

# WOMEN SCARCELY YET VISIBLE!

# THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXIX. No. 950.

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 1928

**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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## XXXIV.—WHEN I AM M.P.

MISS F. B. WIDDOWSON, Prospective Labour Candidate for Cheltenham.

To a woman whose life expresses some deep underlying purpose, Politics can never be the game which many men in the past have appeared to make it.

For good or ill, Politics are the means and methods of achieving practically in Society the beliefs one holds theoretically, and the ideals which, without any practical fulfilment, must always remain futile abstractions. Better to possess no ideals at all than to profess these, disbelieving in their practicability for all time. "I believe" should be the first article of faith demanded from all who enter Politics, and "I believe in the possibility of what I believe," the second. In other words, Politics are the practical expression of Faith, comprising, in the collective sphere, the "works," without which Faith is a dead and degrading thing. The serious woman is all the while in contact with Life, and consciously so, and (though many women fail to realise this as yet) Politics affect Life in its most vital parts. Therefore the more women there are in Politics, the better quality of Life which will result.

With this fundamental basis explained, I can proceed to enumerate personal views the more easily.

Innumerable questions affecting women in the past have been ignored or side-tracked because they were not important enough to men, or at least men did not see their importance. The truth is, of course, that no single issue affecting women, however small, can affect women only. In their essence, there is no such thing as "women's questions." They all affect, indirectly if in no other way, men, and men's questions also. And if they affect children, which is invariably the case, because we cannot separate the woman from her children, either actual or to be, then all mankind is surely included in "women's questions."

I am in Politics because, as a woman, I see two deep

fundamental evils cursing women's lives, throwing a shadow upon motherhood and preventing any semblance of that happiness which I believe is the birthright of all.

To me, all the hundred and one questions springing up from day to day, the multitude of efforts at adjustment, and the desperate attempts to mitigate the consequences of the evils, are salvage work, necessary but pathetic.

What evils are they? They are Poverty and War. My first article of Faith then is, "I believe in the



FLORENCE B. WIDDOWSON.

abolition of Poverty, and I believe in the possibility of abolishing Poverty." To many middle-class and upper-class women this may sound not practicable. If women believe that (so easy, surely, if one is not oneself the sufferer), then it were well that they understand the position. What zest, what enthusiasm can be left to the woman who toils day in and day out, in hourly contact with the misery, the ill-health, that are directly due to Poverty, if it must be done with the conviction that it always must be so? To believe that the abolition of Poverty is impracticable, in view of the astounding advances made in scientific invention and in the processes necessary to bring the fruits of the earth to the feet of mankind, is to rob all effort of its keenness. We spend millions of money on the curing of Poverty

diseases. What would we say of the shipbuilder who consciously sends a ship to sea knowing it to be unseaworthy, because he knows that some philanthropic souls have spent their money in building lifeboats, which may rescue drowning men and women? Salvage work is not the work for purposeful, thinking men and women. All their energies and thoughts should be given to preventing the necessity of the lifeboat.

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abolition of War, and I believe in the possibility of abolishing War." I am a keen educationist. I want free education right from the nursery school to the university, chiefly for one reason—that, with the right kind of education, the human mind can be redeemed from that kind of error which makes wars possible.

I believe in all the essential, immediately necessary reforms—housing, equality of suffrage, economic independence of women—every one of them, but I see nothing but tragedy in all the hours of enthusiasm and self-sacrifice women are giving in season and out of season to secure these, if our garden cities, our suffrage equality, and our hard-gained independence are to be swept away by the cruel blast of War.

Poverty and War, twin sisters of the same root-cause. To abolish these I am a Labour Party candidate, believing in the practicability of my programme—given the will to achieve and the faith to believe, which are the special gifts of women to mankind.

FLORENCE B. WIDDOWSON.

#### FRENCHWOMEN AND THE FRANCHISE.

In *Le Droit des Femmes* for December there is printed correspondence between Madame Maria Verone, and M. Poincaré. M. Poincaré writes as follows:—

Paris, December 9th, 1927.

To Madame Maria Verone, Lawyer in the Court of Appeal in Paris, President of the French League for Women's Rights.

Dear Madam,—I have received your letter of December 1st, and I have the honour to inform you that the Government has decided to bring before the Senate the requisite amendment extending the local government franchise and eligibility to women.

Believe me, Madam,

In entire sympathy,

R. POINCARÉ.

As *Le Droit des Femmes* comments, this is a definite promise, forming perhaps the first step on the ladder of equal franchise, of equal citizenship. The League has already circularised both its friends and its enemies among the Senators, and with all other French suffragists is carrying on an active campaign to ensure the sufficient support of the Government.

*La Française* describes the meeting, called for December 15th, by the Extra-Parliamentary Council for Woman's Suffrage, to which belong the French National Council of Women, the National Union for Votes for Women, the French Woman's Suffrage Union, the League for Women's Rights, the Association for Improving Conditions for Women, the Women's Fraternal Union, the Women's Union of Action, the Women Democrats, and the Committee for Feminist Propaganda. M. Proust (deputy) was in the chair, supported by M. Barthélemy, doyen of the Law Faculty, president of the Voters' League for Woman Suffrage. A vigorous campaign in the Press was decided upon and a further meeting announced for January 6th, for which a joint manifesto would be prepared. As a group of Left Democrats had protested against this Government proposal, all belonging to their constituencies were urged to make the fact known there and to organise opinion against these anti-members. The ministers in favour were announced as MM. Poincaré, Barthou, Painlevé, Herriot, Briand, Tardieu, Marin and Bakanowski; those opposed, as MM. Sarroul, Georges Leygue, Perrier, Queuille and Fallières.

Other issues of the series, "When I am M.P.":—Mrs. TOWNSEND, September 16, 1927; Mrs. MASSINGHAM, August 19, 1927; Miss RUBY PART, June 3, 1927; Miss ELEANOR STEWART, May 13, 1927; Mrs. BEATRICE A. BAYFIELD, April 29, 1927; Mrs. PANKHURST, February 25, 1927; Miss MONICA WHATELEY, January 21, 1927; Miss ELISABETH EDWARDES, January 7, 1927; Miss MARY RICHARDSON, September 24, 1926; The Lady RATHCREEDAN, August 27, 1926; Mrs. CECILIA STREETEN, April 2, 1926; Dr. STELLA CHURCHILL, March 12, 1926; Mrs. MURIEL MATTERS PORTER, September 12, 1924; Mrs. ANNE CORNER, August 29, 1924; Mrs. LOUIE SIMPSON, J.P., August 15, 1924; Councillor ELLEN C. WILKINSON, M.A., July 4, 1924; Miss MINNIE PALLISTER, July 6, 1923; Miss C. PICTON-TURBERVILL, September 8, 1922; Mrs. HAMILTON MORE-NEBBITT, August 18, 1922; Mrs. BURNETT SMITH, June 30, 1922; Lady CURRIE, April 7, 1922; Mrs. STEWART BROWN, March 31, 1922; Miss HELEN FRASER, March 24, 1922; Lady COOPER, March 17, 1922; Commandant MARY S. ALLEN, O.B.E., February 17, 1922; Miss MARY P. GRANT, January 6, 1922; Mrs. MARJORIE PEASE, J.P., October 28, 1921; Mrs. AYRTON GOULD, October 21, 1921; Dr. ETHEL BENTHAM, October 7, 1921; Mrs. WINTRINGHAM, M.P., September 23, 1921; Mrs. ELEANOR BARTON, August 26, 1921; Mrs. SCOTT GATTY, August 12, 1921; Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY, July 15, 1921.

#### OUR BOOK REVIEW.

*Probation in Europe.* By T. W. Trought, J.P. (Basil Blackwell, Oxford.) Price 7s. 6d. (Can be obtained from this Office.)

Mr. Trought, President of the National Association of Probation Officers, has written a most informative book on Probation in many lands. His method was to submit a comprehensive questionnaire to the Minister of Justice, Minister of Social Welfare, or to some other person in authority in different countries, and the replies which he received from 29 out of 31 countries make very interesting reading. The information in each case is prefaced by statistics of population of each country and its capital as well as its area in square miles; and in the second part of the book there are chapters on The Probation of Offenders, Probation Officers, Juvenile Courts, Court Clinics, and Criminal Responsibility, which will be read with pleasure by students of criminology and by all those interested in child welfare. The book has also a very helpful index.

Probation, an important feature in Courts of Justice, is of recent introduction, but from the reports received by Mr. Trought, nineteen European countries utilise probation as a judicial method; this is roughly two-thirds of the countries of Europe. In our own country the law relating to probation is contained in the Probation of Offenders Act, 1907, and the Criminal Justice Act, 1925. In 1925 there were 877 probation officers—542 men and 335 women. Of these about a quarter were full-time officers and the rest part-time workers; 650 were paid by salaries or by fees and the remainder were voluntary workers. We notice that the remuneration of men and women probation officers is different—the minimum "shall not be less than £150 nor more than £220 for men and not less than £150 nor more than £200 for women," while the maximum "shall not be less than £330 nor more than £370 for men and not less than £230 nor more than £270 for women." Again, a substitute or temporary officer receiving weekly salaries may not be paid more than £4 if a man, or more than £3 if a woman!

Readers of this book will be interested to note the varying age of criminal responsibility in the different countries. In England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and the Irish Free State there is no criminal responsibility under the age of 7, while in Denmark, France, Germany, Norway and Russia the minimum age is 14. The maximum age of partial responsibility also varies in these countries—16 in Great Britain and Ireland, and 18 in other countries. But, as Mr. Trought observes, "an age limit is too simple a standard to determine the complexity of the mind," and most readers of THE VOTE would cordially agree with a resolution passed at the Prison Congress, 1925, "that all who wish to become magistrates should be compelled to attend lectures on psychology, sociology, forensic psychiatry, penology and criminology." It would appear that a successful social worker needs not only a very sympathetic understanding of human nature, but, in addition, as an American paper puts it, "the wisdom of the serpent, the gentleness of the sucking-dove, the skin of the rhinoceros, and the constitution of an ox."

We heartily recommend "Probation in Europe" to all interested in the problem of Juvenile Delinquency; it is likely to remain a standard work on this important subject.

F. A. U.

#### WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

##### Lord and Lady Mayors.

Miss Beavan, Lord Mayor of Liverpool, is entertaining the 12 women Mayors of the country next week at a luncheon in Liverpool at the Town Hall, followed by visits to the Cathedral and to the Gladstone Docks.

##### Woman takes the Mails.

Miss Eliot, of Alresford, when that town had been deprived of mails for three days, volunteered to make the journey to Winchester through the drifts on horseback. She successfully did the double journey, which included a 500-yd. drift 8 ft. deep.

##### The Four Women's Colleges Fund.

The Four Women's Colleges at Oxford Fund benefited considerably by the Ball held lately at the Hyde Park Hotel. The Duchess of Atholl, Lady Astor, and many other prominent women attended.

##### Poetry Society Awards.

Twenty holders of the Poetry Society's silver medals—19 women and one man—competed for the Society's gold medals for reading and speaking verse. Five women were victorious.

##### Headmasters and Girls.

The Headmasters in Conference have pronounced that they do not consider the same examination necessary for boys and girls. We listen for the Headmistresses to pronounce about boys.

##### Women Property Managers.

Notice has recently been drawn in the Press to the increase in the number of women employed as house property managers. Many provincial municipalities have now followed London's lead in appointing women for the management of municipal houses, and their success is causing a rapid increase in their number.

##### Scottish Rural Institutes.

Steady progress and wide activities were the features of the recent Study Circle, held in Edinburgh, of the Scottish Rural Institutes; evidently established on right, much-needed and welcomed lines.

##### Business Women in Aberdeen.

Aberdeen has a Business Women's Club on rather original lines. The city is divided into territories, each of which forms a group, representative of salary and wage-earning women, not exceeding 50 in number. There is a Central Council over the whole, and an Executive Committee. Membership is open to all Aberdeen women earning either wage or salary.

##### Plainclothes Policewoman.

Aberdeen Watch Committee have recommended that a plain clothes policewoman be appointed. No reasons are reported for this reactionary step.

##### A Woman's Work in India.

*The Times* reports that the one woman member of the Madras Legislative Council has successfully moved a resolution recommending legislation to prevent the dedication of minor girls to service in the temples, a service that usually leads to a life of prostitution.

##### First Indian Women Editors.

From the *Bulletin* we learn that two graduates of Bombay University—Miss Tara Tilak, a student of sociology, and Miss Anandkar, who has long taken an interest in the education of girls in her native town, have started a monthly journal, "Griha Luxmi" (The Housewife), which aims at teaching Indian girls how to be successful housewives. Many university women have promised to contribute to its columns, and it is hoped that the venture may prove a useful link between Indian university women and their less-educated sisters.

##### Ceylon and Women's Franchise.

Following on the Ceylon Commission on Constitutional Reform, the women have been stirred to form a Ceylon Women's Franchise Union, with a first demand that women over 25, knowing English and the vernacular and with certain educational and property qualifications, shall be enfranchised.

##### Colour Blindness in Men and Women.

Research by members of the Wilmer's Institute at Johns Hopkins Hospital discovers that from 10 to 11 per cent. of men are colour blind, and only 1 per cent. of women. This is borne out in practice by the fact announced that, during the last two years, of over 10,000 women applying for motor licences at Baltimore not one woman failed in the colour test, while 5 per cent. of the men applying failed.

##### Woman Appointed U.S. Commissioner.

Elsie A. Cannon, of Washington, has been appointed Commissioner of the United States Court of Claims.

##### Women's Council to Admit Men.

The National Council of Women of America, meeting in New York, have decided to admit men to membership and to accept delegates from organisations having men and women members.

##### Industrial Women in the States.

The hours of work for industrial women have been restricted, during 1927, in Arizona and in Minnesota. This restriction applies only to women.

##### American Women in Agriculture.

Seventeen States were represented at the second Home and Community Training School for Women, held in Chicago. Great progress was reported in the task of organising the women, and when that organisation was complete, valuable co-operation, it was predicted, would result. Already a wide range of subjects was being studied, and effectively put into use and practice on the farms.

##### Four Women in U.S.A. Congress.

This year, there are four women in the United States House of Representatives. Three of these Members of Congress are Republicans, who take the seats formerly occupied by their husbands; the fourth is the first woman Democrat to be elected to Congress, and also the first woman to be elected from any State east of the Mississippi.

##### The Prix Femina.

The Prix Femina has been awarded to Madame Marie Le France for her novel, *Grand Louis l'Innocent*.

##### The Prix Clarax.

The Prix Clarax was this year awarded for illustrating Fleur d'Epine of Count Hamilton. Three prizes were given, of which the first and third were gained by women, Mademoiselle Germaine Dufloy and Mademoiselle Madeleine Lamberet.

##### Women's Names in Germany.

Germany has now decided that a woman desiring to retain her own name on marriage may hyphenate it with her husband's name.

##### A Golden Birthday.

Dr. Anna Chabanoff, who still carries on her work as official lecturer and teacher of hygiene and as medical officer at the Hospital for Children in Leningrad, will celebrate this month the 50th anniversary of taking her medical degree, and also her 84th birthday.

##### Woman Judge in China.

The *Bulletin* (International Council of Women) reports that Miss Soumay Tscheng, who received the degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of Paris in 1926, has been appointed a judge. She is said to be the first Chinese woman to practise law, and is the only Chinese of either sex who has been admitted to practise in the French Court at Shanghai. She has published a book, "The Model Chinese Family," in English, and "Souvenirs d'Enfance et de Révolution," in French.

##### International Women Police.

The Amsterdam Lyceum Club held a valuable meeting on the subject of women police, at which representatives from many countries told of the position as they experienced it. Great Britain, Ireland, South Africa, Switzerland, Germany and Hungary were among those countries who sent women police representatives.

## THE VOTE.

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Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."  
Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

### EDITORIAL.

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

### WOMEN SCARCELY YET VISIBLE!

Another Honours List has appeared, which contains the names of 168 men and only 25 women! The men, too, have all the highest honours—the Order of the British Empire, which was originally instituted to keep women out of other categories, although ostensibly for men and women, being on this occasion reserved exclusively to 20 women, the other five women with three men having secured the Kaiser-i-Hind Medal.

This Government is as parsimonious as ever in its bestowal of paltry Honours on women. An analysis of the New Year Honours List shows that peerages have been given to two Conservative M.P.s and a former Governor-General of Nigeria. A former Conservative M.P. and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health have been made Privy Councillors. Why was the Duchess of Atholl, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education, not given a similar distinction? Five men have been made Baronets—one a newspaper proprietor, another a medical man, a third "for political and public services," a fourth an insurance manager, and a fifth "for public and philanthropic services." Thirty men have had Knighthoods bestowed upon them—twelve of them "for political and public services," but among the others one is "for valuable services to Local Government," one, an ex-Lord Mayor of Liverpool, "for public services," two are distinguished surgeons and one a journalist, but no woman in any of these spheres has been given an equivalent Honour. The Order of the Bath, in its varying degrees, Military and Civil Divisions, has been conferred upon 29 men; the Order of St. Michael and St. George, in its varying degrees, upon 34 men; the Royal Victorian Order upon 19 men; the Star of India upon seven men; and the Order of the Indian Empire upon 26 men—no woman having received any of these Orders.

The Order of the British Empire has been awarded to the following women:—

D.B.E.—To the Duchess of Bedford, R.R.C., F.L.S., "for public services," and to Miss Jane Frances Dove, M.A. J.P., former Headmistress of St. Leonards School, St. Andrews.

C.B.E.—To Miss Annie Rosalie Collin, Secretary of the Friends of the Poor Society; Miss Ellen Mary Musson, R.R.C., Chairman of the General Nursing Council; and Miss Violet Mary Craig Robertson, J.P., Bailie of the City of Glasgow.

O.B.E.—To Mrs. Eleanor Martha Barker, Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the St. Barnabas Hostels and Pilgrimage Fund; Mrs. Edith Broadbent, member of East and Mid-Sussex War Pensions Committee, "for valuable public services as voluntary worker in administration of War Pensions"; Mrs. Isabel Brogden Carter, member of the Cheshire Mental Deficiency Committee; Miss Jeannette Halford, Founder and Honorary Secretary of the National League for Health, Maternity and Child Welfare; Mrs. Essie Margaret Harris, J.P., "for public and political services in Swansea"; Miss Rosalie Henderson, Vice-Chairman, East Cumberland War Pensions Committee, "for valuable public services as voluntary worker in administration of War Pensions; and Miss Mary Mitchell Thorburn, R.R.C., Matron of the London County Mental Hospital, Horton.

M.B.E.—To Mrs. Agnes Chalmers, member of Bromley, Sevenoaks and District War Pensions Committee, "for valuable public services as voluntary worker in administration of War Pensions"; Miss Ada Davies, Lady Superintendent, Plaistow Maternity Hospital; Miss Frances Isabella Hepburn, Secretary and Treasurer of the Edinburgh Branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children; Mrs. Margaret Shelton-Jones, member of Warrington, Widnes and District War Pensions Committee, "for valuable public services as voluntary worker in administration of War Pensions"; Miss Jane Mottershead, Senior Assistant Matron, Cheshire County Mental Hospital; Mrs. Florence Elizabeth Pearse, Inspector of Midwives and Superintendent of Health Visitors, Oxford; Miss Margaret Sloan, lately Principal Matron, Government Medical Department, Hong Kong; and Mrs. Hannah Ada Turner, member of Bristol and District War Pensions Committee, "for valuable public services as voluntary worker in administration of War Pensions."

The *Kaiser-i-Hind Medal*, First Class, for public services in India, has been awarded to three men and the following five women: Margaret Evelyn, Viscountess Goschen; Mrs. Iravati Mehta, Benares; Miss Edris Griffin, Superintendent, Lady Reading Health School, Delhi; Miss Annie Strahan Graham, Superintendent, Lady Reading Health School, Delhi; and Miss Ellen Margaret Farrer, Medical Missionary, Zenana Baptist Mission, Punjab.

While we notice the Government's great partiality for voluntary women workers on War Pensions Committees, we regret that women Civil Servants have apparently little chance of appearing in these Honours Lists. British women are unhappily excluded from holding posts in the Diplomatic and Consular Services, the Government Services of the Colonies, and in the Indian Civil Service, and men holding important posts in these Services find their way in numbers into all Honours Lists. But are there no women worthy of Honours serving in some of the higher posts of the Home Civil Service? Or are we to assume that the Government's estimate of women's sphere of worthiness is more or less limited to voluntary Committee work in regard to War Pensions unless the women happen to live in India and can there do some health work?

### EQUALITY IN EDUCATION.

At the Annual Conference of the National Union of Women Teachers, held at Chester this week, Mrs. Tidswell, who is well known in London as a teacher of domestic science, succeeded Miss C. Neal as President. In an admirable speech she stressed the value of teaching handwork of every kind to all children. She also declared that the old adage, "Women's work is never done," would not be tolerated by women of the future. Unlike the Headmasters, who were recently in conference, the National Union of Women Teachers are not in favour of giving a different kind of education to boys and girls; they think "the time has arrived for a more equal form of education for future home life, as between boys and girls, by giving instruction to boys in the simple elements of domestic subjects, such as needlework and cookery, and to girls instruction in light woodwork." So while the men teachers would exclude girls from the same examination as boys—on the successful passing of which depend the young people's prospects of success in a world of competition—the women teachers would secure equal training in brain and handwork for children of both sexes and give them equal opportunities for the development of the gifts that are theirs, the result of which would be not only to give boys and girls equal chances to compete with one another on equal terms instead of as at present on unequal terms, but, through the community of their interests, would eventually change this world of competition into a world of co-operation. As Mrs. Tidswell said: "New days bring with them new ideas," and the old idea of the inequality of the sexes must give way to the new idea of their full equality in the near future.

## THE STREET OFFENCES COMMITTEE.

The Street Offences Committee held two short sessions in public on December 20 and 21, adjourning before lunch on the 21st.

On the 20th, the principal witness was Sir William Horwood, Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis, in charge of 20,100 men—he mentioned no women—and an area of 720 square miles, roughly within a 16-mile radius from Charing Cross, containing 8,000,000 people. Sir William described in some detail the methods of recruitment, training, promotion, etc., in the force under his command. He absolutely denied that success in obtaining convictions would influence a constable's chances of promotion and said that in his nine years as Assistant and Chief Commissioner, he had no case of a prostitute bribing a policeman. He gave the following figures of prostitutes convicted:—1922, 2,291; 1923, 650; 1924, 1,117; 1925, 1,688; 1926, 2,508; 1927 (10 months), 2,700. Sir William said that no man with less than six years' service was put on to this work, and that all disliked it. He expressed the view that prostitution was decreasing, or at any rate was not so much practised in the streets. He did not know where it went to, that was none of his business, his business was to keep the streets clean and decent. He explained the use of plain-clothes men as necessary to secure arrests, as the sight of a uniform cleared the neighbourhood.

A hypothetical case being put to Sir William that two black-sheep plain-clothes men might victimise an innocent woman, he replied that it was impossible to have two black-sheep policemen together, that a magistrate would know whether the policemen were truthful, and that any woman in Jermyn Street at 11.30 at night must be a prostitute. He thought such injustice as was suggested was impossible, and was in favour of greatly increasing the penalties for the offence. When it was put to Sir William that he had said that prostitution was decreasing under the present penalties and that heavier penalties might lead to bribery and a greater temptation to the police, he replied that the question was too hypothetical to answer and that the idea of possible bribery could be put aside—it was impossible. Asked whether he thought that a common paragraph applying to both sexes would be advisable, Sir William replied that he preferred to leave things as they were. He agreed that male offences with males were increasing, but he did not think anything could be done; the penalties were already severe and the men irreclaimable. In reply to further questions, Sir William could see no hardship or unfairness to a woman being

introduced to the Courts as a common prostitute, and said that women would certainly not find it easier to ask help from women police. Sir Chartres Biron here intervened with his well-known views as to the very limited use that should be made of women police. He saw them as a sort of guide and motherly adviser to the young girl strayed up from the country, and was quite upset at the idea of their being allowed to do any work in which they ran the danger of being involved in a scuffle, most unseemly. He supported the continuation of the classification of common prostitute, and repudiated, with considerable emotion, that any bench could possibly be biased by the use of the term. Sir William agreed cordially and with suitable compliments, and then the inquiry proceeded.

Again pressed as to the use of women police to protect the young girl from the country, Sir William was clear that such a girl, having, in her village, only seen men police would never go to a woman police constable.

Superintendent Norton, of Vine Street and Great Marlborough Street Police Stations, was the next witness, and gave figures of cases during 1927. Asked as to the chances of the police making a mistake and arresting an innocent woman, the superintendent declared he had never known a woman charged with solicitation to be other than a common prostitute. He had never heard of a case of bribery, and no charge of solicitation had been refused this year; he had never seen an innocent woman brought in.

He was followed, on December 22nd, by Chief Inspector Lear, of Bow Street Police Station, who also gave figures of both men and women prostitutes arrested. He explained the big drop in arrests from 1922 to 1923 by the remarks of a Quarter Sessions judge in allowing an appeal for wrongful arrest. The inspector described these remarks as a great blow to the morale of the police force and the direct cause of the drop in the number of arrests; it took the men a few years to recover their keenness. As regards male prostitutes the inspector thought this offence was decreasing. In 1927 there were 18 arrests, all occurring before the quashing of a case brought by the police in September. There had been no cases since, although he was of opinion that there both should and could have been more. With the other police witnesses, the inspector expressed a complete confidence in the integrity of the police force as a whole.

The next public meetings will be held on January 13th and 14th.

## TOWN AND BOROUGH COUNCILS AND WOMEN.

### ENGLAND.

The following names of women serving on local Councils have been received since the issue of our lists in THE VOTE of November 25th. Those marked with \* were first elected last November:—

### ENGLAND.

CAMBRIDGE.—Miss Blair, Mrs. Foister, Mrs. Gray, \*Mrs. Keynes, Mrs. Stevenson, Mrs. Webber.  
CANTERBURY.—Mrs. Lucy Green Wells.  
CHORLEY.—Mrs. Gillett and Mrs. Marsden.  
CHRISTCHURCH.—Mrs. Louisa Frances Bellamy and Miss Mona Bryant Robinson.  
SOUTH SHIELDS.—\*Mrs. E. A. Thorpe.  
STOCKPORT.—Mrs. Helen Henderson.  
STOURBRIDGE.—Mrs. Emily Francis and \*Miss Mary Elizabeth Thomas.  
TAUNTON.—Mrs. S. J. Barnicott.  
TENTERDEN.—\*Miss Marian Kate Winser.  
TWICKENHAM.—\*Mrs. Walton.

### SCOTLAND.

EDINBURGH.—Judge Mrs. Morison Millar, Mrs. Somerville, and Mrs. Eltringham Millar.  
FRASERBURGH.—Mrs. Mary C. Trail.

There are no women on the following Councils in England, Scotland and Wales:—

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"Votes for Some Women."

**Suffragette Dinner**, 5/-, Craig's Court Restaurant, Saturday, 4th February, 7 p.m.

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## CLUBS.

**HAMPSTEAD**.—Lansdowne House. Rooms, unfurnished, for Ladies only, with Club advantages. Rent 15/- to 30/- per week.—Apply **SECRETARY**, Lansdowne House, Lyndhurst Gardens, Hampstead, N.W.3.

**MINERVA CLUB**, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Open to non-residents. Restaurant. Smoking Room. Papers. Library. Bedrooms available at holiday times. Membership, £1 1s. Entrance Fee suspended during present year. All particulars from the **SECRETARY**. Telephone: Museum 4791.

## NOTICES.

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