

THE VOTE,
MAY 11, 1928.

EQUAL FRANCHISE IN THE LORDS.

THE VOTE

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

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the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, MAY 11, 1928

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

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A LOYAL WORKER FOR OUR CAUSE.



MISS O'HALLORAN.

By the passing of Kate Mary Teresa O'Halloran, the Women's Freedom League has lost yet another of its Founder members, and the woman's cause one of its most loyal and untiring workers.

In 1870, Miss O'Halloran entered the Post Office Telegraph Section of the Civil Service, and in those early days, when agitation for any cause was certainly not the way to advance one's own interests, she worked ceaselessly for the improvement of the position of her fellow-women workers. Miss O'Halloran was one of the first to voice the demand for equal pay for equal work for men and women within the Civil Service, and she did all in her power to secure a woman doctor for the female staff. Again and again she wrote to the higher officials and to successive Postmasters-General on this subject, and when at last Miss Shore was appointed Medical Officer, everyone felt that this appointment was largely due to Miss O'Halloran's work. Until then, the women members of the staff had the same doctor as the men—an ex-Army surgeon—who may have been a good doctor, but,

as he treated the girls as though they were raw recruits, he was, in Miss O'Halloran's expressed opinion, quite unsuitable for women. After 40 years' service, Miss O'Halloran retired full of honours, taking with her the affection of her old staff, who felt that in losing her they had lost a real comrade and friend, always scrupulously just, and ever ready to champion their interests.

In the very early days of the Women's Freedom League, before we had decided upon our name, Miss O'Halloran strongly supported the proposal that it should be the Women's Freedom League, and to that name, our constitution, and our work, Miss O'Halloran was always genuinely attached. For some years, she was the incomparable Honorary Treasurer of our Clapham Branch, and took her full share in all our suffrage work in that district. For some years now, ill-health prevented her from joining in our activities. A daughter of Ireland, who gloried in her nationality, and was passionately devoted to her native land, the last time she attended a meeting of our League, and that was only with the greatest difficulty, was at the time we were arranging our Peace with Ireland procession, but, although she could not attend our meetings, Miss O'Halloran never failed to show a generous and practical interest in our work. To those who knew her, she was a dear and very lovable friend, a born fighter with an indomitable spirit, one of those earlier pioneers who fought the good fight for women's freedom in times and circumstances when she had few supporters, and when our cause was not so popular as it is to-day.

JOHN STUART MILL COMMEMORATION,

IN TEMPLE GARDENS,

SATURDAY, MAY 19TH,

AT NOON.

Come with us to place a floral tribute on John Stuart Mill's Statue on the eve of the 122nd anniversary of his birthday.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Woman Associate Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers.

Miss Iris Cummins is the first woman to be elected Associate Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers—the highest engineering distinction.

Woman's Medical Distinction.

Dr. Mary Hearn is the first woman in the United Kingdom to be elected Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Ireland.

Liberal Woman's Appointment.

The Liberal Federation of Manchester is the first in the country to elect a woman to an important executive office—Mrs. H. M. Noton Barclay, wife of the ex-Member for the Exchange Division, having been appointed joint hon. secretary with Mr. J. Catterall Jolly, barrister.

Another Woman Magistrate.

Mrs. E. J. Macdonald Brown has been appointed Justice of the Peace for the West Riding of Yorkshire. She is the first woman to sit on the Goo'e Bench.

A Popular Lady Chairman.

Mrs. Abraham Walker, of Mirfield, the first lady Chairman of Dewsbury Board of Guardians, is to create a precedent by having her portrait hung in the Board Room. No previous member or official had been thus honoured.

Leith wins the Trophy.

Lady Aberdeen's trophy, presented to the Women's Council of the Scottish Liberal Federation to be competed for annually by each branch for obtaining the greatest number of new members, goes this year to Leith.

Woman President of Methodist Churches Federation

Mrs. M. Seymour Embleton has been elected President of the Northern Counties Independent Methodist Churches Federation, and is the first woman to hold that position. Mrs. Embleton is a member of the Sunderland Board of Guardians, and has been President of the Newcastle-on-Tyne Class Teachers' Association.

Miss Busk's New Appointment.

Miss Henrietta Busk, formerly Principal of Bedford College, and a pioneer of advanced education for women, has been elected Chairman of Amersham Board of Guardians. Miss Busk is in her 83rd year.

Signalwoman and Level Crossing-Keeper.

Mrs. Florence Ainsworth, wife of a clerk in the booking office at Fleetwood Station, has been appointed by the L.M.S. Railway signalman and level-crossing keeper at Hilly Laid crossing, near Thornton, a few miles from Fleetwood. The *Liverpool Post* says that Mrs. Ainsworth will have to deal with the busy summer traffic between Blackpool and Fleetwood and with the many passenger trains carrying holiday makers to the Isle of Man, which will pass over the Hilly Laid crossing.

The Suffrage Composer-Musician.

Warmest congratulations to Dame Ethel Smyth, the composer, on the celebration of her 70th birthday. This is Dame Ethel's jubilee year. April, 1878, saw her first work performed at Leipzig, and she has recently finished her new book, "The Final Burning of Boats." She likes the modern girl, and finds her very jolly and polite.

Women at Old Bailey Trial.

At the opening of the Old Bailey trial of two men charged with shooting P.C. Gutteridge, Mr. Justice Avory asked the three women on the jury if they would like to be released, as the trial might probably last some days. None of the women applied for release. For the first time in a murder trial, and for the first time at the Old Bailey, a woman barrister, Miss Enid Rosser, assisted the principal counsel for the Crown in this case.

Woman Lord Mayor and Woman Preacher.

On April 29th, Miss Margaret Beavan (Lord Mayor of Liverpool) paid a State visit to Stanley Congregational Church, Liverpool, accompanied by many of the City Councillors. The minister, the Rev. Edith E. Pickles, B.A., preached on "The City of Men's Dreams."

L.C.C. Married Woman Doctor.

Dr. Norah B. A. Sankey, daughter of Col. Sir Stuart Sankey, who was married last week, is Assistant Medical Officer to the L.C.C., and has not resigned.

Lady Bailey's Flight.

Lady Bailey's successful "one-woman" flight from London to Cape Town is described by experts as one of the most remarkable in the annals of aviation.

Women in Russia.

Russia has instituted Courts, composed entirely of women judges, to deal with women's problems.

A Woman's Appointment in Russia.

The Soviet Government have appointed a woman to undertake the redesigning of important buildings.

Woman Police Candidates in Dresden.

The Police Bureau of Dresden is shortly to admit further candidates for the Women Police Force of the city. They must be between the ages of 28 and 40, of irreproachable life and character, physically of a high standard, and well informed on all current social questions. Shorthand is a desirable recommendation—but not essential!

Germany's First Woman Judge.

Catharina Maller, who has recently taken her seat as a judge of the Berlin Supreme Court, is the first woman judge in Germany.

Woman Commands a Steamboat Fleet.

The *Sunday Times* says that one of America's largest and most prosperous river steamboat fleets is commanded by a woman, who is also its chief owner. For 33 years Mrs. Mary B. Greene has been the only woman pilot on those great inland waterways, the Mississippi and Ohio rivers.

A Woman Philosopher.

A woman has been elected to the Chair of Philosophy at Belgrade University.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Venereal Diseases (Treatment).

MISS LAWRENCE (Lab., East Ham) asked the Minister of Health the amount of grant given towards the treatment of venereal disease in the years 1921 and 1927, and the amount which local authorities have been informed is the maximum they will receive for the year 1927-28; whether he will give the number of treatment centres for venereal disease in England in 1921 and at the present time; and the number of health authorities where no such centres are provided? MR. CHAMBERLAIN: The grants paid to local authorities for this purpose amounted to £421,687 and £272,921 during the financial years 1921-22 and 1927-28 respectively. The maximum grant payable to these authorities in respect of the financial year 1927-28 is £286,763. There are at the present time 177 treatment centres in England, compared with 184 in 1921, the reduction being due mainly to the policy adopted in some large towns of concentrating the work of two or more centres in one centre, at which extended facilities for treatment have been provided. Facilities for the treatment of venereal disease have been provided by all the local authorities responsible for this work, but in a few cases the treatment centres are outside the administrative areas of the authorities. MR. T. WILLIAMS (Lab., Don Valley): Are we to understand from the right hon. Gentleman that the actual expenditure has been reduced by 50 per cent.? MR. CHAMBERLAIN: No, not by 50 per cent.; but by £150,000.

Maternal Mortality.

SIR ROBERT THOMAS (Lib., Anglesey) asked the Minister of Health whether, in view of the continued high rate of maternal mortality, he will consider granting financial aid to research into this question? SIR KINGSLEY WOOD (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health): My right hon. Friend is proposing to appoint a Special Committee on maternal mortality, one of whose functions will be to consider the need for further research into the question, and that Committee will no doubt report whether any further financial assistance could usefully be provided for this purpose.

Ministry of Pensions (Women).

MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE (Lab., Leicester, W.) asked the Minister of Pensions whether any women are holding posts above that of staff officer or higher executive in the Pension Issue Office; what is the reason for this limitation of higher posts for women in a Department which was originally almost entirely staffed by women, and which it was officially the intention to make a women's Department; whether the work of the Ministry is segregated into men's and women's branches; and, if so, whether all the work dealing with the administration of widows' and children's pensions has been allocated as more suitable to the women's branches; or, if allocated to a men's branch, has a higher executive woman to advise thereon? MAJOR

TRYON: There is in the Pension Issue Office one woman's post carrying a salary above that of the staff officer and higher executive grades. On the reorganisation of that branch, following the Report of the Joint Committee on the Organisation of the Civil Service in 1920, the majority of the higher posts were assigned to men, but this does not preclude the appointment of a woman to a higher post should a vacancy for which she possesses the necessary qualifications occur. With regard to the third part of the question, the work of the Ministry does not lend itself to segregation into men's and women's branches. The latter part of the question does not therefore arise.

Sexual Offences (Police Evidence).

MR. RHYS DAVIES (Lab., Westhoughton) asked the Home Secretary whether he is aware of the growing number of cases of uncorroborated police evidence in charges for sexual offences; and what steps he proposes to take to give effect to the recommendation of the jury, in a case of soliciting at the London Sessions, on April 25th, 1928, urging the police to make greater efforts to obtain outside evidence? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I am aware that cases have occurred from time to time in which this criticism has been made. The Commissioner's instructions to the Force are that every effort is to be made to obtain corroborative evidence from members of the public, and these instructions have recently been reaffirmed.

TEA AND POLITICS-UP-TO-DATE.

THE GENEVA EXPERT COMMITTEE.

At our Tea and Politics-up-to-date Meeting on May 2nd, presided over by Miss Underwood, Mrs. Bigland gave a most interesting account of the working of the Advisory Committee set up by the League of Nations to inquire into the Traffic in Women and Children in all parts of the world. Mrs. Bigland, who attended as one of the audience, said that the presence of members of the public deeply interested in this question was of great value. As a man present said to her: "You know people want to do right, but they need a lot of watching!"

Mrs. Bigland stated that the Committee consists of representatives sent by different countries. In addition, there are a certain number of assessors, who often represent associations and who have the right of speaking, but may not vote. Dame Rachel Crowdy, Secretary of the Committee, is concentrating particularly on those aspects of the traffic that affect children.

On the agenda of the Report of the Expert Committee there appeared: (1) Report of work done; (2) protection of artistes, etc., working in foreign countries; (3) protection for women travelling abroad; (4) Report of voluntary organisations; (5) Report of the Expert Committee into the Traffic in Women and Children.

Mrs. Bigland said that comparatively few countries had ratified the Conventions made, but, although this was disappointing, one must bear in mind that time is necessary to put new enactments into effect.

The need for protection for girls employed abroad had been carefully considered. England is more alive to the dangers confronting waitresses, artistes, and so on, than other countries, and provides a certain amount of supervision.

Mrs. Bigland then gave a brief account of the status and working of Women Police in Germany. On the whole, these women are better educated than men police, and are better trained. *In Saxony they received higher pay than the men!* Their work is largely protective.

The Expert Committee's Report made it clear that, so long as Tolerated Houses are in existence, a centre is provided for the trafficker.

Mrs. Bigland said that in France there is a steady growth of feeling against State Control, but the dele-

gaté who represented France could not fall into line as representing his country, although his personal view was strongly in favour of the findings of the Committee.

It was discussed at Geneva whether the Inquiry should be carried to the East. The Japanese representative was in favour of delay, not that he thought his country was against such an Inquiry, but he considered there should be time to prepare the way!

Miss Ward, who, with Mr. Harris, represented England, spoke on the laws concerning those who live on the immoral earnings of women. The ambition of every male member of the underworld is to become a *souteneur*. Mrs. Bigland said that, in her opinion, any woman should be protected against the trafficker who regards her as "goods."

Since the publication of the Report of the Expert Committee, certain countries have closed their Houses. Germany is one such country. Roumania is going into the subject, and hopes to report later. France has promised to consider the question.

In the discussion which followed, the point was raised as to how women were to be dealt with who chose to be prostitutes. Mrs. Bigland replied she hoped that with the admission of women to full citizenship, in time every woman would rise above such a life. For women it was largely a matter of economics.

It was suggested that men should be more severely punished for taking advantage of children; also that there should be less secrecy about the Homes which receive children who have been assaulted by men. As the law stands, parents can remove their children from these Homes at the age of 16 and put them on the streets.

Asked if she felt hopeful of the present position, Mrs. Bigland said that the fact that Cuba has suppressed her houses is a most promising sign. What was necessary was to pour in the daylight of public opinion on this question. She suggested that, as regards our own country, help should be given to girls going abroad; mothers should instil into their sons the sanctity of womanhood; and English people abroad should invite young Englishmen into their homes to counteract their isolation.

Mrs. Bigland closed with the advice: "Teach your girls to be brave, and your sons to be chaste."

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FRIDAY, MAY 11th, 1928.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.
To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders,
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Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

EDITORIAL.

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

THE BOYCOTT OF WOMEN.

On the eve of the full political enfranchisement of women, it is a little odd and somewhat amusing to note the clumsy efforts made by various men in the possession of a little authority to turn women out of positions and places. From *The Star* we learn that, last week, the vicar of Teddington went to Leamington Spa to make a speech, and, in the course of it, treated his hearers to some curious theories about rescue work. Apparently he did not get on amicably with the ladies on the Committee that helped him to run a Rescue Home, so he told his audience that he dismissed them and continued to run that Home with the aid of his assistant clergy and two trained rescue workers. He added: "If you ladies take an interest in rescue work, confine it to making clothes and raising funds. Don't attempt with your untrained minds to deal with cases that can be dealt with only by those who know the ropes and thoroughly understand." We rubbed our eyes, and mildly wondered if we were back in the Middle Ages. Wasn't there some old trouble between the Commons who were asked to find the money, and the Kings who wanted to spend it? The Commons may have been taunted with having untrained minds, but, all the same, didn't they refuse to find the money unless they had some say in the way it was to be spent? We devoutly hope the ladies in Teddington will do likewise. If the vicar and his assistants are alone to take part in the management of this Rescue Home, let them also find the money for it, and make the necessary clothes. This vicar also said at Leamington Spa that he had banned women from his parochial Church Council. Is he within his rights in doing this? Perhaps his parishioners might arrange a test case to make sure?

On April 28th, the *Daily Sketch* reported some bright opinions as to the future of women in medicine, expressed by a "brilliant young medical Officer of Health." This young spark contended that women patients, as a whole, dislike women doctors, and will not call them in; children are ill at ease with them; while, in public health matters, they show none of the width of vision and depth of capacity required! The writer added that these views are worthy of the consideration of feminists. The babblings of inexperienced youth carry no great weight, but when they appear in the public Press some answer has to be made to them. Our old member, Miss M. A. R. Toker, sent the following letter to the *Daily Sketch*, but it has not yet appeared: "Do let us have the name of the 'brilliant' young male medical Officer of Health who has discovered that sick children are 'ill at ease' with women—if they are doctors. I quite agree that his finding should be of interest to feminists, and I would like to suggest that it is of interest to pathologists." In a P.S., Miss Toker added: "A brilliant Member of the House of Commons declared Florence Nightingale to be an 'indecent hussy.' That remark is not now thought 'worthy of consideration' by anybody."

The following paragraph has been sent to us by the Press Secretary of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Our only comment is that women who demand equal treatment with men, not as a favour, but as a right, will take care to avoid those restaurants who refuse to concede it:—

"With the appetite engendered by sitting-out the Equal Franchise Debate in the House of Commons, some of our members went to a certain well-known restaurant at about a quarter to twelve, but found the way barred by a porter, who refused to admit them because no man was with them. They thereupon asked to see the manager, and while they waited for him on the pavement, a man who had overheard the discussion offered his escort! Eventually, as an exceptional favour, the manager allowed them to enter and have their meal. The Committee afterwards addressed a letter of protest to the manager, who answered that, owing to the number of undesirable women who frequent the neighbourhood of this restaurant, a general rule has been made, by which 'single ladies' from 9.30 p.m., and 'two or more ladies' from 10.30 p.m., are not allowed in without men. He added, however, that, should our members ask to see him, he would always be pleased to admit them."

EQUAL FRANCHISE BILL THROUGH THE COMMONS.

On the Report Stage of the Equal Franchise Bill last Monday, Mr. SNOWDEN (Lab., Colne Valley) moved to delete plural voting at a General Election, except in regard to the University franchise. THE HOME SECRETARY contended that this Amendment was not in accordance with the scope of the Bill, and it was lost by 216 votes to 78. MR. KENNEDY (Lab., Kirkcaldy) then moved a reduction of the permitted expenditure per elector in boroughs from 5d. to 4½d. This had some support from Conservative as well as Liberal Members. THE HOME SECRETARY refused to allow a free vote on this Amendment, and contended that, since the figure of permitted expenditure was a maximum, not a minimum, the question was mainly academic. This Amendment was also defeated—by 214 votes to 100. The Third Reading was then taken unchallenged by anyone, so the Government's Bill is now safely through the House of Commons. It ought not to take up much time in the House of Lords, and it should, in the ordinary course of events, reach the Statute Book before Whitsun.

EXPENSIVE JUSTICE AGAIN.

The recent Hyde Park prosecution emphasises the need for corroborative evidence in all cases of this kind. While we congratulate the defendants on the dismissal of the charge against them with costs against the police, we ask once again what chance would a poor, unknown, and friendless man and woman have of securing an acquittal under similar circumstances? The costs of this particular case were nearly £200, and all the defendant was awarded to pay these costs was £10. Buying justice is a pretty expensive business in cases of this kind, and we repeat that no man or woman should be convicted of such offences solely on the uncorroborated evidence of the police. We notice that the Home Secretary proposes, apart from any question of the conduct of individual officers in the case under discussion, to refer the general question of police procedure to the Committee on Street Offences. Sir William Joynson-Hicks stated in the House of Commons that there are 21 police engaged in Hyde Park, 19 of whom are in uniform and two in plain clothes, and that he had come to the conclusion that additional lighting facilities would be extraordinarily useful in the Park.

JOSEPHINE BUTLER CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS.

Historic Service in Liverpool Cathedral.

Liverpool Cathedral was packed on the occasion of the Josephine Butler Centenary Celebration, and delegates from Austria, Denmark, Switzerland, and other countries joined with representatives of many social organisations in "a procession of witness" round the interior of the Cathedral.

The Bishop of Warrington referred to the League of Nations Inquiry into the traffic in women and children in 28 countries. The only consolation was that our own country was virtually immune from this unspeakable shame. Under God, Josephine Butler had redeemed her country's honour.

Miss Margaret Beavan, Lord Mayor of Liverpool, entertained the delegates in the Town Hall the same evening. Madame de Saint Croix, a personal friend of Josephine Butler, and Dr. A. de Graaf spoke. Dr. de Graaf thought that nowhere could they find greater inspiration than in the city where Josephine Butler had lived and worked. She would have rejoiced to see a woman Lord Mayor.

Dr. H. J. W. Hetherington, Vice-Chancellor of the University, presided over a packed public meeting in the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall on the following evening, when the principal speakers were Dame Rachel Crowdy and Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P. Dame Rachel Crowdy stated that Josephine Butler asked not for preferential, but equal, treatment for women with men. Her reforms were always based on justice. The Church and medical profession were almost dead against her. To-day, the medical profession realised that disease and disorder could not be controlled by the State, but only by enlightened public opinion. The League of Nations Report on the Traffic in Women and Children proved the need for Josephine Butler's remedy—an enlightened public opinion and the education of the young of both sexes in the sense of moral responsibility. At the present time, certain States were allowing the registration in brothels of frightened and bewildered children. In civilised towns and cities girls in dancing halls were being given contracts, which eventually forced them into prostitution. The prostitute did not make herself. The buyer was on at least as low a plane. We must see that, with the passing of the licensed houses, no other system was allowed to replace the old evil.

Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., stressed the fact that Josephine Butler was right in insisting that social and economic conditions were at the root of prostitution. The number of prostitutes had diminished since the increased opportunities and better wages for women in industry, combined with improved education, had given them a chance. Ugliness, poverty, slums, bad industrial conditions, bad housing, and overcrowding were all evils which were the breeding-ground of sin and disease. They who commemorated Josephine Butler must devote their lives to combating them. Sympathy, helpfulness, and removal of causes were the only remedies.

Centenary Address at Reading.

Miss Anna Munro gave an eloquent address on the life and work of Josephine Butler to the members of the Reading Ladies' Club, and the *Reading Standard* says, in reference to that speech: "It is only right that a generation of women who, while agitating for equality of citizenship, take a good deal of their freedom for granted, should be helped to realise that this habit of feminine liberty is not yet grey-haired, that others not long passed away fought against tremendous opposition, and in actual personal peril, in the interests of their sisters and of those yet unborn."

Women Liberals and Josephine Butler.

The following resolution, moved in a telling speech by Mrs. Corbett Ashby, and supported by Mrs. Gardner, J.P. (Hull), and Miss Alison Garland, was carried with acclamation at the recent Annual Council

Meeting of the Women's National Liberal Federation:

"That this Council of the Women's National Liberal Federation records its admiration and appreciation of the wonderful pioneer work of Mrs. Josephine Butler and those associated with her, and its undying gratitude for their great courage in the stand they made for justice and for a high and equal moral standard between men and women. It hereby pledges itself to continue their work."

A Memorable Service in Manchester Cathedral.

Miss M. I. Neal represented the Women's Freedom League in the celebration in Manchester, organised by Miss Shephard for the National Council of Women, which took the form of a service in the Cathedral on April 24th, when the Dean of Manchester took the service, and the Bishop of Blackburn preached. It was a fine sermon on the text, "I have opened unto thee a door, and no man shall shut it against thee," and emphasised all through the absolute necessity for an equal moral standard. After the sermon and collection, there was a procession of the clergy, choir, and representatives of the Societies, with banners, taking part in the celebration. On May 2nd, there was a public meeting in the Free Trade Hall, which was filled to the fullest extent (it seats 4,000), presided over by the Bishop of Manchester, and addressed by Dame Rachel Crowdy and the Rev. G. Studdart Kennedy. Dame Rachel gave an account of the work of the League of Nations in regard to the International White Slave Traffic; the Chairman and Mr. Kennedy dealt with the subject as a whole, and here again the insistence was on the need for an equal moral standard. All the seating accommodation was sold at 2s. 6d. and 1s. per seat, and a collection of £63 odd was taken in the hall. The Committee are arranging for study circles to be formed, to consider Mrs. Butler and her work, and how it can best be continued.

"FLAPPERS" AND QUEEN ELIZABETH.

When opening a bazaar in Huddersfield Town Hall on behalf of the local Women's Conservative Association, Mrs. Stanley Baldwin said that those who talked about "flappers" were "mediaeval people with stationary minds." If this silly word had been coined in the last century, perhaps Queen Victoria would have been spoken of as a flapper queen! Queen Elizabeth was only in her early twenties when she came to the throne. It was significant that under these two queens England enjoyed her most prosperous eras.

21 MEN—2 WOMEN!

The Lord Chancellor has appointed 21 men, but only 2 women—Mrs. Margaret Ellen Hare, of Herne Hill, and Miss Helen Mackay, of Poplar—as new Justices of the Peace for the County of London. Time after time we have protested against the disparity of the numbers of men and women appointed to the magistrates' Bench, and we again urge that, until the numbers of men and women magistrates are more nearly equal, men and women should appear in approximately equal numbers on all new lists of Justices of the Peace. At present, there are 236 Benches without a woman magistrate, and 70 of these are Borough Benches.

L.C.C. AND MARRIED WOMEN.

Last Sunday's *Observer* tells us that:—
The Mental Hospitals Committee of the London County Council, in a report to be submitted to the Council at its meeting on Tuesday, recommends that non-compliance with Standing Orders respecting the employment of a married woman as masseuse in a temporary capacity at the Claybury Mental Hospital be condoned. Further, it is recommended that another woman, also married, working as a seamstress at Brunswick House, should continue to be employed until a suitable single woman can be found.

OUR BOOK REVIEW.

Human Merchandise: A Study of the International Traffic in Women. By H. Wilson Harris. (Benn.) 6s. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

This work, appropriately dedicated to Josephine Butler in her Centenary year, presents in popular form the gist of the League of Nations Report on the Traffic in Women and Children, published in March, 1927. It is the first time that this question has been tackled internationally and made the subject of expert investigation, aided by Government. Whatever may be said about the effectiveness of the League as an anti-war machine, there is no doubt as to its usefulness in dealing with problems of this kind. Much good has already been done by the investigation and the Report. This volume gives the facts elicited by the inquiry a still wider currency, "letting in more light on evils that batten on darkness," as the author, Mr. Wilson Harris, sets out in his Preface. No feminist can fail to welcome such publicity. There is no pandering to sensationalism in the setting forth of the facts—even the nomenclature is changed, the term, "White Slave Traffic," being dropped as inaccurate, inasmuch as the traffic includes not only white, but black, yellow, and brown. Two women—Miss Grace Abbott and Dame Rachel Crowley—are closely associated with the investigation, the former as head of the Child Welfare Bureau, Washington, being the first to suggest such inquiry, the latter having acted as Secretary to the Body of Experts that carried it out. Questionnaires were sent to the various Governments, 112 cities were visited in 28 different countries, and 6,500 persons were interviewed, of whom 5,000 were engaged in the traffic. Thus the traffickers actually helped the inquiry unknowingly, mistaking the investigators for members of the ring, and supplying them with letters of introduction and other facilities. In this way, the inquirers were able to check the Government reports, comparing these with actual conditions in the underworld. For Governments and police have everywhere a childish faith in the panacea of regulations, of passports, visas, and licences not borne out by the actual conditions. One fact that emerges in this work is the utter futility of all these in preventing the free circulation of the traffickers from one country to another. There is a thriving forged passport industry, the profits of the trade justifying the risk and expense of getting round the regulations. Wealthy patrons can pay their agents lavishly—the *souteneur*, the madame, and their kind—to run risks and suffer vicarious punishment, if need be; in this, as in so many other cases, the worst criminals are often immune. A case for international action has been established, no country being able to deal adequately with a problem that transcends all frontiers. A chapter dealing with "The Public's Part" is appropriately added to the findings. In many countries already the ventilation of the question through the inquiry has had a good result. Several have already abolished that plague, the licensed house, which it was Josephine Butler's mission to wage war upon.

It is clear, however, that, notwithstanding all the Conventions signed, there is still a world-wide traffic in women. Russia is not included in the Report, the Soviet Republics not coming within the scope of the inquiry—one would like to know how far the claim made by the Soviets, that they had abolished prostitution, has been maintained.

"If the 'third party' who organises the traffic for gain could be eliminated, the traffic would wither up within a twelvemonth," is the conclusion reached by the author. Upon the prostitute preys a still fouler parasite—the man who lives and grows rich upon her earnings. Man's inhumanity to woman has its darkest depths in the sad story of prostitution as told here. The father violating his young daughter before launching her upon the vice market, the lover "breaking in" his girl victim at home, previous to shipping her to a foreign country for profit, the procurer who purveys his merchandise of human flesh to suit the whim of organised lust and its devotees: all these are part of the

chain forged by man for the enslavement of women. The exploited women have not the initiative to organise the traffic themselves, part of which entails the transport of girls under 14 to the ends of the earth. It is explained that in foreign countries these girls can be more readily exploited and debased; hence women are driven across the frontiers from Germany to South America, from France to Algiers, from Britain and Europe to Egypt ("in Egypt you can do what you like," says a *souteneur*), from Roumania to Mexico, and from China to California.

Conditions prevailing in various countries investigated are detailed and compared. The United States appears to be at one end of the line—where the traffic flourishes least—while South America is at the other. London, Liverpool, and Southampton are visited in Britain; Scotland, Ireland, and Wales being apparently "lumped in." Canada and the United States are similarly classed under the entirely misleading heading, "Anglo-Saxon America." These defects would seem to be, however, in the original Report.

The conclusions arrived at are specially interesting to women. The outstanding fact would appear to be that the causes of prostitution are largely economic. The raising of the age of consent and the age of marriage are urged, both being still too low in every country. In but four is the age of consent 16 (in the United States, in parts, it is 18), while in most it is 13 or 14, and, in some, such as Florida and Esthonia, it is but 10! The age of marriage in Britain is still scandalously low, being but 12 for girls, a curious anomaly in a country which condemns child-marriages in India. The need for more policewomen is also stressed, most countries still employing none, and all of them having still far too few.

It is clear also, from the Report and this summary, that there is a close connection between prostitution and the traffic on the one hand, and the economic and social condition of women on the other. Those countries that are the worst breeding-places for sexual commercialised vice are those where women are least free. France, where women are still voteless, still clings to State regulation and the licensed house, while Hungary, Portugal, and Japan insist upon maintaining it, the last-named naively alleging that "its origin is rooted in centuries-old tradition, and its abolition would, therefore, have serious social reactions, for it would be practically equivalent to the complete suppression of prostitution." Germany, on the other hand, has just abolished the licensed house, and other countries, where women have won freedom, are gradually banning it. Another result of women's emancipation is that, notably in the U.S.A., increasing emphasis is being given to the part played by man in prostitution. In 12 of the United States the man no longer belongs to the "protected sex," and is punished equally with the woman with whom he has immoral relations, being by legal definition also classed as a prostitute. This excellent summary is well indexed. It is commended warmly to every feminist and to every social reformer.

H. SHEEHY SKEFFINGTON.

WOMAN'S AIM.

The *Daily News* reports that Mrs. W. L. S. Alton, a marksman well known in the shooting world before her marriage, as Miss Seaton, has returned to Bisley ranges this year, and has scored a triumph by beating the records of men.

Last January, the diameter of the National Rifle Association's bull's-eye was reduced. After the reduction of the size of the bull's-eye, it was generally asserted that never more would a "possible" be scored, and no man so far has scored more than 100 points out of 105. Only three men, in fact, have achieved that figure.

Mrs. Alton, however, triumphed over all the prophets by scoring a "possible" at 200 yards, 500 yards, and at 600 yards, thus registering 105 points for the full First Stage practice—three points more than the best score made by any man, whether gold, silver or bronze medallist.

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WHERE TO GO.
WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.



LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Wednesday, May 16th, 4—5.30 p.m.
Tea and Politics-up-to-date. Meeting at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.
Speaker: Mrs. Zangwill on "The Progress of Women in Palestine."

Wednesday, May 16th at 8.30 p.m.
Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Short Readings from Greek Writers by Miss Edith Rogge. (3) "Philosophy."

DARE TO BE FREE.

Friday, May 18th, at 8.15 p.m.
Public Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Eunice Murray on "Women and the Church," to be followed by discussion.

Saturday, May 19th, at No. n.
John Stuart Mill Celebration. Placing of Floral Tributes by representatives of Women's Organisations on John Stuart Mill's Statue in Temple Gardens.

Thursday, May 24th, at 7.30 p.m.
Equal Political Rights Campaign. Open-air Meeting at Highbury Corner, arranged by the Women's Freedom League. Speakers: Miss Olive Beamish and Mrs. Zangwill.

Thursday, June 7th, at 3 p.m.
Hamstead Branch Meeting at 7, Gainsborough Gardens, N.W.3.
Saturday, June 23rd, at 10 a.m.
National Executive Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1

PROVINCES.

Tuesday, May 15th, at 8 p.m.
Portsmouth. Joint Public Meeting. Sailors' Rest, Commercial Road. Josephine Butler Centenary. Speakers: Miss Higson and others. Chair: The Lord Bishop of Portsmouth, C.B.E., D.D.

Wednesday, May 16th, at 3.30 p.m.
Bexhill. Whist Drive, Albany Hotel.

Friday, May 18th, at 7.30 p.m.
Darlington. Josephine Butler Centenary Meeting at the Temperance Institute. Chair: Mrs. Bayes, M.A. Speakers: Mrs. Muriel Matter-Porter, Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., Rev. T. C. Gobat, M.A.

Thursday, May 24th, at 3 p.m.
Bexhill. Branch Meeting, Albany Hotel.

Saturday, May 26th, at 3 p.m.
Portsmouth. Jumble Sale. Unitarian Schoolroom.

Tuesday, May 29th, at 7.30 p.m.
Rye. Branch Meeting, Old Mint Tea Rooms (by kind permission of Miss Biddle), 34, The Mint.

Wednesday, May 30th, at 3.30 p.m.
Bexhill. Whist Drive, Albany Hotel.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, May 12th.
Josephine Butler Centenary Conference. The Guildhouse, Eccleston Sq., Belgrave Rd., S.W.1. Sessions: 2.30, 4.45, 6.5.

Monday, May 14th.
Speech Club. Debate at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. "That all Fortune-telling is fraudulent."

Wednesday, May 16th, at 2.30 p.m.
Special Matinee of "The Pelican" at the New Scala Theatre in aid of the Extension Fund of the National Council of Women.

Wednesday, May 16th, at 7.30 p.m.
Middlebrough. Josephine Butler Centenary Meeting in the Wesley Hall. Chair: Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P. Speakers: Mrs. Muriel Matters-Porter, Archdeacon Lindsay, Canon Lawson, Rev. R. E. Thomas, Councillor Dr. Minnie Lovick, and representatives of the Salvation Army. Reserved seats, 1/- obtainable from Miss Schofield Coates, The Grey House, Linthorpe.

Thursday, May 17th, at 3 p.m.
Women's Section, East Islington Labour Party, Meeting at 16, Highbury Grove, Highbury, N.5. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood on "Women and Equality."

Friday, May 18th, 8.30 p.m. to 12.
British Commonwealth League. Dance at Lyceum Club. Tickets 7/6 each.

Sunday, May 20th, at 7.30 p.m.
John Stuart Mill Dinner at Craig's Court. Tickets 5/-.

Monday, May 21st, at 8 p.m.
Lecture on Mary Wollstonecraft by Miss Evelyn Sharp, at Essex Hall. Admission free.

Tuesday, May 24th, at 1 p.m.
British Commonwealth League. Speaker: Lady MacLaren Brown on "Canada."

OLIVER GOLDSMITH SCHOOL, PECKHAM ROAD.
Sunday next at 7 p.m.

MR. DIMSDALE STOCKER,
"Some Contemporary Conceptions of Marriage."
(QUESTIONS INVITED.)

BRANCH NOTE.

GLASGOW.
A Branch Meeting was held in the McLellan Galleries on Tuesday, April 24th, at 7 p.m., but the attendance was numerically disappointing. Unfortunately, our President, Miss Eunice G. Murray, was unable to be present owing to illness. After tea, Miss McLellan read over the Amendments for Conference, and the members present voted on them. By arrangement of Miss E. Scott, Hon. Organising Secretary, and her sister, a most enjoyable entertainment was provided by "The Orangaders," of Radio fame, one worthy in every respect of a very much better audience. The whole entertainment was flawless, and it must be assumed that the absent members were quite unaware of the quality of the artistes and the energy expended by the Misses Scott in providing such an excellent bill of fare for this occasion. Entertainments, however good, have their terminations, and after enjoying the several items on the programme, a hearty vote of thanks to the artistes was accorded by Miss Jane Thomson. Thanks are also due to the members of the Committee who helped with the tea, to members and friends who sent cakes, money, etc., and to those who were present as our audience.
(Hon. Secretary) MISS R. McDOUGALL.

OUR TREASURY.
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Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1927, £46,986 6s. 7d.	£ s. d.
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The Misses E. L., F. E., and G. M. Hodgson	4 6
Miss M. I. Saunders	4 0
Miss S. Bergman	3 0
Miss E. Woodall	3 0
Mrs. Cecil Perkins	2 0
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Miss Candlin	1 6
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Miss Dorothy Coldwells	1 0
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Middlesbrough	10 0
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	£100 10 11

Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League, and crossed "Barclay's Bank Limited."

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES.

The National Federation of Women's Institutes will hold its Twelfth Annual General Meeting at the Queen's Hall, on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 22nd and 23rd. Very interesting resolutions appear on the agenda, dealing with the Sale of Condensed Milk, Rural Water Supply, Rural Libraries, Rural Housing, and Rural Education.

WOMEN AND THE CHURCH.

All interested in this subject are invited most cordially to attend the meeting at the Minerva Club next Friday (May 18th), when Miss Eunice Murray, who has put up such a gallant fight for the admission of women to the ministry of the Scottish Church, will be the speaker. The meeting begins at 8.15 p.m. Dinner can be obtained beforehand at the Club by arrangement with Miss Reeves.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, May 13th, 1928. 3.30. Music. Lecture. John Hassall, Esq., R.I., R.W.A. 6.30. Canon C. S. Woodward; "God and the Pain of the World."

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