

THE VOTE.
DEC. 24, 1926.

WOMEN ASTRONOMERS.

THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXVII. No. 896.

(Registered at
the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 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.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

WOMEN'S COLLEGES.

IN PARLIAMENT. F. A. U.

BOOK REVIEWS.

WOMEN TEACHERS AT YORK.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To All our Readers

A

Happy
Christmas

and

Glad New Year

with

Votes for Every Woman

in

1927.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

The O'Briens.

It is a coincidence that one of the most interesting plays of the season, "Distinguished Villa," and a prize novel, "John Barbara," which won the Panton Club prize and looks like becoming a "best-seller," should both be written by young women with the name of O'Brien—Miss Kathleen O'Brien, the dramatist; Miss Kate O'Brien, the novelist. Miss Kathleen O'Brien, our own member, is at work on a new play, which it is not unlikely we shall soon see in the West End, and her namesake, though no relative, has just put the finishing touches to a new novel.

Woman Magistrate for Yarmouth.

Last week *five men and one woman*, Mrs. May Claire Aldred, were appointed to the Commission of the Peace for the Borough of Yarmouth. Mrs. Aldred has been a member of the Board of Guardians, and also of the War Pensions Committee. Mrs. E. Leach has hitherto been the only Yarmouth woman magistrate, and at the end of her term as Mayor, in 1925, she expressed a strong hope that she might soon have a woman colleague on the Bench.

New Magistrates for Lancashire.—Ten Men, One Woman.

Ten men but only one woman (Miss Maud Ellen Bailey) have been added to the Commission of the Peace for the County Palatine of Lancashire, on the recommendation of the Lord Lieutenant.

International Council of Women.

An influential committee has been formed in Holland to arrange for the holding of an International Fancy Fair at The Hague next March, for the benefit of the International Council of Women. The Fair is under the distinguished patronage of the First Lady-in-Waiting of Queen Wilhelmina and the wives of the various Foreign Ministers at The Hague. Lady Aberdeen has been appointed Honorary President of the International Committee, which is composed of the Presidents of the thirty national Women's Councils.

Lonely Girls at Christmas.

A country house party for lonely girls will be one of the novel methods of entertainment provided by the Y.W.C.A. this Christmas. For girls who cannot afford to meet the costs of the "house party"—the charge has been kept as low as possible—there will be a big indoor camp at Worthing with room for 60 girls. There will also be a tea and supper party on Christmas Day at the Y.W.C.A. International Hostel, London.

Labour Women's Conferences.

At the recent International Congress of Women Socialists held at Brussels, at which were 30 delegates representing ten countries, it was decided to form an International Women Socialists' Committee, which should occupy itself with questions of particular interest to women. Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P., was appointed to represent this country on the Committee.

The National Conference of Labour Women will be held in 1927 at Huddersfield, the probable dates being May 18th and 19th.

City Typist Spinner.

Real "homespun" are being made by a one-time City typist not 15 miles from Central London. Miss Rosetta Collins is the successful proprietor of a one-woman mill, "The Sign of the Shuttle," which in reality is the barn of an Elizabethan farmhouse. She washes, cards, spins, dyes and weaves the wool entirely unaided. She studied the weaving business for 20 years before leaving her City office.

Nottingham Woman Sculptor.

Mrs. Mary Gillick, of Nottingham, the distinguished sculptor who designed the stone commemorative sculpture at Crosby Hall, Chelsea, recently unveiled by the Duchess of York, is the wife of another distinguished sculptor, Mr. Ernest Gillick.

First Woman Bachelor of Veterinary Science.

Miss Edith Gertrude Knight, of Bruton, Somerset, has received her B.V.Sc. from the Liverpool University, the only British University which grants this degree. She is the first woman on whom it has been conferred. Seven years ago Miss Knight took a diploma in Agriculture at Reading University. She afterwards worked on a farm at Wycombe, entered Liverpool University and two years ago qualified as M.R.C.V.S.

Woman Costing Chief for House of Lords.

Miss H. F. M. Court has been appointed chief of the Costing Department of the House of Lords. She is the first woman to hold this post. Her assistants will be Miss M. E. Waterman, Miss W. M. J. Phipps, and a new junior to be appointed. Among the duties of the Department are the receiving of all fees due from proceedings in the House of Lords and Private Bills. In no other department or office of the House of Lords do women hold the higher appointments.

Another Woman Mayor.

Councillor Miss Alice Hudson has been selected as Mayor of Eastbourne to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the Mayor-Elect. She has been a member of the Town Council for years.

More Women M.P.s.

Miss Elizabeth Edwardes, a young Liberal worker and Chairman of the West London Division, has been adopted as prospective candidate for the South-East St. Pancras Division. Miss Edwardes has only quite recently become eligible for a vote.

Married Women Necessary.

The London County Council reports that there is still difficulty in getting unmarried women to work in asylums, and married women have to be employed.

Woman Barrister's Brief.

Miss Joan Clarkson, junior to Sir John Simon in a case before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, is the first woman barrister to be briefed for the Crown before that Court.

Mme. Kollontay's New Post.

Mme. Kollontay, formerly Soviet Ambassador and trade representative in Norway, has now been appointed in the same capacity to Mexico, where her mission will be the development of good relations and active commercial intercourse.

Sex Equality Bill Passed.

The Victorian (Australia) Legislative Assembly recently passed a Bill to remove all sex disqualifications in the way of women holding public offices or entering professions.

Another Woman to be an Engineer?

Miss Winifred Hackett, a 20-year-old Birmingham girl, is the only girl student in the engineering side of Birmingham University.

Woman Clerk to Board of Guardians.

Mrs. Greathead, of Reeth, Yorks, is said to be the only woman Clerk to a Board of Guardians and Rural District Council in this country. Mrs. Greathead is shortly to retire after 28 years' service.

Hold your Children's Party this year at

THE CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL AND FANCY DRESS BALL,

in aid of

THE SIX POINT GROUP,

at the

PALAIS DE DANSE, HAMMERSMITH,

on Friday, December 31st, 1926.

From 3-6 p.m.

Dancing, Prizes for Costumes, Children's Ballet, etc.
Tickets, 2/6 each, from the Secretary, SIX POINT GROUP, 92 Victoria Street, S.W.1. Phone: Victoria 7174.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Alien Domestic Servants.

SIR WILLIAM DAVISON (U., Kensington, S.) asked the Home Secretary how many aliens were admitted into this country in 1925 and 1926 to take up employment as domestic servants? SIR ARTHUR STEEL-MAITLAND (Minister of Labour): I have been asked to reply. The number of permits issued under Article 1 (3) (b) of the Aliens Order, 1920, in respect of alien domestic servants, was 1497 in 1925, and 1,733 for the eleven months ended 30th November, 1926. In addition, of the aliens allowed to land as visitors, students, etc., 313 in 1925 and 269 during 1926 were subsequently permitted to take up work as domestic servants.

Married Women (Civil Service).

SIR WALTER DE FRECE (U., Blackpool) asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury in what posts in the Civil Service, if any, a married woman may be appointed in an established capacity, or a woman civil servant, already established, may be allowed to remain after marriage? MR. R. MCNEILL: Under the regulations made under the Order in Council of 22nd July, 1920, with regard to the admission of married women to, and the employment of married women in, established situations, all women candidates for any established situation in any of His Majesty's civil establishments must be unmarried or widows, and women appointed to or holding any established situation in any of His Majesty's civil establishments are required to resign their appointments on marriage. Exceptions to the above regulations may be made on recommendation of the head of the Department if the Civil Service Commissioners and the Treasury (in cases of recruitment) and the Treasury (in case of an officer already holding an established position) are satisfied that it is in the interests of the public service that such exception shall be made. Every such exception is published in the *London Gazette*.

Wild Birds Protection Committee.

In reply to a question by MR. BARR (Lab., Motherwell), SIR JOHN GILMOUR (Secretary of State for Scotland) said that the names of the persons serving on the Wild Birds Advisory Committee for his Department are: Mr. Hugh S. Gladstone, F.R.S.E. (Chairman), Mr. W. Eagle Clark, I.S.O., LL.D., Mr. Walter E. Collinge, D.Sc., Mr. H. M. Conacher (representing the Board of Agriculture for Scotland), Mr. H. J. Crowe (representing the Fishery Board for Scotland), Mr. J. Ritchie, D.Sc., and Professor J. Arthur Thomson, LL.D. [We note that no woman has been appointed to this Committee.]

Provision of Meals (Schoolchildren).

MISS SUSAN LAWRENCE (Lab., East Ham, N.) obtained leave to bring in an Education Amendment (Provision of Meals) Bill, "to amend Section 84 of the Education Act, 1921." This Bill was read a first time. Section 84 gives permission to an education authority to provide meals out of the rates for necessitous schoolchildren. Miss Lawrence's Bill would compel educational authorities to provide meals for such children.

Rosyth Naval Base (Women Workers).

COL. DAY (Lab., Central Southwark) asked the Minister of Labour what action has been taken by his Department with a view to absorbing into employment female workers at Rosyth now unemployed owing to the removal of the Rosyth naval base? SIR A. STEEL-MAITLAND: I am informed that seven women workers were displaced directly by the closing of the base. Of these, four have found other work, one has gone overseas, and the other two are not now registered at the Employment Exchange.

Temporary Clerical and Writing Assistants (Women)

LT.-COL. JAMES (U., Bromley) asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury the number of temporary non-service female staff employed in a temporary clerical capacity, and the number of temporary non-service

female staff holding writing-assistant posts? MR. R. MCNEILL: The total number of women employed on temporary clerical and writing-assistant duties is estimated at about 2,900. I regret that I am not in a position to give the more detailed particulars asked for in my hon. and gallant Friend's question.

Prorogation of Parliament.

On December 15th, Parliament was prorogued until Tuesday, February 8th, 1927. It was reported that the Royal Assent had been given to 34 Acts, among them being the Lead Paint (Protection Against Poisoning) Act, 1926, Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Act, Electricity (Supply) Act, Legitimacy Act, Judicial Proceedings (Regulation of Reports) Act, and Sale of Food (Weights and Measures) Act.

SHOULD WIVES HAVE WAGES?

Although the Government refuses to employ married women in the Civil Service, and local governing authorities insist upon their *women* employees resigning their posts on marriage, married women in this country have no legal claim to any proportion of their husband's income or earnings. By law the husband is only bound to keep his wife off the rates and to provide her with medicine; he need not give her any pocket-money. To the independent woman, accustomed to her own income or her own earnings, this position of a married woman seems to be a very precarious and casual one, and it is being discussed not only by women in this country, but also by women in the United States. "Should wives have wages?" is the heading of a short article appearing in *The Woman Citizen* (New York) this month. The writer says: "What claim for wages has a woman who does all the cooking and washing and scrubbing of a household when the head of a house happens to be her husband? None. So the legal department of Minnesota has decided. Unmarried, she is worth fifty or sixty dollars a month in cash wages, besides her board and room, but married, she has no right to any money; only to be supported in a manner suitable to their station in life—and the husband is the judge of what that is." The writer then refers to a recent book by a cultured Japanese woman, who finds it incredible that, "in America, where women are free, a woman of dignity and culture, the mistress of the home, should be forced to ask her husband for money." The Japanese lady declares that in old Japan, while the husband was lord of the family, the wife was mistress of the home and controlled its expenses. "The house, the food, the children's clothing and education, all racial and charitable responsibilities, her own dress, were expected to conform to her husband's position. The husband's income was for the family and his wife was the banker. When he wanted money for himself he asked her for it, and it was her pride to manage so that she could allow him the amount necessary for a man of his standing."

We admit that there are generous husbands in all countries, and that a very large number of women would rather rely upon their husband's generosity than on a legal allowance, but, as the American writer suggests, "the law is made, not for the average, but for the exception."

OUR LENDING LIBRARY.

"What I Remember." By Millicent Garrett Fawcett, J.P. LL.D.
"Ancilla's Share." An Indictment of Sex Antagonism. Anonymous.
"The Police Court and its Work." By Henry Turner Waddy.
"The Poor Man's Court of Justice." By Cecil Chapman.
"Life's Fitful Fever." By M. W. Nevinson, J.P., LL.A.
"In Darkest London." By Mrs. Cecil Chesterton.
"Athletics for Women and Girls." By S. C. Elliott Lynn. May be borrowed from the Literature Department at 6d. per week.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.
Offices: 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24th, 1926.

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 TEACHERS AT YORK.

Our warmest congratulations to Miss C. Neal, L.L.A. (Swansea), a member of our Executive Committee, who is to be inducted as President of the National Union of Women Teachers at its Annual Conference, which is to be held at York from January 4th to January 7th. This Conference is to be opened by the Lord Mayor of York (Alderman Oscar F. Rowntree), in Tempest Anderson Hall, when a civic welcome will be extended to the delegates, and Miss Neal will give her presidential address. The first resolution on the agenda emphasises again the adherence of the women teachers to the principle of professional equality, and maintains that women teachers should be paid equally with men; that they should have equal opportunities with men to reach the higher posts in the profession; and that no artificial bar should be imposed against women continuing their professional work after marriage.

Miss Phipps, editor of *The Woman Teacher*, will move a resolution expressing the opinion that in all schemes of reorganisation provision should be made for the maintenance of separate departments for Senior Girls and Senior Boys, whenever possible; but when amalgamation is necessary it is a matter of vital importance to the future of education that women teachers should be eligible for the Headships of the Mixed Departments, whether Junior or Senior. An important resolution dealing with the training of teachers would, if carried into effect, raise the whole status of the teaching profession in this country. This resolution asks that future entrants to Training Colleges shall have completed their academic preparation and shall have obtained the degree of a recognised university or its equivalent. It urges the need for the reorganisation of Training Colleges and of Training Departments of universities in order that they may provide a specialised professional training of at least one year, and suggests that they may be specially staffed and equipped for this purpose. Another resolution, which deals with professional teachers, protests against the inclusion of Paragraph 3, Schedule II. of the Code, as being an extension of the list of unqualified people in the schools, and demands its withdrawal on the ground that every child has a right to be taught by a fully qualified teacher.

We are glad, too, to see that the Women Teachers protest most strongly against the Board of Education's efforts to get progressive local authorities to reduce the number of teachers in their schools to the level of less-advanced local education authorities. All lovers of animals will rejoice that there is also a resolution protesting against the inhuman treatment of animals in sport, in public entertainment, and in the methods of their slaughter for human consumption, as such practices form a continual contradiction to much of the teaching given to children; and both the government and local authorities are called upon to pass such laws and regulations as are needed for the abolition of these practices.

The Women's Freedom League sends its heartiest greetings to the National Union of Women Teachers, and its best wishes for the greatest possible success of its Conference at York; and once again we congratulate them on the stand they are taking to secure full equality of women and men in the teaching profession and their splendid efforts to ensure that the children in our schools shall have the best education the country can give them.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

At a meeting of our Executive Committee held at these offices last January, the following resolution was passed unanimously and sent to the Minister of Health: "That the National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League urges that when the permanent appointments are made for the administration of Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions, an adequate number of the higher posts shall be allotted to women." On the 8th of December last, MR. DENNISON (Lab., King's Norton) asked the Minister of Health the present numbers in each grade, men and women, employed in the Pensions division in his Department, from the head of the division downwards to the lowest grade? MR. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN gave the numbers as follows:—

Grade.	Number Employed.	
	Men.	Women.
Deputy Controller	1	0
Head of Branch	1	0
Superintending Clerks	4	1
Accountants	2	0
Higher Executive Officers	22	1
Junior Executive Officers	30	3
Higher Clerical Officers	18	9
Clerical Officers	205	73
Permanent Non-pensionable Clerks	35	0
Writing Assistants	0	159
Temporary Clerks	152	3
Total	470	249

It cannot be claimed that there is anything approaching an "adequate" number of the *higher* posts in this division allotted to women. Yet this was practically a new division in the Ministry of Health—a division, too, which had pre-eminently to do with women! 159 Writing Assistants! Yes; but no woman as Deputy-Controller, Head of a Branch, or even an Accountant; only *one* woman Superintending Clerk as against *4 men*; and *one woman* Higher Executive Officer as against *twenty-two men*. In this new division the Minister of Health had a unique opportunity to give women Civil Servants an equal opportunity and standing with their male colleagues. The above list shows what use he has made of that opportunity.

WOMEN ASTRONOMERS.

The first great woman astronomer in this country was Caroline Herschell who acted as assistant to her famous brother, Sir William Herschell, and discovered eight comets. The *Liverpool Post and Mercury* tells us that there are at present seventy women members of the British Astronomical Association, and among them is Mrs. Grace Cook, who is an authority on meteors, and one of the first to discover the new star, when it appeared in 1918. Dr. Stevenson, the President of this Association, states that one of the most remarkable women to-day in astronomy is Dr. Annie Cannon, an American, whose monumental work on stellar spectra is unique. She has classified 700,000 stars and can tell their distances in the spectrum at a glance. Other young women astronomers in this country to-day are Miss Gertrude Bacon, a well-known lecturer, Miss Mary Proctor, who lectures and writes on this subject, Miss Cecilia Payne, who has specialised in Spectroscopy, and Miss Blagg, who has achieved a reputation on the mathematical side of the science. The Royal Astronomical Society has now fifty women members. By a supplementary charter in 1915 women were admitted to membership of this Society, and Mrs. Charles Ratcliffe has recently been elected to its Fellowship. There is now no branch in astronomy which women have not taken up, both in professional and in amateur circles. Women find it a fascinating science. Miss Periam Hawkins has written an A.B.C. of Astronomy, and Miss Gibberne has written several books on astronomical subjects. Mrs. Maunders is a recognised authority on solar matters, and Miss C. Furness is an authority on variable stars. It cannot be claimed that astronomy opens up a new career for women, because women have for so long been connected with this science, but it certainly offers a wide scope for the best-trained minds among women.

WOMEN'S COLLEGES IN THE UNITED STATES.

According to a recent interesting article in the *Manchester Guardian*, Women's Colleges in the United States are to be found mainly in the Eastern States. In the West and Middle West, co-education is the order of the day. The State Universities everywhere are co-educational, and in the East women are usually admitted to the graduate schools of Universities organised specially for men. Women's Colleges of the Eastern States include Mount Holyoke, Vassar, Smith, Wellesley, Radcliffe and Bryn Mawr, all of which are older than any of our English Colleges, with the exception of Bedford College. The Women's Colleges always have a President and a Dean, and usually, as at Smith College, a warden, who is in charge of the dormitory system, and of all matters of chaperonage. At Smith College, the largest of the Colleges solely for women, there are some 2,000 undergraduates, and about sixty graduate students. Smith College ranks as a pioneer in the introduction of the B.A. honours system, shaped somewhat after the fashion of the honour schools of the British Universities. Under this scheme, known as "special honours," a few picked students work their two last years towards a single examination in a given field of study, and three grades of honours are obtainable. Smith College also sends to Paris for their third year an organised group of students who are taking their degrees in French. These girls study at the Sorbonne, live in French families under a college regime, and return to Smith for their fourth year, not only having learned the language, but realising what it means to live as a member of a French family. Many students come to American Colleges from Overseas. Six Trustee Fellowships and six Fellowships in Education at Smith College are open to British women graduates, and this College is at present receiving as her guests each year a graduate student from France, Germany, and Hungary. Chinese students come to the American Colleges aided by the Boxer Indemnity, as well as undergraduates from Latin America and many other parts of the world.

A WORKING WOMAN'S COLLEGE.

The Working Women's College, founded seven years ago at Beckenham, to provide a one-year course of non-vocational education for working women from every kind of trade, has been moved to Surbiton. The ages of the students at present in residence range from 21 to 40. The college has accommodation for 24 students, and will presently be able to take 40. There are 21 living at Hillcroft (Surbiton) at present. They are of many occupations. There is a furrier, a porter from a university college, a dressmaker, a pipe-stainer, a hair-dresser, a female polisher, a chocolate-box factory worker, a mill hand (spinner), a florist, a buttonhole maker, a waitress, a housekeeper, a cashier, and a worker in a tea warehouse. The year's residential course costs £80, and there are certain bursaries available for those who need financial help. Many of the women are only able to come as a result of much self-denial over a number of years. There are two married women among them. No one under 21 is taken, and the qualifications are that they shall have had only an elementary school education, and have been engaged in weekly wage-earning since leaving school. The plan of work for the year covers social and economic studies, literature, art, handicrafts, religion and science. The college is non-party, and also non-vocational, there being no training for any special work. The college has never appealed to the public for funds. Those who were interested have from time to time given sums of money, and an extension fund of £15,000, contributed by many friends, has purchased the freehold and paid for certain alterations and equipment.

SHETLAND KNITTERS.

The women of the Shetland Isles, according to a recent article in the *Aberdeen Press and Journal*, have been busy knitting their now world-famous woollen goods for more than 500 years. To-day in every household in Shetland, two or more women, from the youngest to the oldest, are busy plying their knitting wires, on which they make the beautifully-patterned jumpers, either plain or "Fair Isle," scarves of a soft touch, and rare gossamer-like shawls, so finely made that a shawl two yards square has been passed through a gold wedding ring. Shetland sheep yield a fine, soft, silk-like wool, which is removed from their backs each summer. The wool is pulled from the sheep when it is ready to be shed, instead of being clipped, and this pulling, or "rooing," retains the soft, smooth texture.

Between the Shetland and Orkney Isles, lies the lonely Fair Isle, sheltering a couple of hundred hardy men and women, and as many hardy sheep of the same fine stock as the Shetland herd. In 1588, when the Great Armada was smashed by Drake and his men, one of Spain's mighty galleons was wrecked on the Fair Isle, and some of the crew were saved. Whilst on the isle the sailors taught the Fair Isle women many quaint patterns which were common in their native land, where the Moors had introduced them from the East. This is the romantic tale of the origin of the beautiful and intricate "Fair Isle patterns." The strangers also told the people about a certain lichen which grows in abundance on the rocks around the seashore, and of a secret method of extracting dye from the plant. This secret dye is still used on the Island, the genuine Fair Isle hosiery being coloured by its means. In order to safeguard their industry, Shetlanders have combined to protect the real goods by the use of a registered trademark stamped on each knitted article exported from the islands. This mark is a Norse galley in full sail in the centre, and the word "Shetland" or "Fair Isle" printed across.

A FAMOUS LONDON WOMEN'S COLLEGE.

Bedford College for Women is contemplating the necessity of erecting a new wing owing to the increasing number of its students and the development of the subjects taught. The demand for University Education has greatly increased throughout the country, and Bedford College, which was originally designed for 450 undergraduates, has been obliged to increase its numbers to 600, owing to the pressure of those desiring to enter. Beyond that number it cannot expand. The provisions which were sufficient 15 years ago, when the college was built, are now inadequate, and additional lecture rooms and laboratories must be provided in order to keep abreast with modern requirements. The largest lecture hall at present affords seats for 300 only of the 600 students, whilst the Inorganic Chemistry Department is still being housed in a set of decaying army huts.

Founded barely three generations ago in a house in Bedford Square, the usefulness of Bedford College was apparent from the first, and its history is one of steady growth and progress. Since the days when George Eliot was one of the first pupils, and Dickens chose the new seminary for his daughters, Bedford College has twice had to make a fresh start on new ground owing to the increasing demand for the higher education of women. Over 50 years ago the college moved to York Place, and shortly afterwards the examinations of London University became accessible to women. In 1912, the present buildings in Regent's Park were opened by the Queen.

BOOK REVIEWS.

Women and Oversea Settlement and Some Problems of Government. A Report of the British Commonwealth League Conference, June 22 and 23, 1926. 1/6 post free. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

This is an account of the Second "Women's Imperial Conference," held since the British Commonwealth League came into being now nearly two years ago. The first dealt with the Political rights of women within the British Empire, and the second took up the examination of the part played by women in the problem of migration. This Conference involved an enormous amount of preparatory work, and great credit is due to Miss M. Chave Collisson, the League's organizer, who so ably carried through the necessary investigations for a period of over seven months beforehand. First, a questionnaire was sent to all the societies overseas affiliated, and to certain migration groups, covering the ground for discussion. Next, the great Migration Departments in London were personally visited, and asked to supply information and to send representatives. Finally, the groups dealing with the migration of women, voluntary societies and organised bodies like the Salvation Army, the Fellowship of the Maple Leaf, and so on, were approached, and invited to send representatives to a preliminary Conference, held on April 13th. The English women's societies were circularised, and the groups amongst them specially interested in the problem of women's migration were asked to co-operate. The result was an extraordinarily interesting, informative, and helpful discussion, out of which grew eventually a definite scheme of work for the future. One result, at least, of the June Conference has been the setting-up of a Committee to examine into the funds, the training and the assistance available for women other than domestic servants who might desire to go overseas.

The British Commonwealth League, to which the Women's Freedom League is affiliated, is, as most of our readers know, a society formed to deal with issues of Equal Citizenship within the countries ruled under the British flag. This involves the task of bringing women citizens to understand the meaning and extent of their political power. The grouping represented by the British Commonwealth exercises enormous influence in world politics, as has been witnessed by the discussions of the recent Imperial Conference in London, and the League has come into being so that the influence and claims of the woman citizen may be understood and exerted in this political sphere. All suffragists with that wider vision which must needs stretch out beyond the four walls of home, are asked to visit the League's Headquarters at 17, Buckingham Street, Strand, and get into touch with its many far-reaching activities.

Sex and Public Life. By A. H. Henderson-Livesey (Social Services, Ltd.). Price 6s.

This book registers the disgruntled sentiments of a man who is obsessed with the idea that every woman's place is the home, and that the only services required of her are those of a wife and mother. Mr. Livesey longs for a well-ordered state in which all women would be compelled to keep to their particular place and to render only these special services. In a digression about his own political idiosyncrasies in the concluding chapter, he says: "I would prefer to go to the devil by my own volition than to paradise under the guidance of another." Why should he not allow to woman the same preference? Mr. Livesey disagrees with the "twaddle" about one standard of morality; declares that common sense and Feminism cannot co-exist, and that the most important objection to equal pay for women and men in the teaching profession is that "it is undesirable to create avenues of employment for women to which the economic advantages may outweigh the inclination to marry." He belittles the "performances" of women in the professions and in Parliament, and indulges in personal abuse of well-known feminists. We cannot think that this book was worth writing; we are certain that it is not worth reading.

F. A. U.

Moteley's Concession. By C. NINA BOYLE. (Allen and Unwin.) Price 7s. 6d. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

Miss Boyle has broken new ground in her latest book and given proof of her versatility, for it is one of romance and adventure, set amongst the curious customs and scenery of the little-known independent Pyrenean province of Torronascar. Here she has given us, with much local colour and legend, an exciting story of intrigue, love and war, in which two English ex-officers and adventurers—Sebastian and Hawke by name—are sent by the great Lord Moteley to take up a concession dealing with unworked riches of mica, and in so doing they come up against the local political parties, and the prejudices of the old nobility and their strange mediaeval judicial and religious customs. With two heroes, who are ready "to go to hell for a job," and two heroines, one an English girl in distress, imprisoned to labour in a humble monastery for life, and the other a member of the chief noble family, with "rights of justice" in her own hands, with Spain's intrigues and endeavours to overthrow the small land she encircles, the stage is well set, and spies, assassins, peasant torturers, revengeful ladies and traitors play their part before us.

The curious customs and ancient feuds of the place seem at first as if they were unchangeable, but, as Lord Moteley finally remarks, "it's no use trying to keep out change by artificial restrictions—change has got to come. You can no more stop an idea travelling than you can stop water—either it will travel, or it will smash something," and here, as Sebastian remarks, "it has done both." The book is not, however, steeped in tragedy, though tragedy and violent death is there, the adventurers are light-hearted, and thoroughly enjoy making trouble for the Spanish invaders, while a little dog, not a hound of beauty and pedigree, whom his master christens "Idiot," is a really charming new acquaintance for the dog lover. Altogether a thoroughly good yarn to while away a winter's evening and make one forget fogs and coal strikes, and a plot sufficiently vivid to hold one's attention from first to last page. J. M. T.

Passion's Thrall. By May Strachan. (John Hamilton, Ltd.) 7s. 6d. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

This book may be described as a cross between the "Young Visitors," which amused us all a few years ago, and the later story by Anita Loos, "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes." The writer, whose work is cleverly illustrated by "Little" with pictures well suited to the letterpress, gives us the strange adventures of a fashionable writer, Nicholas Torus, and his ladylove and rival, Sapphire Sans Geine. A green-headed adventuress, called "Nasty" for short, and very unpleasant she is, and a decadent poet Egelwald Scrumpp, her lover, whom she calls "Egg" for short, are other characters; their adventures riding on two humps of a camel in the Row, and at the night club "The Guts," are satirically described, and the poems in unrhymed verse recited by their author, which cause reporters to swoon, make amusing reading. In contrast to these two we have Lady Well-well, who becomes compromised with and therefore marries a police inspector, and the Hon. Gloria Stark, victim of a hopeless attachment to the author's secretary, Mr. Michael Oilbrush.

The flamboyant descriptions of Sapphire and Torus' palaces, their curious servitors and furniture, the speeches made at the highbrow "Inceyoum" Club and the machinations of the Female Determinism Society, together with the interviews of Mr. Torus with his publisher Blither, keep up a wonderfully high level of absurdity, while the reader is always conscious of the underlying sarcasm which is attacking the follies of our modern ways in this clever fashion. Especially to be noted is the author's use of unexpected phrases and adjectives, such as "lush with delicious languor," "a fat-faced dissolute morn," or "a certain reputational pungency," while Torus' habit of twirling his right moustache with his left hand, or letting his hair "crisp eerily," to quote again, "s'marvellous." Altogether a most humorous skit, full of wit and cleverness. J. M. T.

Women's Freedom League.

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

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

1927.

Monday, January 10th, at 3 p.m.

Hampstead Branch. Meeting at 53, Willow Road, N.W.3 (by the kindness of Miss Lyndon).

Thursday, January 20th, at 7.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign Public Meeting in the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Wednesday, January 26th, at 8 p.m.

Hampstead Branch. Social Gathering at the Isis Club, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue, N.W.3 (by kind invitation of Mrs. Harverson). Speaker: Commandant Mary Allen. Chair: Mrs. Wynne

Nevinson, J.P. All friends of the League will be welcome.

Monday, February 7th, at 8.15 p.m.

Minerva Club Branch, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Equal Political Rights Campaign Public Meeting.

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, January 5th, at 4-6 p.m.

Hastings Branch. New Year's Party at 1, St. au's Place.

SCOTLAND.

Saturday, January 15th, at 7.30 p.m.

Glasgow Branch. Whist Drive and Cake and Candy Sale at the Athenæum.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

January 3rd-7th. National Union of Women Teachers' Annual Conference at York.

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN.

A Public Meeting will be held in the Minerva Café, at 144, High Holborn, Thursday, January 20th, at 7.30 p.m., to demand that the Government shall include an Equal Franchise measure in the King's Speech, which will give the Parliamentary Vote to women at the age of 21, and on equal terms with men. The speakers on this occasion will be the Rev. W. C. Roberts, Rector of St. George's, Bloomsbury, Sister Annie (of the West London Mission), Miss Rodgers (League of the Church Militant), Miss M. I. Wall (St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance), Mrs. Godfrey (London Labour Party), and others whose names will be announced later. Sir James Remnant, the Member for Holborn Division, will be asked to receive a deputation from members of the various organisations co-operating in this campaign and living in his constituency, to discuss with him the urgency of an early settlement of the Equal Franchise question.

On Monday, February 7th, at 8.15 p.m., the Minerva Club Branch will hold a Public Meeting in connection with the Equal Rights Campaign at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

BRANCH NOTE.

GLASGOW.

There will be a Whist Drive, combined with a small Cake and Candy Sale, in the Athenæum, on Saturday, January 15th, at 7.30 p.m. We hope all members and friends will come and support the Cake and Candy Sale, both by bringing and buying. Miss Eunice G. Murray will preside. Tickets, 2/6 each, can be obtained from Miss Lenton, c/o Miss Jane Thompson, F.E.I.S., 1, Burbank Gardens, Glasgow. Miss Thompson will be pleased to receive promises for goods for the Cake and Candy stall.

CHRISTMAS.

I.
Cradled in sentiment,
Holy and reverent,
Nowell most excellent;
Nowell supreme!

II.
Hallowed religiously,
Welcomed caressingly,
Much do we honour thee,
Nowell supreme!

III.
Love unsophisticate,
Charity wide and great
Glow in thy name and state,
Nowell supreme!

IV.
Peerless, thou driest tears;
Valiant, thou chastes fears;
Keep with us through the years,
Nowell supreme!

EDWY G. CLAYTON.

December, 1926.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson.

DEAR MADAM,—The news of Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson's death only reached me through THE VOTE. It was a great shock to me, the more so as, on the evening of the Pethick-Lawrence Silver Wedding Dinner, she had travelled up with my family to the Holborn Restaurant. She felt bewildered by the traffic and the busy London whirl of life, and asked me to accompany her to the Dinner and to see her home again afterwards. She had, as you know, just got back from a tour in America, and described to us on that occasion how the speed of life in that country had worn her out. We noticed how frail she seemed physically, though just as full of purpose and fun as in the long ago. She had visited Mary Gawthorpe in New York, and was keenly interested in her new sphere of life. All the way home we chatted merrily, and my parting words to her, as she took an affectionate farewell of me, were "go on keeping young, never mind about your 73 years, and get plump again." I little thought that that would be our last meeting, (on the previous one, we ate strawberries together at Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party before she went to America). She took my words all too seriously, and kept so young that she embarked on the great adventure of entering a new life within a few days. Probably that Wedding Dinner was her last appearance in public.

We suffragists owe more than we know to her dauntless pioneer work. Ex-prisoners, especially, owe her the luxury of clean bedding; for it was she who held the famous interview with the governor of Holloway when she described her night struggle with a fellow-prisoner (vermin) in her cell and produced his corpse as evidence of her victory over him. Clean mattresses were the direct result. Vegetarian diet in gaol was also her gift to us. May we all keep as courageous as she did!

Yours, etc.,

ROSE LAMARTINE YATES.

Public Lodging Houses for Women.

DEAR MADAM,—I very much regret to have to write in strong disagreement to the proposal made by Mrs. Cecil Chesterton, that "no questions should be asked" as to the lives of the women she proposes to admit to her shelter. I have been always in favour of doss-houses for women, to be run on the same lines as the Rowton Houses for men; but I deprecate most strongly the idea of taking in obvious and acknowledged women from the street to mix with "down and outs," domestic servants up from the country seeking situations, women street pedlars, country witnesses at the Law Courts, etc., all of whom are people who might presumably find it very difficult to find a night's lodging. The truth is, it is far more easy for a girl from the streets of whatever age or character, to get a night's lodging than for a respectable working woman. I have had years of experience of work among those who have gone astray, and I know of the network of Societies which, all in their different ways, help these cases. For eight years I worked as a working associate of The Pimlico Association for Friendless Girls, having any of the girls who had been given invitations once a week to tea with me. The invitations were given broadcast by street missionaries, policemen, and anyone who kindly interested themselves in them. There was never any difficulty whatever in finding them a bed, and though I am strongly in favour of never turning anyone away, any rescue-worker would tell Mrs. Chesterton that it is a cruel and most foolish thing for any of these girls to be mixed up with the others; it is never, under any circumstances, thought to be wise. A bad influence for one day's meeting often turns the scale with a young girl who has the life painted in glowing colours, and immediately she decides to follow the bad advice given her. I have known of a girl of 17, in the Lock ward of an infirmary, whose story was known to one of our workers. She had been on the streets three weeks, and was advised to take to this life, she told me, by a girl she met in one of the common lodging houses, which are generally regarded as dens of iniquity. I do hope someone will be able to induce Mrs. Chesterton to see the mistake of this mixing up with *known* prostitutes and modify this idea, without any harshness, but by the employment of a little common sense.

I am, yours faithfully,

MADLINE GREENWOOD.

W.F.L. PAMPHLETS, ETC.

"British Women M.P.s" (brought up to date), by D. M. Northcroft 4d.
 "The Work for Women M.P.s," by Mrs. Helena Normanton, B.A. 3d.
 "The Need for Women Members of Parliament," (Second Edition), by Mrs. How Martyn, M.Sc. 3d.
 "Women's Right to Work," by Miss Lind-af-Hageby 3d.
 "Women Police," by D. M. Northcroft 1d.
 "Women at Work in the League of Nations," by D. M. Northcroft (Fourth Edition) 6d.
 "What we have and What we want," by Muriel Pierotti 3d.
 "The Pilgrim Mothers," by Eunice G. Murray 2d.
 "Women and Politics," by Charles Kingsley 6d.
 "Women Preachers," by M. A. R. Tucker 6d.
 "Ecce Mater," by M. A. R. Tucker 3/6.

FRIDAY,
DEC. 24,
1926.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY

Please send me *THE VOTE* every week, post free, for 6 months, for which I enclose 3/3.

Name

Address

THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

REST AND HOLIDAYS.

BRIGHTON.—"Sea View," Victoria Road. Midday dinner. Gas fires in Bedrooms. Wireless. Vegetarians catered for.—Hostess: MISS TURNER.

RYE, SUSSEX.—OLD HOPE ANCHOR. Ideal Guest House. Modern comforts; good cooking. Separate Vegetarian cooking a speciality. Write for booklet.

CLUBS.

ISIS CLUB, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue (2 minutes Hampstead Tube Station). Magnificent Reception Rooms. Central heating. Sunny bedrooms. Sandy soil. Lectures, dancing, listening-in. Telephone: Hampstead 2869.

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.

FAMOUS FOR ITS 1/6 LUNCHEON. 10/6 First Fifty Members Join. The Owls Club in the 16th-century "Wig & Pen," 230, Strand. Open till midnight. Very cosy Writing Room, etc., for people of literary and kindred pursuits. Excellent Devonshire cooking. Founded by H. & F. Ames.—Apply Secretary, Owls, 230 Strand.

HOTEL.

MONTAGUE HOTEL, Montague Street, Russell Square, London, W.C. First-class accommodation; room, breakfast and attendance from 7s. 6d. En pension from 3 guineas.—Phone: Museum 4660. (Highly Recommended.)

TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS AND HOW TO USE THEM. 2d. Send for one.—TRIMNELL, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond Road, Cardiff. Est. 1879.

NOTICES.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED.—Consult Miss H. M. BAKER, 275, High Holborn, W.C.1. Income Tax Returns, Repayment Claims of all Descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 0377.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, December 26th. Lecture. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden: "If Love had not come down at Christmas."

MISS CONSTANCE CONNOLLY, 37, Norfolk Street, W.C.2. Specialises in circularising, printing, duplicating, and verbatim reporting. Rapid Secretarial Course for Gentle-people.

PUBLIC SPEAKING.—Lectures, classes, and private lessons. Saturday Speech Club. Miss LUCY BELL, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Tel.: Museum 4791.

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN CITIZENS.—The Edward Wright and Cavendish-Bentinck Library contains sections on current political and social problems, including the Woman's Movement, Family Allowances, and League of Nations. Book Boxes of 20 books available for Study Circles.—Apply Librarian, N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster.

THE WHITE CROSS UNION are holding a "New Life" series of Practical Talks at Paddington Town Hall, on Thursdays, the next being on December 30th, at 7.30 p.m. Subject: "Life and its Possibilities."

MISCELLANEOUS.

CLOTTED CREAM, 3/- lb., post free. Furnished House to let at NEWQUAY, 5 rooms.—Apply SELSEY, St. Stephen's, St. Austell, Cornwall.

TO LET.

OFFICE OR STUDIO. Well-lighted room in High Holborn.—Apply "M.E.G.," THE VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

BOARD-RESIDENCE in small comfortable home at Leamington Spa. Suit business woman, or lady requiring care.—Box J.M.F., THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

AVERY comfortable Bedroom or Bed-sitting-room in lady's flat, for business lady. Quiet house, gas fire and ring, electric light. Breakfast only. Can be seen by appointment.—Write MRS. PHELPS, c/o THE VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

BED-SITTING ROOM, 12/6; two sharing, 8/6 (separate beds). Phone and piano can be arranged.—STAFFORD, 41, Colville Gardens, Bayswater.

CANONBURY.—Unfurnished, first floor, 3 rooms; 2 large, 1 small. Own meter. Use of bathroom. 22/6 weekly. Buses, trams and tube only 2 minutes' walk.—Box "R.P.," THE VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

HAVERSTOCK HILL, HAMPSTEAD —Pleasant bed-sitting-room in private flat, electric light; gas stove, ring; geyser bath; healthy neighbourhood, opposite Tube. Recommended by Society of Friends.—Box "M.E.T.," THE VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

FOR SALE.

OLD OAK TILED HOUSE, 8 rooms. Indoor Sanitation. Coy.'s Water. Phone. Garden. £450. Possession.—OWNER, "Hornash," Shadoxhurst, Ashford, Kent.

MEDICAL.

PARK LODGE NURSING HOME, Bath Road, Reading. For Medical, Nerve, Chronic, and Rest Cure Patients. Terms moderate.—Phone: Reading 1948.

GOOD'S CAMEO CORNER

SPECIALISE IN

ANCIENT INTAGLIOS RUSSIAN ENAMELS
ANTIQUE CAMEOS OLD IVORIES
STONE CARVINGS GEORGIAN SILVER
ORIENTAL JEWELS RARE SNUFF BOXES

Etc., etc.

1, NEW OXFORD STREET, W.C.1.

We buy entire collections or single specimens to any amount for cash.

Phone: Museum 4296.

Membership Application Form.

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

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

Name

Address

I enclose £ : s. d. as my first Annual Subscription.

Minimum Annual Subscription, 1/-