THE VOTE, 10 MEN AGAINST 5,000,000 WOMEN.
APRIL 6, 1928.

THE VOIE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOME

(Registered at the G.P.O.)

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

NON-PARTY.

FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 1928

OBJECT: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the powers already obtained to elect women in Parliament, and upon other public bodies, for the purpose of establishing equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial wellbeing of the community.

ONE PENNY.

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EQUAL FRANCHISE VICTORY.

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VOL. XXIX. No. 963.

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MARCH 29, 1928.

Our Splendid Majority.

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WHAT THE BILL INVOLVES.

Full Recognition of Citizenship.

Complete Electoral Equality.

5,000,000 Women Voters added to the Electorate.

The conclusion of the greatest controversy which has ever arisen between men and women in Political History.

THE NEXT STEPS.

More Women Members of Parliament.

Women Members in the House of Lords.

Full Equality of women with men EVERYWHERE in National and International life.

EQUAL FRANCHISE—SECOND READING DEBATE.

EXTRACTS FROM SPEECHES.

beg to move, 'That the Bill be now read a Second Time.' This Bill . , . is the logical conclusion of a series of Reform Bills, beginning with that of 1832. Under this Bill, the qualifications for the Parliamentary franchise for counties and boroughs will be the same for both men and women—that is, three months' residence in premises, and three months' occupation of business premises of not less than £10 annual value. . . . With the 30 years' limitation swept away by a clause of the new Bill, we are proposing to give a wife a second vote for her husband's business qualifications, and, in order that there shall be no possible hardship or inequality on the other side, we propose to give the husband qualification for his wife's business premises. . . . I have given the university franchise to men and women on exactly the same terms. Anyone who has three qualifications-residence, business and university-can only exercise two votes.

MR. SNOWDEN (Lab., Colne Valley): "It gives me great satisfaction to give general support to the Second Reading of this Bill. I do so not merely on my own behalf, but on behalf of every member of my Party. . . We shall bring forward Amendments in the Committee stage dealing with plural voting, the university franchise, and the Register.'

BRIGADIER-GENERAL SIR GEORGE COCKERILL (U., Reigate) moved the following Amendment: "That this House declines to accord a Second Reading to a Bill which, while adding five million persons to the existing electorate and giving to women a permanent majority in the constituencies, does not deal with other vital questions connected with the franchise nor follow the constitutional practice of accompanying an extension of the franchise by a measure of redistribution," and said: "The figures show that there will be over 26,000,000 voters, of whom 12,250,000 will be men and 14,500,000 women, a majority in favour of women of 2,250,000. For my part, if either sex is to be supreme at the polls, I would prefer to see, quite frankly, men put in the supremacy. . . . Nature brings into this world every year, and has done for 40 or 50 years in this country more men children than women children. The trouble is that the higher the organism, the more difficult it is to rear it. . . . Surely it is essential that men should be on equal terms with women. This Bill destroys that balance. It gives to the women's point of view an over-emphasis, and the support for the women's point of view is exaggerated and out of focus. . . . I do not think men need feel ashamed of the manner in which they have borne their burden or carried out their task. This country and the Empire stand for what men have done. I do not think we have any right to abdicate the sceptre of political power."

COL. APPLIN (U., Enfield) supported the Amendment: "I have looked up the wills for last year, and I find that men left £58,000,000, whereas women left merely £6,000,000. That means that, if we are to have a majority rule by women in this country, we are handing over to them the taxable wealth of the country to which they have contributed only one-tenth. That is a very important point. . . . What will be the effect on the great Mohammedan population of the world of granting the franchise in this country—the governing country to a majority of 2,200,000 women over men? . . . In India, we have a terrible problem at this moment. . If this Bill becomes law, what a weapon we will put into the hands of the agitators if we tell the Hindus of India that they are to be ruled by a majority of women!... Hitherto, men have done all the heavy work in this

cannot be a logical mind which argues that the present franchise, which was devised as an experiment, could remain permanent . . . The hon, and gallant Member humanity."

SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS (Home Secretary): "I for Enfield said that women do not take part in the hard work of the nation. I would like him to make that statement before a large audience of married women, and observe the effect. The hon, and gallant Member for Reigate said that a larger proportion of female infants survive than of males because the higher organisms are more difficult to rear; but it appears to me that we might also claim it to be the result of a very important fact in nature, which has had more influence on the evolution of the race than any other, and that is the survival of the fittest. . .

MAJOR OWEN (Lib., Carnarvon): "I rise to support the Second Reading of this Bill, and, in doing so, I think I can claim to say that the hon. and right hon. Members who sit beside me are also in favour of it. . I cannot help feeling that it would have been wiser if the Prime Minister had carried out his promise to have a Conference of all political Parties before he introduced the measure. The Bill perpetuates the anachronism of the plural vote.'

MR. SAMUEL SAMUEL (U., Putney): "We are not dealing with parochial questions. We have had to deal with great questions of Empire, and with international questions. . . . We are going by this measure to give to people who know absolutely nothing beyond the village pump-for, after all, how many of these new electors realise the immensity of the British Empire, or of British interests outside our Empire? We are going to give to them the enormous power of regulating the foreign and colonial policy of this country. . . . I shall have no hesitation in going into the Lobby against this Bill if I can get anyone to tell for me."

Miss Wilkinson (Lab., East Middlesbrough): "This proposal will not merely enfranchise a further number of women of a certain age, but it will give the vote to a very important new class, and that is the whole class of independent women workers. Women have worked very hard. They have starved in prison, they have given their lives, or have given all their time in order that women might sit in this House and take part in the legislation of the country. I need only mention honoured names like Josephine Butler, Lydia Becker, Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence, and Mrs. Fawcett, to realise that that band of women, though they may never sit here, have made possible what we are doing to-day.'

MR. HARMSWORTH (U., Isle of Thanet): "There are a great many Members who think the introduction of this Bill is entirely and absolutely unnecessary, and they further thought, perhaps, in the famous words of Fouché, 'it is more than a crime; it is a political . . . I put it to the Home Secretary that this is a definite revolutionary reform of the Constitution. . This Bill is granting a majority to the women of the country. I ask him in all sincerity if that is what he calls equality between the sexes? Surely, if you are going to grant equality between the sexes, you must have an equal number of men and women voters."

SIR ROBERT SANDERS (U., Wells): "I believe that the very fact that so many Members of the Conservative Party came back pledged to support a reform of this sort had, I will not say a compelling influence, but certainly, I think, a very large influence upon a Government that were notoriously not united upon this question. With regard to the Bill as a whole, I think it was bound to come. It could not have been put off much

Miss Bondfield (Lab., Wallsend): "This Bill does lay down for the first time that a vote is conferred not merely because women are women and men are men, but at last we are established on that equitable footing because we are human beings and part of society as a whole. But we shall not come to the end of the story COUNTESS OF IVEAGH (U., Southend-on-Sea): "It until we have the simple single franchise conferred on men and women, not on the ground of sex, not on the ground of property, but on the ground of their common

CAPT. CRAIG (U., Antrim): "I propose to vote against this Bill for the simple reason that it involves a very large constitutional change in our electoral system, for which no mandate of any sort or description was given at the last General Election.

SIR HUGH LUCAS-TOOTH (U., Isle of Ely): "I stand as a supporter of this measure. . . . We are all ready to do lip service to the cause of equal franchise. Where we differ is, that those who support the measure say that equality means equal conditions of voting, and those who oppose it say that equality means an equal number of voters. Why should you not have a majority of women voters? You might as well try to get equality between blondes and brunettes: that is,

equality in numbers."

greater pleasure than I shall derive from the vote which propose to give to-night in favour of the Second Reading of this Bill. . . . I would like to mention the names of Mary Wollstonecraft, of John Stuart Mill, and of Lady Constance Lytton, who, with a heroism which has rarely been equalled, placed herself in the humblest position in order that she might suffer and share the lot of many of her humble sisters. . . . I feel that we need the assistance of women in order to carry on our civilisation. What we need in this civilisation is to pool our resources. God knows we have need of all the resources which are available for us.

SIR CHARLES OMAN (U., Oxford University): "The

Bill we are only following a precedent which has been to impose the obligation—not the privilege—of a vote set by almost all our Dominions, in every one of which, with the exception of South Africa, universal suffrage is the order of the day. . . . I am glad that the Government have had the vision to see this obligation, and the heart to meet it.'

SIR ROBERT LYNN (U., Belfast): "I have no hesita- and Comptroller of the Household). tion in saying that the overwhelming body of opinion in Ulster is in favour of this Bill. . . . Where is the blunder in removing a gross anomaly? . . . I say this is no revolution, this is evolution, the natural evolution, the evolution which has brought the British Constitution to be one of the most honoured in the world."

SIR F. HALL (U., Dulwich): "My attitude has not changed at all, and I do not intend that it shall change, because, rightly or wrongly, I have always believed that, as was the case prior to 1918, this country should be represented in this House by the male sex.

MR. W. M. ADAMSON (Lab., Fife): "I trust the measure will pass into law, and that we can have the franchise on an equal basis for men and women alike for the first time in the history of the country.

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR (U., Plymouth): "I want to congratulate the Prime Minister on keeping his pledges and the Home Secretary on the able way he brought forward the Bill. . . . When first I was in the House of Commons and asked questions affecting women and children, social and moral questions, I used to be shouted at for five or ten minutes at a time. That was when they thought I was rather a freak, a voice crying in the wilderness. . . . I can testify to the change that has taken place in this House of Commons since women had a vote in the country.

Major Kindersley (U., Hitchin): "I am persuaded not only that this Bill is very bad politics, about which I do not care very much, but that it is very bad states-

MR. Morris (Lib., Cardigan): "While I support the Bill on the ground that it is an extension of the franchise on a democratic basis, this Bill has very serious defects from a democratic standpoint.'

Mr. Arthur Henderson (Lab., Burnley): "I am supporting this Bill wholeheartedly in the interests of

THE PRIME MINISTER: "It is quite true that it was our intention to call a Conference, and the Government approached Mr. Speaker, asking if he would preside at

such a Conference, and I have his permission to say that he decided that, as Party controversy had been renewed since 1918, he felt that, in order to preserve the impartial position of the Chair, he would prefer not to preside at such a Conference. We then decided, after much consideration, that we would fulfil our pledge as to the franchise literally, and do nothing else. . Once this Bill is law, the last fraction of truth about inequality will have gone, and gone for ever, and the subjection of women, if there be such a thing, will not depend then on any creation of the law, nor can it be remedied by any action of the law. The fault is not in our stars, but in ourselves that we are underlings. It will never again be possible to blame the Sovereign State for any position of inequality. Women will have, MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE (Lab., Leicester): "I have with us, the fullest rights. The ground and justificanever given a vote in this House that has given me tion for the old agitation, as I have said, is gone, and gone for ever. But they will find that, hard as was the struggle to gain this freedom, to attain their ideals will be harder still. The attainment of an ideal is very often the beginning of disillusion, and they must look at fresh horizons as they come out and make for fresh ideals. To-night marks the final stage in the union of men and women working together for the regeneration of their country and for the regeneration of the

Mr. George Balfour (U., Hampstead): "I say that no one-no Prime Minister, no leader, and no House of Commons—has the right to take a decision and to put it before this House until they have unmismembers of this Government have to be warned that takable proof that the women of the country themthey have done much to break up the Conservative selves desire it. In my judgment, from a very wide Party by introducing this Bill." examination of the subject, the women of the country Capt. Eden (U., Warwick and Leamington): "In this as a whole do not demand it, and you have no right examination of the subject, the women of the country on those women who do not desire it.'

The House then divided, the Ayes being 387, Noes 10. The Tellers for the Ayes were Major Sir George Hennessy (U., Winchester, and Treasurer of the Household) and Major Cope (U., Llandaff and Barry,

THE MEN WHO VOTED AGAINST.

The Tellers for the Noes to the Second Reading of the Government's Equal Franchise Bill were Brigadier-General Sír George Cockerill (U., Reigate), and Col. Applin (U., Enfield), and those who voted against it were: Mr. George Balfour (U., Hampstead), Major Sir A. B. Boyd-Carpenter (U., Coventry), the Rt. Hon. Capt. Craig (U., Antrim), Lt.-Col. Sir F. Hall (U., Dulwich), the Hon. E. Harmsworth (U., Isle of Thanet), Major Kindersley (U., Hitchin), Col. Sir Joseph Nall (U., Hulme), Sir Charles Oman (U., Oxford University), and Mr. Samuel Samuel (U.,

EQUAL FRANCHISE IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

The Times reports that in the Northern Ireland House of Commons, on March 21st, the Minister of Home Affairs, Sir Dawson Bates, replying to Mr. Kyle (Labour), said it was the intention of the Government that the next General Election for the Parliament of Northern Ireland should be held on the extended franchise, including women at 21. The Government did not consider that there was any necessity to have two franchise qualifying periods and two Registers, as they had in Great Britain, on account of the additional heavy expense involved.

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THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 6th, 1928.

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To the Secretary—on all other business, including Vote orders, printing, and merchandise, etc.

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.

THE PRIME MINISTER'S CHALLENGE.

We record our most hearty thanks to the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, and to all those Members of the House of Commons who spoke and voted in favour of the Second Reading of the Government's Equal Franchise Bill on March 29th and secured the splendid majority of 377 for this Second Reading. The Debate was on a high level, and women have reason to be proud of their friends who took part in it. The smallness of the number who went into the Lobby against this measure came as a surprise to most people. Their valour was worthy of a nobler cause, or was it merely "fussiness"? Mr. Garvin's comment in last Sunday's Observer was: "Mrs. Partington is regarded as a figure of fun. But what shall we think of Mr. Partington tucking up his sleeves and taking the broom from his wife's hands to sweep back the Atlantic?" There were some notable abstentions, among them three Cabinet Ministers-Mr. Winston Churchill, Sir Austen Chamberlain, and Mr. Amerybut we note with pleasure that all the women Members (with the exception of the Duchess of Atholl, who is still out of the country) recorded their votes in favour of Equal Franchise. The Bill has been committed to a Committee of the whole House, and is being dealt with this week. The manifest good-will existing among all Parties for this measure should ensure its early passage into law. We shall watch its progress with the keenest interest. When Equal Franchise is the law of the land, the first object of the Women's Freedom League will have been obtained. We are not so sanguine as the Prime Minister, who said that "Once this Bill is law, the last fraction of truth about inequality will have gone." The House of Lords is still barred and bolted against the membership of women; men alone still hold all the positions in the Cabinet, all the positions except one-the Parliamentary Secretaryship to the Ministry of Education-in the Government, and all the positions in the Diplomatic and Consular Services. In civil life, in the professions, in commerce, and in industry, are not the inequalities of opportunity and pay as between men and women too numerous to mention? And will there be no inequalities in the Honours Lists of the future?

The Prime Minister reminds women that-

"The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, But in ourselves that we are underlings."

The Women's Freedom League must accept that challenge, for it is a challenge! For 21 years we have struggled hard to win Equal Franchise. We have always insisted that women's political inferiority to men was at the basis of all other inequalities as between the sexes. Equal Franchise is the first step, but only the first step, towards full equality. Full Equality is a high ideal, and its attainment, as the Prime Minister suggests, may be even more difficult than the freedom we have now so nearly won. But we are firmly convinced that the achievement of equal freedom with men throughout all branches of our national life is worthy of the greatest and best efforts that women can put forward, and we have no fear of disillusionment in the attainment of this ideal.

WOMEN AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

According to the latest announcement, the total number of women registered as unemployed in Great Britain is 139,200, and girls 28,200. Although these figures show a slight decrease from those given for the same week last year, the problem of the unemployment of women and girls is a very serious one. Yet there is only the Central Committee of Women's Employment to deal with this problem. This Committee trains women for domestic service, but £60,000, an increase of £10,000 over last year, is all that the Treasury will grant to it. The Irish Free State has a similar problem to deal with. There the Committee on the Relief of Unemployment has issued a Report which contains no reference to the problem of unemployment as it affects women! A Conference of women, representative of several women's organisations, was called to discuss the matter. Among the women present were the Hon. Alice Spring Rice, who has an intimate knowledge of rural conditions; Mrs. Despard, who established the successful Roebuck jam industry; the Hon. Ethel Macnaghten, an appointed member on several Trade Boards; Mrs. Dermod O'Brien, with a practical knowledge of cheese-making; and representatives of the Irish Women Workers' Union, who are up against the tragedy of the unemployment of women. From this Conference proposals were sent forward to the Committee for the employment of women. One of these proposals was that there should be increased development of rural and agricultural occupations for women. The Conference urged the need for increased instruction in poultry-keeping and increased facilities for the equipment of farms. Cheesemaking in the creameries was also recommended. The Conference urged the development of fruit farms, and suggested that the walled gardens of disused country mansions might be utilised for this purpose. Technical education for industrial women workers was recommended, and, in order to provide an alternative to the indusrial work and to meet a probable demand from hotels, greater attention to the domestic worker was recommended, and a detailed and comprehensive scheme for the training and supply of domestic workers of all types was submitted. All these proposals are pre-eminently practical ones. If carried out, they would not only provide work for unemployed women, but would also add materially to the wealth of the country. Will the Irish Free State Government follow out these recommendations? Unfortunately, its Ministry of Industry, like our own Ministry of Labour, is composed entirely of men, and they are overwhelmingly concerned with men's interests. What both countries need are a great number of women in Parliament and in the actual Government. Women's interests will not then be so easily overlooked.

EDINBURGH CORPORATION BILL.

The Second Reading of this Bill was again postponed from Friday, March 30th, until Wednesday, April 4th, and we learn from The Times that this Second Reading will not now be taken until after the Easter recess. The Corporation have decided to press for a Second Reading Debate, though they have been informed that the Government intends to put on its Whips against the Second Reading, which The Times regards as a most unusual procedure in regard to a Private Bill. We do not think the Government could very well have done otherwise. Here is a Private Bill which proposes to introduce the principles of compulsion and penalisation into our present system of the treatment of venereal diseases. It would deprive people who were suspected of disease of the safeguards and personal security established by law, and no Government could sanction such a change in our Constitution under the ægis of a Private Bill. In London and in Edinburgh, the Women's Freedom League has strenuously opposed this Bill, and we hope that before long it will disappear altogether from the House of Commons.

TEA AND POLITICS-UP-TO-DATE.

Our Tea and Politics-up-to-date Meeting of Wednes- instead. Miss Underwood also told of the resolution, day, March 28th, was held on the eve of the Second Reading of the Equal Franchise Bill, and, naturally, thoughts turned words much to that subject. Miss Underwood again presided, and reminded her audience that it was almost 61 years since John Stuart Mill first collected signatures for a women's suffrage petition and moved the amendment to the Reform Bill. She also called attention to the support given, with only 30 dissentients, to the Equal Franchise resolution at the Conservative and Unionist Conference at Cardiff, and now the new chairman, Colonel Gretton, might be mover of the rejection of the Equal Franchise Bill. She showed how the small group who were supporting him had all large majorities, with the exception of Sir Charles Oman (Oxford University), who only had 136, which might be expected to vanish altogether when his constituents included the younger women. She expressed surprise that Sir Laming Worthington-Evans, a member of the Cabinet, had allowed himself publicly to object to the Cabinet's action; if he really believed his own objection, he should have resigned. Miss Underwood then mentioned the question in the House of Commons on Equal Pay in the Civil Service, and pointed out that, in 1920, the House of Commons passed a resolution in favour of Equal Pay; in 1921, it confirmed that resolution; in 1925, it was reported that nothing was being done; in 1928, the questioner was referred to the 1925 answer. She alluded to Sir Austen Chamberlain's replies as to women in the Diplomatic Service, in the course of which he said that the rules of this country are the best. (We dare say they are-for men.) Another question referred to was one as to the "unfair discrimination" of the tax on male domestic servants, leading, it was alleged, to the employment of women the Parties to fall asleep.

FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 1928.

moved by Miss McPhail, member of the Canadian Parliament, in favour of a Peace Department, which was talked out. Miss Reeves summarised an excellent letter by Dr. Hutton, in The Times, replying to an earlier one by Sir James Purves Stewart. She objected to the theory and practice of the turning of brilliant women into housekeepers, whatever their qualifications. She added that St. George's Hospital had asked the Club to collect, and had been refused owing to the exclusion of women students. She pointed out that an act of injustice, such as this threatened exclusion, was never called sex war, but the protest made by those unjustly treated was invariaby hailed sex war, sex bitterness. Miss Reeves then quoted from an article in The Times showing progress during the last 20 years among the women of India; she held that the woman's movement was international, a tide coming over the world which nothing could stop; the greater the influence of women, she said, the better the world.

Dr. Knight then told of the Edinburgh Corporation Bill, not yet officially dead, but with not much life left. The Women's Freedom League had held a big meeting in Glasgow, where a similar Bill was in prospect, and had met considerable opposition.

Following on a remark by Miss Reeves, that she thought all women ought to enter Parties and that the best work could only be done inside a Party, a stimulating discussion took place. Miss Underwood dissented entirely, and various speakers supported both points of view. Some said that the women's sections of Parties were invariably handmaids, even drudges; others said that now women were to have the vote, the position could be altered, and they become equal partners; others felt that if all women went into the Parties, the lack of those outside stirring them up would cause

On Thursday evening, March 22nd, the Women's Freedom League held its customary open-air meeting at Highbury Corner, Miss Underwood being the

speaker and Mrs. Flowers chairman.

Miss Underwood expressed the satisfaction which the Equal Franchise Bill had given, and, after briefly touching upon a few outstanding events in the history of the long struggle for Equal Franchise, urged the necessity of continued support in getting the Bill safely through its various stages. Political inequality was at the base of most of the inequalities in the economic, social, and, in fact, every other position of women, and Equal Franchise was the first step towards real equality. It was desirable that there should be a higher percentage of women in the House of Commons -out of 613 Members of Parliament, only eight were women. Beyond this, we want women in the House of Lords, since all the legislation of the country comes before both Houses of Parliament; also in some of the high positions in the Government, and in the Cabinet itself. In the Diplomatic Service, the qualifications necessary for the office were by no means the monopoly of men, although women were excluded. By the constitution of the League of Nations, all the positions are open equally to men and women, but when they are considering appointments to Committees and Commissions, a fully-qualified woman, however peculiarly fitted because of her special knowledge of the subject, would be refused the position because in her own country she had not filled a high Government post or a high post in the Diplomatic Service. In the Civil Service and the teaching profession, women were doing the same work, with the same efficiency as men, but because they are women they are paid at a lower rate.

Citing first the case of women engineers who had been handicapped in their work by restrictions, Miss

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN. Underwood then referred to the case of women medical students being excluded from the London hospitals, although women subscribe to their support, the nurses are women, and the majority of the patients women and children. The governing bodies consist of men only, and if hospitals are to put the sporting ambitions of their medical students above research and the healing of suffering humanity, there must be something radically wrong, and the sooner women were included on the governing boards, the better.

Mrs. Flowers stressed the point of the hampening restrictions laid upon women, and the strong need for breaking down these barriers to their progress in working for the good of humanity, urging the audience not to relax their efforts in favour of the Bill.

THE JOSEPHINE BUTLER CENTENARY.

The centenary of the birth of Mrs. Josephine Butler will be celebrated in London this month by a special Commemoration Service in Westminster Abbey on Tuesday, April 24th, at 7.30 p.m. At 9.15 p.m. the same evening, a 20-minutes' talk on Josephine Butler will be Broadcast from London by Lady Astor, M.P. Admission to the Commemoration Service in the Abbey will be free.

On Wednesday, April 25th, at 8 p.m., a great Commemoration Meeting in honour of Josephine Butler will be held at the Central Hall, Westminster, when the speakers will be Miss Margaret Bondfield, M.P. J.P., Mrs. Bramwell Booth, J.P., Dame Rachel Crowdy, D.B.E., LL.D., Miss Alison Neilans, Sir Michael Sadler, K.C.S.I., C.B., and the Rev. Dr. Johann Ude, Professor of Philosophy, Graz University, and the Chairman, the Rt. Hon. the Lord Balfour of Burleigh. Seats: Reserved and Numbered, 2s. 6d.; Unnumbered, 1s.; Admittance Free.

BOOK REVIEW.

Women and Holy Orders. By Charles E. Raven, D.D. Published by Hodder & Stoughton. Price 28. 6d. (Can be obtained from this Office.)

The subject with which Canon Raven deals in his book, "Women and Holy Orders," is by no means a new one. It has been dealt with for some years in the publications of the League of the Church Militant. But it will receive fresh and important emphasis from the fact that it has merited the attention of so wellknown a personality in the official ministry of the Church to which the author belongs. Undoubtedly, it is the most important contribution since Professor Allworthy wrote his "Women in the Apostolic Church," and it comes as a fitting sequel to that work.

Canon Raven has courageously faced a situation

which, by reason of prejudice and timidity, has been almost wholly ignored since the important pronouncements and proposals regarding the status and work of women in the Church were made at the Lambeth Conference of 1920.

The present writer approaches his subject through the women's movement, of which he thinks it is the logical outcome, and stresses the importance of the co-operation and partnership of the sexes. He bases his claim for the admission of women to Holy Orders upon sound Christian principles, viz.: (1) That it is inherent in the teaching of Christ; (2) sanctity of personality and equality of opportunity; (3) vocation; (4) the working of the Holy Spirit within the Church. He also argues from the analogy of natural biological adaptation to environment, and to change, that such a proceeding should not be contrary to theological principle on the lines of the historical development and growth of the ministry.

Objections and difficulties are adequately dealt with, and some original remarks are made regarding the sacramental system.

It should be incumbent upon all who believe in spiritual values to study this short but really comprehensive work, and to bring to it an open mind. E. R.

'NO WOMEN AS PRIESTS."

The following letter appeared under the above heading in the Morning Post on March 30th :-

"Sir,-Nothing but the on-coming waves of Modern Youth can wash the shore of controversy clear of such dead theories and arguments as those advanced by the Bishop of Durham against the admission of women to

Putting theories on one side, there are very practical reaons why all those who have the living influence of the Church at heart should press for the admission of women to the priesthood. The most immediate reason is that many classes of women are in great need of the ministrations of a priest of their own sex.

In prisons, for example, while the chaplain is free to enter alone into the cell of a man prisoner and to speak with him in strict privacy, he never enters the cell of a woman prisoner unaccompanied by a wardress, and his visits are quite perfunctory. From my personal experience as a prisoner in the suffrage movement I have no hesitation in saying that there is a crying need for a woman priest in a women's prison.

Common sense and decent human feeling should give to women the same spiritual rights that men enjoy: the right of being able to turn in case of need, with utter frankness, for advice and help to a priest of their

'Natural Function' did not prevent a woman in the early days of Christianity from becoming a witness to Christ in the arena, where she was torn to pieces for the sport of a huge crowd of both sexes. Surely, then, Natural Function' need not bar her from becoming a witness to Christ in the pulpit. In the days of the Church's Baptism of Fire, the flood of spiritual consciousness swept away the conventional discriminations of sex. Recognition on the part of the Church to-day that in Christ is neither male nor female would do much to lift the world out of its materialism.

EMMELINE PETHICK-LAWRENCE."

OUR TREASURY.

NATIONAL FUND.

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BRANCH NOTES—(continued from page 111) MINERVA CLUB

Minerva Club

Miss Underwood acted as chairman for the Minerva Club Branch on Thursday, March 29th, and in her opening remarks mentioned the special meetings that were being held this year to commemorate the Josephine Butler Centenary.

commemorate the Josephine Butler Centenary.

The branch was most fortunate in having Lady Balfour of Burleigh to tell of the life and work of Josephine Butler. We are always delighted to hear Lady Balfour, because she gives something to think about, and she certainly excelled on this occasion. I am sure everyone went away very much better informed about the great work done by Josephine Butler.

Lady Balfour stressed her pioneer work, and the great difficulties she met in speaking on subjects which at that time were not even mentioned. These difficulties did not deter her, and she was at last rewarded by seeing the repeal of the C.D. Acts.

We feel sure that if Josephine Butler had been present on Thursday evening she would have seen by the enthusiasm shown that her work had not been in vain. A very useful and interesting discussion followed; many questions were asked and answered, especially with regard to the Edinburgh Corporation Bill.

Miss Underwood, with her usual ability and graciousness, brought the meeting to a close. The Vote and other literature was sold.

(Hon. Secretary) P. M. OWEN.

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 1928

Thursday, April 19th, at 3 p.m.

Hampstead. Branch Meeting at 28, Well
Walk, N.W.3 (by kind invitation of Miss Armstrong). Armstrong).

Monday, April 23rd.
Finchley. Jumble Sale.
Wednesday, April 25th, 4—5.30 p.m.
Tea and Politics-up-to-date. Meeting at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

DARE TO Saturday, April 28th, at 10 a.m.
Twenty-first Annual Conference at Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Sunday, April 29th, at 3.30 to 5.30 p.m. Reception and Tea to Delegates, Members and Friends of the Women's Freedom League, by kind invitation of the Minerva Club Branch. Short speeche

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, April 18th, at 3.30 p.m.
Bexhill. Whist Drive at the Albany Hotel.

Thursday, April 19th, at 7 p.m.
Portsmouth. Members' Meeting at 25, Shaftesbury Road.

Wednesday, April 25th, at 3.30 p.m.
Bexhill. Branch Meeting at the Albany Hotel. Speaker: Mrs.
Strickland. Subject: "Capital Punishment."

Saturday, May 5th. Portsmouth. Jumble Sale.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

April 17th, 18th and 19th, 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. League of Nations Union. Conference on "Migration and on Industrial Accident Prevention," at London School of Economics, Houghton Street, W.C.1.

Houghton Street, W.C.1.

Tuesday, April 24th, at 1 p.m.
British Commonwealth League, 17, Buckingham Street, Strand.
Luncheon. Speaker: Mrs. F. ancis Ayscough on "Women in China." Seats 2/- each.

Tuesday, April 24th, at 7.30 p.m.
Josephine Butler Centenary. Special Commemoration Service at Westminster Abbey. Admission free.

Wednesday, April 25th, at 8 p.m.
Josephine Butler Commemoration Meeting, at the Central Hall, Westminster. Speakers: Miss Margaret Bondfield, M.P., Mrs.
Bramwell Booth, J.P., Dame Rachel Crowdy, D.B.E., Miss Alison Neilans, Sir Michael Sadler, C.B., the Rev. Johann Ude. Chairman:
The Rt. Hon. The Lord Balfour of Eurleigh. Admission free. The Rt. Hon. The Lord Balfour of Eurleigh. Admission free.

Tuesday, May 1st, at 8.45 p.m. uescay, may 1st, at 8.49 p.m.
British Commonwealth League. Lecture by Mrs. Patrick Ness, the
Explorer, on "From the Nile to the Zambesi," at 50, Porchester
Terrace (by kind invitation of the Hon. Mrs. Franklin). Tickets 5/- each, obtainable in advance only.

BRANCH NOTES.

ASHFORD.

The Monthly Branch Meeting was held at the Hempsted Street Hall last Friday, Miss White in the Chair. The resolutions and amendments were read and discussed, and Miss Halksworth was instructed how to vote at the Conference. Mrs. Palmer energetically sold pamphlets, and several copies of "Josephine Butler" were disposed of by her.

were disposed of by her.

We are all very soury to hear from Mrs. Saunders that she is compelled to resign as Vote Secretary. We warmly thanked her for her loyalty to the branch in the past. She has scarcely missed a meeting, and has always helped whenever necessary. We wish her every success in the business she is undertaking.

The meeting terminated with part songs, led by Mrs. Miles. We all send kind greetings to Mrs. Kither, and hope that she will soon recover from her serious illness. (Organiser) Maud White.

NEWBURY AND THATCHAM.

The Newbury Weekly News reports that a strong demand for the provision of more policewomen was made by Chief Inspector Champneys, of the Women's Auxiliary Service, at a meeting of members of the recently formed Newbury Branch of the Women's

Freedom League at the "Magpie" Restaurant, on March 9th.
Miss Anna Munro presided, and, remarking that this was the second meeting of the Newbury Branch, said it was appropriate that it should have to do with Women Police, for this movement, like many of their efforts, had become a very large affair. Commandant Allen had been asked by practically every country in the world to demonstrate what this idea of Women Police really was. Their resolver this afterness. Chief Inspector Chem. Their speaker this afternoon, Chief Inspector Champneys, joined the Service when the Ministry of Munitions asked for 1,000

Women Police in 1916.
Chief Inspector Champneys, who wore the full uniform of a Chief Inspector Champneys, who wore the full uniform of a policewoman, traced the history of the Women Police movement from its beginning in 1914, and said that it trained women for the Metropolitan and Provincial service under chief constables. In 1923, six policewomen were sent to Cologne at the invitation of the War Office, and there they did much good work. The W.A.S. also rendered much useful service during the General Strike in 1926. Yet, in face of the good work which had been done, and was being done by the Women Police, the Government

refused to pay for their training, and the Women's Auxiliary Service had to exist on voluntary subscriptions. There were 50 policewomen in London, and altogether 80 women with powers of arrest. They wanted more policewomen, but it should not be imagined that they wanted them in every country village. They wanted them in the cities, and four or six in the counties, to be paid and sent where they were needed. The work of the Women Police was more of a preventive than of a presenting nature. Police was more of a preventive than of a prosecuting nature. But there were many who did not like the idea of women being given powers of arrest. Personally, she could not see the difference between a policeman arresting a woman and a policewoman arresting a man.

arresting a man.

There was certain work which could only be done properly by policewomen. They said that when a drunken woman was taken to the cells she should be watched by policewomen; they said that it was un-Christianly and unwomanly that a child should be in the Police Court without a woman by her side; that depositions from women or children in cases of assault should be taken by women police. Was the local Member of Parliament in favour of women colice. It a member the is in favour I what about the of women police? [A member: He is in favour.] What about the local Council and the Board of Guardians? Did they know whether the County Chief Constable was in favour of women police? Had they any women magistrates? Under the laws made for men by men, a man could be sent to prison for a longer term for theft than he could for criminal assault. The speaker dealt with the many duties of policewomen, and concluded by saying that it was many duties of policewomen, and concluded by saying that it was quite time that policewomen were paid and that policewomen were attached to every police station in the towns. America and Germany had women police, and, if they did not hurry up, England would be left behind.

England would be left behind.

Questions were afterwards asked, and, in answer to one, Chief
Inspector Champneys said that if a farthing rate were levied, it
would provide more women police than was wanted. It was only
a very small room that women police needed in the Police Courts.

PORTSMOUTH.

The Social Evening on March 28th was well attended and very enjoyable. Songs were rendered by Miss Carter, Mr. Andrewartha, and Miss Cory, each of whom received a well deserved encore. The Pelham Players gave two plays, the characters in the first—"Cancelled"—being taken by Messrs. Williams and Burstein and the Misses Carter and Brown. After coffee had been served, Messrs, Williams, Burstein, and Smith gave an excellent rendering of a scene from "The Tompest". gave an excellent rendering of a scene from "The Tempest." The players and singers were heartily thanked by Mrs. Whetton,

A Business Meeting to instruct the delegate how to vote at the Annual Conference will be held on Thursday, April 19th, at 25, Shaftesbury Road, by kind invitation of Mrs. Brading. Members are reminded of the Jumble Sale on Saturday, May 5th

EDINBURGH.

A Business Meeting of the Edinburgh Branch was held at Heriot Hill House on Thursday, March 29th. The reports of the Secretary and the Treasurer were read. None of the office bearers, with the possible exception of Mrs. Linton, were willing to be re-elected, as all had been in office for two years. We were very fortuntae indeed in persuading Mrs. Alice Ross, M.A., J.P., a member of the Edinburgh Education Authority to be one Pecil a member of the Edniburgh Education Authority, to be our President.

Mrs. Easson and Mrs. Linton were elected Vice-Presidents, while Mrs. Tough and Miss Harvey agreed to become Secretary and Treasurer respectively. With these extremely capable office bearers members confidently expect that the branch will become a real force in the city.

There was a packed meeting in the McLellan Galleries last week, when Miss Eunice Murray was to have presided over a gathering protesting against the proposed grafting of compulsory powers on to the present voluntary system of dealing with

was with much regret that the audience heard that Miss

Murray was too ill to appear. However, Dr. Marion Gilchrist very ably took her place.

Dr. Gilchrist opened the meeting by reading a message from Miss Murray, and a telegram which had been received from the Edinburgh Corporation Bill Protest Committee wishing success to our Glasgow, venture. our Glasgow venture.

Dr. Ethel Williams then spoke on the dangers of this proposed

compulsion, showing how, in all countries where it obtained, the incidence of venereal disease was never less than in Great Britair with its purely voluntary system, and was frequently very much

Dr. Alison Hunter should have spoken next, but a professional

call had made it impossible for her to be present.

The Chairman then called upon Mr. Easson, who discussed the Edinburgh Corporation Bill, which is even now before Parliament, and the even more drastic Bill the Glasgow Corporation proposes to introduce.

He also stressed the advantages of a voluntary over a compul-

He also stressed the advantages of a voluntary over a compusory system, and urged the Health officials to give the present excellent free, voluntary and confidential system a full trial before risking its ruin with these dangerous provisions.

There was much and lively discussion, for many of the opposi-

tion were present, and at the close of the meeting the following resolution was put:—

"This meeting, convened by the Glasgow Branch of the Women's Freedom League, protests against the proposed grafting of compulsory powers on to the present voluntary system of treating venereal disease, believing that such powers will tend to destroy the effectiveness of the "oluntary system."

(Organiser) LILIAN LENTON.

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