

A CALL TO OUR MEMBERS.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

NON-PARTY.

VOL. XXVII. No. 881.

(Registered at
the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 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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AUSTRALIA'S ALTERNATE DELEGATE.

MISS FREDA BAGE.

Miss Freda Bage, M.Sc., F.L.S., is the Principal of the Women's College within the University of Queensland and one of Australia's most representative public women. Born at St. Kilda, Melbourne, in 1883, she received her earlier education in that district, then entered the University of Melbourne as a science student, and was in residence at Trinity College Hostel, now Janet Clarke Hall, for three years. She took her B.Sc. in 1905, obtaining the final women's scholarship in Biology with second class honours in 1906. Under the scholarship terms she acted as Junior Demonstrator in Biology during 1906, spending most of the year in research work. At its close she shared the MacBain Research Scholarship in Biology with Miss Jean White, now Dr. Jean White Harvey. In 1907, Miss Bage took her M.Sc., and from 1908-9 she acted as Junior Demonstrator in Biology to the College. In 1908 and 1909 she was awarded the Victorian Government Research Scholarship. During all this time of close study and research work, outdoor sports were not neglected. For many years

she was elected one of the Vice-Presidents of the Sports Union, and, in 1909, President of the University Women's Hockey Club.

Then came a break in her busy University life, when she left Australia, in 1909, for a two years' visit to

England and Europe. She had already visited England with her parents once before as a child. A year of her leave of absence was spent in doing research work at King's College, London, under the late Professor Arthur Dendy, during which time she put in a summer vacation at Plymouth attending a Marine Zoology School, conducted by Professor Garstang. She also visited many of the universities and colleges in England and on the Continent. Whilst over in this country Miss Bage was elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society.

On her return to Australia, in 1911, she was appointed Senior Demonstrator in Biology in the University of Melbourne during the absence of Professor (now Sir Baldwin) Spencer from Melbourne. Two years later she was elected Acting Lecturer in Biology in the University of Queensland as *locum tenens* for



WOMEN ATHLETES AT GOTHENBURG.

Miss Bage acted as Hon. Sec. of the Women's Tennis Club, and was first Hon. Sec. of the Women Students' Hockey Club, in which capacity she accompanied a team to Adelaide for the first Women's Inter-University hockey match played in Australia. In 1908 and 1909

Dr. Harvey Johnston, then the head of that department, and carried on the work of the department until 1914. Early in the same year (in 1914) a residential college was established for women attending the University of Queensland. The position of Principal

was offered to and accepted by Miss Bage, who has continued in office ever since, under a College Council, with the exception of a year's leave of absence in 1924. As Principal of the College she has been in close touch with the women students, not only in the College, where the happiest co-operation has always existed between Principal and students, but also with the larger body of women students at the University, and through them with people in the many parts of Queensland, from which the students are drawn. Owing to lack of adequate college funds, Miss Bage has always cheerfully undertaken many housekeeping and secretarial duties in addition to the recognised work of a College Principal. She has also entered enthusiastically into the sports life of the College, and is a Vice-President of the Queensland Women's Hockey Association, and of the Queensland University Women's Union.

In 1923, the women graduates thought it advisable to have a woman on the governing body of the University, and Miss Bage was asked to stand for election to the Senate of the University of Queensland, and was elected for a term of three years. In 1924, Miss Bage was granted a year's leave of absence, which was spent in travelling in Ceylon and India, Europe and America. Before leaving she was appointed a delegate to various conferences, and represented the Lyceum Club at an International Conference of Lyceum Clubs in Geneva, the National Council of Women of Queensland at a meeting of Standing Committees of the International Council of Women at Copenhagen, and the Australian Federation of University Women at Oslo in the Council Meeting at the Biennial Conference of the International Federation of University Women. She was also a delegate from the University of Queensland for the Education Conference of the League of Empire held in London.

Since her return to Australia, in 1925, Miss Bage has been re-elected to the Senate of the University of Queensland for a further term of three years, and as President of the Queensland Women Graduates' Association for a further period of one year.

Miss Bage is the fourth Australian woman to sit in the Assembly at Geneva.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Wallasey Women's Gratitude.

The Mayor of Wallasey, Alderman J. W. Holdsworth, is to be the recipient of his portrait in oils from the women of the borough. The Mayor has always championed the women's cause, and is indignant that, although Wallasey women do an enormous amount of work in the interests of the town, they reap a very poor reward in the shape of municipal honours.

Woman Librarian's Unique Job.

The famous "Co-operative Agricultural Library," founded some years ago by Sir Horace Plunkett in Dublin, and removed this year to London, is in charge of a woman, Miss Florence Marks. As the books deal only with agriculture in all its many phases and in various languages, her post is not quite like that of the usual woman librarian. Students from Egypt, China, India, and America come to study in this unique library.

Indian Women M.P.s.

A message from Calcutta states that Mr. Nowroji Dumasia's resolution for the removal of the ban on women becoming members of the Legislative Assembly caused an interesting debate. Except for one dissentient, the resolution was supported by all sections of the House, and carried without a division. The Home Secretary announced that the Government would frame regulations to have the resolution put into effect before the forthcoming General Election, but maintained that it would only remove the ban on women in the Bombay and Madras Presidencies.

The Rank of Colonel.

The late Miss Gertrude Bell, in addition to many other distinctions, held the executive rank of a colonel, which was granted to her when she was transferred to the staff in Irak after serving during 1917 on the Intelligence Staff at G.H.Q. in Egypt. Ordnance survey maps of outlying portions of Mesopotamia, which have the name "Bell" marked on them, indicate that Miss Bell had personally verified their details.

Women Architects.

Women architects are on the increase in this country. The pioneers qualified for admission to the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1898, and now there are at present at least seven women Associate members of this body. Since the war, hundreds of students have attended the various architectural schools. One of these is now in partnership in Liverpool with a male student.

A Titled "Window-Cleaner."

Lady Dean Paul, who canvasses for a window-cleaning firm, takes a practical interest in the work. Lady Dean Paul's varied activities were referred to not long ago by Mr. London. Besides "window cleaning," she sings and composes songs.

Wife as a Fare.

A man was summoned at Leighton Buzzard recently for, it was alleged, wrongfully using a motor-car licensed as a hackney carriage by taking his wife out alone. The woman, however, said that her husband treated her as any other fare, and she paid him for each journey at the same rate he charged other people. The magistrate dismissed the case.

A Versatile Woman Athlete.

Miss Muriel Gunn, the nineteen-year-old athlete who represented Great Britain in the Women's International Games at Gothenburg, is, besides being the holder of the world's record for the women's long jump, a certificated pianist, an accomplished pastrycook and needlewoman, and an anti-Socialist lecturer.

Mexican Women's Progress.

Yucatan and one other Mexican state have granted women the suffrage. Mexican women have much more freedom than formerly. Girls work in offices, and women enter the Universities and the professions. The head of the Library Department of the National Department of Education is a woman lawyer. In Yucatan a woman put up as a candidate for the Legislature, but was unsuccessful.

IN PARLIAMENT.

On August 31st, MR. RHYS DAVIES (Lab., West-houghton) asked the Home Secretary whether he will cause an inquiry into the operation of the two-shift system for women and young persons, with a view to finding out the views of both employers and workpeople on the subject, and in order to determine whether it may be necessary to continue the Act of 1921 in the Schedule of the next Expiring Laws Continuance Bill? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS: The operation of the two-shift system has ever since its inception been carefully watched by the Factory Department, and it has been one of the duties of the Women Deputy Superintending Inspectors in particular to make a special study of this question. The results of these investigations are embodied in special Sections of the Reports of the Chief Inspector of Factories for the years 1921 to 1924—see particularly pages 53 and 54 of the Report for 1924, which contain a summary of the views expressed by employers and workers. Those views of course vary, but on the whole they are favourable to the system, and provision has been made for its continuance in Clause 74 of the Factories Bill. I do not think that any further inquiry is necessary.

THE CHURCH CONGRESS AT SOUTHPORT

By E. LOUIE ACRES.

The general subject for this year's Church Congress (October 4th to 8th) is "The Eternal Spirit." The Congress is fortunate in its President, for in Dr. David, the Bishop of Liverpool, it has a Chairman of high intellectual attainment and of great personal charm.

Two women only have been invited to speak at the official Congress meetings: Mrs. Creighton, on "The Way of the Spirit in the Community," and Miss Evelyn Underhill on "The Way of the Spirit in the Individual." It appears from the preliminary programme that they will address meetings at the same time at different halls, so that the usual problem will arise as to the impossibility of being in two places at once if one desires to hear these women speakers.

There will be a number of unofficial meetings running concurrently with the official Congress, and the campaign of the "League of the Church Militant" will be of special interest to readers of THE VOTE.

The League has secured temporary headquarters from October 4th to 8th at the Girls' Club, West Street, Southport, and there will be the usual stall at the Church Congress Exhibition for the display and sale of literature and books. Two public meetings have been arranged. One on Tuesday, October 5th, at Birkdale Town Hall at 5.15 p.m., when Mr. S. Shoran Singha will be the speaker. The general idea of the League's campaign can be summed up in the question: "Is the world to be governed by the Spirit of God or the Spirit of Fear?" and Mr. Singha will speak on the "Problems of Race" from this point of view. Mrs. Marston Acres will be in the Chair.

On Wednesday, October 6th, at the Temperance Institute, Southport, at the same hour, Miss Maude

Royden is to speak on "The Problems of Sex and of Class," and the Rev. Canon Raven, D.D., will be the Chairman. Miss Royden is well known in Lancashire—as, indeed, almost everywhere—and many of her friends and some of the congregation at Liverpool Cathedral, where she was recently invited by the Dean and Chapter to preach, will welcome the opportunity of hearing her in the neighbouring town of Southport.

In Miss Royden and Mr. Singha the League has two speakers singularly well fitted to deal with the subjects they have chosen. Miss Royden is too well known to VOTE readers to need a word of introduction, but Mr. Shoran Singha, less well known to suffrage audiences, is an orator to be heard when opportunity occurs. A son of the Punjab University, he has just those gifts which are necessary to interpret the mind of the West to the East, and of the East to the West. Those who heard him speak at the Eastbourne Church Congress last year will not soon forget the intense sincerity and fiery eloquence with which he seemed to pour out his soul.

There will be a corporate Communion for members and Church of England friends of the League at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, October 6th, at Holy Trinity Church, Southport.

Miss L. Corben, the L.C.M. Hon. Organiser, will be most grateful for offers of help during the time of the Congress—stewarding at meetings, handbill distribution, and a hundred other jobs await willing workers. The distance from London makes it difficult for many of the London Executive to give their help, so that we have to depend on the co-operation of friends living in Southport or the neighbouring districts. It is a task worthy of your co-operation and fellowship.

YOUNG WOMEN SCIENTISTS.

A recent issue of the *Evening News* gives an interesting account of the work of young women scientists in Government departments in this country.

Scores of profound brochures, written by young women scientists still in their twenties, have been published officially by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Several women are also employed in the Government laboratories. Many others—brilliant young research workers—are receiving grants of from £250 to £400 a year to further their experiments, and are tackling every branch of science.

Miss Dorothy Marshall, amongst the established Government workers, has just seen the official publication of an intricate brochure on aerial problems. Miss Edith Irvine has experimented on "the thermal endurance of glass," Miss Marie Gayler on alloys of metals, and Mrs. Winifred Page on "the absorption and scattering of Gamma rays."

Amongst women grant workers are Miss K. E. Carpenter and Miss C. F. Elam—two of the most promising women scientists of to-day. Miss Carpenter has already written five brochures, ranging from one on river pollution to one on the Cardiganshire lead mines.

Miss Elam has written two—one of them a description of her experiments "on the distortion of single crystal test pieces of aluminium."

Another young worker of whom big things are expected is Miss M. J. Latter, who has been investigating pollen development.

The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research gives two sorts of grants to young men and women scientific workers. One is a maintenance grant to "students in training," to enable college students to complete their special training in research methods. The other is a grant to actual research workers. Most of the students are only about 22 years old, and the majority of the research workers are under 30.

WOMEN TRADE UNIONISTS.

Women were to the fore at the Trades Union Congress at its Annual Meeting, which was held at Bournemouth this week. All the delegations included women members, and there has been a campaign to induce women workers to enrol as trade unionists. Only about one-fourth of industrial women workers belong to trade unions, and the number tends to decline. Organised Labour would like to bring domestic servants within the movement.

As part of the proceedings of the Trade Union Congress, a Conference of trade union women was held. Protests were made against the type of some of the resolutions on the agenda. A new development was foreshadowed in a resolution, moved by Miss Mary Quaile, advocating the formation of women's guilds in connection with trade unions to spread the principles of trade unionism and promote social intercourse. This was carried.

There was a brisk discussion on a resolution urging that industry should pay a full economic price for women's labour and demanding the establishment of a guaranteed minimum wage irrespective of sex. This resolution was moved by a man delegate. It was opposed by several other men, including some representing tailoring interests.

Mr. Sam Elsbury, of the Tailors and Garment Makers' Union, said that the proposal was fraught with much danger, and was a menace to the wages and standards of the men workers and their families.

"I can visualise the day," he said, "when men will have to do the housework and the women will have to toil in our factories and workshops." The resolution was carried with a few dissentients.

Mr. Arthur Pugh, the President of the T.U.C., presented to Miss Irene Pickup, of Leeds (National Union of General and Municipal Workers), the gold badge awarded to the woman who did the best work for the trade union movement during the year. Miss Pickup won this trophy by her conspicuous service to trade unionism in propaganda and organisation.

THE VOTE.

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th, 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.

A CALL TO OUR MEMBERS.

Now that the holidays are over, we have to call upon our members for every assistance they can give us in the carrying-out of the Equal Franchise Campaign, which our President, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, outlined for us at our last Annual Conference, and which the Conference delegates then agreed should be inaugurated this autumn. Our first event is a particularly pleasant one, and we call upon our members to rally round us in force in order to make it an outstanding success. This event is the public dinner at the Holborn Restaurant, Friday evening, October 8th, to Mr. and Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, to celebrate their Silver Wedding. Women's political enfranchisement in this country has been fortunate in having many valuable friends, but no friends of this cause have been stauncher or more valuable than Mr. and Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, and we are confident that suffragists, to whatever society they belong, and whatever their political opinions, will wish to join with us in the congratulatory dinner to be held on October 8th. To members of the Women's Freedom League, Mr. and Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence are even more than friends. We shall all be glad of this opportunity of offering our affectionate greetings to our President, and we all remember Mr. Pethick-Lawrence's splendid championship of Votes for Women in pre-suffrage days. October 8th will be a fine occasion for a great reunion of suffragists, and no one, certainly not any of our members, will want to miss the speakers' reminiscences of women's fight for political freedom in this country in the days before the war. Tickets for this dinner are now ready, and should be purchased early from our Ticket Secretary at 144, High Holborn, price 8s. 6d. each.

The next item on our autumn programme for London is an Equal Franchise Public Meeting, to be held at Caxton Hall, Friday evening, October 22nd. Parliament will be meeting early the following month, and we must take this opportunity of voicing the demand of the Women's Freedom League for an Equal Franchise Measure, which will enable women to vote at the same age and on the same terms as men, to be introduced by the Government and passed into law without delay, so that women will be on the same political footing as men at the next General Election. All our members and readers of THE VOTE in and around London should keep this date free and come to Caxton Hall to support our demand for an early settlement of the Equal Franchise question and the removal of this political injustice to women. We rely upon our branches outside London—in Scotland, Wales, and the Provinces—to make similar efforts in their own districts for equal suffrage for women and men, and to use every means in their power to bring this matter to the attention of Members of Parliament and of the Government. Only in this way, by well-directed efforts in the immediate future, can we ensure that the question of equal franchise will be seriously considered by the present Government, and an equal franchise measure placed upon the Statute Book during the life of this Parliament. We confidently rely upon our members to give us their utmost support in the work of the Women's Freedom League this autumn.

THE VICIOUS CIRCLE.

At the Trade Union Congress, held at Bournemouth this week, Miss Dorothy Evans (Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries) moved a resolution urging that unemployment benefit under the Insurance Act should be the same for single women as for single men, and that the rate should not be less than £1 a week. This proposal, which he said ought to form part of a comprehensive arrangement, was opposed by Mr. Hayday, M.P. He objected to the exclusion of married women and widows whose needs drove them into the labour market, and, on a card vote, the motion was rejected by 2,345,000 votes to 1,304,000. We regret that this resolution was rather side-tracked by Mr. Hayday's argument concerning married women and widows. It is true that they are often driven into the labour market, and Mr. Hayday and his supporters could quite well have pleaded that they should receive unemployment Insurance benefit on the same terms as married men or widowers, without turning down Miss Evans's proposal, which dealt with a very real grievance. When a woman is unemployed, her personal needs are as great as those of a man. Lodgings, food, and clothing have to be paid for whether they are purchased by men or women, and it is absurd to suggest that a single man's weekly expenses are necessarily a few shillings more than those of a woman. We have always urged that the Insurance contributions of men and women should be equal, and that their benefits should likewise be equal, and we have received the inevitable reply that, as women's wages were less than men's wages, it was unfair to ask them to pay equal contributions. The unequal treatment of the sexes always results in a vicious circle for women. Women are told that they cannot have equal pay with men because men generally marry and have dependents; then, if single women claim equal benefits with single men that claim is turned down because it is not made for married women and widows who may or may not have dependents. In our view, the only just solution is equal pay for work of equal value, whether it is done by men or women; and equal contributions and equal benefits for both sexes under any Insurance scheme.

WOMEN AND LUNACY ADMINISTRATION.

The Twelfth Annual Report of the Board of Control has just been issued. It shows that on January 1st, 1926, the number of notified insane persons under care in England and Wales was 133,833, an increase of 2,332 on the number on January 1st, 1925; while the average annual increase for the five years ending January 1st, 1926, was 2,708. The relative percentage distribution of the sexes—males, 43.9; females, 56.1—was the same as in each of the two preceding years. Immediately before the war this percentage was: males, 46.2; females, 53.8. It will be seen that there are more women than men mental patients; and we once again urge that more women should have responsible positions in lunacy administration. There should be more women on the Board of Control, and these women should be of equal professional status with the men members. There should also be women Superintendents of Women's sections of mental hospitals, so that women should be in control of all women mental patients. At present there is no woman Inspector under the Board of Control, so that, when complaints are received in regard to the administration of any mental institution, only a man can be sent to make investigations. It is clear that a woman Inspector would be much more satisfactory in some of these investigations, especially if the complaints referred to the treatment of women patients or the duties of women nurses. Moreover, there should be women on all Committees appointed to visit mental institutions. We hope, in the interests of women patients, that public opinion will be sufficiently strong to insist upon women having more responsible control in the lunacy administration of this country.

WOMEN ENGINEERS AT LEEDS UNIVERSITY.

SEPT. 3RD.—6TH.

It was decided to hold the Fourth Annual Conference of the Women's Engineering Society at Leeds in order to be sufficiently near to Halifax for members to pay a visit to the new housing scheme being carried out by the President, Mrs. Laura A. Willson, M.B.E.

A very warm welcome was accorded to the Conference by the University authorities at Leeds, Professor J. W. Cobb, the pro-Vice-Chancellor, welcoming the delegates in place of Dr. Baillie, the Vice-Chancellor, who was prevented from being present.

At the opening session on Friday, September 3rd, the Lord Mayor attended the University and gave a civic welcome to the delegates, and an interesting address of welcome, in which he referred to the fact that he himself had been a working blacksmith.

The Presidential address of Mrs. Willson referred mainly to housing. In her view there was no such thing as a Housing Problem, but a great boom in housing. She herself in just over a year has erected, or has in course of erection, over 200 houses, the first batch of which are already occupied.

On Saturday morning, September 4th, the members visited the Airedale Foundry of the Kitson Locomotive Works, and were received by Colonel Kitson Clark. An extensive tour of the works was made, and members saw the construction of a locomotive in its various stages.

The afternoon was devoted to the reading of two technical papers: one by Mrs. M. L. Matthews on "Portable Electric Tools and some Newer Developments," and one by Miss Griff on "Stainless Steel and its Uses in Engineering."

The need for increased output in industry was emphasised by Mrs. Mabel Matthews, who is the departmental head of a big firm of machine toolmakers.

The outstanding problem, she declared, was an increase in the industrial output of the country. Improved social conditions, more and better houses, clothes, furniture, food, all depended on the increased production of wealth. The calculated and deliberate opposition of

the workers to increased output was due to a misunderstanding of the economic position—a misunderstanding too often fostered and developed by those whose livelihood was determined by the continued discontent of the working classes.

The workers, she added, so far had preferred to believe those who thrived on their grievances. Those who saw clearly that the prosperity of all classes, and particularly the working classes, depended on the greater production of wealth, in which all shared, must direct their efforts to explain clearly to the masses how increased output and the more extensive use of the labour-saving appliances that engineers had produced would alone provide the prosperity they desired but failed to achieve because of their mistaken adherence to false economic standards.

An interesting discussion followed, after which the members were conducted round the engineering departments of the University.

A Dance and Social Evening, in which many prominent local people joined, terminated Saturday's proceedings.

On Sunday the members set out to visit the housing schemes of Mrs. Willson, and later visited the home of the Brontës.

Undoubtedly the Fourth Annual Conference of the Women's Engineering Society has proved to be a greater success than ever. It showed that more and more women are occupying important and responsible posts in engineering work, and that undoubtedly the small niche in engineering won by women engineers during the war is being very rapidly turned into a permanent place. As Colonel Kitson Clark said in his opening remarks on Saturday afternoon, for a hundred years men have been running engineering enterprises, and now, almost without it being realised, a new group of minds was being focussed upon engineering problems from an entirely new angle, the result of which will undoubtedly be for the benefit of the engineering world.

THE SEVENTH ASSEMBLY AND ITS TASK.

BY HEBE SPULL.

As the main interest in the Seventh Assembly has centred round the admission of Germany to the League of Nations, one had perhaps better begin at that point, though it is important that it should not be allowed to overshadow the other business before the League.

At the moment, it appears that Germany's admission to the League has been secured at the cost of Brazil's resignation and Spain's abstention from active participation in the League's work. It would be unwise, however, to regard that as final. Brazil's resignation cannot take effect for another two years, and in the meantime she is to have, in November, a new President, known to be favourably disposed to the League. There is certainly some reason to hope that before Brazil's resignation becomes effective he may have found some way out of the *impasse* without loss of national prestige or dignity. Spain, it must be remembered, has so far not resigned. Both countries stand to lose far more by remaining outside the League than that body does by their abstention.

One of the most important questions to be discussed by the Assembly is that of slavery. It comes as a shock to most British people to realise that there are at the present time millions of slaves in various parts of the world. The League has prepared a Draft Convention providing for the complete abolition of the slave trade and of slavery. The Convention has met with a very favourable reception by the Member States

of the League, and it is to be discussed during the present Assembly.

Disarmament will again figure prominently on the agenda. This year, however, there will be added value in the discussions, in that Germany will be taking an active part in the deliberations as a member of the League. Already important progress has been made as the outcome of the work of the Preparatory Committee for the Disarmament Conference set up by the Council at the request of last year's Assembly. Germany has been officially represented on this Committee from the outset.

Readers of this journal are probably aware of the procedure which is followed each year at the Assembly. The plenary Assembly refers the business on the agenda to six Commissions, and during the ten days or so during which they are dealing with the problems assigned to them, the plenary Assembly does not meet. During the last week or so that the delegates are assembled in Geneva the Assembly sits in full session to consider the reports of the various Commissions. As each state is only allowed three delegates, but may send also substitute delegates, it will be seen that on these six Commissions the substitute delegates have exactly the same powers and responsibilities as full delegates.

At the present Assembly six women are serving as substitute delegates for their respective Governments.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND.

The remarkable progress made by the Women's Institute movement has brought the National Federation to a stage where it can contemplate dispensing with Government aid. From 1917-1919 the movement was under the Ministry of Agriculture, which financed the propaganda with the object of inducing countrywomen to produce more food. From that war-time development has sprung the organisation which is having such a powerful educational influence on the women of our countryside. In 1919 the National Federation was launched as a body independent of the Government, which, however, allowed it a grant of £10,000, with the distinct understanding that the sum was to be decreased each year as soon as the movement became self-supporting. So great was the growth of the Institutes that the sum needed each year has been rapidly reduced. Last year only £300 was applied for, and next year it is hoped to be able to announce that no Government aid is needed. A prominent Government official has told a member of the Federation that few bodies carry out their obligations within so short a space of time, a fact of which Institute members are justly proud.

Every year sees some gratifying advance in the work of the Institutes, and the past year has been particularly notable for developments. The handicrafts section has made great strides. The Government is continuing its special grants to this branch of the work, and the sum applied for by the Federation in 1925 was £1,058. This grant is given on the condition that handicraft teachers are trained by the Federation, which arranges schools through one of its departments, the Guild of Learners. Those who take a special test can charge a small teaching fee. Another development is the interest being aroused in horticulture and agriculture by speakers who prepare Institute members for the instruction in such matters as bee-keeping, which is given by County Councils. The Federation regards this movement as one of great importance.

This year the headquarters have been moved into very fine premises in Eccleston Street, almost opposite the old offices. A gift of £5,000 towards the purchase of the house was made by Lady Denman, the President of the Federation, to whose business ability so much of the success of the movement is due. The condition she made was that the Institutes should raise a corresponding sum within twelve months. The response to this offer was such that the sum of £6,000 was collected entirely by the countrywomen themselves. A sinking fund has been started so that when the lease of this house is up there will be sufficient money to purchase another.

The North-Eastern area of the Scottish Women's Rural Institutes, which corresponds to the Women's Institute movement south of the Tweed, has just held its Biennial Conference, at which 200 delegates attended, and much progress was recorded. The total of 81 Institutes in 1924 in the North-Eastern area has now reached 113, including Shetland, where three Institutes have been formed. The total number of Institutes in Scotland is now over 500, with a membership of 6,500, and they are still steadily increasing. The Board of Agriculture for Scotland has been giving valuable financial assistance to the Rural Institutes, though this will cease in 1927. The chief subject for discussion at the Conference was a scheme of re-organisation of the Rural Institutes for the whole of Scotland, with a central office in Edinburgh, and decentralisation into areas.

An interesting address on "Handicrafts" was also given, in which reference was made to the institution at Craibstone, near Aberdeen, for the training of rural women in butter-making, cheese-making, care of animals, gardening, bee-keeping, and all rural industries. This was followed by an exhibition of arts and crafts from various Scottish schools.

WOMEN SCULPTORS.

An Icelandic woman, Nina Saemundsson, of 26 years of age, has been creating a sensation in New York with her clever modelling. Born on a farm in the north of Iceland, remote from civilisation, and one of a family of 15 brothers and sisters, this young artist was forced to use snow as a medium for her earliest models. Later, when she went to live with relations in Copenhagen, she earned her living in a shop, but smuggled clay up to an attic in her aunt's house, and worked at her craft in the evenings. When at last her secret toiling was discovered, her relatives decided she should be given a chance to develop her talent.

She was sent to study at a Paris art school, and before long exhibited her "Bedouin Woman at Prayer" at a Paris exhibition. After further study in London and Rome, the young artist went to New York, where she worked in an attic studio. To-day the New York critics are loud in their praises for such productions as the bust of Stefansson, the arctic explorer; "Motherhood," a charming study of a young mother and child; "Night," a symbolic piece; and "The Dying Cleopatra."

Other successful women sculptors include Mrs. Sheridan, who works principally in marble; Jane Blanchof, a well-known Paris milliner, who has recently taken up sculpture with marked success; Mary Maemonnies; Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, whose work can be seen in the Congressional Library in Washington, and also in public buildings in New York; and Janet Scudden.

AMERICAN WOMAN JUDGE.

One of America's most remarkable women, the Hon. Georgia P. Bullock, Judge of the Municipal Court of Los Angeles, and one of America's six women Judges, is in London. Judge Bullock—"Just call me Judge," she said recently to a *Daily Mail* reporter who saw her at the Savoy Hotel—has been on a tour of European capitals, visiting prisons and police courts and seeing generally how Europe administers the law, particularly with regard to women and children.

"I am, of course, familiar with English courts," she said, "and it is not too much to say that they serve as a model for the whole world. The fact that English people themselves have the highest regard for the British courts and the administrators is the greatest proof."

Judge Bullock sits in session in the Los Angeles Hall of Justice from 10 o'clock in the morning until 5 o'clock in the afternoon for six days a week.

She sits alone, and every type of criminal case comes before her. She deals with all women criminals unless their offences relate to liquor traffic or other violation of the liquor laws, which are dealt with separately.

Judge Bullock does not agree with the denunciation of modern youth.

"Children are not worse than those of any other generation, and I put the blame for their present disrespect of the law on to their parents. Parents do not set a good example to children these days by going to cocktail parties and night clubs."

LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

We have a new stock of Green, White and Gold Badges, with W.F.L. and Votes for Women on them, price 3d. each. Members who have lost or mislaid their Badges should at once secure others.

The following Women's Freedom League literature is for sale:—

What We Have and What We Want. By Muriel Pierotti... 3d.
British Women M.P.s. By Mrs. Northcroft 4d.
Women in the Ministry. By Eunice G. Murray..... 1d.
The Pilgrim Mothers. By Eunice G. Murray..... 2d.

PLEASE SEND US AN ORDER.

The following, published by the National Council for the Abolition of the Death Penalty, are on sale at this Office:—

Do You Consent? by E. Roy Calvert, 1d.; *Eight Reasons why Capital Punishment should be Abolished*, 1d. each, or 2s. per 100; *America and Capital Punishment*, 1d.; *Ten Different Notes on the Punishment of Death*, 1d. each, or 2s. per 100.

Women's Freedom League.

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, October 8th, 7.30 for 7.45 p.m.
 Public Dinner at Holborn Restaurant, High Holborn, to celebrate the Silver Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence. Tickets 8/6 each. All Suffragists welcome.

Saturday, October 9th, at 10 a.m.

National Executive Committee Meeting.

Friday, October 22nd.

Equal Political Rights. Public Meeting,

Caxton Hall, 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday and Wednesday, November 23rd and 24th, 3 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

Green, White and Gold Fair, at Caxton Hall.

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, September 15th, at 3 p.m.

Portsmouth Branch. Annual Meeting at 2, Kent Road.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Thursday, September 23rd, at 3 p.m.

Sisterhood Meeting, St. George's Wesleyan Mission, Cable Street, E.1. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Subject: "The Women's Freedom League."

Saturday, September 25th.

National Union of Women Teachers. Conference at Central Hall, Westminster.

Monday, September 27th, at 8 p.m.

Public Meeting, Library Hall, Stoke Newington, N. Speakers: Mrs. Mustard (Women's Freedom League), G. W. H. Jones, Esq., M.P. Chair: The Mayor of Stoke Newington. Subject: "Why should Women of 21 years of age have a Vote?"

Thursday, September 30th.

British Commonwealth League Conference.

October 5th—8th.

League of the Church Militant Campaign at Southport.

Wednesday, October 13th, at 2.30 p.m.

Women's International League. Conference on Arbitration.

October 19th—22nd.

Annual Meeting and Conference of the National Council of Women, in the Church House, Great Smith Street, Westminster.

Tuesday, November 16th, at 8 p.m.

Central Hackney Labour Party. Public Meeting at the Brotherhood Church, Southgate Road, N.1. Speaker: Miss Beatrice Pearson.

BRANCH NOTE.

PORTSMOUTH.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 15th, at 3 o'clock, at 2, Kent Road. Agenda: Annual Report; Treasurer's Report; November Election; Winter Work; Election of Officers. In view of the branch running Mrs. Poole as a candidate for the City Council, members are urgently asked to attend this meeting.

(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. WHETTON, 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The Lord Mayor of Birmingham (Alderman P. Bower) opened the Universal Smoke Abatement Exhibition in Bingley Hall, Birmingham, recently.

He said that we had passed the stage when people could turn into the air, or into water, any matter, regardless of its effect upon the general life of the community. The factors responsible for air pollution were now appreciated. Thanks to scientific research, the beneficial effects accruing from the diminution or total abolition of air pollution had been demonstrated. Money expended upon smoke abatement would be money well spent. As we advanced in the direction of eliminating air pollution and in other matters of health, so the mortality rate declined, particularly among children. He appealed to industrialists to assist in the effort for which the exhibition stood.

Councillor W. Melland, of Manchester, Chairman of the Smoke Abatement League, said that he had just returned from Brussels, where conditions in the poor quarters were much mitigated because very little smoke was poured out either from the houses or the factories. The homes of the people were clean, and there was not the same squalor as in England.

VILLAGE ARTS AND CRAFTS.

In scores of remote Yorkshire villages the womenfolk are busy preparing all sorts of artistic handicrafts for the exhibition of the Yorkshire Federation of Women's Institutes to be opened by Princess Mary in Leeds on October 8th.

In Yorkshire there are women's Institutes in over 140 villages, with thousands of members. Their object is to improve the conditions of rural life by providing centres for educational activities and social intercourse, and the movement is having an important effect in reviving village industries.

An interesting feature of the exhibition will be a series of typical cottage rooms furnished almost exclusively with home-made furniture and fittings. One village, or group of villages, is making itself responsible for the furnishing of one room. The husbands of members are being allowed to assist in this.

Leatherwork, rushwork, home-dressed skins, basketry, embroidery, lacework, hand-spun wool, garments woven on hand looms, and materials dyed with vegetable dyes will all find a place in the exhibition, and there will be demonstrations of handicrafts from four outside counties. Prizes will be offered for designs for village signs and for the best records of present-day life in the villages.

Four plays, by groups of village players, will be given in the Little Theatre, and the rehearsals for these are now in hand at Harewood, Feliskirk, Westow, and Rillington.

The exhibition will last for three days, and will be opened on October 6th and 7th by the Countess of Listowel and the Dowager Lady Suffield respectively. On the opening day four special trains will be run to Leeds from different parts of the country.

THE FIRST GIRL GOLF PRO.

With light bobbed hair and dancing blue eyes, Miss Sophie Seymour, age 21, aspires to become the first woman golf professional in Britain.

All her life has been spent in the game. She was born in a cottage on the Forest Row, Sussex, golf links, her father being employed on the course.

She is a sister of Mark Seymour, the St. Leonards professional, and a half-sister of Abe Mitchell.

Mark Seymour says that ever since she was born she has had a golf club in her hand.

From 14 to 17 she acted as carrier at the Forest Row links, and then came to St. Leonards about eighteen months ago.

There are four women golf professionals in the United States.

B.A. COUNTER GIRL.

Messrs. Holdrons, Ltd., the Peckham departmental store proprietors, have secured the services of Miss Olive M. Davey, B.A., who has just completed a successful career at Oxford University as a staff instructor.

The first six months Miss Davey will devote to serving customers and studying the practical requirements of the business.

Mr. W. J. Hopton, J.P., Managing Director of Holdrons, is this year Chairman of the Incorporated Association of Retail Distributors of the United Kingdom, and he believes that the quality of the services rendered to the community by departmental stores will be raised to a much higher level of efficiency by means of intensive staff training by well-qualified instructors. The result of this experiment will be watched with interest by the drapery and kindred trades.

WOMEN GARDEN DESIGNERS.

The *Daily Telegraph* reports the fact that many beautiful gardens are laid out in accordance with women's designs, and draws attention to this interesting occupation for the fortunate women horticulturists who discover the possession of artistic talent. While their number is small, their work, on the whole, is of a very good standard. One direction in which their services are being used is in the laying-out of grounds for the many new institutions which are springing up.

The conversion of a grass slope into a fine garden was recently undertaken by a woman who employs a considerable number of men to execute her plans. For the purpose of the transformation forty tons of rock had to be brought down from Westmorland, the county which supplies the hard, grey rock for so many English gardens. Three waterfalls eventually trickled down the green slope, and entered a pretty stream at the foot.

The revolt from the formal garden, with its usual but inevitable lawn and surrounding flower beds, is very marked at present, and the introduction of rocky features, irregular lines, and crazy paving is the general requirement. Economy in working is an important feature, and small householders will often employ a designer to evolve a plan which the amateur gardener can carry out. The woman gardener has to take the small with the important orders, but big undertakings sometimes come her way.

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CORNWALL.—Few Guests received in ladies' bungalow. Beautiful sea view, garden, excellent country produce, good excursions.—Miss WOOD, "Boskenna," Tintagel.

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WESTCLIFF.—Self-contained Flat to let, August 9th. Two bedrooms (4 beds), kitchen, sitting-room, bathroom (geyser). Very sunny. Two minutes sea. 3½ guineas weekly, or would exchange part payment for cottage or bungalow in attractive country.—47A, Whitefriars Crescent, Westcliff-on-Sea.

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

WELL-FURNISHED FLAT for August. Large sitting-room, two, three or four bedrooms, kitchen, gas cooker, electric light. One min. from sea, park, tram.—133, Park Road, Bexhill-on-Sea. Also at above—Unfurnished Flat, four rooms, kitchen, charming position.—Terms on application.

WANSTEAD PARK.—2 or 3 Unfurnished Rooms to let. Use of bathroom, etc. New house, pleasantly situated, suit business or professional woman. Easy access train, bus or tram.—Write box "G.E.F.," THE VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

MISCELLANEOUS.

DANCE PIANIST and Accompanist requests engagements for Pianoforte Lessons or Accompanist—Apply MRS. SILVESTER SPARROW, 43 Black Lion Lane, W.6.

CHAUFFEUSE, 6 years' reference, would like a change for the South. Fond of outdoor life.—MISS WINIFRED HUMPHREYS, 128, Alton Street, Crewe.

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.)

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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 377.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, September 12th. 6.30 Mrs. Rosalie M. Beatty, of New York City: "Constructive Aspects of Truth."

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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/-