

THE VOTE, BRITISH WOMEN SAY "NO!"  
DEC. 20, 1929.

# THE VOTE

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

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**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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TO ALL MEMBERS & FRIENDS

A

HAPPY

CHRISTMAS

and

PROSPEROUS

NEW YEAR

which will see the march of Women towards

OUR GOAL = EQUALITY.



## A WOMAN CANDIDATE'S ELECTION EXPERIENCES.

In introducing Miss Morgan Gibbon to a meeting at the Minerva Club last Thursday, Miss Reeves regretted that so able a candidate was not returned to Parliament, as the country was that much the poorer.

Miss Morgan Gibbon began by saying that the discoveries she had made during her electioneering campaign were not new to anyone but herself. She felt not unlike the Irishman who discovered that pigs in the bedroom were not healthy. South Hackney, the constituency she had contested, was an industrial area. It had a teeming population, and in parts the housing conditions were foul. The old mansions now let out in flats and tenements were a remnant of its past glory. There were large areas of slumdom, and it was of these she proposed to speak.

Her first discovery was that the very poor had their own code of ethics. For instance, a slight confusion as to "mine" and "thine" is not necessarily a serious offence, but to filch a job from another is outside the pale; and husband snatching was practically unknown, as a husband represented a woman's means of livelihood. There is no matter which cannot be discussed openly among the very poor. The facts of birth, life and death are known to all because of the inadequate housing conditions. In the eyes of these people straightness is greatly approved, and they had paid her a compliment when they said she was straight. "When you've gone," said one old man, "no one can say, 'Well, she bounced me.'"

Miss Morgan Gibbon said she was greatly struck by the infinite kindness of these people one to another. Someone is always looking after another woman's baby while the mother is occupied, and she knew of a case where a poor woman with four children of her own had adopted still another child because its mother had died. Before these people give their votes they like to make sure of a candidate's character. "Are you a Christian woman?" was a remark which was often shot at her.

Her second discovery was that any woman fighting an election to-day does so under an enormous handicap. Otherwise fair-minded and sensible people would say, "I don't believe in women in politics," and when asked to give their reasons, would fall back on their lack of faith. Such people would vote for a man with whose politics they disagreed, or abstain from voting rather than vote for a woman. Yet the donkey work at elections is done by women. Her experience was that the women organised splendidly, and were prepared to do anything.

Her third discovery was that thousands of people live under conditions which are below the level of civilisation. For instance, she quoted a case where four daughters and a man and wife lived in an underground kitchen and one other room; and another, of a man and

wife and eleven children who shared three tiny rooms. It was customary to find only one lavatory and one tap for a whole house. Yet South Hackney was never mentioned as one of the *bad* districts when the housing shortage was under discussion. On the surface the children in such areas looked healthy, but when an epidemic such as measles broke out, they died like flies, whereas the children of the middle classes usually recovered from this illness. Of what use is it to say to such people, "Be clean," when there is only one tap, and "Be healthy," when there is only one lavatory? In houses where there are at least two families upstairs and two down, friction is bound to occur; great unhappiness comes about simply by people being too close together.

In the Children's Courts it is the children of the poor who appear. They have nowhere to play but the streets, and consequently sometimes get into trouble. The chaplain of a women's prison once told Miss Morgan Gibbon that he considered that 50 per cent. of the women prisoners were there because of bad housing conditions. The women are driven to drink by the unhappiness of their lives, and when in a state of intoxication commit some act which places them in the hands of the law. A friend at a Salvation Army Home in a poor part of London had disclosed that she was going to court on behalf of four unmarried mothers of fourteen. Such dire tragedy is the direct outcome of bad housing. In spite of every difficulty, welfare workers agreed that the standard of purity among the poor was amazingly high.

Miss Morgan Gibbon's fourth discovery was that education as doled out to people was inadequate to meet the needs of every-day life for the poor. Present-day education provides facts, but does not fulfil the function of waking up the mind and keeping it awake. Books and pictures are beyond the reach of the poor, but a woman at one of Miss Morgan Gibbon's meetings challenged her with: "I hear you've been to a University. I've got brains too, but I've had no opportunity and no books." Miss Morgan Gibbon has since been lending her such books as Edmund Gosse's "Father and Son," Saki's "When William Came," Prince Kirsky's "Russian Literature," etc., and has found that she can well appreciate them.

Miss Morgan Gibbon closed her talk with a true story of her canvass. A woman who had made the usual remark about not believing in women in politics, asked her her name. When she was told, Miss Morgan Gibbon, she said: "Morgan Gibbon! What, any relation of the Minister of Stamford Hill?" When told that the candidate was his daughter, she said: "Go home, my dear. Everyone in this house will vote for you. Your father buried my mother-in-law!"

### WOMEN'S UNEMPLOYMENT.

As Christmas approaches, it is with sadness we learn that unemployment is increasing. We yield to no one in our sympathy with unemployed men, their wives, and their families; but we cannot help stressing the plight of unemployed women, about whom the public and the Press appear to hear very little. On December 9th, the latest date on which information is available, 148,000 women were registered at the employment exchanges in Great Britain as wholly unemployed, and another 89,200 as temporarily unemployed. At the same time 23,300 girls were registered as wholly, and 4,800 as temporarily, unemployed. We have not yet seen that Mr. J. H. Thomas proposes to include any of these women and girls in the various schemes he is devising for lessening unemployment in this country. We hope that by this time some of his colleagues in the Government have taught Mr. Thomas a little economic sense, and that he no longer believes that the elimination of the female "pin-money" worker will solve the problem of finding work for the 265,300 workless women and girls now registered at our employment exchanges.

### "WHY NOT APPOINT A WOMAN?"

*The Woman's Journal* (New York), under the above heading, states: "There are unquestionably fields of public service in which women have not yet had sufficient experience to serve. So far as we know, for instance, no woman is an expert on the technicalities of Navy or Army equipment. No woman, therefore, should be sent to the coming Naval Conference in the capacity of an expert, required to offer judgments based on tonnages, elevations, guns, and such like. But not all the members of the London Naval Conference are to be naval experts, we understand. There are to be also persons of statesmanlike attainments, of judicial mind, and international grasp. And there are in this country a few outstanding women who obviously meet those requirements. Possibly, a woman has already been scheduled for a place on the delegation. We think such an appointment would be suitable and of real value to the Conference."

So do we; and we are confident that there are also suitable women in this country who would be a very valuable help to this Conference.

## IN PARLIAMENT.

### Maternity Service.

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR (U., Plymouth) asked the Minister of Health whether it is intended to introduce legislation embodying the scheme outlined in a Memorandum of the British Medical Association for a national maternity service for England and Wales, the findings of the Royal Commission on National Health Insurance, and the recommendations of the Report of the Departmental Committee on the Training and Employment of Midwives? MISS LAWRENCE (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health): My right hon. Friend is not yet in a position to make a statement on this subject.

### Juvenile Centres.

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR asked the Minister of Labour how many juvenile unemployment centres for boys only, how many for girls only, and how many for both boys and girls mixed, are now receiving grants? MR. LAWSON (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Labour): Education authorities are at present receiving grant from the Ministry of Labour in respect of 54 junior instruction centres for boys, 19 centres for girls, and 7 centres where the instruction is given to both boys and girls in the same building.

### Women Jurors (Challenge)

SIR KINGSLEY WOOD (U., Woolwich, W.) asked the Home Secretary whether he has given further consideration to the observations of the Recorder of London in a recent case and calling attention to the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919, and how, in virtue of an ancient right of challenge, the provisions of the Act have been rendered inoperative; and whether he has any proposal to make in the matter? MR. CLYNES: I would refer the right hon. Member to the reply given to him on 25th November, when it was pointed out that the rights of men and women in this matter are the same. I have no proposal to make in the matter.

SIR KINGSLEY WOOD: Is not the right hon. Gentleman aware that in this particular case, which was the case of a serious offence against a young child, by this right of challenge women were altogether excluded from the jury; does he not think that a case of that kind is eminently one where women ought to sit; and is he not going to take some steps to remedy that state of affairs, to which the judge at the trial called public attention? MR. CLYNES: With the question of a remedy I cannot deal at this moment, but there are many circumstances in this case which I shall be glad to explain to the right hon. Gentleman.

MISS PICTON-TURBERVILL (Lab., The Wrekin): Is the Home Secretary aware that on the 19th November, at Winchester, the judge called upon two women to leave the jury, and that they were immediately re-placed by two men; that that was a case of misdemeanour—

THE SPEAKER: The question on the Paper refers to a case before the Recorder of London.

### Matrimonial Cases (Family Courts),

MR. SORENSEN (Lab., Leyton, W.) asked the Prime Minister whether, in view of the growing dissatisfaction of the men and women compelled to take their matrimonial troubles to the Police Courts, with that method of administration, he will grant facilities this Session for the Bill to establish Courts of Domestic Relations (Family Courts) to deal with these cases? THE PRIME MINISTER: There is no such Bill now before the House.

MR. SORENSEN: If a Bill were introduced, would the Government give it assistance?

### Hong Kong (Child Labour).

MISS PICTON-TURBERVILL asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what Reports have been received on the working of the Industrial Employment of Children Ordinance of 1922 in Hong Kong; and whether he will lay them upon the Table of the House? DR. DRUMMOND SHIELS: The Annual Reports of the Inspector of Factories in Hong Kong have given in-

formation on the effect of this Ordinance since 1922. The results have been encouraging, and further legislation to improve factory conditions for women and children in the Colony is under the Governor's consideration. I am arranging for a set of the Annual Reports to be placed in the Library of the House.

### Pre-Marriage Initiation Rite (East Africa).

THE DUCHESS OF ATHOLL (U., Kinross and West Perth) asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that a pre-marriage initiation rite is practised on young girls among many African tribes; that this rite in its most severe form consists of actual mutilation and causes great suffering and subsequent most serious injury to health; and whether any steps are taken to repress this custom? DR. SHIELS: The answer to the first two parts of the question is in the affirmative. Considerable caution is necessary in interfering with native customs of this kind, and the policy followed up till now by the Colonial Governments concerned has been to bring persuasion to bear upon the tribes which now practise the rite in its more brutal forms to return to the traditional and less harmful form of it. I am glad to say that a number of the local Native Councils in East Africa have, in fact, passed resolutions making illegal the severer forms of the operation. My noble Friend proposes to go further into the matter with the Colonial Governments concerned.

### East Africa (Midwives, Training).

THE DUCHESS OF ATHOLL asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies the amount of grant made to voluntary agencies for the training of African women as midwives for the years 1921 to 1928, inclusive, in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanganyika, respectively? DR. SHIELS: Both the Kenya and Uganda Governments have for some years made annual grants to voluntary agencies (usually missions) for native medical training or for the maintenance of midwifery centres and midwives. There are, however, no figures available in the Colonial Office showing what proportion of the grants was spent for the specific purpose of training African women as midwives, but if the noble Lady wishes, the Governors of Kenya, Uganda, and Tanganyika will be asked whether they can supply the figures.

### Women (Resignations).

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury the total numbers of women who resigned from the Civil Service on marriage during the years 1926, 1927, and 1928, showing the grades in which they were employed immediately prior to resignation, together with the total number of women employed in each grade? MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE: The total number of established non-industrial women civil servants to whom marriage gratuity was paid in the calendar year 1928 was 1,550. Marriage gratuity is payable after six years' service. The average number of established non-industrial women civil servants in that year was 44,716. In the financial year 1926, 52 established shorthand typists and 80 established typists retired with marriage gratuities, and in the financial year 1927, 87 and 77 respectively. The number of established shorthand typists on 1st April, 1928, was 1,917, and of established typists 1,723.

### Income Tax Assessment.

SIR HERBERT NIELD (U., Ealing) asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to have the law amended in regard to the application, by either husband or wife, who require separate assessments to Income Tax and Sur-tax, so that the yearly applications which have at present to be made before the 6th July in the year of assessment can be effective for subsequent years until the application is revoked by husband or wife? MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE: The hon. and learned Member's suggestion will be borne in mind for consideration when next year's Finance Bill is in preparation.



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

### BRITISH WOMEN SAY "NO!"

Bravo the Duchess of Atholl and Miss Eleanor Rathbone! for championing in the House of Commons the cause of the native women in Africa, who have neither legal nor franchise rights, and, apparently, no human rights! This was the first time that a plea for the emancipation of native women was voiced in our Parliament. We are confident it will not be the last.

On December 11th, Mr. MARLEY (Lab., St. Pancras, N.) moved a Resolution to the effect that the native population should not be exploited as a source of low-grade labour, and stating at the end that "Native self-governing institutions should be fostered, and franchise and legal rights should be based upon the principle of equality for all without regard to race or colour."

THE DUCHESS OF ATHOLL (U., Kinross and West Perth), who had earlier in the day asked questions about the pre-marriage initiation rite in East Africa and about the health and education services among the native populations, stated that a small group of Members in the House of Commons had for some months been studying conditions amongst women and children in the Crown Colonies, particularly amongst women and girls, and that they had all been deeply concerned at many of the things which they had learned bearing on the status, the health, and the welfare generally of women and girls. They had been terribly impressed by the existence of a pre-marriage rite among young girls, among many African tribes, which obtained in Southern Nigeria, Uganda, and in its worst form among the Kikuyu tribe in Kenya. The Duchess briefly described this horrible rite, which is nothing short of mutilation. She said it was difficult to ascertain the extent of the resulting mortality, because there was no register of births or deaths, but one missionary, who had attended many of those young women in hospitals in their confinement, told her recently that out of ten persons affecting twenty lives, only six survived. She urged that as the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies had stated, in answer to one of her questions, that the policy of the Colonial Governments was to bring persuasion on the tribes to return to less harmful forms of this rite, that the best way to do this was to give them practical demonstrations of other and better ways; that every opportunity should be taken to help them to be healthy; and to train native women as midwives. The Duchess instanced a case of a Christian girl who wished to avoid being subjected to the more severe form of operation, but she was seized by her relatives and obliged to submit. An appeal was made to a native court for damages against the operator, but the magistrate ruled that no grievous hurt had been done to the girl! The Duchess declared that the law must be altered; that it was intolerable that a native girl who had had the courage to stand out against this custom of her tribe should be seized forcibly and operated on in that way. She appealed to the Under-Secretary to allow no difficulties to stand in the way of doing everything that was possible to end a barbarous custom which had caused untold suffering, ill-health, and loss of life.

MISS RATHBONE (Ind., English Universities) moved that in the last line of Mr. Marley's Resolution the word "or" should be deleted, and at the end "or sex" be added; so that it would read: "Native self-governing

institutions should be fostered; and franchise and legal rights should be based upon the principle of equality for all without regard to race, colour, or sex."

Miss Rathbone said they had evidence from witnesses which revealed that the position of the native women in many of these tribes was one of sheer slavery, accompanied by many of the worst conditions of slavery, and carried on practically without let or hindrance from the British authorities—slavery, not to Europeans, but to men of their own race. A girl was sold by her father, often in early infancy, without choice, to the man who was destined to be her husband. Before marriage, she had to undergo, again without choice, at the age of 10 or 11, the cruel custom which had been described. After marriage she became the property of her husband, to be used by him and treated by him as he desired. If he died, she became the absolute property of his next male kin, it might be his brother, his cousin, or even a little boy of her own. She might be sold by her new owner in one direction, her daughter might be sold in another direction; the sons being usually retained as the representatives of the tribe. As one witness summarised it: "So far as we can judge, a woman in these tribes has no rights at all from the moment she is born until she dies." Miss Rathbone asked: "If that is not slavery, what is?" and continued: "To endure torture and mutilation, to be sold in marriage to a man whom she loathes, to be obliged to endure childbirth under conditions under which childbirth is carried on, without any of the comforts of decent treatment and medical care, and separated forcibly from her children—are those things less hurtful and humiliating and degrading to humanity because the persons who perpetuate them are the blood relations of the women who endure them?"

Miss Rathbone concluded thus: "The exploitation of coloured women by coloured men is no excuse for the exploitation of coloured men by white men. But if we are asked to accept the principle that native self-governing institutions should be fostered, and the franchise and equal rights should be based upon the principle of equality for all without regard to sex or colour, we hope the champions of these native races will remind them that it has been an old principle that there is no slavery under the British flag. It has been a terrible shock to many of us to whom these facts are new that there is slavery under the British flag, not in small numbers, but some millions, at least, of women, and it is tolerated so long as you can get away under the pretence that it is a domestic custom. Many of us will never be satisfied until the full hideous truth is disclosed and made known to the women of the world, and everything that can be done is done to stamp out slavery of this kind, whether by legislation, by education, or by public opinion. Let them take this message to the men of the native races. There can be no equal citizenship between coloured men and white men until there is equal citizenship between coloured men and coloured women."

DR. DRUMMOND SHIELS (Under-Secretary for the Colonies) accepted Miss Rathbone's amendment, but the House adjourned before a vote was taken.

### SEAFARING WOMEN.

A woman has gained yet another new position. Miss Edith Gale, of Paignton, has been appointed Harbour Master at Paignton, the South Devon holiday resort. Miss Gale has worked in her father's engineering works. She knows all about boats. At the age of eight she was rowing; at fourteen owned her own motor-boat; she is also an expert yachtswoman, and now, at the age of twenty-one, she has secured this new appointment from the Paignton Harbour Commissioners. Readers of THE VOTE will remember that last May Mrs. Foster-Welch, Deputy-Mayor of Southampton, was chosen President of the Port of Sanitary Authority of Great Britain, and that with this appointment she also carries the honour of being Admiral of the Port. Good luck to these seafaring women!

## MEN'S NEST HABITS AND ANTI-FEMINISM.

By DR. MARION E. MACKENZIE.

Mothers are psychologically unpopular as the majority of psychological books are written by men, with not unnaturally an Adam complex, that is, "Blame the woman."

Man, poor soul, may be tied to his mother's apron strings, when, in more modern parlance, we say that he has a "mother-fixation." At first sight it seems pretty obvious that his mother should get the blame, so "Blame the mother," says every male psychologist, and they do the same in writing.

Men who dislike their womenfolk to do anything but pander to their comfort seem to be all tarred with the same brush; that is, they have nest habits, and, like Peter Pan, they refuse to grow up; and, moreover, like Peter, they want a mother and not a wife. Fortunately, Wendy, being a feminist, refused the job. So Peter, like other men who would not marry because he could not find a wife like his dear mother, became a bachelor, as so many men have done for the same reason, namely, that their nest habits would not allow them to face the responsibilities of family life. So the poor mothers are blamed because their sons regress to infancy.

Or, maybe, for a brief hour or two they were venturesome, got engaged, and even perhaps faced the music, or, rather, the marriage, or were among the "missing bridegrooms." If they faced it, what happened then? They demanded that their wives should stay at home and warm their slippers, cook their dinners, air their clothes, etc. If she dared to earn her living in any other way she was told, in the words of the old song, "My mother never did so," and the nearer she kept his mother's pattern, the more content was he. One man I know was furious because his wife liked cooking, which seemed ridiculously inconsistent, but he said his mother never did any cooking and she should manage her maids so as never to do any either, no matter whether she liked it or no.

The poor man was playing for safety; anything he was accustomed to pleased him, as it does an infant who will often dread new experiences, especially when he has been sheltered too much. The next generation may find a man unhappy because his wife is not a mathematician like his mother before her; and so he will disapprove of her and will consider her stupid.

Now where a man has these nest habits his wife had better make the best of a bad bargain, and her cue is to mother him. After all, it is not the poor soul's fault that he is afraid of growing up and taking a man's part. He is to be pitied for his early training.

I do not, however, agree for one moment that the fault lies only at the mother's door. I think the father must take his share of the blame, and so, too, must the nurses and teachers, and anyone connected with the early training of such a man, who failed to help him to grow up. The mother usually does this by too much maternal solicitude; the father, maybe, by too much paternal solicitude, but more frequently by dominating his son too much so that he becomes afraid, and instead of going through the normal phase, in which he wants to be a man like daddy and to smoke a pipe like daddy,

### A LITTLE SALE AT LINCOLN'S INN.

Last week, on Tuesday, another little Christmas Sale was conducted at the very enjoyable "At Home" so kindly held by Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence in her delightful Lincoln's Inn home. A large number of friends and members of the League availed themselves of the opportunity of joining in a very pleasant social afternoon.

Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, in welcoming her friends and opening the Sale, explained that the work of the Women's Freedom League was very pressing and required increased financial support. It was very necessary now that we should be able to use united pressure to make women's equality a real fact, and propaganda and organisation were essential. A hearty

he clings to his mother's apron strings at the age of about eight, when she should encourage him to let them go. Indeed, he should be encouraged from birth to be as independent as possible.

When the father is a bully it is not unnatural that the boy should not wish to grow up. On the other hand, the father should let go. He is apt to disapprove of the boy's developing along his own line, and does not wish him to become independent in his views or in any other way. The boy never learns to think for himself unless he be a rebel.

One frequently finds fathers who so object to their sons growing up, that they will not allow them to shave; "they are too young to begin," or they refuse to allow latch-keys. Even if it were possible to police them always, they retard their mental growth, and, as Dr. Crichton Miller puts it so well, they are still spiritually filial.

One may argue that if the father is a good man, why not? For the reason that it is just these misfits whose development has been arrested at any stage who afterwards have nervous breakdowns. More and more it is being recognised that it is just the failure of parents to give spiritual freedom to their children, by making them afraid of life either by the unhappy example they set them or by too much coddling, which fills our asylums. More and more it is being recognised, too, that heredity is comparatively unimportant, but that it is environment that counts.

The other day a mother was telling me what a paragon of a boy she had, absolutely obedient and so reliable that if he said he would be in by five she was nearly driven crazy if he had not turned up before five minutes past. I asked how old he was, thinking probably about five years. To my horror she told me he was seventeen. Ye Gods! What a paragon!

Again, to quote Dr. Crichton Miller: "When the father is harsh and a menace, and security lies with the mother, a filial dependence on the mother is safer and more rewarded; it is also very detrimental to the boy who gets a failure of character." He also says that the satisfactory husbands are the ones the mothers let go, and that only sons, with dead fathers, make bad mates.

Only sons, with live fathers who won't let them go, make bad mates, too, from what one can see. I have some in particular in my mind who succeed in passing off as quite desirable husbands when their wives are willing to sink their individuality and cry with John Milton, "He for God only; she for God in him." Not only do some of them make themselves believe that they have perfect husbands, but their ego is such that, whatever is connected with them, their ox, their ass, and all that is theirs, is perfect too, a sort of mutual admiration society in which they are able to retain the infantile belief in their own infallibility. Every filially spiritual man with a father or mother who has tied him to their apron strings is not so lucky. So it behoves parents to bring up children to be independent, to stand and not lean, to be "the skippers of their own ships," which way sanity lies.

vote of thanks to our kind hostess was carried by acclamation, and brisk buying and refreshing tea followed—about £20 changing hands.

We record grateful thanks to our hospitable and generous hostess; to Miss Reeves and the Minerva Club for expert organisation of the tea, and to Miss Alix Clark, who brought a stall of cakes, pies, marmalade, etc., from her tea-room at Weybridge; also to all our kind helpers: Miss Auld, Miss E. Berry, Miss Charles, Mrs. Delbanco, Mrs. Dickson, Mrs. Drawater, Miss K. Johnson, Mrs. Keelan, Miss Lyndon, Miss Phyllis Mustard, Mrs. Nichols, Miss Joan Elias-Pritchard, and Miss Trotter.



OUR BOOK REVIEW.

*British Women in the Twentieth Century.* By Elsie M. Lang. Published by T. Werner Laurie Ltd. Price 16s. (May be obtained from this Office.)

In this extremely interesting book Elsie M. Lang gives a rapid but comprehensive survey of the progress made by British women during the last thirty years, and a wonderful record it is. Modern woman having found her way into almost every department of human life, the story is a very varied one, and there are few occupations, hobbies or pursuits which do not come within the author's ken. Yet such is the wealth of material at her command that one feels she has only made a selection from it, and that even within the limits of this handsome volume she has had to pick and choose.

To readers of "The Vote" the chief interest is of course political, and we are glad to have here a record of the self-sacrificing labours of the pioneers of our Movement, who toiled and suffered and struggled on in days of darkness and despair till at last the cause was won. All our brave leaders meet us here and their voices ring in our ears, reminding us of the pit whence we were digged, and the way that we have come, and bidding us be worthy of our heritage.

Whatever may befall the women of to-morrow, the women of to-day and yesterday command our admiration and respect. In the long struggle for the franchise Woman served her apprenticeship and won her spurs, and now she is taking her share in every form of human endeavour. In these fascinating chapters we see her distinguishing herself in the Medical profession, in Law, in business, in the Arts and Sciences, in Aviation and Sport, and in many other spheres. It is, indeed, a Pageant of Brave Women that passes before us in these pages, and when we read again the story of War-service, when we think of Lady Heath and Lady Bailey in their long, lone flights over the desert, when we read of Mercedes Gleitze being taken unconscious from the water after her conquest of the Channel, we thrill with pride in their courage and endurance. Women have indeed justified their claim to equality with men,—they have taken all labour for their province, as Olive Schreiner urged them to do, and proved that there is nothing they cannot do, if they choose and train themselves to do it,—and they carry on the race, as well!

In her final chapter on "Careers for Women" the author gives valuable information and advice regarding opportunities for women in Government Departments and the Civil Service, in education, in the learned professions, in business and the Arts, in Agriculture and other open-air pursuits, which will no doubt be very useful to those happy women whose life-work is still before them, whose "way is all before them where to choose." Another interesting chapter deals with the changes in Society which have taken place since the beginning of the century, and those who remember the House of Bondage will resolve never to return thither, but to march ever forward into the Promised Land.

The book is written in a clear, easy style, and beautifully illustrated, and it forms a valuable addition to the ever-growing literature of the Woman's Movement. W. M. S.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SUFFRAGISTS IN CEYLON

In a leading article in *The Times* last Saturday we were informed that, by a majority of two votes, the Ceylon Legislative Council had accepted the constitutional changes offered by Lord Passfield, and that, in a sentence, the new Constitution will provide for a Chamber, elected by universal adult suffrage, all of whose members will take part in the task of governing, as distinct from legislating, by sitting on one or other of the Executive Committees, which will direct the different departments. This new Constitution embodies generally the recommendations of the Donoughmore Commission, which found the basis for those recommendations in the practice of the London County Council, whose members divide the work between Committees composed of all shades of opinion. Every

member of the Ceylon Council will belong to one or other of its Committees. The franchise is to be extended to the whole population, men and women alike at twenty-one, without tests of education or of means. The present elected members are elected by only four per cent. of the population; and it is urged that the reasons for extending the franchise are particularly strong in the case of the most ignorant and impoverished part of the population. The Donoughmore reforms are essentially an attempt to give more self-government to Ceylon. The writer in *The Times* states that the great needs of Ceylon are social needs, and this fact our fellow-suffragists in Ceylon have strongly emphasised again and again. For many years they themselves have worked ceaselessly for the improvement of health and education in their community; and with their coming enfranchisement we are confident that success will crown their efforts. We offer our warm congratulations to the Women's Franchise Union of Ceylon.

ELECTIONS IN CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.

We learn from Czecho-Slovakia that elections took place in that country, on October 27th for both Houses of Parliament. Women candidates were found in all political parties with the exception of the Clerical Parties. The number of women elected, 14 in all, does not differ from that reached in 1925. The following table shows the total number of deputies and senators elected, as well as the names of the women elected. An asterisk denotes re-election.

Party	No. Deputies	No. Senators	Names of Women Elected.
Agrarian	46	24	*Senator Anna Chlebounova
Social Democrats	39	20	Deputy Marie Jurneckova *Senator B. Karpiskova
National Socialists	32	16	*Deputy L. Pechmannova Deputy M. Smejcová *Deputy Fr. Zeminova *Senator F. F. Plaminkova
Communists	30	15	Deputy M. Cizimska Deputy A. Hodinova Deputy E. Kuhnova Senator M. Stejskalova
Czech Catholics	25	13	
Slovak Catholics	19	9	
National Democrats	15	8	Deputy Prof. A. Vetterova-Beckerova
Industrial	12	6	
League of Stribrny	3	1	
German Social Democrats	21	11	*Deputy Fanni Blatny *Deputy Irena Kirpalova
Other Parties	58	27	

We warmly congratulate all the above women members of both Houses of Parliament. It gives us particular pleasure to note the re-election of Madame Plaminkova to the Senate whom we were delighted to meet last summer at the International Council of Women's Meetings in London and also at the Congress in Berlin of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship.

TO ALL MEMBERS.

Please post me your Subscription for 1929, if outstanding, to the Women's Freedom League, before you enjoy your Christmas rest, and you will enjoy it the more.

E. Knight,  
Hon. Treasurer.  
144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Women's Freedom League.

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WHERE TO GO.

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1930.

**Tuesday, January 7th, at 3 p.m.**  
Finchley and Golders Green Branch. Committee Meeting at 15, Ravenscroft Avenue, N.W.11 (by the kind invitation of Mrs. Gugenheim).  
**Monday, January 13th, at 3 p.m.**  
Hampstead Branch. Meeting at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3 (by kind invitation of the Misses Berry).  
**Monday, January 13th, at 7 p.m.**  
Dinner and Reception to Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1., prior to her visit to South Africa. Tickets for dinner and reception 3/6, for reception only (8 p.m.) 1/-.  
**Monday, January 20th, at 7.30 p.m.**  
London Members' Meeting. The Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood.  
**Tuesday, January 28th, at 8 p.m.**  
Meeting at 9, Makepeace Avenue, Holly Lodge, Highgate (by kind permission of Mrs. Mustard).  
**Wednesday, January 29th, at 3 p.m.**  
Hackney and District Branch. Meeting at 128, Wells Street, E.9.  
**Wednesday, January 29th, at 7.30 p.m.**  
Barnsbury and District Branch. Meeting at 15, Richmond Crescent, N.1. (by kind permission of Mrs. Potter).  
**Saturday, February 1st, at 10 a.m.**  
National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

PROVINCES.

**Friday, January 10th.**  
Ashford Branch. New Year's Party at Hempsted Street Room.  
**Thursday, January 16th, at 7.30 p.m.**  
Leeds Branch. Open Meeting in Outlook Club, Greek Street. Speaker: Dr. Marion MacKenzie, on "Child Psychology." Chair: Councillor Blanche Leigh. Doors open at 7.30 p.m.  
**Tuesday, January 21st, at 7.30 p.m.**  
Bradford Branch. Annual General Meeting in the Church House, North Parade. Chairman: Alderman Mrs. Chambers.  
**Thursday, January 23rd, at 7 p.m.**  
Swansea Branch. Social Gathering at 9, Sketty Road.

SCOTLAND.

**Friday, January 10th, at 7.30 p.m.**  
Glasgow Branch. Whist Drive in the Athenæum Restaurant, 179, Buchanan Street. Ticket 2/6 (including Tea) to be obtained from Hon. Secretary, Miss R. McDougall, 545, Crow Road, Jordanhill, Glasgow.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

**Tuesday, February 11th, at 3 p.m.**  
Women's Guild of the George Street Congregational Church, Croydon. Public Meeting at the Congregational Church, Croydon. Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin. Subject: "Nasal Hygiene." Chair: Mrs. J. S. Richards.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

The offices of the Women's Freedom League and the Minerva Publishing Company, Limited, will be closed from Tuesday, December 24th, 1 p.m., until Monday, December 30th, 9.30 a.m.

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.

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OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

"The Wife of —."

DEAR MADAM,—I should be interested to learn if it is law, or only custom, that demands a married woman to state that she is "The Wife of —," or after her name write "married woman," when matters in question in no way concern her husband or her married state. For example, on lease and other agreements between landlord (the married woman) and a tenant. Notice of appeal against her decision as a magistrate in a police court—a matter quite irrelevant to the words "married woman" which follow her name on such occasion. It is all so belittling, humiliating and unjust to be placed under this flag of ownership. If it is law, then let us fight it and get it removed.

Yours sincerely,  
E. CRESSWELL.

BRANCH NOTES.

**BEXHILL.**  
We can congratulate ourselves on the attendance at the Whist Drive, held at the Kalevoh Café last Monday. People were courageous to turn out at all. We managed to fill seven tables. Our very warmest thanks are due to Mrs. and Miss Saunders, who had worked nobly to make the drive a success; to the local tradespeople, who presented us with eight prizes; and to all those who faced the weather and came to spend the evening with us.

**HASTINGS.**  
A successful meeting was held at 4, Holmesdale Gardens, last Thursday. Miss Strongfellow presided. Miss Hawkridge gave an interesting speech on "Women in the Ministry"; the speaker chiefly dealt with the position of women in the Free Churches. There was a long discussion at the end of her speech, which made the meeting a particularly interesting one. Mrs. Prelooker warmly thanked the speakers and said how much she had enjoyed the meeting. We gladly welcome both speakers as new members. Our next function will be a New Year's Party. This is sure to be very enjoyable, with Mrs. Stanley Brown as hostess.

MAUD L. WHITE.

**LEEDS.**  
An open Branch Meeting of the Leeds members was held on Tuesday, December 10th, in the Y.W.C.A., Coolridge Street, when Dr. Marion MacKenzie presided. Miss L. Lenton spoke on the necessity for more women police. After coffee was served, an interesting discussion ensued, and the following resolution was proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously:—"The Leeds Branch of the Women's Freedom League, being deeply conscious of the need for more women police, would welcome the opportunity to join with the National Council of Women in the deputation it understands that Society is arranging to the Watch Committee on this subject, should such an opportunity be offered to it." (Hon. Sec.) L. ROACH.

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS FOR OUR READERS.

"Women's Fight for the Vote," by Frederick W. Pethick-Lawrence ... 6d.  
"Pages from the Diary of a Militant Suffragette," by Katherine Roberts ... 1s.  
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"A Reply to the Bishop of Durham" (re Women's Place in the Church), by Eunice G. Murray ... 2d.  
"Josephine Butler" (a cameo life-sketch), by Marion Holmes ... 4d.  
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