

THE VOTE,  
JAN. 18, 1929.

PLAIN JANE, THANK YOU!

# THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXX. No. 1,004. (Registered at  
the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 1929

**OBJECTS:** To use the power of the Parliamentary vote, now won for Women upon equal terms with men, to elect women to Parliament, and upon other public bodies; to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes; and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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## XLV.—WHEN I AM M.P.

MRS. CATHERINE M. WADHAM, Prospective Labour Candidate for West Lewisham.

There is so much essentially woman's work to be done at Westminster that it is difficult to decide on just the questions to which one would give most attention. When I am an M.P., however, I shall still work always for those things which I believe to be for the good of the whole community.

I am particularly interested in all women's questions, and realise fully the many injustices under which women still suffer. For the removal of these injustices I shall always work, and shall strive hard to ensure that now woman has procured her political freedom, she shall also have her economic and personal freedom—that to all women shall be given equal opportunities with men, equal guardianship of children, and that the married woman shall still maintain her economic and personal freedom. I believe that if life is to become clean and sweet, men and women must be able to meet each other freely and openly as comrades and friends. There must be no artificial barriers erected between them, nor inequalities imposed upon them. Together they must face the problems of life and help to solve them. I am tired of the so-called sex war, which really, when boiled down, amounts to fear of competition, and which is a direct result of an unorganised system of industry, which men and women, working together as equals, must strive to organise.

When these things are put right we shall be much better able to tackle the other problems which face us to-day. Our educational system requires re-organising, and we want a system of education for our children with equal opportunities for them all, when every child, no matter what the economic conditions under which it lives, shall be able to develop its talents and go on with

its education from nursery school to university. Only when we have such a system of education can we expect to get the best from the nation. The result of all true education should be—the power to serve others and the power to appreciate the service of others. Money now spent on prisons and reformatories could be saved if our educational system was more enlightened. Money spent on education is a nation's best investment.

Another matter which I consider needs the attention of any Government, and especially the attention of women members, is the price of food and other necessary commodities, and I would strongly advocate the instituting of a Board to control all such prices. It is a scandal to-day to notice everywhere, how, as soon as there is a demand for any article, the price of such article immediately soars out of all proportion, making it impossible for those with only a limited purse to purchase at all. In my work on the Board of Guardians, I have seen how terribly this hits the poor, and I am determined to give it my attention.

The one other burning question at the present time is the tragedy of Maternal Mortality. Here again, among the less fortunate of our sisters, we women see how hardly they are hit, and how badly they suffer. It must surely be the work of all women in Parliament to press that more adequate steps be taken to enquire into

this terrible scourge, and I would press strongly for a post-mortem examination in every case of death either during pregnancy or at childbirth. All these things can and will be remedied, just so soon as the women of this country realise their power; and it is with this realisation, and the confidence of the women, that I turn my thoughts to Westminster determining when there to give my best and do my best.



MRS. CATHERINE M. WADHAM.

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

## Woman Lawyer in Murder Trial.

Miss Venetia J. M. Stephenson has been briefed to act as counsel for the prisoner in a murder trial at the Central Criminal Court now being heard. She is the first woman barrister to defend on a capital charge; this is the first time that a woman has acted as leading counsel, her junior being Mr. F. Harris. The first woman to prosecute in a murder trial at the Old Bailey was Miss Enid Rosser who was Junior Counsel for the Crown.

## Woman Wins Scholarship in Architecture.

Miss Betty Scott, of the Architectural Association, has been awarded the Victory Scholarship, a Silver Medal and £150, for a design on the subject "A Faculty of Fine Arts in a University," by the Royal Institute of British Architects.

## Blind Girl's Successes.

Miss Mabel Green, a young woman who has been blind from birth, is a verbatim shorthand reporter, with a speed of 160 words a minute. For 18 months she was employed as shorthand-typist in the Ministry of Health and gave up her post to another blind girl. She is a gold medalist for Braille reading, a practised telephonist and a pianist. Miss Green is also widely read and cultured.

## Young Woman's Exhibition of Watercolours.

Mrs. Phyllis Pearsall, the young water-colourist, opened an exhibition of her work at the Claridge Gallery, Brook Street, on Thursday, January 10th. Mrs. Pearsall, who was educated at Roedean, is self-taught.

## Success of Debating Tour in America.

The three English girl graduates—Miss Nancy Samuel, Miss E. Lockhart and Miss Marjorie Sharp—who have just completed a two months' debating tour in America, have won seven out of twelve contests.

## Wigan's First Woman on Watch Committee.

Councillor Nurse Martha Hogg, a Labour member of the Wigan Borough Council, has been elected a member of the Watch Committee. She is not only the first woman to sit on the Committee, but the first woman elected to the Council.

## Women Cricketers.

Cobham (Surrey) Women's Cricket Club is to be allowed the use of the men's ground for play and practice.

## Women Petition for Winter Swimming Facilities.

Woolwich women have petitioned the local council for better winter facilities for swimming.

## Old-World Prejudice.

Mrs. Vera Sherwood, assistant teacher at the Ellen's Green—an isolated hamlet eight miles from Guildford—Elementary School, has been asked to resign by the managers, one of the grounds given being that she plays cricket on the village green.

Other issues of the series, "When I am M.P.":—Miss HELEN SCHILIZZI, November 16, 1928; Lady STEWART, October 26, 1928; Miss BARBARA BLISS, September 28, 1928; Councillor KINGSMILE JONES, September 14, 1928; Miss JESSIE STEPHEN, August 17, 1928; Dr. MARION PHILLIPS, August 10, 1928; Mrs. C. D. RACKHAM, J.P., M.A., June 15, 1928; Miss ENID LAPHORN, June 1, 1928; Miss H. M. KEYNES, May 25, 1928; Mrs. HAMILTON, February 17, 1928; Miss F. B. WIDDOWSON, January 6, 1928; Mrs. TOWNSEND, September 16, 1927; Mrs. MASSINGHAM, August 19, 1927; Miss RUBY PART, June 3, 1927; Miss ELEANOR STEWART, May 13, 1927; Mrs. BEATRICE A. BAYFIELD, April 29, 1927; Mrs. PANKHURST, February 25, 1927; Miss MONICA WHATELEY, January 21, 1927; Miss ELISABETH EDWARDES, January 7, 1927; Miss MARY RICHARDSON, September 24, 1926; The Lady RATHCREEDAN, August 27, 1926; Mrs. CECILIA STREETEN, April 2, 1926; Dr. STELLA CHURCHILL, March 12, 1926; Mrs. MURIEL MATTERS PORTER, September 12, 1924; Mrs. ANNE CORNER, August 29, 1924; Mrs. LOUIE SIMPSON, J.P., August 15, 1924; Councillor ELLEN C. WILKINSON, M.A., July 4, 1924; Miss MINNIE PALLISTER, July 6, 1923; Miss C. PICTON-TURBERVILL, September 8, 1922; Mrs. HAMILTON MORE-NESBITT, August 18, 1922; Mrs. BURNETT SMITH, June 30, 1922; Lady CURRIE, April 7, 1922; Mrs. STEWART BROWN, March 31, 1922; Miss HELEN FRASER, March 24, 1922; Lady COOPER, March 17, 1922; Commandant MARY S. ALLEN, O.B.E., February 17, 1922; Miss MARY P. GRANT, January 6, 1922; Mrs. MARJORIE PEASE, J.P., October 28, 1921; Mrs. AYRTON GOULD, October 21, 1921; Dr. ETHEL BENTHAM, October 7, 1921; Mrs. WINTRINGHAM, M.P., September 23, 1921; Mrs. ELEANOR BARTON, August 28, 1921; Mrs. SCOTT GATTY, August 12, 1921; Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY, July 15, 1921.

## Women Run a Chapel.

A committee of women has been appointed to run the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel at Smeale, Isle of Man. The circuit officials report that it is being run with great success.

## Southwark Woman Alderman.

Mrs. F. L. Webb, a Municipal Reformer, has been elected a Southwark alderman.

## A Woman's Bravery.

"You are a very brave old lady," was the comment of the coroner at an inquest at Liverpool this week, on a woman who died as the result of burns. "I commend very highly your presence of mind and bravery in going to help your friend." Ellen Roberts, who put out the flames consuming the unfortunate woman, is 86 years of age.

## Australian Women on Film Censorship Board.

Mrs. Andrew Glencross, J.P., of Victoria, has been appointed by the Federal Commonwealth Government as the third member of the newly-created Film Censorship Board, and Mrs. M. Liddell, J.P., of Sydney, has been appointed to the Film Appeal Board.

Mrs. M. Liddell was the first woman member of the Council of the Institute of Journalists in New South Wales. She is a member of the literary staff of the *Evening News*, Sydney, and social editress of the *Sunday News*.

## More Women Police for Victoria.

As a result of the excellent work being done by the four women police in the State of Victoria, the Government have announced their intention of appointing four additional women.

## Woman Sculptor's New Medium.

Malvina Hoffman, the American woman sculptor commissioned by Irving Bush to execute the figures of England and America which surmount the portals of Bush House in Aldwych, has begun working in anthracite. Her first work in this medium is an impressive figure of a British miner.

## American Women Finance Students.

Women are said to be showing increasing interest in the affairs of Wall Street. Professor Katherine Reiley, a director of the Extension Department of Columbia University, declares that a large proportion of the new Students of Finance are women.

## First German Woman Preacher.

The *Star* reports that Fräulein Gertrud Schaefer, of Jena, has been granted authority to preach in the District Church there: she was previously an "apprentice priest." There is one other ordained woman in Germany, Frau Sophie Kunert, but she is chaplain at the women's gaol in Hamburg, and has no license to preach from the public pulpit.

## AMERICAN WOMEN WHO WON.

The *Woman's Journal* (New York) for January tells us that women won the 1928 election in more ways than one. Not only did they vote in greater numbers than ever before, but they were voted for as Congressmen, State Senators, State representatives, judges, State treasurers, and all manner of county officials. A tribute to the service that they have rendered is the great number re-elected for a second, third, or fourth term.

This year's list, as received from Secretaries of State, shows 119 women elected as State representatives, and 12 as State Senators, or a total of 131 as compared with 108 in 1926 and 128 in 1924. In addition, there will be 7 women in the House of Representatives, the lower House of the National Congress of the United States, instead of 4, the 7 being: Mrs. Florence Kahn\* (Republican, California); Mrs. Ruth Bryan Owen (Democrat, Florida); Mrs. Ruth Hanna McCormick (Republican, Illinois); Mrs. John Langley\* (Republican, Kentucky); Mrs. Edith Nourse Rogers\* (Republican, Massachusetts); Mrs. Mary T. Norton\* (Democrat, New Jersey); and Mrs. Ruth Pratt (Republican, New York). Those marked \* were re-elected.

Two women are State treasurers, one is re-elected Secretary of State, three are elected State superintendents of public instruction, one has been re-elected State auditor, one a member of a State Railroad Commission, one reporter of a Supreme and Appellate Court, one executive Councillor, one State Commissioner of public welfare, and Florence E. Allen was re-elected for a second six-year term to the Ohio Superior Court Bench. The return of Judge Allen was a great personal victory. Another remarkable personal triumph was that of Gladys Pyle, re-elected as Secretary of State of South Dakota. Miss Pyle led her ticket (Republican) in the State, and received the greatest number of votes ever cast for a constitutional officer in South Dakota.

In Massachusetts, Mrs. Esther M. Andrews, appointed by Governor Fuller in 1927 to fill an unexpired term on the Governor's Council, was elected this year by a large vote. Mrs. Andrews is the first woman to secure a place on the Council, which passes on all the Governor's appointments, checks State expenditures, advises on clemency, and other important affairs of State.

The *Woman's Journal* further says that the New England States furnished fifty-six, or over one-third, of the winning women in State Legislatures. Maine leads all States in the number of women in its State Senate, having elected three.

Iowa, which amended its Constitution in 1926 to remove the word "male" as a qualification for office, lost no time in electing Mrs. Carolyn C. Pendray (Democrat) as its first woman representative. Kansas, Rhode Island, and South Carolina elected their first women Senators.

## WOMEN JURORS IN OTHER LANDS.

We are indebted to *Equal Rights* for the following information respecting the restrictions imposed on women jurors in various countries:—

*British Columbia, Canada, 1922.*—Men and women are equally liable to be called upon to sit on juries; with the proviso, that no woman who has stated her unwillingness shall be compelled to comply.

*Alberta, Canada.*—Any inhabitant, between the ages of twenty-five and sixty, who is a British subject, may serve as a juror. No woman is compelled to serve. In all cases triable by jury, when a woman is a party to the action, she can insist on the presence of three women on the jury and three men. If all the parties are women, the jury may consist of six women.

*Queensland.*—Women who desire to serve as jurors are required to register as such.

*United States of America.*—Here women have served on juries since 1911. In nine States they serve on exactly the same terms as men. In ten States, service in the case of women is optional.

*Germany.*—Women obtained the right to sit on juries in 1922.

## FIGHT FOR JUSTICE IN MARYLAND.

Miss Helen Elizabeth Brown, President of Alpha Delta Chapter of Phi Delta Delta, International Legal Fraternity, and member of the Maryland Branch of the National Woman's Party, with her associates at the Bar, organised the campaign for securing the passage of the Women Jurors' Bill through the General Assembly of Maryland, convened in Annapolis on January 2nd, 1929, because their experience as lawyers has proved to them the urgent need for the judgment and experience of women in the jury-box. It has been brought forcibly home to them in case after case where women are concerned that juries entirely composed of men are incapable of arriving at a just decision. Many men who have served on juries in Maryland are on the side of the women in this fight for elementary justice.

In the States and Territories where women serve on juries—Alaska, Arkansas, California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin—women have done excellent work as jurors. It is said that public services, such as corporations, insurance companies, and railroads, prefer women jurors because their judgment is less biased by business and political expediency.

## LECTURE

(arranged by the Mid-London Branch of the Women's Freedom League)

on

## THE LIBERAL PARTY:

Its Policy, with a short reference to its History,

will be held at

## THE MINERVA CAFE,

14-1, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.1.

(Entrance in Silver Street over London Savings Bank)

On

TUESDAY, FEB. 5th, at 7.30 p.m.

Speaker: Miss ELISABETH EDWARDES

(Prospective Liberal Candidate for South East St. Pancras).

ADMISSION FREE by Ticket, to be obtained from The Hon. Sec., Mid-London Branch of the Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

COLLECTION.

## Membership Application Form.

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

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

Name

Address

I enclose £ : s. d. as my first

Annual Subscription.

Minimum Annual Subscription 1/-

## THE VOTE.

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### 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.

### PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY.

The Report of the Street Offences Committee was published last November, but it is unlikely that this Government, so prodigal in the appointment of Departmental Committees, will introduce legislation based on the recommendations of this Report during the life of our present Parliament. The laws dealing with street offences are from eighty to a hundred years old and urgently need revision, but all who care for justice and the preservation of the rights of the individual should see that any further legislation must be based on the recognition of an equal moral standard for both sexes, and that in practice it shall operate fairly as between men and women. It will be remembered that the Street Offences Committee was appointed in October, 1927, after a number of cases against both men and women had been tried in the Courts, in some of which convictions had been obtained, which were quashed by higher Courts, but in all of which the danger of relying upon the uncorroborated evidence of the police was made manifest. At the same time, it was brought home to the public that women, in their thousands every year, had been charged and convicted of these street offences on the uncorroborated evidence of the police. A few of them, when they were able to pay for legal defence, had managed to get their convictions quashed, just as some men had been able to do who were charged with similar offences, but these successes on the part of a few people only increased the uneasiness of the public, who believed that the buying of Justice in our Courts in regard to street offences was against all the best traditions of our Courts. The public easily realised that the great mass of women charged with these offences, and who were convicted so easily on police evidence only, had no money at their disposal to pay for defence. It was certainly women who were more numerous involved in these offences than men, and the Women's Freedom League was therefore keenly disappointed when the Committee appointed by the Home Secretary "to inquire into the law and practice regarding offences against the criminal law in connection with prostitution and solicitation for immoral purposes in streets and public places, and other offences against decency and good order, and to report what changes, if any, are in their opinion desirable," consisted of ten men and only five women. This Committee heard a mass of evidence and made several recommendations. Those recommendations and the whole Report of the Street Offences Committee should be specially studied by the new women electorate. The Committee's recommendations are not acceptable to the Women's Freedom League. A new offence—importuning a person of the opposite sex for immoral purposes in any street or public place—is suggested as a substitute for the old offences; but as the person "importuned" is under no obligation to come to the Court to substantiate the charge, we cannot see that in practice this method will be any better than present methods, so far as the interests of justice are concerned. This matter of justice to women, the poorest and most friendless of women, is a matter of vital importance to every woman elector. Prostitution is not an offence in law. The number of women prostitutes is small compared

with the number of men who consort with them. It is in the interests of everyone that our streets should be decent and orderly, and whenever indecency, offensive conduct, or disorder occurs, the public has a right to find redress in the Courts. The public, however, cannot place all the responsibility for keeping public order on the police, but must itself take a hand in the matter, and anyone who is annoyed by any offence on the part of men or women must be prepared, in the interests of decency and public order, as well as in the interests of justice, to come into Court to substantiate the charge. This is the only right and fair way of dealing with street offences, the only way in which we can be sure that even-handed justice will be meted out to men and women.

### PLAIN JANE, THANK YOU!

Women for considerably more than a century have been asking for equality with men in the matter of voting rights, and they were completely satisfied with the arrangement which ordered that their names were to appear on the local registers in the same way that men's names appeared on them. Last November, Mr. Geoffrey Peto, M.P. for Frome, Somerset, was told by the Home Secretary that he was unable to accept the suggestion that in the new voters' lists the letter "M" should be put in the register to denote a married woman, and the letter "S" to denote a single woman. We then hoped the matter was settled. Not at all—so far as Somerset men County Councillors were concerned! Last week, on a motion duly proposed and seconded, the Somerset County Council decided to have the letter "M" inserted against the names of all married women and widows in the new register of electors of the county, "for the convenience of all who had to use the register, and as an act of kindly courtesy to the women who are now coming forward to take their part in public duty." We deplore this decision of a responsible body of public men. They may intend courtesy to women; but we believe that the majority of women will regard this action as offensive condescension on the part of Meddlesome Matties. Parliament has ruled one thing. Why should it be altered by the Somerset County Council? Moreover, is not this alteration contravening the law? In any case, the addition proposed by the Council will mean extra cost in printing, and as the expense of the preparation of the register is borne by the local authority and the Treasury, the Treasury has done the fair and right thing by the taxpayers of the country in refusing to sanction the extra cost which would not have been incurred had the form prescribed for the preparation of the roll been adhered to. Those Councils, therefore, who persist in this excess of "courtesy" will be surcharged for it; which is the only suitable course.

### ALMOST AS BAD AS A WOMAN!

"You are almost as bad as a woman—you won't answer questions," said Mr. Hay Halkett recently to a man at Marylebone Police Court. There is no accounting for taste, of course, but we wonder why a magistrate's own common sense cannot keep him from making such cheap remarks at the expense of women. He might remember that his salary is paid out of public funds to which women contribute their full share. When women are stipendiary magistrates we shall not expect them to talk nonsense about men.

### In Memoriam.

VICKERY.—At "Sea View," Victoria Road, Brighton, on January 12th, 1929, after ten days' illness, Alice Vickery, L.R.C.P.I., widow of the late Charles R. Drysdale, M.D., M.R.C.S., M.R.C.P., in her 85th year. Funeral on January 18th.

It is with the greatest regret that we have to make the above announcement. We give our deep sympathy to her son and daughter-in-law, relations and friends, and hope to give further particulars of our staunch and valued member in an early issue.

## THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE POLICE.

January 14th.—Mr. F. A. R. Semplins, on behalf of the National Vigilance Association, stated that he was formerly in the Indian Police, had been connected with the Association for three years, and appointed Secretary last year. They were on terms of complete mutual understanding and recognition with the police; each assisted the other. They were founded for the express purpose of seeing that certain laws were enforced, the agent for enforcing them being the police. Superior officers, magistrates, judges and juries, and the popular Press were sufficient safeguard against any general or consistent abuse of power by the police. The police power to arrest without a warrant under Criminal Law Amendment Acts had freed the ports of England from many procurers. They had seven ladies who met long-distance trains at the great London railway termini—from the Continent, Wales, and the North. He selected them himself, he had no difficulty in getting the right type; they were experienced in social work, well educated, and brought an introduction. The Association was affiliated to similar bodies in large towns, who had their own ladies.

Women Police.—Could be of great assistance, if they were more numerous, differently trained, and differently clothed in a more attractive uniform. In some cases they must wear uniform or a badge, in other cases they must be in plain clothes; of the two classes the uniformed were the more useful. They should be carefully chosen and properly trained. There was a great field for women police in "welfare" or preventive work. Prevention of crime was generally accepted to be an essential part of police work, and women police might be able to prevent a man or woman becoming a criminal without the arrest, which now was a necessary preliminary to affording them help. The full-time employment of women police depended on the recognition of preventive work as police work, because only in the largest cities could full-time, expensively-trained, well-paid women be kept fully occupied on investigation work; but, from a main body of women employed on preventive work, suitable ones could be trained for certain types of investigation when needed. But there must be suitability, not only of sex, but of training and ability. They did not agree that simply because there were men police in the Force, there should also be women.

They thought properly-trained and qualified police-women should take statements from women and children when practicable, and women police might perform numerous types of investigations. They would consider the question as to whether a policewoman should be at the stations. Girls who came from the Continent were educated; they came to learn the language, and took situations on the fringe of home life—governesses, companions, etc. Some came with no situations ready to go to; some might not know of the station work, but most of them did, and they looked out for the ladies' badge, or porters and taximen would take them to the Vigilance lady if in a difficulty. The ladies went up and spoke to the girls if it seemed necessary.

Constable J. M. Blanthwaite, Metropolitan Police, Chairman of the Joint Central Committee of the Police Federation of England and Wales, had had nearly fifteen years in the Force, and was attached to the Devonport Division, doing duty at the dockyard. He was accompanied by an inspector and a sergeant, and spoke on behalf of his Committee.

The Police Federation was officially recognised by the Police Act, 1919; its object was to bring forward and discuss all matters affecting the welfare and efficiency of the police, including those questions now under discussion. The membership embraced all ranks below that of inspector; it was the only clearing house for the lower ranks of all the Police Forces in England and Wales, and maintained touch between members of Metropolitan and Provincial Forces. Central Committees could make representations to the

Home Secretary on these general matters. It took the place of a trade union, but differed from it. It had no power in cases of discipline or promotion affecting individuals, and was entirely independent of, and unassociated with, any person outside the police. They would welcome the new uniform instruction book as far as it was practicable, but Metropolitan Police conditions were different from provincial, and Metropolitan Police had more detailed instructions as to when to draw the line. Police did exceed their strict powers at times, and were supported by Courts of Law. Police were criticised on both sides, and got blamed all round—one day complaints that a certain street was in a very bad state, the next that police interference made it impossible to live in it—but they took the rough with the smooth.

Judges' Rules.—The general practice of police in London was not to question a prisoner upon the offence with which he was charged. They found no abuse or evasion of this at all. There should be no special warning to witnesses whose personal character might be involved.

Advice to Plead Guilty.—It would be most objectionable for police to say anything to the prisoner as to what he should say in the Courts; it was not their business to advise him. As a possible short cut to convictions, they condemned it. It is of no interest to the police whether a man is convicted or not, though the public sometimes reflect on the police after a discharge. Promotion does not depend at all upon convictions obtained. Promotion is very fair; besides the necessary examinations, the man is judged by the excellence of his work, not by his percentage of convictions, which probably is not known to the people who promote him. The public, the Press, and the possible serious consequences to themselves keep the police up to the mark; comments on police by magistrates warn other men, the enquiry by chief officer that follows is very serious. Asked whether the officer in charge of the police station should be present when the prisoner for whom he is responsible makes a voluntary statement, witness said they should agree to that.

Pre-War Methods.—Under D.O.R.A. any police constable, etc., might ask any question of any person, and he was obliged to answer. Witness thought any effect of this power was now eradicated from the minds of the police, who were now more considerate and careful than ever. If the public had any grievance in their mind, the police would be very glad for it to be quite properly cleared up by the present Inquiry.

Women Police.—The Federation thinks that, up to the present, they have no experience of their necessity, and the experience they have had shows them not suited at all for uniformed patrol work. He was not experienced in detective work, but was not aware as what respect the police had failed in any way. He denied that there was any feeling in the Force as a whole that its infiltration by women was an infringement of the rights of men police. The primary duties of police—the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension of criminals and offenders, and the preservation of public order, in which force must remain the ultimate argument—were duties which women were neither physically nor temperamentally adapted to perform suitably or successfully. Police duty undoubtedly required men, and only men specially fitted for it. If there was any work which demanded personal characteristics quite the opposite of those which naturally distinguished women, it was police work. The less temperamental vagaries and instabilities, the less emotional disturbances and physical delicacies and weaknesses you get, the better and more efficient police work you secure. Effective police and patrol work from women, they considered, was little, if anything, short of the impossible, because of the obvious and unalterable natural facts. There might be scope for the useful employment of a few women in most large Forces for special work from time to

time, but Forces of policewomen were unjustifiable. When statements were taken from women and children, a policewoman or other woman (who would do equally well), a police-matron, etc., might be present if not objected to; the officer in charge of the case should take the statements. They knew of no failure or defection on the part of these men. If it were agreed that policewomen ought to do this, it would mean a Force of women working side by side with the men. In cities and towns it might be possible, but not in rural areas.

**Clubs.**—There should be legal right of entry by stated officers. The Force would much prefer this to gaining admittance in disguise.

**Police and Public.**—Police were of and for the people. The occasional failures they were keen to eradicate. The Joint Central Committee (6 inspectors, 6 sergeants, and 6 constables) had conferred and agreed on this statement; they thought discipline must grow from something within the body of the men themselves. Police soon knew an unsatisfactory comrade, and took unofficial means of making him uncomfortable. They suggested a notice in police stations, inviting complaints to the officer in charge, as a safeguard to prisoners.

January 15th.—**Mr. P. O'Neill**, Chief Constable of the Kendal Borough Police, 27 years in the Police Force, said he had 3 sergeants and 14 constables, population about 15,000. Kendal was a very ancient town, its Charter dated from Queen Elizabeth, its Force from the institution of the police. Some years ago, when towns of over 10,000 population gave up their own police, Kendal's population was over that figure. Conditions of small Forces were much altered the last 10 years; more co-ordination by inspectors, etc., and each man now realises he is part of the British Constabulary Service, not only a member of a small body with parochial views. Small Forces now are efficient and do co-operate. For national crimes he would like still more co-operation between Forces. He was not in favour of taking away local control of the Watch Committee. Men joined his Force because they preferred the work of a small Force; they had a good general education, and he gave them the technical training himself. He had no detectives; when wanted, he got them from a neighbouring Force, and they reported to their own Chief Constable.

**Statements.**—He cautioned and gave pen and paper to a prisoner who wished to make a voluntary statement; wrote it for him if requested. Trivial offences were dealt with by caution only, at his discretion.

**Women Police.**—None. Two police-matrons attended women.

**Complaints against Police.**—In his whole 27 years had never had one complaint against police as to conduct in making inquiries and investigating crime.

**Evidence Corroborating Police.**—An advantage to insist on this when it exists.

**Major F. L. Stanley Clarke**, 11 years Chief Constable of Gloucestershire, with experience as Deputy-Chief in Kent, Army Service, etc., said that Cheltenham was his headquarters. His Force had its full strength of 438, and he had a standing reserve of 100 men, chiefly ex-policemen, who could be called out for a few days to replace police called away.

**Statements.**—When a witness' personal character may be involved, this is carefully explained to him both by the police and by the Magistrates' Clerk.

**Recalcitrant Witness.**—When absolutely necessary has always been able to persuade the witness to speak; in extreme cases would favour the Scottish practice of interrogation before a magistrate.

**3rd Degree.**—Never heard of it in his Force. He had one complaint of unduly prolonged examination in reference to two C.I.D. men, who came down to investigate the Pace case. He gave control over to Scotland Yard and stood aside, feeling he must not interfere with the detectives' methods. Thought it would be good to lay down definite rules, and so avoid grounds of complaint against police—a time limit for

interrogation, three hours' stretch and then a rest and so on, and the total number of hours in one day. When C.I.D. men took over case, he agreed it would be helpful for the officer in charge of the station to be present with prisoner and the two detectives.

**Women Police.**—He had 8 uniformed, attested, started about ten years ago, partly on his own initiative and instructions of the Standing Joint Committee, to see how they did their work; first had only 2 in Gloucester and 2 in Cheltenham. Two years later, when 25 per cent. economy cuts were pressed, these two Watch Committees came and said their work was of considerable value, and they would retain them and pay them themselves. He is in favour of women police; has recently added the four others for the county. Thinks they have proved their value. Is satisfied with his present number. The work varies with the district, the personality of the woman, and the instinct of the Superintendent in charge in using them in the right way. He chose all himself; the first four came from the War police organisations. Last year he advertised; only had enough candidates to make a selection. They had an entrance examination, then two months' course the same as the men, and examination. They take statements from women and children, and get evidence for the Superintendent who takes charge, not yet quite able to take entire charge. Sometimes do detective work. There was no friction with his constables; they were gradually getting to understand each other, and he had no cause of complaint.

**Complaints against Police.**—None as to their duty.

**Mr. M. Beynon**, three years Chief Constable of the Tiverton Borough Police, previously in Glamorgan-shire County Constabulary and in the North, had a Force of 2 sergeants and 8 constables; population, 9,715. Recruits were obtained from and trained at headquarters of the County Force; promotion by examination, written and oral, by Chief Constable of City of Exeter. Detective work he would do himself or a sergeant, or, if serious, apply at once to Scotland Yard to take over entirely and he would give every assistance, but he would be present whatever the Yard did and at interrogations, and follow the case very closely. Forty years ago their only murder was never cleared up; he was satisfied that Scotland Yard would have solved it.

**Statements.**—Takes down prisoner's voluntary statement himself, in longhand, asks him to read and correct and sign, gives a few minutes or half an hour or more if wanted. He furnished copies of detailed forms to be filled in and given to suspects, prisoners, and witnesses, which might prevent complaints against police. Half an hour was his longest statement time.

**Women Police.**—None. A police-matron, wife of a constable, attended women, and present at woman witness' statement.

#### BAR EXAMINATIONS—WOMEN.

The following women were successful in the examination of students of the Inns of Court held in the Middle Temple Hall, on December 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th last. L stands for Lincoln's Inn; I for Inner Temple; M for Middle Temple; and G for Gray's Inn.

**Roman Law: Class II:** Dilnavaz Byramji, I; **Class 3:** Susan Margaret Ranken Hayes, M; Gladys Eileen Sarran, I.

**Constitutional Law and Legal History: Class II:** Josemee Marguerite Greenwood, G; **Class 3:** Agnes Bickerton Bickerton, M; Edith Vera Cohen, L; Doris May Salkeld Green, I.

**Criminal Law and Procedure: Class II:** Mary Josephine Butcher, G; Joan Meredyth Chichele Jullien, I; Evelyn Adelaide Sharp, I. **Class III:** Florence Ada Coxon, Doris May Salkeld Green, I; Grace Geraldine Prescott, G.

**Real Property and Conveyancing: Class III:** Vida Mary Sturge Crichton, L.

**Final Examination: Class II:** Margaret Wulfhilda Prothero, G; The Hon. Sylvia Fletcher-Moulton, M; Margaret Winifred Goode, L; **Class III:** Margery Lawrence, I.

## Women's Freedom League.

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### WHERE TO GO.

#### WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

DARE TO BE FREE. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, January 18th, at 3.30 p.m.

"At Home" at Pitt's Restaurant (close Main Entrance Kew Gardens), Kew Green, by kind permission of Mrs. Gillett-Gatty. Speakers: Mrs. Bigland on "Women at Work in the League of Nations," and Miss F. A. Underwood on "The Work of the Women's Freedom League."

Friday, January 25th, 7.30 p.m.

Congratulatory Dinner to Miss Chave Collisson, M.A., after her World-Tour, at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C. Tickets 3/6.

Saturday, January 26th, at 10 a.m.

National Executive Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Thursday, January 31st, at 4.30 p.m.

Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Mrs. Cannon. Subject: "Social Conditions in India." Tea, 4 p.m.

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

National Executive Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, April 13th, at 10 a.m.

Women's Freedom League Twenty-Second Annual Conference, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W.1.

#### PROVINCES.

Friday, January 18th, at 7.45 p.m.

Leeds. Social Meeting in the Women's Leeds and County Club, 14, Albion Place (next door to "The Scala") to form a Leeds Branch of the Women's Freedom League. Speakers: Mrs. Aldridge and Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P. Dr. Marion Mackenzie will preside.

Monday, January 21st, at 3 p.m.

Hastings Branch. Meeting at Open Door Club. Annual Conference Business.

Wednesday, January 23rd, at 3 p.m.

Bexhill Branch. Whist Drive at the Albany Hotel.

Friday, January 25th, at 3 p.m.

Ashford Branch. Meeting at Hempstead Street Hall. Subject: "The Principles of the Labour Party."

Tuesday, January 29th, at 7.30 p.m.

Hastings Branch. A Public Meeting at Queen's Hotel. Speeches on the principles of the Conservative, Liberal and Labour Parties. Chairman: W. H. Dyer, Esq., Speaker of the Hastings and St. Leonards Parliament.

#### OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, January 19th, at 3 p.m.

Saturday Speech Club, at the Minerva Club, 56 Hunter St., Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Debate: "That a Public Library in every town is a necessity to the community." Proposer: Lady Scott. Opposer: Miss Carthew.

Monday, January 21st, at 6 p.m.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Open Meeting at St. Patrick's Clubroom, Soho Square, W., on "Our International Responsibilities." Speaker: Mrs. Corbett Ashby. Chairman: Viscountess Dupplin. Admission free.

Wednesday, January 23rd, at 8.30 p.m.

British Commonwealth League. Lecture at 17, Buckingham Street, W.C.2. Speakers: Miss Bicknell (Practising Barrister). Subject: "The Position of Infants under English Law." Lecture and Refreshments—Club members 1/-, non-members 1/6.

Thursday, January 24th, 1.15 p.m.

Six Point Group. Equal Franchise Celebrations. "White" Press Luncheon at Criterion Restaurant. Tickets 6/- each.

Monday, January 28th, at 5.30 p.m.

Union of Women Voters, at 55, Chancery Lane (Room 25), London, W.C.2. Miss Marion Scott, A.R.C.M. (founder of Society of Women Musicians). "Is there equality of opportunity for Women Musicians?"

Friday, February 8th, at 7.30 p.m.

National Council of Women. Meeting in the Music Room, Werneth Park, Oldham, by kind permission of Dame Sarah Lees. Speaker: Miss M. I. Neal. Subject: "Equal Opportunities for Women and Men."

Wednesday, February 20th, at 8 p.m.

Character Builders Association, 45, Lancaster Gate, W.2. Speaker: Miss Marian Reeves. Subject: "Protective Legislation as it Affects Women."

### A "WHITE" PRESS LUNCHEON.

Yet another Equal Franchise Celebration—a "White" Press Luncheon—which is being arranged by the Six Point Group, and will take place at the Criterion Restaurant on Thursday, January 24th, at 1.15 p.m. This novel and interesting function will be presided over by the Viscountess Rhondda, and the principal speakers will be Miss Edith Shackleton, Mrs. H. M. Swanwick, Mr. H. D. Henderson, and Professor H. J. Laski. The guests of honour will include several well-known journalists and writers, and the editors of various general and women's papers. Tickets for this Luncheon are 6s. each.

### MINERVA CLUB CHILDREN'S PARTY.

About forty children whose ages ranged from 3 to 13 years, and belonging to members of The Women's Freedom League, were entertained by members of The Minerva Club at a party on Saturday afternoon, January 5th. The Club was specially decorated for the purpose, and the dining room at tea-time was a blaze of light and beauty. The children revelled in all kinds of games—ancient and modern; and in the early evening, on the arrival of Father Christmas (Mr. Art O'Brien), to the accompaniment of Sleigh Bells and other musical melodies, they assembled in a darkened room which presently revealed a huge Christmas Tree, gaily illuminated and laden with all kinds of intriguing presents. The distribution of these presents was an outstanding success, and Father Christmas was overwhelmed with thanks and congratulations by all present.

### OPEN DOOR COUNCIL LUNCHEON.

The Open Door Council held one of a series of informal lunches on Thursday of last week, at Pinoli's, in Wardour Street, and in spite of the really vile weather there was an encouraging rally of members and their friends. Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence presided and welcomed the assembled party; and Mrs. Abbott gave a gratifying account of the activities and the status of the Council, whose aim it is to beat down barriers and exclusions for women in industry and to secure for women equal status and pay with men.

It will perhaps be remembered that, on one occasion when the Labour Party were pressing forward the claims of women, Commander Bellairs accused them of robbing everybody's hen-roost but their own. There are signs that these jealously guarded preserves will not be able to maintain their ring-fence and privileges much longer.

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" Low" (Mr. David Low),	" The Woman's Leader.
Mrs. Peacocke,	" The Woman Teacher.
Mrs. Scott James,	" Daily Herald.
Miss Rebecca West,	Assist. Editor—Observer.
Mr. Herbert Sidbotham—	Parliamentary Correspondent, Daily Chronicle.

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## NOTICES.

**F**ELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, January 20th. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Mr. W. P. Pycraft. 6.30. Prof. J. Vernas Bartlett, M.A., D.D. "The Secret of a New Life."

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

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