

THE VOTE.
JUNE 11, 1926.

PARIS CONGRESS NUMBER.

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 1926

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 PARIS CONGRESS.

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.

It is a wonderful and solemn moment this opening of our Tenth Congress. Here we gather: women from all the continents, from countries far and near. Many of us have not met for three years—how proudly we tell our victories, how confidently we look for sympathy in our efforts! One thing alone is certain: we know no defeat, for sometimes slowly, sometimes rapidly, the great woman's movement marches on.

Here Paris looks down on us and wonders what this Great Congress can be. You have in front of you a new, untried President, but behind me you see in solid support your Board of Officers and the Presidents of forty countries. We on this platform are the symbol of a unity that is world wide, but you the Delegates must make that unity real. The Congress is much more than the scene of its delegations. As we work together, you and I, we shall see it grow a living, powerful force.

A President and a Board cannot bring the Congress to life. But if your one idea is service, generous and enthusiastic service to this great Alliance and its greater ideal, then from our travail the Congress will find its soul. In 1920 and 1923 we debated whether the Alliance were necessary to the woman's movement. Look around you for the answer! We have never had so large an attendance, delegations so strong, a programme so carefully prepared. . . . Since our meeting in Rome, 16 new associations from 12 countries are joining us. We celebrate suffrage victories in Newfoundland and many States of India, in Greece, Italy and Spain, and rejoice in the wonderful activity of the Near East and of South America,

Enfranchised women, our victories are so many that our very name is antiquated and hampering in 25 countries. Our problem is to find a title which will show our mission to the free woman voter, while we wait for and work with you unenfranchised women. We understand your problems, we have won through them; but let those who fought in our lands for 50 years assure you that though the difficulties are the same, victory comes more quickly.

To-day we may say with pride that the woman's movement exists in every country where civilisation is based on justice, peace, and liberty. Its goal is Equality, International Understanding, and Peace. Our belief in international co-operation is twin to our belief in the woman's movement; for, as we recognise that the fullest personality gives the richest service to the community, so we believe that fullest national life and culture add rich service to the world. We have learnt to limit our individual liberty for the good of the community, and we must now learn the hard task of harmonising national activity with world peace and world needs. We belong to the woman's movement because we believe that the human race is capable of further improvement, that freedom, education and responsibility evoke all that is best in the



MRS. CORBETT ASHBY

individual, regardless of sex.

Therefore we work to sweep away those ancient superstitions, customs and laws, which hamper women's free development. This is an hourly task for all of us, so stubbornly are these superstitions rooted in daily life. Until they are gone, we do not know to what heights women may not rise. We work for women's education,

free and equal, varied and profound; not only for the education of school and university, but for equal opportunity in technical and professional training, in travelling scholarships and in professorial posts. Without favour, but without handicap, we ask for equal access to all professions and to all branches of industry, with equal pay for equal work. It is here, perhaps, that women are meeting most hostility to-day. The economic situation in all countries has been gravely affected by the war, and much of the burden of unemployment falls upon the women as workers or as wives, for the theory that men can protect women is, alas, cruelly inadequate to-day.

Besides, let us frankly face the fact that many women who believe in social, moral, and political equality do not yet see the need for industrial equality. Yet, as an alliance, and as individuals, we must hold our faith whole and complete. For only when real equality is attained can we discover what are the true differences of function and capacity. Differences, outside the obvious one of motherhood, appear more and more to be differences between individuals rather than true sex distinctions. The demand for equal responsibilities must not wait for the granting of equal political rights or for equal education. Our civilisation is so complex that women are needed in every branch of social work for which they show admirable capacity. No woman is so busy in her home or her profession that she cannot by a better adjustment of her time spare some energy to work for her neighbours, her town, and her country. Good work never absorbed so much time as visits, sport, and bridge.

The woman's movement seeks to deepen woman's sense of responsibility and to widen her sphere of activity, from the home to the city, from the city to the nation. We do not rest there. The League of Nations permits us to complete the circle and to work beyond our own frontiers for the peace and welfare of the whole world; as love of country has always been taught at the mother's knee, so we, the mothers of to-day and to-morrow, must teach that understanding and sympathy know no frontiers.

Solidarity among women is vital. All women must unite in the demand for the vote—women of all the political parties, women of all interests and classes, women of the liberal professions whose civil incapacity is absurd, and women of all religions—to show that faith in woman's mission to help and heal is not confined to any one creed or section. The home-loving woman must shake off her mental laziness that permits her, for her safe shelter, to ignore the welfare of any children but her own, to ignore the long hours and low pay of her less fortunate sisters, the miserable housing which breeds tuberculosis, the double standard of morality which, while she modestly turns away her head, decimates the race with fearful disease. The women in the syndicates and unions, the women in the co-operative movement, must carry the campaign into those organisations whose belief in democracy and equality does not always include their own wives and fellow-workers.

Experience shows us the vital importance of preserving, outside political parties, a woman's organisation whose attitude of mind is feminist and whose goal is equality. It is hard enough to win the vote; it is far harder to achieve a real equality of liberties, status, and responsibilities. It requires good organisation and great vigilance to watch all new Parliamentary legislation and remove from it discriminations against women; to educate public opinion towards the need for reform in such matters as the marriage laws, health administration, the treatment of child offenders, opportunities for training equal for boys and girls. As soon as women are voters, the political party machines can be trusted to undertake their political education with zeal as remarkable as it is tardy. But women's organisations must show the woman voter how she in turn can educate her party in all those social reforms which add to the health and happiness of the race. Let us, the enfranchised women, never consent to be merely members of political parties. If our political activities are to be

effective, we must vote as members of a political party, but our first loyalty should be to women, and to our great International Alliance and its aims.

The great gift of the Congress to each one of us is enthusiasm and courage. Many of us are lonely pioneers working, in country towns or mountain villages, almost single-handed against prejudice and apathy. We know our faith is true, but sometimes the fire burns dimly. How inspiring to find here the companionship of women whose very lives show how paltry and ridiculous are the objections and fears of our neighbours! Here the women of Norway and Iceland greet the women of Japan, and Great Britain welcomes Brazil and Peru. The new continent of Australasia, the most pure in race of the world, can compare its problems with those of the United States where all races are fusing, and with those of China and Egypt whose civilisations greeted the dawn of the world. Friendships made this week will never break, for, in a world torn by suffering and fear, we represent the strongest power in the world—mother-love.

LEAD PAINT BILL.

This Bill, which was introduced by the Home Secretary, passed its Second Reading last Friday with a majority of 75. The opposition came from those who wanted to prohibit the use of lead paint in painting buildings, while Sir William Joynson-Hicks argued that under the regulations of this Bill the chances of lead poisoning would be very considerably lessened. Our deep-rooted objection to this Bill is that it will prohibit the employment of adult women after Nov. 19th, 1927, in painting buildings with lead, adult women being classed for this purpose with Young Persons. Not one word has been said about the exclusion of women in the discussion on the Second Reading, and yet it is a very serious thing for women to be shut out of any kind of employment. It has been stated that women should not be employed in lead work because of possible ill effects on their children. Yet Mr. Rhys Davies, who advocated the prohibition of the use of lead in painting, said definitely that lead-poisoning was "transferred from the painter himself to his wife and progeny." It is, therefore, quite as necessary to protect men as to protect women from the dangers of lead-poisoning, if the disease is not to be transmitted to the children. We hold most strongly to the view that there should be effective protection for all workers—men and women—and very special protection for young persons; but we emphatically object to the legal exclusion of women from this work; and once again we enter our protest against adult women being placed in the same category as Young Persons for this kind of protective legislation. If the use of white lead or red lead is too harmful for women, then it is too harmful for men, and should be prohibited to both men and women. If, on the other hand, the Home Secretary is convinced that his proposed Regulations for the use of lead will safeguard the health of men, those same Regulations should be sufficient to safeguard the health of women workers. We all know that there are some women and some men who ought never to work with any lead mixture, but as all lead workers have to submit to medical examination, they would easily be excluded from so working. It is, however, a very different matter to enact that all women, simply and solely because they are women, should be excluded from this industry. Women workers equally with men should have the right to decide whether or not they are prepared to take any risk that such employment involves.

QUEEN'S HALL,

SOLE LESSEES: MESSRS. CHAPPELL & CO.
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SUNDAY EVENINGS AT 7

June 13, 20, 27; July 4.

DR. ANNIE BESANT:

"THE COMING OF THE WORLD TEACHER"

As seen by Ancient and Modern Psychology.

Tickets 6d, 1/-, 2/6, etc., from Queen's Hall (Box Office), and "Lectures," 23, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1. Admission free.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Royal Commission on Lunacy.

SIR CHARLES OMAN (U., Oxford University) asked the Minister of Health the date at which the Report of the Royal Commission on Lunacy can be laid before the House? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS (Home Secretary): I am unable to state the date on which this Report will be laid before the House, but I understand that the Royal Commission hope to be in a position to present their Report before the end of next month.

Education (Necessitous Children).

MR. T. WILLIAMS (Lab., Don Valley) asked the President of the Board of Education whether children of school age, for whom no school accommodation is available, are treated as children attending school for the purposes of the Feeding of Necessitous School Children Act, 1908? THE DUCHESS OF ATHOLL (Parliamentary Secretary, Board of Education): My right hon. Friend assumes that the provisions to which the hon. Member refers are those now contained in Sections 82 to 85 of the Education Act, 1921. He is advised that these Sections enable a local education authority to defray the cost of food out of the rates only in respect of children in attendance at an elementary school in their area, and only if they resolve that any of these children are unable, by reason of lack of food, to take full advantage of the education provided for them. The question of the children for whom meals can be provided under these Sections is primarily one for the authority concerned. MR. T. WILLIAMS: Am I to understand, from the noble Lady's answer, that in one definite district to which I can refer, where there are 527 children of school age, all miners' children, because no accommodation has been provided for them by the education authority, cannot, now that distress intervenes, benefit as the result of the Education Act referred to? DUCHESS OF ATHOLL: I am afraid that is the interpretation of the Act. MR. WILLIAMS: Will the noble Lady indicate, then, where some sense of equality can be enjoyed in regard to these particular children, or are we to understand that, during a continued period of distress, their parents are to be deprived of any advantages, but yet they must contribute towards any benefit received by children belonging to other parents? DUCHESS OF ATHOLL: I do not think the question whether the parents of these children are liable for rates arises. MR. SPEAKER: It is a different question.

WOMEN'S BAR SUCCESSES.

Seventeen women were successful in the recent Bar Examinations. In Constitutional Law and Legal History, 5 women were successful: Miss Louise Beryl Gruchy (Middle Temple), who obtained a Second Class, and the Misses Evelyn Acworth Acworth, Margery Kate Pearson Willison (both of the Inner Temple), Phyllis Lucy Morgan Blake (Gray's Inn), and Dorothy Travers Wolfe (Lincoln's Inn). In Criminal Law and Procedure, 5 women were successful: the Misses Edna Phyllis Bland, Norah Mary Brooks, Ethel Denison James, Sophy Sanger (all of Gray's Inn), and Miss Dorothy Travers Wolfe (Lincoln's Inn). In Real Property and Conveyancing, 4 women were successful: the Misses Sarah Dhar, Florence Earengy (both of the Middle Temple), and Winifred Margaret Goode (Lincoln's Inn), who obtained Second Classes, and Miss Anne Wilson Hastings (Middle Temple). In the Final Examination, 4 women were successful: Miss Evelyn Priscilla Hope (Middle Temple), who obtained a First Class and Certificate of Honour, the Misses Olive Reid Morris (Gray's Inn) and the Hon. Ruth Burton Buckley (Lincoln's Inn), who obtained Second Classes, and Miss Mary Anna Elizabeth Moclair (Middle Temple). The total number of barristers is now 77.

Peacemakers' Pilgrimage,

HYDE PARK,

Saturday, June 19.

From North, South, East and West, Peace Pilgrims are now concentrating upon London.

On June 18th the Northern division will reach Hampstead, and big public meetings will be held at the White Stone Pond and on Parliament Hill that evening.

On June 19th four processions will march to Hyde Park.

The Women's Freedom League will form up at 144 High Holborn at 1.45 p.m., and join the Bloomsbury Procession in Montague Place, march through Tottenham Court Road and Oxford Street to Marble Arch.

Speakers at the 23 platforms at 5 p.m. include Mrs. Wintringham, Miss Bondfield, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., Miss Royden, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, Miss Munro.

All friends welcomed to march with us.

RESOLUTION.

We, members and supporters of the Peacemakers' Pilgrimage, believing that law should take the place of war in the settlement of international disputes, urge His Majesty's Government to agree to settle all disputes by conciliation or arbitration, and, by taking the lead in the proposed Disarmament Conference of the League of Nations, to show that Great Britain does not intend to appeal to force.

Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party,

CAXTON HALL,

June 30, at 7.

Send in your Contributions to the Birthday Fund and get your ticket, Price 1/-.

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS

PROCESSION AND DEMONSTRATION,

July 3.

Embankment 2 p.m., march to Hyde Park 4 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS.

That this Mass Demonstration organised by: Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, Actresses' Franchise League, British Commonwealth League, British Federation of University Women, Civil Service Sorting Assistants, Electrical Society for Women, Federation of Women Civil Servants, International Woman's Suffrage Alliance, League of the Church Militant, Liverpool Dressmakers' Association, London Society for Women's Service, National Council of Women, National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, National Union of Teachers, National Union of Women Teachers, Post Office Women Clerks' Association, Saint Joan's Social and Political Alliance, Six Point Group, Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations, Theosophical Order of Service, Women's Co-operative Guild, Women's Election Committee, Women's Engineering Society, Women's Freedom League, Women's Group of the Ethical Union, Women's Guild of Empire, Women's International League, Women's National Liberal Federation, Women Sanitary Inspectors' and Health Visitors' Association, Workers' Union, Co-operative Party, Guild of Girl Citizens, Guild of Citizens of To-morrow, Association of Higher Grade Women in the P.O., National Women Citizens' Association, Young Liberals' Federation, Trades Union Congress—

demand an immediate Government Measure giving Votes to Women at 21 on the same terms as Men and

demand for Peeresses in their own right, a seat, a voice, and a vote in the House of Lords.

Every member is specially urged to share in this historic march and to bring all her friends.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 11th, 1926.

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.

TOWARDS EQUALITY.

At the recent Paris Congress, the Women's Freedom League delegates gave their full and undivided support to every resolution which aimed at securing the complete equality of women with men, no matter under what heading the discussions came; and they offered uncompromising opposition to any proposal for the restriction of women's work or their sphere of usefulness. Our delegates were in complete accord with the demand of the Alliance that women be admitted without restriction to all posts and professions, and that, in regard to professional education, salary, and advancement, they should be on absolutely the same footing as men. With regard to modern marriage laws, they supported the resolution that these should be based on absolute equality of husband and wife; that marital authority should be abolished in those countries where it still exists; and that the parents should have equal authority over their children. Another important resolution which our delegates supported was that the Alliance, through its auxiliaries, should bring pressure to bear upon the Governments to secure the appointment of women to the League of Nations Private International Law Committee, since its recommendations will vitally affect the status and rights of women. The resolution demanding the employment of Women Police with the same status and powers as their male colleagues also received their support. We are glad, too, that our own resolution, calling upon organised women in all countries to insist that there shall be women governors and women deputy-governors in all women's prisons and women's sections of prisons, women medical officers in all women's prisons, and women inspectors of prisons, was passed by the Alliance. At the same time we regret that our other resolution, strongly recommending that in hospitals containing women patients suffering from illness of body or mind, these patients shall be treated by women doctors, and that in the administration of these institutions and the ultimate control of the patients, women shall have equal authority and responsibility with men, did not secure a majority of votes. Our delegates enthusiastically supported the following: "This Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, believing that the possession of the vote is both an indispensable instrument for the attainment of practical reforms and a matter of wider import affecting the whole status of womanhood, protests against the inequality of the franchise (parliamentary or municipal) existing in Belgium, Canada, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Northern Ireland, Italy, and Spain. It calls upon the Governments of these countries to remove this injustice by the immediate granting of the vote to women at the same age and on the same terms as men." The foregoing resolutions and many others proposed at the Paris Congress show clearly that, although the equality of women with men in regard to status, opportunities, rewards and responsibilities may be within sight in some countries, this complete equality is certainly not within reach in the great majority of countries; but we confidently rely upon the women delegates who attended this Congress to work with might and main to secure further measures of equality in their own countries between now and three years hence, when they hope to meet one another again at the Eleventh Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

WOMEN AIR PILOTS.

The Paris Congress sent a special message of cordial congratulation to the International Air Navigation Commission upon its recent unanimous decision to lift from women air pilots the ban imposed last year, forbidding them to qualify for the "B" Licence, by which they might carry passengers for profit. It will be recollected (THE VOTE, Dec. 4th, 1925) that Mlle. Adrienne Bolland, the French aviatrix, who had for some years piloted passengers in her two commercial aeroplanes in France, was recently forced into bankruptcy owing to this restriction; and Monsieur Flandin, formerly French Under-Secretary of State for Air, approached the Paris Office of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, and asked the assistance of Women's Suffrage organisations throughout the world in pressing their national delegates to the International Commission to rescind this resolution. At the recent Paris meeting of the Commission last May, Air Vice-Marshal Sir Sefton Brancker, and Sir Samuel Hoare, British Air Minister, listened with sympathetic consideration to the case put forward on behalf of the women, and with the support of France, Sweden and Czechoslovakia, the ban was unanimously lifted by the same delegates who had formerly urged the imposition. At present no woman doctor sits on this sub-commission, and its proceedings will therefore need to be carefully watched. The result of the women's case was probably a foregone conclusion, as for some time past the Air Ministry in this country had been arranging for Mrs. Elliot-Lynn, England's premier woman air pilot, to take the necessary examinations in preparation for the time when the "B" Licence would be granted. The only stipulation now is that the medical sub-commission shall first decide on the alterations necessary in the medical requirements in order to include women.

THE HANDY BOY.

We heartily agree with Professor Wortley's suggestion, in addressing the pupils of the Nottingham County Secondary School for Girls at their first Speech Day, that all boys should be taught something of household management, plain needlework, elementary cooking, and house-cleaning. He said that both boys and girls should know something of all these things, and that it was extraordinary that these subjects had never been taught in boys' schools. One of the first things taught in the Boy Scout movement was how to cook, how to mend and sew. Since this was considered to be such an excellent practice, why not try it in boys' schools? We see no reason why these domestic subjects should be taught only to girls. Countless temporary soldiers picked up the rudiments of cooking and needlework a few years ago, and a great many of them would have been thankful if they had received useful instructions on these matters in their youth. A proper training in them would sometimes be of the utmost service to young men who emigrate to different parts of the British Empire and other countries, or even to some men who have to live away from their own homes in this country. The practice of the domestic arts can prove a very beneficial exercise to both hand and brain, and it is certain that the man who is skilled in them has a greater respect for the competency of a good housewife. He would also appreciate some of her difficulties, and be willing to take on some of her duties when the children were ill, when she was overworked, or perhaps in need of a temporary holiday, remembering that she has less opportunity than he has of ceasing work at a stated time. The practical teaching of domestic subjects to both boys and girls would certainly make for better comradeship between the sexes in later years.

THE PARIS CONGRESS.

The Tenth Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, held at the Sorbonne, Paris, from May 30th to June 6th, judged from the point of view of a record attendance, remarkably vigorous Delegations, and a carefully prepared programme, has been a brilliant success.

The formal opening in the vast amphitheatre of the French University was a memorable occasion. Mrs. Corbett Ashby, who was elected First British President of the Alliance at the Rome Congress, in 1923, made an imposing entry, accompanied by M. Lamoureux, French Minister of Public Instruction, and M. Lapie, Rector of the Sorbonne, with members of the Diplomatic Corps of many countries. Surrounding her on either side of the raised dais were members of the Board and the distinguished women Presidents of the various Delegations, whilst seated in the vast arena were delegates from over 40 nations affiliated to the Alliance, many of them in gaily-hued native costume, and tier after tier of spectators packed to the topmost gallery. The flags of over 40 nations draped round the frescoed walls formed a picturesque background to this animated scene.

Addresses of welcome from the French Government, and from Mme. Brunschvieg, President of the *Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes*, which has been mainly responsible for the organisation of the Congress, preceded the President's opening speech (portions of which are reproduced on the front and following pages), after which followed greetings from the President of the International Council of Women, the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, who was present at the First Congress of the Alliance, in Berlin, in 1902, and from Mme. la Duchesse d'Uzès, Hon. President of the *Union Française*. Short speeches from selected women of the five continents of the world, followed by a charming Tableau illustrating the union of East and West in the Woman's Movement, accompanied by musical interludes supplied by a Parisian Women's Choral Society, and a sextet of Women Harpists, under the direction of Lina Cantelon, completed a memorable evening.

The first few days of the Congress were occupied with the presentation and adoption of the reports of the five Commissions which form the chief work of the Alliance during the intervals between each world Conference. Of these, the Equal Moral Standard Commission, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Van der Pyl, in the unavoidable absence of Dr. Paulina Luisi, was accepted *en bloc*, every resolution being passed with practically no dissentients. Many of these resolutions—viz., those protesting against sex differentiation in regulations dealing with public morals, or in public health measures for combating venereal disease, and urging biological instruction in schools and the raising of the age of consent to 18 years inclusive—were in part reaffirmations made at previous Congresses; but a notable advance in public opinion was evident in this year's unanimous protest against any system of compulsory notification, treatment and detention of persons suffering from venereal diseases. It was decided that Delegates should study, during the period 1926-1929, the employment of women police, general hygienic work for venereal disease, child marriages from the moral and health point of view, protective and preventive measures in regard to the feeble-minded, and continue the fight against alcoholism. A considerable difference of opinion, however, was shown during the discussion on the report of the Commission on Like Conditions of Work for Men and Women (formerly known as the Commission on Equal Pay for Equal Work), and presided over by Miss Helen Fraser (Great Britain) in the unavoidable absence of Fru Arenholt, of Denmark. Married Women's Right to Work was unanimously affirmed; but the wording of another resolution, affirming that any international system of differential legislation based on sex, in spite of any temporary advantage, may develop into a very real tyranny and result in the segregation of women workers and the imposi-

tion of fresh handicaps on their capacity as wage-earners, was protested against by the German Delegation, as they considered it urgently necessary to press for protective legislation for pregnant women and young mothers. They were supported by the Italian, Austrian, United States, and Swiss representatives. After considerable discussion, however, the German Delegation withdrew their protest. Certain other resolutions were carried in this section, condemning the Conventions and Recommendations of the International Labour Office prohibiting the nightwork of women in industry (Washington, 1919); agriculture (Geneva, 1921); and the use of white lead in painting (Geneva, 1921). The Commission on the Unmarried Mother and Her Child was presided over by Frau Adele Schreiber (Germany), who submitted a report covering 33 countries. Resolutions on this subject passed by the Congress demanded protection and full opportunities of development for illegitimate children, and stressed the importance of not separating the mother and child, at least during the first year of life. The Commission regarded it as fundamental that the assistance given should form part of a general legislative scheme, and not be poor relief or charity. The adoption of a scheme of social aid for the care of the unmarried mother and her child was demanded for all countries, this system to be under the direction of salaried and trained welfare workers in co-operation with voluntary institutions and State organisations. The right to search for the potential father was maintained, as well as the recognition of his duty to maintain and educate the child under conditions consonant with his social status. The report on the Commission on the Nationality of Married Women, presided over by Miss Chrystal Macmillan (Great Britain), included an interesting survey of recent legislation on this subject, during 1918-1926, in Russia, the United States of America, Belgium, Roumania, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Austria, Switzerland, France and Great Britain. A statement from Miss Macmillan that the League of Nations Committee of Experts for the Progressive Codification of International Law had not only given serious consideration to the Draft International Convention of the Alliance on the Nationality of Married Women, but had actually incorporated, in its own draft Convention, Art. 10 from the Alliance Convention, gave great satisfaction to the Congress. This article urges that "a woman who does not acquire through marriage the nationality of her husband, and who at the same time is regarded by the law of her country of origin as having lost her nationality through marriage, shall nevertheless be entitled to a passport from the State of which her husband is a national on the same footing as her husband." Other resolutions passed by this Commission urged the summoning of an International Conference of Representatives of the Governments of all nations, and the appointment of women jurists as full voting members on the League of Nations Committee of Experts, and on its Sub-Committee on Nationality. The Commission on Family Endowment, which was first promoted at the Rome Congress, was presided over by Miss Eleanor Rathbone (Great Britain), and evoked particular interest, since France is one of the countries where the system of Family Allowances, in various industries, has been in practice for a number of years. Other countries which have adopted this system industrially are Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Germany, and Poland, whilst the public services of Australia and many European countries have also adopted this principle. Resolutions passed at this Commission urged that Family Allowances should not be regarded as part of the remuneration of the wage-earner, but as a recognition of the value of the child to the community, that they should be paid direct to the mother, and should be accompanied by equal pay for equal work as between men and women. It was decided that Delegates should study this question thoroughly during the next 3 years, especially in the direction of including allowances for adult dependents, such as aged parents or invalids, and

the effect of the system on the birth-rate and survival rate.

Apart from the Commissions, various general resolutions (some of which are discussed on page 180) were also passed by the Congress.

Each of the six Public Meetings convened by the Alliance aroused widespread interest throughout the French capital. Of these, the opening Meeting has already been described. A particularly picturesque scene was presented on the occasion of the "Women of all Nations" Public Meeting, when Delegates from some 40 countries, many of them wearing picturesque native costumes, gave greetings to the Congress in their different languages.

It was unfortunate, from the point of view of size, that the Public Protest Meeting of women against the Code Napoléon was held in the hall of the "Sociétés Savantes" (a well-known intellectual stronghold in Paris) rather than in the large amphitheatre of the Sorbonne, as hundreds of the general public had to be turned away. These, however, were later addressed in an overflow meeting. This packed and enthusiastic gathering, presided over by Mme. Suzanne Grinberg, the noted French barrister, was addressed almost entirely by women lawyers from ten different countries, who poured good-humoured ridicule upon the absurd restrictions modern married women had to encounter in those countries where the Code still prevailed. A special resolution at the close of the meeting urged the Governments of all those countries where the Code was in being to alter the laws as speedily as possible, so that these might conform, not only to present-day requirements, but to women's self-respect as individual human beings.

Eminent men Members of Parliament from half a dozen different countries, amongst whom was Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, M.P., addressed the Congress at a fourth Evening Meeting, and detailed the various legislative reforms instigated in their country since women had co-operated with them in Parliament. Each speaker afforded proof that none of the prophesied evils had occurred since the election of women to Parliament, but instead a new point of view had been introduced into the councils of the nations. A counter-meeting, addressed by women M.P.s from various countries, including Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., was held the following evening, and a great deal of interesting information obtained from the speakers as to the work of international women M.P.s. The final Public Meeting took the form of a mass meeting on World Peace, and was held in the Trocadero, when women speakers from nearly a dozen countries, including Miss Maude Royden, gave eloquent addresses on women's contribution in the future to international understanding and world peace.

New Suffrage Societies from the following countries were admitted at the Paris Congress: Peru, Turkey, Cuba, Bermuda, Porto Rico, Luxembourg, and Portugal. Secondary Societies were also admitted from Great Britain (the Women's Freedom League), Holland, Yugoslavia, and Roumania.

The following alterations in the constitution of the Alliance were made at the Congress. The name of the Alliance was changed to "International Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship," and the membership of the Board was increased from 13 to 21. Mrs. Corbett Ashby was unanimously re-elected President with acclamation, and the following 20 Delegates have been elected to the new Board: Miss Gourd (Switzerland), Miss Sterling (Great Britain), Fru Arenholt (Denmark), Mme. Malaterre-Sellier (France), Frau Schreiber (Germany), Miss Rosa Manus (Holland), Dr. Paulina Luisi (Uruguay), Miss Walin (Sweden), Mme. Suzanne Grinberg (France), Dr. Ancona (Italy), Mrs. Morgan (U.S.A.), Mme. Theodoropoulos (Greece), Frau von Velsen (Germany), Mme. Plaminkova (Czechoslovakia), Mme. Charaoui Pasha (Egypt), Froken Morek (Norway), Mlle. Atanaskowitsch (Yugoslavia), Mrs. Rischbeith (Australia), Mme. Reuss-Jancoulesco (Roumania), La Marquise del Ter (Spain).

The date and place of the Eleventh Congress of the

Alliance has not yet been definitely decided upon, but invitations from Germany, Greece and Roumania have been received, and are under consideration. Conferences in future, according to a recent decision at the Paris Congress, may be held in enfranchised as well as unenfranchised countries. Hitherto it has been the custom to hold these in unenfranchised countries only.

Meanwhile, new spheres of work have been opened up at the Congress just concluded, and Delegates will work along these lines in the intervening period before the next Congress is due. The new vistas opened up include the institution of a permanent Standing-Committee on Women Police; examination as to the way women can use their political power towards furthering the work of the League of Nations and towards promoting the cause of peace; and the promotion of an international Feminist press bureau by means of International Committees in the various countries affiliated to the Alliance.

"PROTECTION" FOR WOMEN?

Dr. Headwards recently gave an address in Calcutta on Maternity and Child Welfare. She said that infant mortality in England was 8 per cent., while in Bombay it was 56, in Calcutta 39, and in Madras 28. She maintained that "poverty should not be a barrier to women obtaining skilled attention," and urged the Government to make better provision for Child Welfare Schemes. *New India*, in commenting on Dr. Headwards' lecture, says: "We wonder how she would deal with the problem of expectant mothers being turned out into the streets by heartless employers in the fifth or sixth month of pregnancy with no previous notice of dismissal, and left to starve for three or four months before they resume work. In one of the local industrial establishments, we understand, such women have to pay five or ten rupees as a bribe before being re-employed. In these terribly depressing circumstances, how is an expectant mother to obtain 'skilled,' or any, attention?" A great deal has been said about the necessity of forbidding women from following industrial employment for six weeks before and six weeks after the birth of a child, without in any way giving the expectant mother a say in this matter. Why should what is practically starvation under some circumstances be imposed on her? Ought not the women directly affected to have some voice in the framing of rules and regulations of this character? How women have suffered all through the ages through having to submit to men's notions as to what is good for them!

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

OVERSEAS WOMEN'S LUNCHEON

AT THE
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On Monday, June 21st, at 1 p.m., to

The Duchess of Atholl, M.P., The Viscountess Astor, M.P.,
Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P.

TICKETS 5/6.

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BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

CONFERENCE ON

WOMEN AND MIGRATION

AND OTHER PROBLEMS,

June 22nd and 23rd, at the

ROOMS of the ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS,
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WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.



DARE TO BE FREE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.
Monday, June 14th, at 7.30 p.m.
Hampstead Branch. Annual Meeting at The Isis Club, 79 Fitzjohn's Av., N.W.3. See notice.
Friday, June 18th, at 8 p.m.
Public Meetings at White Stone Pond and Parliament Hill, Hampstead, to Welcome Peace Pilgrims.
Saturday, June 19th.
Peacemakers' Pilgrimage, Great Demonstration in Hyde Park. Members are asked to be at the Office, 144 High Holborn, by 1.45 p.m.
Saturday June 26th, at 10 a.m.
National Executive Committee Meeting.
Wednesday, June 30th, at 7 p.m.
Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, Caxton Hall. Chair: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence.
Saturday, July 3rd.
Great Combined Equal Political Rights Procession and Hyde Park Demonstration. Members are asked to form up on the Embankment at 2 p.m.

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, June 16th, 3—6 p.m.
Middlesbrough Branch. Garden Party at Agecroft, Linthorpe.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

June 11th—14th.
Education Conference at The New School, 40 Leigham Court Road, Streatham Hill, S.W.16. Tickets from Conference Secretary, 46, Gloucester Place, W.1.
Sunday, June 13th, at 10.30 a.m.
St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. St. Patrick's, Soho. Mass for Repose of the Soul of Miss Isabel Willis, late Press Secretary. R.I.P.
Monday, June 14th, at 5.45 p.m.
Six Point Group, 92 Victoria Street, S.W.1. Speaker: Mr. Trevelyan Thomson, M.P., on "Equal Franchise Laws for Men and Women." Chair: Miss Mary Grant.
Monday, June 14th, at 8.15 p.m.
Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Debate: "That, from a political point of view, sympathy with the under-dog does more harm than good." Proposer: Mrs. Whiton. Opposer: Miss Formby.
Tuesday, June 15th, at 7 p.m.
St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Rendez-Vous, Soho. Dinner to hear Report of Paris Congress.
Wednesday and Thursday, June 16th and 17th.
National Federation of Women's Institutes. Tenth Annual General Meeting in the Queen's Hall, Langham Place, W.1.
Thursday, June 17th, at 2.30 p.m.
Incorporated Municipal Electrical Association. Lecture at St. Andrew's Hall (Berkeley Hall) Glasgow, by Dr. Christina Barrowman, on "The Remedial Uses of Electricity."
Tuesday and Wednesday, June 22nd and 23rd.
British Commonwealth League. Conference on "Women and Migration," at The Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, W.C.2. Sessions 10.15 a.m. and 2.15. Tickets from Miss Collison, British Commonwealth League, 17 Buckingham Street, Adelphi.
Tuesday and Wednesday, June 22nd and 23rd.
Women's National Liberal Federation, Annual Council Meetings, Kingsway Hall W.C.1.
Tuesday, June 29th, at 3 p.m.
Croydon Women Citizens' Association. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood. Subject: "Why Women's Organisations are necessary."

PEERESSES BILL.

The Second Reading of the Bill to enable Peeresses in their own right to sit and vote in the House of Lords, which had to be postponed on account of the General Strike, has now been fixed for Thursday, June 24th. The Government has not, so far, declared itself with regard to the measure; and its attitude will be awaited with particular interest in view of the fact that the Women's Unionist Organisation has recently urged it to further legislation, at an early date, to remove the present political disabilities of Peeresses in their own right.

OVERSEAS WOMEN'S LUNCHEON.

In connection with the forthcoming two days' Conference of the British Commonwealth League, a Luncheon for Overseas Women to Women Members of Parliament will be held at the Criterion Restaurant, on Monday, June 21st, at 1 p.m. The Duchess of Atholl, M.P., Viscountess Astor, M.P., and Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., have accepted invitations to be present. The Chair will be taken by a well-known overseas woman.

POUND AND PRODUCE STALL.

The Mid-London Branch have undertaken to be responsible for the Produce and Pound Stall at the Birthday Party. Any gifts will be greatly appreciated. All proceeds to be given to the Birthday Fund.

BRANCH NOTES.

HAMPSTEAD.

On Monday, June 14th, at 7.30 p.m., the Annual Meeting of the Hampstead Branch will be held at the Isis Club, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue, N.W.3 (by kind invitation of Mrs. Harverson). At 8 p.m. Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, President of the Women's Freedom League, will speak on "The Peacemakers' Pilgrimage," and "The Equal Rights Demonstration" in Hyde Park, on July 3rd. Our member, Alice Park, of California (who is travelling round the world, and has attended the Paris Conference, and hopes to be at the Congress of the Women's International League in Dublin in July) has also promised to speak. The Chair will be taken by Dr. Knight. The Isis Club is only three minutes' walk from Hampstead Tube Station, and therefore easy of access from all parts of London. All members of the League and readers of THE VOTE will be most welcome.
(Hon. Sec.) Miss E. BERRY, 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

ASHFORD.

A meeting of the members was held on Friday, May 28th, when Mrs. Kither, our Hon. President, gave a most interesting report of the Annual Conference at Caxton Hall, which she attended as delegate for the Ashford Branch. Mrs. Kither laid great stress upon the importance of the Branches doing their share in assisting Headquarters financially and with propaganda work.

Mrs. Kither has been President a number of years, and suggested that it was time a change took place. Mrs. Miles, who is instructing the Dramatic Class, was prevailed upon to accept the Presidency for the year, and Mrs. Kither will act as Vice-President. Nominations were received for the Committee, and a ballot will be taken at the next meeting.
(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. PALMER, "Castlemaine," Jemmett Road, Ashford, Kent.

PORTSMOUTH.

A well-attended members' meeting was held on Wednesday, June 2nd, at 2, Kent Road. Mrs. Brading gave a full report of the Conference, and was heartily thanked for representing Portsmouth so ably, and congratulated on her election to the National Executive Committee. The Secretary reported on The Peacemakers' Pilgrimage, and urged members to join the Portsmouth Pilgrims. Great enthusiasm was shown when the Suffrage procession and demonstration was discussed, and arrangements are being made for a party of members and friends to walk in the W.F.L. contingent. It was decided again to ask each member to contribute at least 1s. to the Branch donation to Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund. Please send it to the Hon. Sec. or Hon. Treas. Mrs. Slatter very kindly promised to have her Annual Garden Whist Drive (date to be announced later), and Mrs. Brading said she would have a Drawing-room Whist Drive. These offers were gratefully accepted. A members' meeting was arranged to be held on Wednesday, June 30th, to discuss more fully the Conference Report, to make final arrangements for the Suffrage Procession, and to consider running a woman candidate at the November Elections. Gratefully acknowledged, Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund: Mrs. Cory, 18; Gosport Co-op. Women's Guild, 2s.
(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. WHITTON, 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

EDINBURGH.

On Friday last, a public meeting was held in the Y.M.C.A. Hall, Edinburgh, on "Women and Ordination." This subject is particularly interesting in Scotland at the present time, as on the same day the matter was discussed in the Assembly, four Presbyteries having overruled in favour of woman's full admission to the Ministry. (The motion did not pass the Assembly, being defeated on grounds of expediency.)

The Rev. John S. Ewen, B.Sc., B.D., presided, and in the course of his opening remarks explained the meaning of Ordination, showing that there was nothing in it which could reasonably deny its application to women.

Dr. Katharine Chapman and Miss Eunice Murray spoke somewhat more generally, pointing out that women who had a message to give had the right to give it even as had a man, and that, moreover, it was very foolish of the Church at the present time to refuse any help it could get. Miss Murray spoke of the defeat in the Assembly earlier in the day, and said she hoped that by next year such progress would have been made that the Moderators and members would hesitate to refuse any longer such a simple act of justice. Mrs. A. Fahmy, who has spent several years in China, spoke of the serious disadvantages under which a woman in the mission-field labours owing to her status being lower than that of the man. Dame Louisa Innes Lumsden was unable to be present, but sent a letter of sympathy, which was read from the platform. New members were enrolled, and literature and VOTES sold.
LILIAN LENTON.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, June 13th. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Mr. M. L. Jacks, M.A. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden

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