

THE VOTE,
DEC. 21, 1928.

LADIES FOR DINNER ONLY !

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1928

OBJECTS : To use the power of the Parliamentary vote, now won for Women upon equal terms with men, to elect women to Parliament, and upon other public bodies ; to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes ; and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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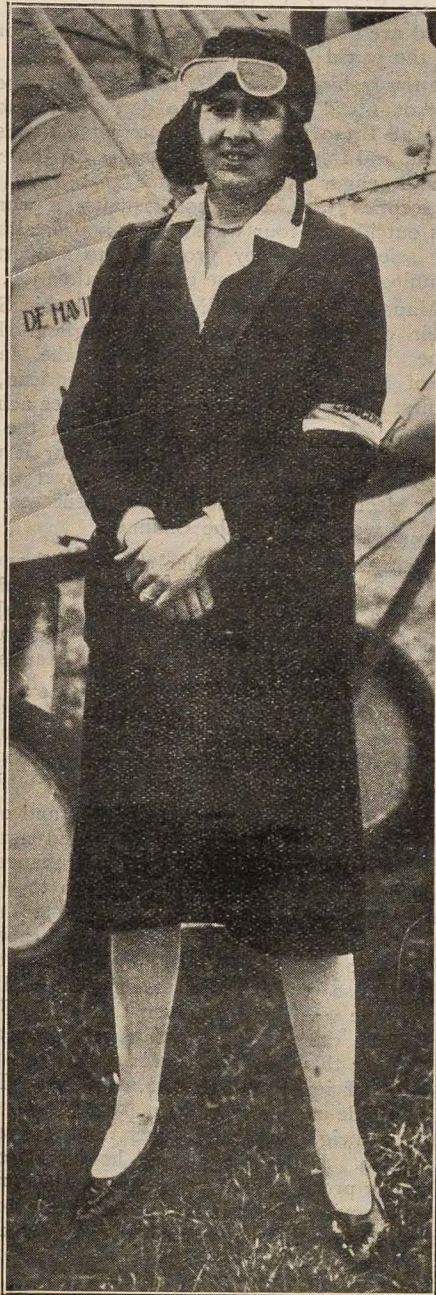
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LADY HEATH.

A HAPPY VICTORY CHRISTMAS

to

every

MEMBER

and

READER

AIRWOMEN.

BY LADY HEATH (MRS. ELLIOTT LYNN).

"There was never a queen like Balkis
From here to the wide world's end,
Yet Balkis talked to a butterfly
As one would talk to a friend."

So runs the old legend, fragmentary and illusive, but it hints that the Queen of Sheba was a lover of things beautiful and things of open-air, and it forms a fitting foot-note to the other legend, preserved in the crumbling papyrus pages of "Kebra Nagast," that she was the first woman to be connected with aviation. "For," says the old writing, "Solomon gave to her a vessel by which she might ride upon the winds, which he had made of the wisdom God had given to him."

The example of the birds, the bats, and the insects was always a subject for envy among mankind, and in the mythologies of east and west, north and south, we find tales of legendary flight creeping in where practical flight was impossible. Manco Huella, founder of the first Peruvian dynasty, was said to have flown from Heaven to earth with his wife, and one can easily imagine the perturbation and interest that seethed among the womenfolk of the House of Icarus when he was making his flight.

In the evolution of religions one finds one almost constant factor; not alone were the highest forms of life imaginable—the Gods and Goddesses—gifted with wings, but the acquisition of wings, even in our own religion, was one of the rewards of a blameless life.

In the Middle Ages life began to be less of a struggle for existence, and invention gradually grew from seriously-suspected magic to an honoured profession. With the dawn of enlightenment the emancipation of women became a *fait accompli*, and it is significant of the interest women had begun to take in the sport that Queen Marie Antoinette was the first lady to set the public seal of her approval on ballooning in the end of the eighteenth century. It was probable that this regal example made it possible for France to claim the first woman aeronaut in the person of Madame Blanchard, of this period.

In our own country a Mrs. Chisholm took the same honour, but not till many years later. Somewhere in the neighbourhood of 1873, she and Mr. Chisholm were taking a country walk when a balloonist, who had lost his bearings, landed in a field close by them to make inquiries before resuming his flight. Mrs. Chisholm conceived a violent desire to go up in the balloon, and, in spite of her husband's fervent protestations, up she did go. Later he, too, became converted to the sport, and they did many subsequent trips together.

A woman in a balloon is also said to be responsible for the creation of the Royal Aero Club of Great Britain, which, curiously enough, does not now permit of women members, although it claims to control the sport of flying in this country. It was during a flight with Mr. Hedges Butler that his daughter and a friend had the idea of forming an Aero Club, and for the first few years women were permitted to take an active interest in the life of it.

The balloon gradually evolved itself into the very wonderful airship of to-day, and provided occupation for hundreds of willing W.R.A.F.'s during the war. So efficient did these workers become that, when talk of disbandment first cropped up in 1918, the men workers at Pulham Airship Station petitioned against the initial demobilisation of their feminine fellow-workers.

The airship and the aeroplane are to-day side by side in the development of long-distance flights, and in the growth of the aeroplane from crude ornithopters and man-lifting kites, women have always stood side by side with their men folk.

To-day a woman may face death and danger over the Atlantic as a companion or as a fellow-pilot, but we hear little of the women who have unselfishly given their lives to the cause of aviation without reward or thought of prize for themselves. The first power-driven

flight was done by the Brothers Wright in America in 1903. Speaking of his sister, Wilbur Wright said: "If ever the world thinks of us in connection with aviation, it must remember our sister." Catherine Wright did not marry for many years, but continued her work as a school teacher, giving two-thirds of her earnings to her brothers to carry on their experiments. She is one of a great army of women who, like Lady Cobham, enthuse their menfolk to go out, and do and dare, for the progress of aviation and civilisation, although they realise that there are perhaps more important things in the world than aviating themselves.

In 1908, when the first aviation meeting was held at Rheims, one of the most interested spectators, who, camera in hand, tramped over the muddy Betheny Plain, was the Comtesse of Flanders, now Queen of the Belgians. It is only a matter of a few months since among my Press cuttings I found a smiling photograph of Her Royal Highness lying on a stretcher demonstrating the use of an Army ambulance plane. She and the King of the Belgians own their own aeroplane, and are perhaps the finest example of "private owner" the world knows.

It was the fashion some little time ago for a section of the aeronautical community to decry as "publicity seekers" all those women who interested themselves in aviation, and this was perhaps harder for the enthusiastic and eager woman to face than even those smiling sceptics who could not visualise a woman's activities outside the four walls of her house, although the very science that they professed to support has made running a modern home a quarter-time job.

Mrs. Maurice Hewlett and Mrs. de Beauvois Stocks took their pilots' licences to fly in England shortly after the Rheims meeting following the famous example of Miss Harriet Quimby, the American, who was the first feminine ticket-holder. All three achieved great things. Miss Quimby, who learnt in the quiet of the early morning, and secretly, for fear it would interfere with her literary work, came over here in 1911 after electrifying America with her success. She was the first woman to fly the Channel.

Mrs. Maurice Hewlett ran her own school and aircraft factory before the War at Brooklands, and during the War both she and her works were of invaluable assistance to the Government, both in the construction of aircraft and in the training of pilots. Her famous son, Squadron Leader Hewlett, was one of her most successful pupils. Mrs. Hewlett retains all her pristine interest in, and love for flying, to-day, and her home in Bedfordshire is one of the Meccas of the world of aviation.

When the War was over, the attention and energy of the female youth of the country turned again to practical aviation, steadied, and perhaps enhanced, by the technical knowledge it had learned in the period 1914-1918. There rapidly arose a new star in the firmament, Mademoiselle Adrienne Bolland, a beautiful young Frenchwoman, who took her licence in 1918 and proved herself so capable, both technically and practically, that she was actually given the job of French Air Attaché to one of the South American Governments. During this time she performed a feat, which for pluck and efficiency, will always stand out. Flying alone in a single-engined Caudron (with, also, single ignition) at a height of 15,000 feet, she crossed the Andes in 1919. It took her seven hours to do this. France is very proud of her "Heroine of the Andes," and gives her every facility now, when she is back in Paris, to run her aviation company with success.

(To be concluded.)

IN PARLIAMENT.

International Labour Organisation.

Replying to COL. WOODCOCK (U., Everton), MR. BETTERTON (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour) gave the list of names of the British representatives and advisers who attended the last International Labour Conference at Geneva. This list showed that the Government sent two men delegates, seven advisers, one of whom was a woman, The Hon. Mary Pickford, M.A.; the Employers sent one man delegate, four men advisers, and three men substitute advisers; the Workers sent one man delegate, four advisers, one of whom was a woman, Miss Margaret Bondfield, J.P., M.P., and one man substitute adviser. The Secretary of the Delegation was Miss Ethel Mary Foster.

It will be remembered that the chief subject occupying attention at this International Labour Conference last May was the Minimum Wage-Fixing Machinery, a subject in which so many women workers in this country are directly concerned. Why send such a predominantly male delegation to deal with it?

Strangers' Dining Room (Women).

MISS WILKINSON (Lab., E. Middlesbrough): May I ask you, Sir, whether you have yet reached any decision with regard to the admittance of women to the Strangers' Dining Room of the House? MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I have done all I could to ascertain the general feeling of the House on the matter, and I have decided to adopt the recommendation made to me by the Kitchen Committee that ladies may be admitted in future as guests to the Strangers' Dining Room, for dinner only, if accompanied by a Member.

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR (U., Plymouth): Why ladies for dinner only? Do not women need luncheon too? MR. SPEAKER: I gave it all the consideration I could, and I have adopted the recommendation of the Kitchen Committee, which I thought represented the views of hon. Members.

Capital Punishment.

On December 5th, LIEUT.-COM. KENWORTHY (Lab., Central Hull) secured leave to bring in a Bill to provide for the Abolition of Capital Punishment. MR. RADFORD (U., Salford, S.) opposed the bringing in of this Bill, and on a division there were 119 votes for it and 118 against it. The Bill was read a first time and ordered to be printed.

Income Tax Law.

MR. DAY (Lab., Central Southwark) asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury the number of meetings that have been held by the Committee on the Simplification of the Income Tax Law; and when the Report is anticipated? MR. SAMUEL: Six meetings have been held by the Committee. Their Report is not expected for some considerable time.

MR. DAY: Is the hon. Gentleman aware of the urgency of making this simplification, on account of the very many anomalies existing, and will he expedite the report? MR. SAMUEL: I am aware of that, but probably the hon. Gentleman is not aware of the fact that there is a great volume of details to go into. I believe that some of the information required is not yet available.

[This Committee was appointed by the Government in November, 1927. It consists of six men and there is no woman member. At the time of its appointment we urged that women lawyers, or Miss H. M. Baker, the income tax expert, should be added to it: we are sure they would have expedited matters.]

Schools of Medicine.

SIR ROBERT THOMAS (Lib., Anglesey) asked the Minister of Health what is the number of schools of medicine in London and the rest of the country, respectively, from which women are excluded; and whether, in view of the increasing need of women with medical knowledge, he will set up an Inquiry with a view to removing these restrictions? SIR KINGSLEY WOOD

(Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health): My right hon. Friend has no official information on this matter, but he understands the position outside London to be that there is no restriction on the admission of women to medical schools. The position in London already forms the subject of an inquiry initiated by the University of London.

SIR THOMAS WATTS (U., Withington): Is it not a fact that the medical profession is already overcrowded, and there are many men who cannot find any thing to do?

Kenya (Girl Labour).

MR. RENNIE SMITH (Lab., Penistone) asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that in July and August, 1927, gangs of girls between the ages of 10 and 16 years were ordered out to collect and carry thatching grass in the North Gem area of Central Kavisono, which involved some of the girls in a daily journey of 30 miles; that some of the girls did three journeys under compulsion, walking between 80 and 90 miles, and that after months of delay they were paid about 5½d.; and, if so, will he inquire why these orders were given in view of the native authority ordinance? MR. AMERY: Having seen statements to this effect in a recent article in the Press, I am sending a copy of the article to the officer administering the Government of Kenya and asking him for a report on the facts.

Single Men and Women (Training Centres).

MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE (Lab., Leicester, W.) asked the Minister of Labour if he could give an estimate of the number of single men and single women unemployed between the ages of 20 and 30 in the mining areas; and the number of training centres for men in these areas and the approximate total accommodation therein, and the same figures for women? SIR A. STEEL-MAITLAND: Statistics of the ages of unemployed insured persons are not regularly compiled, and figures are not available in respect of all such persons in mining areas. It is estimated, however, that at the 22nd October, approximately 25,000 single men, aged 21 to 30, classified as belonging to the coal-mining industry, were recorded as wholly unemployed in Great Britain. Corresponding figures for single women are not available. There are no training centres actually in the mining areas for adult unemployed miners, but special arrangements have been made whereby about 1,175 young unemployed miners are attending the day training centres at Birmingham, Dudley, Wallsend, Bristol and Glasgow. In addition, farm training for those wishing to take employment on the land in the Dominions is available at the Claydon and Brandon residential centres. Accommodation for training about 600 women is available at 19 centres established in the South Wales, Durham and Scottish mining areas.

Venereal Disease (School Children, Carnarvonshire).

MR. ELLIS DAVIES asked the President of the Board of Education what was the number of school children suffering from venereal disease in the county of Carnarvon in 1927 and the number now under treatment? MR. CHAMBERLAIN (Minister of Health): I have been asked to reply. I have no means of obtaining information as to the number of children suffering from venereal disease, but I am informed that the number of children between the ages of 5 and 14 who are now attending the treatment centre in this county is three. MR. DAVIES: Is not the average for England and Wales considerably higher? MR. CHAMBERLAIN: I should have to have notice of that question.

DR. VERNON DAVIES (U., Royton): Can my right hon. Friend find out if the cases of venereal disease are hereditary or acquired, and state specifically what kind of venereal disease? MR. CHAMBERLAIN: I should require notice of that question also.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21st, 1928.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—

To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.

To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders, printing, and merchandise, etc.

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Holborn 9301, London."

Telephone: HOLBORN 9301.

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.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND CEYLON.

While we rejoice in our own great victory for Equal Franchise, we take the liveliest interest in the chances of woman suffrage in those countries where women are still unenfranchised, and perhaps more especially in countries like South Africa and Ceylon, which are part of the British Empire. In South Africa, women suffragists have special difficulties; the native problem cuts across the question of the enfranchisement of women, and the cause of women generally is a game of battledore and shuttlecock with the different political parties. Last Session, a private Bill for removing sex disability in the franchise law was wrecked by a dilatory amendment, moved by Dr. Malan, Minister of the Interior, who induced five Labour Members who were pledged to support the measure, to absent themselves unpaired. General Hertzog, the Head of the Nationalist Party, then promised to introduce a women's suffrage measure himself after the Native Bills had been disposed of, but, at the same time, he made it clear that he alone would be responsible for it, and that the members of his party would be free to vote as they pleased! Now, General Smuts has made an announcement that he favours the making of votes for women one of the principal planks of the South African party's platform at the next election. General Smut's party is the Opposition, and General Hertzog's the present Ministry. Will General Hertzog now be persuaded to give a more definite pledge to the women? Why cannot the parties decide to have an agreed measure for women's enfranchisement?

In Ceylon, some women have a chance of being enfranchised under the Donoughmore scheme, now under the consideration of the Legislative Council. Among other proposals, the Donoughmore Commission recommends that the present electorate in Ceylon be increased from 200,000 to a maximum of 1,850,000; and that all women, including natives, be given the vote at thirty years of age. A great deal of discussion has taken place in the Legislative Council on these proposals, and many alterations have been suggested; so many, indeed, that the Secretary of State for the Colonies recently intimated that the scheme was to be accepted as a whole or rejected entirely! Among the alterations suggested by the Council is that women, like men, should have the vote at the age of twenty-one. It was pointed out that the raising of the age limit to thirty in the case of women voters was an artificial barrier created by the Donoughmore Report. On the other hand, the Legislative Council urges that the men and women who receive the vote should be literate in English, Tamil, or Sinhalese. *The Ceylon Indian* says that, anyway, the women of Ceylon have gained a decisive victory, and reports that Dr. (Mrs.) Nallamma Satia Vagiswara Aiyar, Joint Secretary of the Women's Franchise Union, stated in an interview that "the threat held out by the Secretary of State for the Colonies does not at all alter their position. If the Donoughmore Report is adopted, the women will get the vote immediately. If not, they will get it soon

enough in view of the declared intentions of all sections of the Ceylonese public, particularly the majority of the members of the Legislative Council."

We sympathise with our women fellow-subjects, both in South Africa and Ceylon, in their struggle to secure enfranchisement, and we send our heartiest good wishes for their equal enfranchisement with men at the earliest possible date.

INDIAN WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES.

From *Stri Dharma*, the official organ of the Women's Indian Association, it is very evident that organised Indian women are extremely active in many directions. They are strongly supporting a Bill for the suppression of brothels and immoral traffic, which is now before the Legislative Council of Madras, and are calling upon all Councillors to pass this Bill without delay. Under the auspices of the Prayag Mahila Samiti a public meeting, mainly consisting of Allahabad women, was recently held at Bahrti Bhama to support the three important resolutions of Mr. Harbilas Sarda, dealing with (1) The Child Marriage Bill; (2) The right of inheritance of a girl to her father's property; and (3) The share of a widow in her husband's property. During Christmas week, when there is a great gathering in Calcutta of men and women from all parts of India in connection with the Indian National Congress, and other Conferences to be held during Christmas week, the women of Calcutta are organising an All-India Women's Social Conference, at which women can exchange ideas and profit by one another's experiences. The following is a provisional list of the subjects to be discussed:—

1. The Revision of the Laws of Inheritance with regard to women.
2. The rescue of minor girls.
3. The abolition of the system of giving dowry to the son-in-law.
4. The abolition of woman-labour in pits and the revision of the Factory laws with regard to women.
5. The abolition of the Purdah system.
6. Economic Independence of women.
7. Primary Education (General and Industrial).
8. Report to be presented to the Conference of the social work done by women in different provinces.
9. The re-marriage of child-widows.

The above is a full programme for a day's discussion, indeed, one subject alone, The Economic Independence of Women, could easily fill the day. We feel sure that our Indian sisters will soon come to agree with us—that women workers will never secure full economic independence if they agree to restrictions being placed upon the work of women which are not imposed on that of their men fellow workers.

BETTER WORK AND LESS PAY!

The result of inquiries at Moray Firth ports suggests that women make better dock labourers than men. A harbour-master is reported to have said:—

"The average woman can work at high pressure in a ship's hold for far longer periods than men, whose backs seem to give way much more easily. The result is that when we have grain or some other commodity which involves long hours of steady shovelling into bags, we engage women for the holds, while the men are employed on the derricks above."

We are told by the Press Correspondent that, "although paid at a slightly lower rate than men, the women dockers earn a high rate of wages, and their efficiency is revealed by the fact that gangs of women in the hold, and of men on the deck, work out in the proportion of three women to every four men."

Now, why should these women dockers be paid at a lower rate than men? They are said to be even better workers than the men. Does the fact that they are women render them incapable of receiving and spending equal wages with men?

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

A Woman Again Wins Nobel Prize.

This year's Nobel Prize for Literature has been awarded to Madame Undset, the Norwegian authoress. This is the second year in succession that the Nobel Prize for Literature has been awarded to a woman.

Woman Journalist's Appointment.

Mrs. Emilie H. Peacocke, formerly editor of the Women's Department of *The Daily Express*, has been appointed to take over the supervision of the new woman's features in *The Daily Telegraph*. Mrs. Peacocke was the first woman reporter to work on *The Daily Express*, in which capacity she gained a reputation as a keen news-gatherer. During the war, she acted as London correspondent of *The Madras Mail*, and was attached to the Publicity Department of the Ministry of Information.

Mrs. Laura Knight's new Success.

Mrs. Laura Knight, A.R.A., has recently been elected a member of the Royal Society of Painters in Water-colours, at a general meeting of the members.

Thirteen Men—Three Women.

Thirteen men and three women, Mrs. Annie Griffiths, Miss Clara Hardy and Mrs. Fanny Yearn, have been appointed Justices of the Peace for the Borough of Oldham by fiat of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Ten Men—Three Women.

Thirteen new magistrates have been appointed for Surrey—including three women, Mrs. Ludlow, of Mortlake; Miss Sylvia Clack, of Horley; and Miss Evelyn Atkinson, of Camberley.

Woman Educationist.

We are glad to learn that Miss Rhoda Robbins, who is about to take educational research work in America, continues as Principal of Swansea Training College. She has been given leave of absence by the Swansea Education Committee, so that she may do the research work in education in America by means of the "Buck Scholarship" which was awarded her last August.

Woman Medical Officer for Barnsley.

We congratulate Dr. Margaret Blackwood, of Liverpool, on her appointment as assistant Medical Officer for Barnsley.

Another Woman Councillor.

Mrs. Hodgson, is the first woman to be elected to Richmond (Yorks) Town Council.

Man-and-Wife J.P.s.

According to the *Daily Herald* Mr. W. Lunn, M.P., and Mrs. Lunn, of Rothwell, Mr. and Mrs. Tudor Rhys, of Wood Green, and Mr. and Mrs. Bussey, of Deal, are all working in double harness on the magistrate's bench, as well as at home.

Women Pharmacists' Exemption from Labour Law.

The 1928 Session of the New York legislature amended the labour law by exempting duly licensed female pharmacists over 16 years of age from its hour regulations.

Woman Judge re-elected.

Miss Florence E. Allen has, by a majority of 200,000, been re-elected to the Supreme Court of Ohio. Six years ago her support came almost entirely from the women and from the trade unionists, especially the railroad workers. This year, running independently, she drew powerful support from all elements because of the splendid work she had done on the bench.

A Famous Woman Lawyer.

Mme. Grinberg, France's first woman lawyer, is the only woman member of the Committee of the French Bar Association. She has saved from execution four out of five women charged with murder. There are now almost one thousand women lawyers in France.

Distinguished French Woman Lawyer.

Mademoiselle Beguigon has been appointed Professor of Law at the University of Rennes. She has been lecturing on law at the University since last October.

Polish Woman Air Pilot.

Miss Kalina Iwazskiewcy is the first Polish woman to receive a license as air-pilot.

Polish Woman Geographer honoured.

According to *The Bulletin*, the American Society of Women Geographers has conferred its honorary membership upon a distinguished Polish Geographer, Mme. Nalkowska, the author of numerous geographical text books for the use of primary and secondary schools in her country. The excellent geographical monographs on Poland which she has also written are much appreciated by a large circle of readers.

Women on Governing Body of Cinema Institute in Rome.

Señora Gabriela Mistral, of Chile, well known in her own country as an author and former school head-mistress, has been appointed a member of the above.

REFORM OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House of Lords, on December 13th, continued the discussion on the Earl of Clarendon's proposal for the reform of the House of Lords, and after further debate agreed, by a majority of 52 to 8, to the proposal amended, as follows:—

"That having regard to the Preamble of the Parliament Act and to the Resolution passed by this House on 23rd June, 1927, it is hereby resolved—

That it is desirable that early steps should be taken to reduce the number of members of the House, and to make suitable provision for an elective representation of the Peerage, and for such other representation or nomination as would ensure to each political Party a fair position in the House."

NEW ZEALAND AND MARRIED WOMEN'S NATIONALITY.

During the session of Parliament which has just ended, a Nationality Bill was introduced, but an amendment that "a British woman should not be deemed to lose her British nationality on marriage to an alien," proposed by Mr. P. Fraser, a Labour member, was defeated.

THE WOMEN'S VOTE.

At a meeting of the Women's Group of the Fabian Society at Caxton Hall, last week, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., declared that the political parties were spending two-thirds of their wealth on catching the women's vote.

Membership Application Form.

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

I enclose £ _____ s. _____ d. as my first

Annual Subscription.

Minimum Annual Subscription 1/-

OUR BOOK REVIEW.

The House. By E. A. Zangwill. (John Murray.) Price 7s. 6d. (Can be obtained from this office.)

In *The House* Mrs. Zangwill has given us a most interesting study of the building of a superfine mansion for an American millionaire and its "plinishings" of historical furniture, wonderful marble staircase, bathrooms, etc. Everything is made perfect, the scenery is exquisite and also an adequate staff of servants, including two Scotch gardeners and a remarkable English baker named Smith, are provided.

But alas! as in Galsworthy's Forsyte Saga, both architect and house are, as it were, bewitched. The former by the millionaire's young wife, and the latter by some spirit of evil which causes a woeful fate to dog the footsteps of its owners.

Sold by the first wealthy man in disgust at his wife's flight just as his lovely home is completed, the next to fall under its baneful influence is a self-made man with a simple wife and two "bright young things," son and daughter, who fill the house with guests. Again each member of the family suffers and the property is once more sold, falling into the hands of a cultivated Jewish magnate. He and his wife and son are charmingly described, and the faithful Smith, who has been unable to detach himself from the fortunes of the house, feels that its perfect rooms are once more adequately filled. Alas! ill fate still pursues those who dwell there and they, too, leave the place desolate.

Meanwhile Smith has come almost to hate the formerly adored building, "fair outside and clever, but with a heart as black as Hell," he calls it, and yet cannot escape from the malign influence.

Finally he and it perish together, a terrible pity, as the last owner thinks—for such a beautiful place to be destroyed, and Smith, too, with the house he has adored—yet "in their death they were not divided."

A most interesting tale, with vivid characterisation, and one which interests all readers who have felt the curious influence places and buildings seem to have on human lives.

J.M.T.

PRESENTATION TO DAME MILLICENT FAWCETT.

Last week there was a delightful re-union of suffragists at Lady Astor's house, when Dame Millicent Fawcett was presented with her portrait. Affectionate tributes to this gallant leader were paid by Miss Eleanor Rathbone (President of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship), Mrs. Kinnell (Chairman of the London Society for Women's Service), Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence and Lady Astor.

With her usual kind and generous hospitality, Lady Astor provided tea for the crowd of visitors before they viewed the portrait, painted by Mr. Lionel Ellis. This portrait of Dame Millicent, wearing the dark gown and scarlet hood of a Doctor of Laws, makes her look unfamiliarly austere, and this was at once realised when Dame Millicent briskly rose to thank her fellow workers and to assure them that she had always thoroughly enjoyed her work among them.

"AT HOME" AT HAMPSTEAD.

Dr. Knight was "At Home" at Gainsborough Gardens, N.W.3, to members and friends of the League, on Monday afternoon, December 10th, when a very pleasant time was spent by all who came to buy their Christmas presents at the little sale, arranged by the Hampstead Branch. Dr. Knight kindly welcomed and entertained all present to tea.

There was a charming display of books, also toys, china, sweets, and household goods; the latter, as usual, sold well. Most sincere thanks are due to Mrs. Beville, Miss Johnson, Mrs. Marriott, Mrs. Seymour-Pritchard, Miss E. Berry, and all who helped in any way to make the afternoon a success.

EQUAL RIGHTS COMMITTEE.

On December 11th, the Viscountess Rhondda presided over a meeting of the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee (to which the Women's Freedom League was affiliated), when the following resolution was moved from the Chair.

"That there is still need for the work of the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee, and that it shall therefore continue in being." This resolution was supported by representatives of the National Union of Women Teachers, the Actresses Franchise League, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, The Six Point Group, the Open Door Council, and the Women's Freedom League, and carried unanimously.

Later, it was decided to change the name to the Equal Rights Committee.

At the conclusion of the meeting the following resolution was passed unanimously:—

"That this Committee, representing twenty-two Women's Organisations, welcomes the fact that Lord Clarendon, in his proposals for the Reform of the House of Lords, recognises that Peeresses in their own right should be eligible for membership of the Upper House."

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS.

Last October this Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations, to which the Women's Freedom League was affiliated, decided to disband, and last week the Committee entertained Lady Astor (President), Lady Galway (Chairman), Mrs. de l'Hôpital (Hon. Treasurer), and Mrs. White (Secretary) to a Luncheon at the New Criterion. Representatives of all women's organisations were present and warmly acknowledged that, whatever the reasons which led to the dissolution of this Committee, no Committee ever had more loyal and hard-working members than its President and officers. In returning thanks to the Committee, Lady Astor and Lady Galway made delightfully encouraging and invigorating speeches.

WOMEN WANTED IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE.

The *Christian Science Monitor* states that Princess Cautaucuzene, the granddaughter of President Grant, recently told the Philadelphia Branch of American Women that American women, "who have always been respected and loved abroad," should enter the Diplomatic Service to "strengthen international friendships and create a better understanding between the nations." That is one of the reasons why we want to see British women in the Diplomatic Service, which still remains barred against them.

NO ONE WILL EVER GIVE EVIDENCE?

The *Evening Standard* of December 12th reports that a tribute to a girl who came forward to give evidence against a man was paid by the North London magistrate that day. The accused, a man, aged 41, was fined £5 for assaulting the girl, a telegraphist. The offence was alleged to have been committed while the man was sitting next to the girl on a bus. The magistrate said the man had behaved like a perfect cad.

In Memoriam.

SAUNDERS.—On October 4th, Mary H. Saunders, of 71, Elm Grove Road, Barnes, S.W.

We deeply regret to record the death of Miss Mary Saunders, an old and very valued member of our League, and we offer our sincere sympathy to Miss Margaret I. Saunders, the sister with whom she lived.

SCOTT.—On December 3rd, (Emily) Margaret Booth Scott, of Lamorna, Penzance, youngest daughter of the late William Booth Scott, of Hampstead.

It is with sincere regret that we record the death of Miss Booth Scott, an old and very valued member of the Women's Freedom League, and we offer our deep sympathy to her friend, Miss Bertram, with whom she lived at Lamorna.

Women's Freedom League.

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

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Telegrams—"DESPARD, HOLBORN 9301, LONDON."

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

DARE TO BE FREE. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, January 14th, at 3 p.m.

Hampstead Branch. Meeting at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

Friday, January 18th, at 3.30 p.m.

"At Home" at Pitt's Restaurant (close Main Entrance Kew Gardens), Kew Green. Speakers: Mrs. Bigland on "Women at Work in the League of Nations," and Miss F. A. Underwood on "The Work of the Women's Freedom League."

Saturday, January 26th, at 10 a.m.

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

Saturday, April 13th, at 10 a.m.

Women's Freedom League Twenty-Second Annual Conference, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W.1.

PROVINCES.

Monday, December 31st, at 3 p.m.

Ashford Branch. Christmas Party at Hempstead Street Hall.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Tuesday, January 1st—Saturday January 5th.

National Union of Women Teachers. Annual Conference. Sessions to be held in the Pavilion, Brixton.

Saturday, January 5th, at 5.30 p.m.

The New Education Fellowship. Public Meeting at the Central Hall, Westminster. Speaker: Sir Michael Sadler, President of the English Section of the New Education Fellowship. Subject: "Examinations."

Tuesday, January 8th, at 8 p.m.

Fabian Society (Women's Group). Meeting at Caxton Hall. Lecturer: Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P. Subject: "Women in Industry."

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

Union of Women Voters, at 55, Chancery Lane (Room 25), London, W.C.2. Miss Marion Scott, A.R.C.M. (founder of Society of Women Musicians), "Is there equality of opportunity for Women Musicians?"

Friday, February 8th, at 2.30 p.m.—5.30 p.m.—8 p.m.

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Conference on the Education of the Citizens, in the Great Hall, University College, under the Chairmanship of the Duchess of Atholl.

Friday, February 8th, at 7.30 p.m.

National Council of Women. Meeting in the Music Room, Werneth Park, Oldham, by kind permission of Dame Sarah Lees. Speaker: Miss M. I. Neal. Subject: "Equal Opportunities for Women and Men."

Monday, February 11th, at 8 p.m.

Union of Women Voters, at 55, Chancery Lane. Mrs. Cecil Chesterton, "Women Dramatists and Dramatic Critics."

Tuesday, February 12th, at 8 p.m.

Fabian Society (Women's Group). Meeting at Caxton Hall. Lecturer: Miss Evelyn Sharp. Subject: "The Growing Pains of Emancipation." Chairman: Mrs. J. B. S. Haldane.

Wednesday, February 22nd, at 8 p.m.

Character Builders Association, 45, Lancaster Gate, W.2. Speaker: Miss Marian Reeves. Subject: "Protective Legislation as it Affects Women."

WOMEN VOTERS GREATLY IN THE MAJORITY.

Under the new voting register, women in the South Kensington Parliamentary division will greatly outnumber men.

The figures under the existing register are:

Women	21,233
Men	19,031

Under the new register over 20,000 women voters will be added.

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MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES.

At the recent monthly meeting of the Caersws Board of Guardians, Miss Alix M. Clark protested against the part of the report dealing with the laundry and the laundress. She knew that the estimate from the laundry at Newtown was higher than that of the Llandrindod laundry, and at the last meeting she moved that the Newtown laundry should be asked to re-tender. She was told that that was bad business, but she considered it far worse business to send the money which the ratepayers found so hard to get out of the district. Miss Clark had also interviewed a laundress in the locality, and, as the one from Norwich had not appeared, asked the Board to see her. The Chairman said the Committee had previously resolved to accept the lowest tender; that the position of laundress had been advertised, and the laundress whom Miss Clark had seen could have applied. Miss Clark said that at that time the local laundress was in employment. The report was adopted, Miss Clark voting against it.

On the motion of Miss Clark, it was decided to grant 2s. a week extra coal allowance to all the permanent poor from the following Monday until the middle of April. It was also decided to grant extra Christmas relief to the permanent poor, as follows: Bed-ridden cases, 3s. 6d., adults, 2s. 6d. and children, 1s.

Miss Clark again gave her annual Christmas treat to the inmates of Caersws Workhouse, and the function was one of the best ever held in the institution. Miss Clark had spared no efforts in advance to make the necessary arrangements. She had herself made all the cakes and other dainties—of which there was a large quantity—and she provided the whole of the money herself. She purchased hundreds of gifts for the Christmas tree, so that every inmate of the house received several gifts, the children's gifts taking the form of toys, books, sweets, etc., the men's that of pipes, tobacco, sweets, etc., and the women's that of tea, sugar, sweets, etc. The members of the staff also each received presents, while the boarded-out children in the whole of the union and the old people in Newtown parish who are in receipt of relief were not forgotten, their presents having been sent out earlier in the week.

Miss Clark was assisted in the preparation of the tea and the decoration of the Christmas tree by many local ladies, and after tea a most enjoyable concert was held, some of the best artistes of the district giving their services.

SCHOOLBOYS' CLOTHES.

According to *The Times*, Dr. Graham Little, M.P., distributing prizes at Quainton Hall School, Harrow, on Saturday, said that too many schoolmasters seemed to have the ambition of turning out their boys all dressed exactly alike, and if they could manage it, all thinking exactly alike. He had tried to persuade some of the big schools to break the silly custom of dressing up little boys in most uncomfortable clothes, stiff boots, heavy, clumsy suits, and hard hats, all quite wrong things, according to medical notions. Their sisters were much more sensibly and conveniently dressed. But schoolmasters were very powerful. In the matter of clothes there never was such a week-kneed race as the parents of to-day.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

The Offices of the Women's Freedom League and the Minerva Publishing Company, Ltd., will be closed from Friday, December 21st, 5.30 p.m. until Thursday, December 27th, 9.30 a.m.

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