals of women staff, the answer to both parts of the question was, broadly speaking, in the affirmative.

### Ministry of Labour (Women).

Replying to MR. J. DAVISON (Smethwick), SIR MONTAGUE BARLOW said that no inducement was offered to permanent women officers of the Ministry of

Labour to leave the Ministry's service for the purpose of enrolling for overseas service. The Ministry of Labour was required to undertake important special duties connected with the prosecution of the war; and, in addition to the extra work devolving on the women staff in connection with the recruitment of the various women's corps and for munitions, the trained women officers were also required to take the place of the men released for military duty.

### Law Officers' Fees.

MR. HAYES (Edge Hill) asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what scale the Law officers of the Crown received fees in addition to their salaries; and what was the amount received by them for the last twelve months for which the figures were available? MR. BALDWIN replied that the scale of fees was set out in a Treasury Minute dated July 5th, 1895, which the hon. Member would find in House of Commons Paper 431, Sess. 2 of 1895. The latest year for which the figures asked for in the second part of the question were available was 1921 and 1922, and the fees paid were:—Attorney-General, £24,170 13s. 2d.; Solicitor-General, £9,723 17s. MR. BALDWIN added that, owing to Prize Court and other war work, that was an exceptional year, and the average for the last ten years (including 1921-22) was: Attorney-General, £13,091 4s. 3d.; Solicitor-General, £8,486 10s. 4d. (The Attorney-General's salary is £7,000 a year, and the Solicitor-General's £6,000!)

### Certificated Teachers (Marriage Disqualification).

MR. FOOR asked the President of the Board of Education if there were any statistics available showing the number of local authorities who make marriage a disqualification for employment as certificated teachers? MR. WOOD said he regretted that he possessed no official statistics on that point.

### Teachers (Pay).

MR. FOOR asked the President of the Board of Education if there were any statistics available showing the number of certificated teachers who were employed at the rate of pay of uncertificated teachers. MR. WOOD said he regretted that he did not possess the information asked for. MR. FOOR asked if the President of the Board of Education was aware that there had been an increase in the number of certificated teachers who were being employed at uncertificated rates of pay, and was that the general tendency throughout the country? MR. WOOD said he did not think so, but he was not in possession of sufficient information to say definitely. MR. SHORT (Windsor) inquired if the right hon. Gentleman would get that information and make it available to the House? MR. WOOD said he could not do that without imposing elaborate labour on the local authorities. MR. FOOR inquired if the right hon. Gentleman was aware that the question could be put to the local authorities, and that they could give the answer immediately? *No answer was given.*

### Teachers, Glasgow.

MR. MAXTON (Bridgeton) asked the Under-Secretary to the Scottish Board of Health the total number of teachers employed under the Glasgow Education Authority in the year 1919, and the number employed in the present year; and how many of them were University graduates, certificated teachers, and uncertificated teachers in each year? CAPT. ELLIOT replied that the particulars desired were as follow:—

1. Certificated Teachers—	1919.	1923.
(a) University Graduates ...	958	1,093
(b) Non-Graduates ...	3,857	3,522
2. Uncertificated Teachers ...	26	15
Total ...	4,841	4,630

F. A. U.

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

### Women and Stockbroking.

Miss D. E. Mortimer, of Exeter, who is the first woman stockbroker in the United Kingdom to be admitted a member of the Stockbrokers' Association, attributes her success to the fact that stockbroking is hereditary in the family. She began in the office of her late father soon after leaving school, and when later the war made demands on the office staff, and her father was in ill-health, she took seriously to the business.

For the first time a woman has made her appearance on the Amsterdam Stock Exchange. She is Mlle. H. W. Deterding, representing an Amsterdam firm of stockbrokers.

### Women Foundry Owners.

Two Birmingham women, Miss C. Griff, Associate Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers, and Miss C. Davis, are setting up in business with a foundry, which will specialise in stainless and non-corrosive fittings, mainly for the home. Miss Griff has had a practical as well as a scientific training as an engineer. She has been through all the shops. In the war she was aviation production officer at Vickers' works. Miss Griff is also an automobile and general consulting engineer, and is an associate member of the Institute of Automobile Engineers. Miss Davis was formerly a foundry manager in the Midlands.

### Indian Women's Education.

The returns of the Census of India of 1921 show a general advance in literacy among women during the decade. In Baroda, the proportion per 10,000 of women able to read and write has advanced from 205 in 1911 to 403 in 1921, and substantial improvement is also seen in Mysore and the States of Cochin and Travancore. In British India the number of female scholars in colleges and schools rose by over 50 per cent. between 1911 and 1919, against a rise of 21 per cent. of males. Throughout India the number of literate women over 20 is 23 per thousand, against 13 in 1911.

### Daughter as Counsel.

The first woman barrister to appear in the King's Bench Division, Miss E. M. Wheeler, acted last week as junior to Mr. St. John Raikes, K.C., in a test rating appeal brought by her father, Mr. George G. G. Wheeler, solicitor, of St. Ives, Huntingdonshire. The appeal was heard by three judges, presided over by the Lord Chief Justice.

### Nursing Movement in India.

The Lady Reading Nursing Association has made a promising beginning in Delhi. The small staff of Indian nurses engaged are already being applied for by Indian practitioners, and their work is greatly appreciated by patients and doctors. It is a notable fact that all the Lady Reading nurses and students in the Lady Hardinge College Hospital volunteered for relief work in the present serious outbreak of plague in Delhi.

### Women Delegates at Rome Congress.

Women Members of Parliament, doctors, barristers, solicitors, professors of music and singing, writers, teachers, women engaged in trade and commerce, in fact, women of all creeds, classes, and professions, will be among the women delegates coming from every corner of the globe for the I.W.S.A. Congress at Rome, May 12th-19th.

### Woman M.P. for Berwick?

The Berwick Division Unionist Association last week unanimously adopted Mrs. Philipson as Conservative candidate for Berwick in the forthcoming by-election necessitated by the unseating on petition of her husband, a National Liberal. Before her marriage, Mrs. Philipson was Miss Mabel Russell, the well-known actress.

### Woman Sanitary Inspector.

Miss Annie Elliott, chief woman sanitary inspector, has retired on a pension from service with Southwark Borough Council, after 26 years' service.

### The Housewives' Campaign.

Lady Astor has written to Mrs. Juson Kerr, President of the Deal Housewives' Union, supporting the local campaign against tea and sugar duties, and their consequent high prices. Mrs. Kerr, who is in communication with other M.P.s, says she is now receiving offers of help and support from women's societies in all parts of the country.

### Educational Reform in Italy.

Signor Gentile, Minister of Education in Italy, has included in his programme of reform the eligibility of women as professors and teachers in the training colleges. They were excluded from this function by the law of July, 1919, which declared women ineligible to hold a public appointment.

### Portuguese Women and Property.

Dr. Alranches Ferrão, Minister of Justice and Director of the Faculty of Law at Lisbon, is a keen Feminist, and is working very hard in his own country to reform the present law which would deprive a married woman of the personal administration of her own property.

### State Domestic in Switzerland.

In many parts of Switzerland they are solving the domestic problem by making domestic training compulsory for girls of all classes, just as military training is compulsory for youths.

### Conscript Women.

The Military Committee of the Polish Parliament, says an Exchange message from Copenhagen, has decided, in connection with the new Military Service Bill, that women are to be liable to render military assistance between the ages of 20 and 40.

### First Woman Glider.

At the gliding contest to be held at Vauville, one of the machines will be piloted by a woman. Mlle. Adrienne Boland is well known as an experienced pilot, and, in preparation for the Vauville meeting, is beginning a special course of training on an aeroplane with the engine shut off.

### Mrs. Snowden's Mission.

Mrs. Philip Snowden has sailed from London for Palestine to inquire into the working of the British mandate. She will be the guest of Sir Herbert and Lady Samuel at Jerusalem.

### A Plucky Act.

Mrs. Alice Woodward's plucky action in stopping a pair of runaway horses has won her the distinction of being the first woman to receive the Safety First Council's badge and diploma for pluck in averting an accident.

### Married v. Single.

Owing to the difficulty of securing satisfactory single women, the L.C.C. Hospitals Committee recommends the employment of married women as cook and maid at a lunatic asylum.

### Women's Peace Committee.

A new Committee, representing all classes of women, has been established in Holland to mobilise public opinion in favour of universal peace.

### Women M.P.'s Telephone.

A telephone has been placed in the lady Members' room of the House of Commons for the use of Lady Astor and Mrs. Wintringham.

### Canadian Women Voters.

Women voters in Canada cast 50 per cent. of the votes in the North Essex by-election. In the urban districts, 60 per cent. of the voters were women.

### Miss Nethersole's Appointment.

Miss Olga Nethersole has been appointed to the Women's Advisory Council of the League of Nations Union.



## THE VOTE.

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### 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.

## WOMEN AND PRISONS.

Last week Mr Briant asked the Home Secretary if there were any women inspectors of prisons, women medical inspectors of prisons, and women commissioners; and, in view of the very large number of women in various penal institutions, if he would make appointments of persons of their own sex to those positions? The Home Secretary replied that there were no women holding any of those appointments, but added that a woman had been appointed Governor of Aylesbury Borstal Institution, that many women magistrates served on the Visiting Committees of local prisons, and 1,098 women acted as unofficial visitors to the women in prisons and similar institutions—all unpaid posts, our readers will note, with the exception of that of Miss Barker. Mr. Briant then asked Mr. Bridgeman if he did not think it time, in respect of those positions of enormous responsibility, that women should be made equally responsible with men? The Home Secretary said the difficulty was that there was no such equality between men and women prisoners, and, therefore, they could not very well make equal arrangements for a small number of women and a large number of men. In view of the Home Secretary's attitude in regard to this question, it is as well to consider all the facts of the case. It is true that there are fewer women prisoners than men, the women in local prisons numbering last year 12,604, and the men 54,000. There are seventeen women's prisons in the country, and one Borstal institution for girls between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one at Aylesbury, the inmates of which last year numbered on an average 167. Miss Lilian Barker has just been appointed Governor of this Borstal Institution at Aylesbury; but at Holloway, the women's convict prison at Liverpool, and at all the other women's prisons there is a man governor in charge of the women; and the deputy-governors are also men. We have also to remember that, although there are over twelve thousand women prisoners, there is no woman Prison Commissioner. The present Prison Commissioners consist of a man Chairman, who receives £1,500 a year, two other men, who get from £1,000 to 1,200 a year, and a Director of Convict Prisons, who is unpaid. We urge that our Prison Commission should consist of women as well as men, not only for the sake of women prisoners, but also for the sake of men prisoners. There is at present no woman Inspector of Prisons. Dr. Mary Gordon was appointed by Mr. Herbert Gladstone as an Inspector of Prisons in 1909, and kept the appointment until she was of pensionable age, retiring in 1921. On grounds of economy, no one has since been appointed to her post, although her salary was only £300-£400 a year! Now compare her salary with the salaries received by her contemporary men Prison Inspectors! There were three men who each had from £700 to £800 a year; a Chaplain Inspector, who had £600 to £700; an Assistant Medical Inspector, who had £680 (this gentleman has recently become a Prison Commissioner); and at the same time four first-class clerks under the Prison Commission were receiving from £350 to £500 a year! In face of these facts, we reiterate with emphasis our demand for women Prison Commissioners, a woman Medical Inspector of Prisons, women Inspectors of Prisons, and women Governors and women Deputy Governors for all women's prisons and women's sections of prisons.

## SEX DISQUALIFICATION (REMOVAL) ACT.

So far as the action brought by Mrs. Price and 57 other married women teachers against the Rhondda Urban District Council for dismissal is concerned, the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill has proved a dead letter. On behalf of the women, Mr. Gover, K.C., submitted that the notices were not of sufficient length, and were not in correct form; that they were given on grounds which were *ultra vires*, or on grounds which the Council could not take into consideration, and that they were contrary to public policy as being in restraint of marriage, and in breach of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919. In giving judgment against the women, with costs, Mr. Justice Eve completely ignored the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act. We cannot say that it had been pressed very much by the women's Counsel, while the Counsel for defendants argued that the case was one merely of contractual right, a contract of employment between employer and employed. In giving judgment, Mr. Justice Eve said that he had only to decide between two contending persons whether the authority had acted honestly in the exercise of their powers, and the result was that he could not hold the dismissals to be otherwise than within the statutory powers of that body. Whatever Mr. Justice Eve's ruling in this matter, the fact remains that these 58 women were dismissed from their posts because they were married women, and Clause I. of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919, enacts that 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. If this Act can be utterly ignored by our Judges, and set aside by local governing authorities with impunity, of what value is it to women? In regard to the position of married women, it has proved to be nothing beyond a sham, a delusion, and a snare.

## WOMEN'S APPETITES!

An old argument against women receiving equal pay with men for similar services is that women do not need so much as men, that they don't eat so much! It is therefore rather curious to find that in the House of Commons dining rooms, women's meals cost more than men's. At the present time a Member can get a 2s. 6d. dinner for a male guest in the strangers' dining room, but in the ladies' dining room the charge for a guest is 5s. 6d. Mr. Ponsonby brought this "prandial inequality of the sexes" to the notice of the Chairman of the Kitchen Committee in the House of Commons last week, and we understand that arrangements are now being made to provide a 3s. 6d. dinner for women guests.

A more serious inequality in its effect on women was revealed in Sir Montague Barlow's reply to Captain Terrell's inquiry as to the amount of the weekly rates of benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Act, which are as follow:—Men—15s. (with 5s. for a dependent wife, and 1s. for each dependent child under 14, or, in certain cases, 16 years of age). Women—12s. Boys under 18, 7s. 6d. Girls under 18, 6s. We know that the contributions of insured men are slightly higher than those of insured women, and when these contributions were under discussion we urged that they should be equal, so that the benefits would be equal; but the weight of opinion in the House was that, because the ordinary woman worker always received less wages than the ordinary man worker, she could not afford to pay the amount of his contributions. So women continue in a vicious circle. At the present time unemployment amongst women in this country is on the increase, whilst amongst men it is on the decrease—so many women are still being displaced in Government and other offices, and in so many branches of industry, to make way for unemployed men! And unemployed women cost the country less than unemployed men, at any rate so far as unemployment benefit is concerned. They certainly cannot afford to eat as much as unemployed men.

## WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Women Councillors, Poor Law Guardians, and magistrates were present at Manchester on April 25th and 26th, at the two days' Conference convened by the Women's Local Government Society and the Manchester Women Citizens' Association.

The paper read by Mr. Spurley Hey, Director of Education, Manchester, after paying a warm tribute to the work of women in educational administration, and indicating that their intuition, instinct, and vision are special gifts too seldom brought to bear upon educational problems, turned out to be a vigorous protest against the increasingly parsimonious control of education by the Treasury, over the heads alike of the Board of Education and the local authorities.

Miss Burstall, Head of the Manchester Girls' High School, and a member of the Manchester Education Committee, in the discussion on this paper, said: "The only remedy lies in the force of public opinion. That is why such a conference of influential persons as this is of such value." Especially in the secondary schools the work was cramped and injured by curricular regulations, examinations, and conditions that spoil the teachers' efforts, and, further, the results were being wasted by the failure of the State to provide scholarships which would carry on at the universities the achievements of the schools.

Miss Bertha Mason, President of the Women's Local Government Society, urged women members of local authorities to work for the exercise by those bodies of their legal powers to repress the smoke nuisance. Complaints were heard as to the prohibitive cost of either gas or electricity for domestic heating purposes, and the impossibility of finding a smokeless solid fuel.

Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., said the smoke nuisance contributed to the high infantile mortality in the town. The men never grumbled. They liked to see the smoke, because they said it meant money was being made; but it was a sad stage of civilisation when the poisoning of the atmosphere was taken as a sign of prosperity.

Miss A. Churton, Secretary of the Association of Women House Property Managers, read a paper on

## THE ASSOCIATION FOR MORAL & SOCIAL HYGIENE.

### ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING.

The annual public meeting of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene was held at the Central Y.M.C.A. on April 26th, and was presided over by Mrs. Wintringham, M.P.

Mrs. Wintringham expressed her pleasure at taking the Chair, as it gave her an opportunity of showing her appreciation of the Society's work, which constantly supplied Lady Astor and herself with necessary information for their legislative work in the House of Commons. The Society had been of special assistance in the question of Women Police, and in legislation connected with the Criminal Law Amendment Act. Its influence had also been felt as far as Geneva, in connection with the League of Nations Commission on the Traffic in Women and Children.

Commander Haslewood, well known for his self-sacrificing efforts on behalf of the recent abolition of the system of child slavery in Hong Kong, said that during the last year two highly important and far-reaching reforms had taken place in the East. One was a Bill regulating child labour, and the other a Bill abolishing child slavery. There was a close connection between these two reforms. The whole system of child slavery was centred on the sale and purchase of young girls, although the Government had denied this in the past. Numbers of these girls, provided they fell into the right hands, were probably well treated and happy, but when sold to unscrupulous people, terrible conditions arose. There were no regulations in force against the *re-sale* of such children, and there must be numbers of girls in these bad houses to-day who were

their work as a career. She said that in London there were over five thousand tenancies under the management of trained women.

Miss Berry, Secretary of the Women's Local Government Society, described the work done by women property managers in Holland, and the work they did in selecting and classifying tenants.

Major the Hon. H. Fitzclarence, Governor of Strangeways Prison, Manchester, said that in prison reform they did not want too much sentiment. The most difficult problem was that of securing employment on discharge from prison. As to debtors, he thought it would be good if there were an alteration in the Debtors Act that would prevent debtors being sent to prison. In the last twelve months over 300 debtors had been sent to Strangeways.

Mr. Alexander M. Paterson, Chief Inspector of Borstal Institutions, said that 99 per cent. of young offenders came from the roughest and poorest parts of our big cities, and the first task should be to improve the conditions under which such boys and girls were brought up. For juveniles who got into the hands of the police he advocated an extension of the system of remand homes, so that no untried and unconvicted juvenile should know what prison was like. More young offenders should be remanded on bail. The probation system, he said, had provided remarkably good results, and the effect of the Borstal institutions was seen in the halving of the prison population at Dartmoor and the closing of Portland convict prison. To-day there were 1,000 boys and 150 girls in Borstal institutions.

Mrs. Edwin Grey, J.P., of York, opened a discussion on "The Poor Law and the unmarried mother." The feeling expressed was that Poor Law guardians should more generally adopt the practice of looking after illegitimate children while their mothers went out to work, that magistrates should have power to fix affiliation allowances with greater regard to the ability of the father to contribute, that arrears should not be wiped out by sentences of imprisonment, and that collectors of allowances should be everywhere appointed.

formerly purchased under *mui tsai*. The Secretary of the Colony needed to be informed on this point.

Dr. Mary Gordon, ex-woman Inspector of Women's Prisons, said that for a number of years she had been in touch with thousands of women sent to prison as prostitutes. Under our present law, prostitution was not a punishable offence. A woman could not be arrested for soliciting, drunkenness, or riotous behaviour unless she was known to the police as a common prostitute. Once you stamped a person into any special class, you organised them, and women and girls thus called prostitutes were stamped for life.

Dr. Helen Wilson, J.P., speaking on The Repeal of the Solicitation Laws, said all that was desired was a measure of simple justice. Six thousand convictions for solicitation were made every year, half of the women going to prison, and the other half paying fines. The present law gave too much liberty to the badly disposed amongst the police. It was a century old, and founded on a conception that there were common prostitutes who were a definite class, easily distinguishable from the rest of the population, and carrying on a trade which was more or less necessary, but required regulation. Such an act made prostitution a legal trade; it was no use either to put down prostitution or get rid of immorality, but was really a survival of the old State Regulation of Vice. The laws of solicitation should be made to apply to every person, not to every prostitute. The convictions must be defined, and evidence obtained from men as well as women, and from other people besides policemen. Women should be dealt with not as prostitutes, but as women.



## MISS ROYDEN'S PEACE MISSION TO U.S.A.

Miss Maude Royden, who acted as Messenger to the United States of America from the recent Hague Congress convened by the Women's International League, stated the result of her mission, last week, at International House, Gower Street, W.C.

Though not able to be present herself at The Hague Congress, Miss Royden explained that she had had the great advantage of personal communications with the President of the Women's International League, Miss Jane Addams, and other prominent officials of the League, and so obtained a clear idea of the aims and objects of The Hague Congress. Briefly, they were to the effect that the Treaty of Versailles was the inherent difficulty in getting Europe on its feet again, and until it was revised it would be impossible to achieve prosperity in Europe.

Unfortunately, Miss Royden was not able to reach Washington before March, when Congress had risen and the President had left. But she succeeded in obtaining interviews with Mr. Hughes, Secretary of State, and Mr. Hoover, Secretary of Commercial Affairs, both of whom listened attentively to all she said, but informed her that it was impossible for the Government to act because it could not risk a rebuff, and the matter must be left to public opinion.

Miss Royden was informed by wireless, when on board ship, of the entrance of the French into the Ruhr, and told her audience that the action of America in removing her troops from that district had been entirely misunderstood by the English Press. America was solidly on the side of France, with whom she had always had a very real affinity and understanding. The heart of America was neither militaristic nor vindictive, as had been amply proved by the scope and generosity of her relief work in the devastated and famine-stricken areas of Europe. But the influence of the Northcliffe Press in fomenting German hatred still lingered, and so America was at a loss to understand why England did not stand side by side with France in the Ruhr occupation. America, however, had no real hatred of Germany, but supported France's action in the Ruhr because of the bond of friendship between the two countries.

## THE FLOOR OR THE GALLERY.

Some Members of the House of Commons are periodically disturbed by the fact that women visitors to that august Assembly not only now have access, with men, to the ordinary Gallery, but have the Ladies' Gallery reserved for them. Last week Mr. Grattan Doyle wanted to know, "in view of the equality of the sexes," if the time had not arrived when all the galleries and all the accommodation for visitors should be thrown open to men and women alike? Mr. Speaker, however, said he thought there were still a few ladies who liked to be by themselves. Then Mr. Peto asked whether Mr. Speaker would not consider that there should be some equality in the accommodation provided for men and women to listen to the Debates in the House, which could be arrived at by allocating certain benches above the clock exclusively to men, as a counterpoise to the Ladies' Gallery, which was open exclusively to ladies? But the Speaker gravely reminded Mr. Peto that he was asking him to divide husband from wife, and that he could not contemplate doing. Mr. Becker, on the other hand, wanted to increase the accommodation for ladies by arranging that four ladies should be able to sit with five men under the Gallery. But Mr. Speaker was entirely opposed to that suggestion—the ladies at present had the larger opportunity in the Galleries, and he could not see his way further to increase it. We ourselves confess that we are not so anxious to see a further number of women in the galleries listening to the debates carried on so extensively by men as we are to see a much larger number of women taking part in those Debates on the floor of the House of Commons.

## BOOK REVIEW.

*The British Nurse in Peace and War.* By Elizabeth S. Haldane, C.H. (John Murray.) 7s. 6d. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

This is an interesting review of a profession which Miss Haldane tells us includes to-day at least 60,000 women in this country alone. Part I. deals with the history of nursing and the nurse in Peace. The evolution of women nurses is traced from Hygeia, through the Christian era and the Middle Ages, when the medical art degenerated for a time into mere quackery, to a more enlightened period from the 11th to the 15th centuries, when the real organisation of hospitals and sick nursing commenced. For a long time this was chiefly in the hands of religious bodies, from which the term "sister" owes its origin. The histories of some of the more ancient of our British hospitals, such as St. Thomas's, St. Bartholomew's, and Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, are given, from which it is interesting to learn that the same "watchet blue" livery for nursing sisters was worn in the fifteenth century as nowadays. Horrifying descriptions of the Sairey Gamps of those days are also given. Though much good was effected in this country by John Wesley's religious revival, and the influence of the Quakers, especially Elizabeth Fry and Hannah More, Germany was foremost in nursing reforms, Kaiserwerth, where Miss Nightingale received a portion of her training, being specially noted. Two chapters are devoted to Miss Nightingale and her work. There is also an interesting chapter on Modern Nursing, and the special branches which have been added of late years. The struggle for State Registration is also referred to. The second section, on the nurse in War, is particularly interesting, judged in the light of recent events. The British casualties amongst nurses are enumerated: 45 were killed and drowned through enemy action; 11 were killed and drowned accidentally; 83 died abroad, and 161 at home—a total of 300. Details of special gallantry are given, and mention made of the honours given to nurses. D. M. N.

## MENTAL TREATMENT BILL.

This Bill was introduced into the House of Lords by Lord Onslow on April 26th. It attempts to improve the conditions of public mental hospitals by providing that on all Visiting Committees two at least of the members shall be women, a local authority being given power to appoint to its Visiting Committee persons who are not Councillors, provided they do not exceed one-third of the whole. It also puts the poor patient on a level with the private patient in allowing him or her voluntarily to enter a public institution for mental treatment without certification, and with liberty to leave at any time after 48 hours' notice in writing to the Medical Superintendent.

So far the Bill may be useful in some cases, but it also opens the door to many dangers. What is required is a complete reorganisation of our system of dealing with mental illness. Women members of Visiting Committees are, of course, essential, and they should form half of the Committee, but any woman who makes surprise visits to the Institution for which she has undertaken responsibility usually not only finds her position exceedingly unpleasant, but feels disheartened at the extent of her discoveries.

We have asked again and again for the appointment of a Royal Commission, comprising an equal number of men and women members, to investigate this whole question and arrive at more satisfactory methods of dealing with mental patients. A Board of Control on which men and women sit in equal numbers would then be able satisfactorily to carry them out.

It is necessary that a poor patient should be able to seek treatment for a mental illness as for a physical ailment, but whilst public mental hospitals are carried on as at present, it is best, in the interest of the poor patient, that this voluntary treatment should be obtained only in Institutions, such as the Maudsley Hospital, in which no certified patients are received.

## Women's Freedom League.

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

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.  
LONDON AND SUBURBS.DARE TO  
BE FREE.

*Monday, May 14th,* at 6.30 p.m. Mid-London Branch Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

*Wednesday, May 16th,* at 8 p.m. Hampstead Branch. A Meeting will be held (by kind permission of Mrs. Harverson), at the Isis Club, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue, Hampstead, N.W.3. Speaker: Mrs. Aldridge, Subject: "The Housing Bill." Chair: Mrs. Nevinson, J.P.

*Thursday, June 7th,* 2 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. Garden Fête at "The Hill," Hampstead (kindly lent by Viscount Leverhulme), Women's Freedom League, Green, White and Gold Stall. Tickets: 2.0 p.m., 2/4; 6.0 p.m., 1/3.

*Friday, June 8th,* at 5 p.m. Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

*Saturday, June 9th,* at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

*Monday, June 25th,* at 3 p.m. Political Sub-Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

*Friday, July 6th,* Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, Caxton Hall, Westminster. Further particulars later.

*Saturday, July 7th,* at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

## SCOTLAND.

*Friday, May 11th.* Glasgow Branch Meeting, Delegate's Report of Conference.

## PROVINCES.

*Tuesday, May 22nd,* at 8 p.m. Southend-on-Sea and District. Public Meeting at St. John Ambulance Hall, 76, Queen's Road. Speaker to be announced later. Subject: "Birth Control."

*Wednesday, May 23rd,* at 3.15 p.m. Portsmouth. Public Meeting, 2, Kent Road. Speaker: Miss Enid Laphorn. Chair: Mrs. Whetton.

*Wednesday, May 15th,* at 8 p.m. Women's League of Union, Oak Room, Kingsway Hall. Speaker: The Rev. S. Glanville Murray, Chaplain of H.M. Prison, Holloway. Subject: "Women in Prison."

*Sunday, May 27th,* at 6.30 p.m. Kingston Church of Humanity, 39, Orchard Street, Kingston-on-Thames. Speaker: Miss Mary Richardson. Subject: "The Use of Beauty to the Mind and Soul."

*Wednesday, July 11th,* at 8 p.m. Women's League of Union, Oak Room, Kingsway Hall. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood. Subject: "How Women are using their Opportunities."

## BRANCH NOTES.

**HASTINGS.**  
The Annual Meeting was held last week at 44, Warrior Square (by kind permission of Mrs. O'Connell and Mrs. Willis), the Officers and Committee elected being: President, Mrs. Strickland; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Barlow and Mrs. Prelooker; Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Harman; Hon. Treasurer, Miss A. K. Rance; Committee: Mme. Osterveen, Mrs. Willis, Miss Vicat Cole, Miss White, Mrs. B. Lane, and Mrs. Harrison.

The annual report and balance-sheet were read and adopted, and the Resolutions and Amendments for the Annual Conference were read and voted on. Mrs. Strickland was elected as the delegate to represent Hastings at the Conference.

(Organiser) Miss WHITE, 8, Holmsdale Gardens.

**HAMPSTEAD.**  
The Branch is arranging a meeting at the Isis Club, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue, N.W.3 (by kind permission of Mrs. Harverson), on Wednesday, May 16th, at 8 p.m. Mrs. Aldridge will speak on "The Housing Bill," and Mrs. Nevinson, J.P., has promised to preside. All members and friends of the League are cordially invited to be present and take part in the discussion on this very interesting subject. The Isis Club is only a few minutes' walk from the Hampstead Tube Station, and therefore very easy of access from any part of London.

(Hon. Sec.) E. BERRY, 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

**PORTSMOUTH.**  
The public meeting on Wednesday, May 23rd, will be addressed by Miss Enid Laphorn on "The League of Nations and the White Slave Traffic." The Chair will be taken at 3.15 by Mrs. Whetton. Tea will be served at 4.30, after which Mrs. Ball will give a report of the Annual Conference, to which she was the delegate for Portsmouth. The meeting will be held at 2 Kent Road. (Hon. Sec.) Mrs. WHETTON, 87, Festing Grove, Southsea.

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

## Women's Freedom League Appointments.

At the first meeting of the new National Executive Committee the following appointments were made:—Hon. Organising Secretary, Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P.; Hon. Head, Literature Department, Mrs. Pierotti; Hon. Head, Vote Sales Department, Miss Alix M. Clark; General Secretary, Miss F. A. Underwood; Hon. Solicitor, Geoffrey Gush, Esq.; Auditor, Miss M. M. Homersham, M.A. (Oxon). The Political, Organisation, and "Fair" Sub-Committees were re-appointed, with Miss E. Berry Hon. Secretary to the latter.

## A Table and a Bedroom.

Speaking last week in the House of Commons on Housing, Mrs. Wintringham said that the proposal of 850 feet of floor space was quite insufficient for a large family. One of the bedrooms was to be 10 ft. 6 in. by 6 ft. 10 in., which, after measuring the Table in front of the Treasury Bench, she found would be half a foot less in length than the Table! She asked the Minister of Health how it would be possible to use such a room as a bedroom for the accommodation of two girls or two boys? How could any furniture be placed in it? There would be a bed 6 ft. long, and there would have to be a couple of chairs and a chest of drawers, or some place in which to hang clothes. Even if the furniture could be got in, how was the woman to clean the room? She asked him to consider the question of the health of the two children in that room. They could not have the window open. Then the other two bedrooms would be 11 ft. 4½ in. by 16 ft. 6 in. and 12 ft. 2½ in. by 9 ft. 3½ in. Those would have to accommodate the parents and other children, and perhaps a baby. She said she could not see how there could be much room for the parents and the baby and cradle, and furniture.

## Prison for the Weak-Minded.

A clerk who had spent six years in an asylum and was described as mentally unstable, of weak character, and lacking the capacity of concentration, was sentenced to three years' penal servitude and five years' preventive detention at the Old Bailey last week, Judge Atherley Jones saying that he had no alternative but to send him to penal servitude as an habitual criminal. He admitted that a man who had been six years in an asylum required treatment different from that meted out to ordinary criminals, but said he had no power to order that different treatment.

## Church Army to Run a Prison?

At the annual meeting of the Church Army, held last week in London, it was suggested that a small prison should be handed over to the control of the Church Army. The prisoners were to be those professing the Church of England creed, and the superintendent and warders would be Church Army evangelists. Should this suggestion be carried out, we think it should be insisted upon that the women prisoners should be entirely under the control of women.

## A Judge and Women Jurors

Some of our Judges in the use of their discretion are a little too apt to act as Meddlesome Matties in regard to women jurors. A slander action was in process in Mr. Justice Darling's Court. It concerned an electrical engineer and a Borough Council, and the case was of rather an interesting character. The Judge, however, asked counsel if they thought it was worth while keeping three women on the jury? He said that the evidence appeared to be of a technical character; the ladies could remain if they desired, but if they did not they would not be losing anything. The women jurors said they preferred to get away, and left the jury box. We think any ordinary three men would have acted in the same way; but the point is, the Judge would not have talked to men in a similar strain. Women who are responsible citizens should insist upon being taken seriously. Jury service is a responsibility which should be shouldered equally by men and women.

## Defective Children (Schools).

Lord Eustace Percy stated in the House of Commons last Monday that it was estimated that there were about 28,500 mentally defective children in England and Wales who might benefit by admission to special schools, in which there was only accommodation for about 16,000. About 10,500 of those children were in public elementary schools, and about 2,500 were not at school at all. Similarly, there were about 109,000 physically defective children who might benefit by admission to special schools, in which there was only accommodation for about 14,000; 74,000 were in public elementary schools, 7,000 in other institutions, and 14,000 were not attending any school.

## OUR NEW PAMPHLETS.

- "The Work for Women M.P.s.," by Miss 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 Lind-af-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," a short history from its inception to the present day ... 1d.



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**F**ELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, May 13th. 3.15. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Dearmer. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden, "Uncertainty in our Religion."

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