

THE VOTE.
OCT. 1, 1926.

WOMEN PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES.

THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXVII. No. 884.

(Registered at
the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1926

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

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WHY RAILWAY CARRIAGES ARE WANTED FOR WOMEN
GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR.

SILVER WEDDING

CONGRATULATORY DINNER

TO

Mr. & Mrs. PETHICK-LAWRENCE

ON

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8TH,

7.30 for 7.45,

AT THE

HOLBORN RESTAURANT

(CROWN HALL, entrance in Newman Street).

Many Women's Societies will be represented, and many old comrades in the Suffrage Movement will be present. We shall have the pleasure of short addresses from Mr. & Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., J.P., LL.D., Mrs. M. W. Nevinson, J.P., L.L.A., Miss Evelyn Sharp, Miss M. Fedden, Captain Wedgwood Benn, M.P., and others.

This is a unique opportunity for all our Members to meet and greet again old fellow-workers, to review the past and take fresh courage for the future, and to bring their congratulations to our President and Mr. Pethick-Lawrence in recognition of their long years of hard work and self-sacrifice for Women.

COME — AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS.

TICKETS 8/6

should be secured at once from Ticket Secretary,
144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Spanish Women's Social Circles.

On 15th October, Feast of the great St. Teresa, patroness of the "Women's Popular Action," Spanish women will found a social science school at Madrid on the lines suggested by Madam Teresa Luzzatti. Schools for women desirous of following professions are to be established in every locality; all feminine organisations are to be directed according to the statutes approved by the Cardinal Primate; everything concerned with the education of girls is to be referred to the headquarters of the National League of Catholic Young Women. Lectures and courses of instruction are to be inaugurated for country women in domestic economy, hygiene, care of infants, gardening, and bee-keeping. The women of each diocese in Spain are charged with the formation of social circles affiliated to the "Accion Católica de la Mujer" in Spain.

A Pioneer Domestic Economist.

Mrs. Charles Clarke, M.B.E., who has recently died in her 82nd year, was principal of the National Training School of Cookery from 1875 until July, 1919, and a pioneer teacher of the subject in elementary schools. It was many years before the London School Board took over from Mrs. Clarke this section of its instruction. The daughter of Captain Nicolls, R.N., and grand-daughter of General Sir Edward Nicolls, K.C.B., and Thomas Love Peacock, she had a strong and original personality, and collaborated with Sir Henry Cole in developing the idea of teaching cookery by demonstration and practice. Her advice and assistance were repeatedly placed at the service of the Admiralty and the War Office, and the great improvement in the food of both Army and Navy was largely due to her efforts.

Women Liberals' Activities.

The Women's National Liberal Federation are planning extensive campaigns for the autumn for meetings and funds. One of their ideas is the "autumn area appeal," and they hope to get £1,000 by December. For this special effort the country has been divided into geographical areas, and a map is to be published in the *Liberal Woman's News* every month showing the amount the different areas have contributed.

Woman Sheriff Captures Daring Criminal.

Mrs. Lillie Barber, appointed by the Governor of Arkansas to fill the unexpired term of her husband, slain by a bootlegger, captured, single-handed, Keenie Wagner, who is charged with six killings and three shootings in the last fourteen months. She won a 5,000 dols. reward.

Woman Company Director.

Mrs. Alfred E. Orr is a director of 15 companies, most of them dealing with geography and mining. Her interest in the latter is eminently practical, and led to her living in the wilds of Brazil for many months at a time. She also writes plays, one of which, "Break the Walls Down," was acted some time ago at the Savoy, whilst another, "The Way of the Wild," had a long run in America.

Englishwoman Bell-ringer.

Miss Nora Johnston, sister of the partner in the firm of Messrs. Gillett & Johnston, church bellfounders, is the second woman, but the first Englishwoman, to ring the famous carillon at Malines, the oldest peal of bells in the world. To achieve this feat, which lasts 20 minutes, Miss Johnston went into hard training for six months.

Labour Women as Municipal Candidates.

At a recent women's conference in Glasgow, called by the Scottish Divisional Council of the I.L.P., a resolution was passed urging the importance of securing a larger representation of women on all public bodies. The purpose of the conference was to encourage the nomination of Labour women as municipal candidates at the November elections.

Women M.P.'s Comforts.

Some of the women M.P.s are anxious to introduce little comforts into their one room in the House. They need cushions, footstools, smoking accessories, flower vases; but one of them says it is very difficult to remove the red tape which surrounds innovations of the kind. The Duchess of Atholl, by her right as a Minister, has her own room and privileges, and she certainly has made this apartment very desirable for herself and her friends.

Votes for Woman Pioneer.

Mrs. Woodhull Martin, of Norton Park, Bredons Norton, Worcestershire, the first woman to achieve the distinction of being nominated for the Presidency of the United States of America, was eighty-eight years old this week. Mrs. Martin and her sister, "Tennessee Clafin," were pioneers in the woman's suffrage movement. Mrs. Martin was nominated for the American Presidency fifty-four years ago, but was defeated. She afterwards married a wealthy English banker and settled in Worcestershire.

Woman Rancher.

Mrs. Anita Baldwin, until recently, was the owner of one of the biggest ranches in California, Santa Anita, which at one time she managed herself. Santa Anita is near Pasadena, the "West End" of Los Angeles, and contained 40,000 to 50,000 acres. A little while ago Mrs. Baldwin gave to the American Government 60 or 70 of the best thoroughbred horses from her stud.

Woman International Jumper.

Miss Muriel Amy Gunn, aged 19, the Mitcham international jumper, succeeded recently in beating the world's record for women. At a meeting of the London Olympiads in Battersea Park, Miss Gunn, at her fourth attempt, cleared 18 ft. 3½ in., beating by nearly 3 in. the record set up at the recent women's Olympic games at Gothenburg, when Miss Hitomi, a Japanese, cleared 18 ft. ½ in. At that meeting Miss Gunn cleared a fraction over 17 ft. 10 in.

Women Chemists.

The proposal to admit women to the Pharmaceutical Society was first made in 1873, and was defeated by a large majority, after a heated controversy. In 1879, however, two women were admitted as members, with only one dissenting vote. Since then, their numbers have steadily increased, until now there are probably as many women as men training for the Society's examinations.

Married Women's Dress Allowance.

The Women's Freedom League of St. Louis (U.S.A.) is sponsoring a Bill in Congress for the making of dress allowances compulsory by law.

A Woman Freeman.

Arbroath Town Council has approved the recommendation of its Committee that the freedom of the Burgh be conferred on Mrs. Lindsay Carnegie, of Anniston, in recognition of many services rendered by her to the community.

Woman Charabanc Driver.

Miss Batten, of Bournemouth, is the first woman to obtain a licence to drive a charabanc.

THE WOMAN ENGINEER.

Published quarterly—Price 6d.

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WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

At the 18th Annual General Meeting of the Bulawayo Branch of the Loyal Women's Guild, the Hon. Secretary of the Guild, Mrs. Fisher, gave an interesting report of the branch's activities since it was first started in 1908, until the present day, when its membership numbers 191. Originally founded for benevolent and relief purposes, the Guild early adopted the novel procedure of allowing its beneficiaries to choose their foodstuffs for themselves—subject, of course, to necessary limitations—in order that variety and suitability to each family's needs could more easily be obtained. The work of voting relief in kind—groceries, milk, vegetables, etc.—is the routine of every Benevolent Committee meeting. In addition, the paying of house rents, railway fares, maternity and general medical fees, money grants (in special cases), and the supplying of clothing, medical comforts, etc., entail a considerable expenditure of time and energy. From one observation in the report, viz., that the benevolent work increases in volume every year, we learn that South Africa has the same problem of unemployment and "short" time to contend with as we in this country. Unemployment amongst women also abounds, and so many deserted wives, widows, women with invalid or worthless husbands, and growing girls, apply regularly to the Guild for help, that some years ago the Guild advised the establishment of a Government Department of Social Welfare, to which all questions affecting the interests of women and children might be referred, and in connection with which a Women's and Children's Employment Bureau might be opened.

Bad housing is another problem with which the Loyal Women's Guild has to contend.

In 1922 the Guild established Fern Lodge as an Old People's Home for both sexes. The old men of the district having later been absorbed into the Salvation Army Old Men's Home, however, Fern Lodge is now kept solely for aged women. It is hoped before long to erect a more modern building upon this site, with accommodation for a district nurse. The new Rhodes Hostel, a joint undertaking of the Rhodesian Committee of the S.O.S.B.W. and the Guild, is another successful undertaking which houses young business and professional women at reasonable charges, and to which a new handsome wing is shortly to be added. The Guild also runs a Registry Office, under the able direction of Mrs. McKeurtan, who appears to have an inexhaustible store of patience and sympathy with the human flotsam which daily drifts to her doors.

A more recent venture is the establishment of a training home for white girls. This is to be a home where

children of both sexes may be received—the boys until the age of eight, and the girls until they have received such a measure of training as will fit them to enter domestic service or other employment. It is also hoped to revive an effort made some years ago by the Guild for the establishment of a youths' hostel for the accommodation of school-leaving white boys, whose circumstances are such that, without assistance, they cannot exist while learning a trade, and would, consequently, be forced into blind alley occupations.

The Guild of Loyal Women of South Africa came into being in 1900. From Cape Colony the Guild spread through South Africa, and, belatedly, to Rhodesia, where, in 1907, Lady Milton started branches in Salisbury, Victoria, Melselter, Umtali, and Que Que. In 1908, the Bulawayo Branch was formed.

At recent public meetings of the Rhodesian Women's League held at Bulawayo, Gwelo, Selukwe, Que Que, and Gwanda, the following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

"That this meeting urges upon the Government, when considering its native policy during the coming sessions in October, to introduce legislation that will cope with and minimise the black peril at present menacing the white women of this colony:—

"(1) An amendment of Pass Laws whereby all adult natives seeking service, both alien and indigenous, should have fingerprints taken, and whereby those whose records as shown by the Native Department and the police are free from venereal disease and from serious offences towards white women and girls, should have a credential given them in the shape of a certain letter or word stamped on their pass by some responsible official.

"(2) That the Government evolve some scheme whereby native girls may be suitably trained and cared for and made available for domestic service, with a view to ultimately replacing the adult native male domestic servant.

"(3) That the Government adopt some form or other of a Married Woman's Property Act as soon as possible.

"That this meeting is of the opinion that, in the interests of justice and for the general benefit of the country, all children, one or both of whose parents are white, should be legitimised, and that the Government should be respectfully requested to bring forward the necessary legislation."

It was further moved that a copy of this resolution be sent to all Members of Parliament for Southern Rhodesia.

PEACEMAKERS' PILGRIMAGE CONFERENCE.

The workers who co-operated during the Pilgrimage will meet again at a Conference which will be held on the afternoon of Wednesday, October 13th, at 2.30, at the Caxton Hall, London. This Conference will consist of delegates from Pilgrimage Committees all over the country, as well as from the National Societies which form the joint Pilgrimage Council.

At this gathering the later stages of the Pilgrimage will be discussed and the future of the movement determined, for it is clear that we have seen an important piece of work well begun. The picturesque demonstration in Hyde Park, on June 19th, and the subsequent deputation to the Foreign Secretary, marked the close of the first phase of a movement that must continue, whether by keeping the Pilgrimage Committee and Council in being, or by the co-operating organisations carrying on Peace efforts in the normal course of their work.

During October there will be special opportunity for making our influence felt. It will be remembered that Sir Austen Chamberlain told the deputation that waited on him on July 6th, that the subject of Arbitration would probably be considered at the forthcoming Imperial Conference, which at the present time is fixed for October 19th. In now appears that this Conference

may have to be postponed owing to the recent Canadian elections, which makes it difficult for the Canadian Premier or any of his fellow-Ministers to travel, but, whenever the Conference is held, peace workers will follow its deliberations with great interest. In this connection the Executive Committee of the Women's International League passed the following resolution:—

"This Executive Committee of the Women's International League considers that the highest interest of the British Empire requires the maintenance of permanent peace.

"It therefore urges that the forthcoming Imperial Conference shall accept the principle of arbitral settlement of all International disputes which are incapable of solution by direct negotiations between the parties.

"And further, this Committee urges the members of the British Empire to accept the jurisdiction of the Permanent Court of International Justice in all justiciable disputes by signing the Optional Clause (Clause 36) of the statute which established the Court."

At the Pilgrimage Conference this resolution will be open to discussion and amendment, and can then be presented to the representatives of the members of the British Empire as the considered opinion of a large body of women's organisations in Great Britain.

THE VOTE.

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1st, 1926.

WOMEN PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES.

It is good news that Mrs. Corbett-Ashby has been adopted prospective Liberal candidate for Hendon. In the General Election of 1918, which took place only three weeks after the Bill making women eligible as Members of Parliament received the Royal Assent, Mrs. How Martyn put up a gallant fight for this division as an Independent candidate, and although her candidature was unsuccessful—women had no chance of success in this country in the unprecedented and peculiar conditions of that election—we have always believed that a good woman candidate could win this constituency at a subsequent election. Mrs. Corbett-Ashby is not merely good, she is a most excellent candidate, and the great popularity she has so deservedly won amongst all who have come in contact with her during her brief Presidency of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, will ensure for her the active support of all suffragists who are within reasonable reach of Hendon. Her election to Parliament would be a triumph for the cause of sane feminism and a delight to all of us who have worked for the cause of women's enfranchisement.

Two other women have been recently adopted—Dr. Marion Phillips as prospective Labour candidate for Sunderland, and Dr. Stella Churchill as prospective Labour candidate for Brentford. To them also we send our heartiest good wishes for their return to Parliament. It is certainly not too soon to begin the contest, and we hope that women throughout the country will see that we have a greatly increased number of women candidates at the next election. Women who belong to Party organisations can use their influence with Adoption Committees to put forward the names of women, preferably those who have a good record of local public service to their credit. A local candidate, or one who is known and liked locally, has always a better chance of success than a complete outsider, and can rely upon receiving more willing service during election campaigns; and even when there is the possibility of securing a local man candidate, when it is acknowledged that a good woman might stand a better chance of winning the votes of electors, surely it should be urged that the woman should be given the preference. It must now be acknowledged that whenever a Party has the opportunity of retaining or winning a seat at an election, a good woman has at any rate an equal chance with a good man of being returned. The triumphs of both Miss Bondfield and Miss Wilkinson fully confirm this. It is lamentable that, out of a total of 615 Members of the House of Commons, there are only six women. This can be altered, and ought to be altered, at the next General Election; but it is well to realise that the number of women in Parliament can only be increased if women themselves make up their minds to get women returned. The great drawback to the candidature of women is their lack of money, and Party organisations are not prepared, as a general rule, to finance their Parliamentary candidates. The Women's Freedom League has a Women-in-Parliament Fund, and readers of THE VOTE who value the splendid work already done by women Members in Parliament, and who realise how much more could be done to secure full equality of status, opportunities, rewards, and responsibilities for women with men if we had more women in Parliament, should at once send contributions to this fund, so that we can use it to the best advantage at the next General Election. We are prepared to support suitable women candidates—to whichever party they belong, or if they belong to no party—and our definition of a "suitable" woman candidate is one who is prepared to work inside and outside Parliament for the equality of the sexes as well as for her Party's programme.

INSPECTION OF WOMEN EMIGRANTS.

The question of the simplification of the inspection of emigrants on board ship was included, by decision of the governing body of the International Labour Office, in the agenda for the Eighth Session of the International Labour Conference, held at Geneva last May, and because the question of the inspection of emigrants is one of immense interest to British women, we urged upon the Government the advisability of appointing a woman as a fully accredited delegate to this Conference. It will be remembered that our Government did not appoint a woman delegate; but we learn from the July number of the *Monthly Record on Migration*, published by the International Labour Office, that the following "Recommendation" was adopted by 89 votes to 19:—

"Where 15 or more women or girls, unaccompanied by a responsible person, are carried as emigrants on board an emigrant vessel, a properly qualified woman, who has no other duty to fulfil on board, shall be appointed to give such emigrants any material or moral assistance of which they may stand in need without in any way encroaching upon the authority of the Master of the vessel. She shall report to the authority making the appointment, and her report shall be available for the use of the Government which may be concerned."

The appointment of such a woman is of great interest to all who work for the welfare of women immigrants, and we hope that it will be discussed at the Conference arranged by the British Commonwealth League when Migration and the Imperial Conference are being dealt with. We repeat that the matter of the inspection of women emigrants on board ship is of special concern to British women, and we think that British women should have something definite to say on this subject. The "Recommendation" referred to above deals with a very small part of this question, and we should very much like to know the views on the whole question of women belonging to various parts of the British Empire.

WOMEN AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Preparations are now well in hand for the Municipal Elections which are to take place in 335 municipalities of Great Britain outside London, on November 1st, and we urge our readers to give every possible support to the women candidates who are seeking election to these local councils. There is an enormous amount of work to be done by these councils in which women have a very special interest—work in connection with housing, health services, education, etc., etc., while the finance of all boroughs is of as much importance to women as to men. We are pleased to learn that several of our members are standing as candidates, among them Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., of Middlesbrough; Mrs. Poole, of Portsmouth; Mrs. H. Samuel, of Swansea; and Miss Bellhouse, of Rye. We are sure that our local branches will give these women candidates, and others standing for other councils, their heartiest support. These elections throughout the country should prove an excellent opportunity for pressing forward the need for women police, and the support of the appointment of women police should be made a test question for all candidates of both sexes, more especially in seaside and holiday resorts and where there are large parks and open spaces. It will be remembered that, in reply to a deputation on women police on March 23rd last, the Home Secretary said that, "Women, by their votes, could make any local authority in the country consider policewomen." We sincerely hope that women will avail themselves of this chance to secure public attention for the matter of the appointment of policewomen. We trust also that women candidates and women voters will insist that no women employed by these councils shall be dismissed solely on account of marriage, and that the principle of equal pay for equal work by their men and women employees shall be adopted.

WOMEN TEACHERS IN CONFERENCE.

The speakers at the Educational Conference of the National Union of Women Teachers, at Central Hall, Westminster, last Saturday, were all exponents of progressive education.

Dr. J. A. Hadfield, Lecturer in Psychology at King's College, London, in his lecture on "Mental Health and Education," stated that the function of education should really be the mental health of the child. Mental health meant the full development of all impulsive tendencies directed towards a common end. Opportunities for full development were more necessary than actual teaching. The older educationists regarded the child's mind as a piece of wax upon which impressions were made, whereas education to-day meant rather giving scope for the development of the latent energies in the child's mind and directing them.

Mrs. Beatrice Ensor, Chairman of the International Council of the New Education Fellowship, explained that during her visit to America she had mainly visited pioneer schools. Many of these had a psychologist upon the staff to examine the children, and to deal with any abnormality.

American educationists were becoming more and more convinced of the impossibility of teaching children satisfactorily in classes, and of the necessity for at least some individual teaching. The Dalton plan, she believed, was used more extensively in England than in America. Another scheme more popular in America was the Platoon scheme, by means of which large numbers of children could be taught in a limited space. By this method the children in each grade were divided into two sections, one of which remained in the class-

room for individual work, while the other joined pupils from other grades for a collective lesson.

Other methods were the Project method and the Winnetka Technique. The latter provides a middle course between class and individual teaching. In conclusion, Mrs. Ensor expressed the opinion that the kind of education she desired for her own child should be available for every child in the country.

Dr. Yorke Trotter, Principal of the Incorporated London Academy of Music, contended that music was one of the most forceful instruments in training the human mind, and urged that the chief aim of the teacher of music should be to enable the pupil to develop his own power for music so that it became a real living thing and a means of self-expression.

Folk dances and folk songs were an essential part of musical training.

During the last session of the Conference a demonstration of educational films was arranged and given by the British Instructional Films, Ltd. The films were shown by means of a projector suitable for use in a classroom. The demonstrator, Miss Mary Field, said that an increasing number of inquiries were being made regarding the use of these projectors, and experiments had shown that the films were of great educational value.

In addition to the lectures, a special performance of "The White-Headed Boy" was arranged by the Lena Ashwell Players at the Century Theatre, and on Sunday morning a service, conducted by Miss M. M. Allan, Principal of Homerton College, Cambridge, was held at the Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. L. P.

NOTES FROM THE FOREIGN PRESS.

BY MARIAN BERRY.

Four women have been elected to the Lithuanian Parliament, three of whom belong to the Christian Socialist Party, and one Social Democrat, Mme. Puzenas.

In Finland, women now have the right to be appointed to all public positions, although certain offices are confined to men and to women exclusively. The latter are contained in the Act of April last, and the posts relating to women are: Inspectors of domestic economy, inspectors and teachers of hygiene and gymnastics in girls' schools, head teachers of girls' schools, and inspectors of the staffs of women's prisons.

* * * * *

The German Federation of Women's Organisations is arranging a two-day Conference in Berlin, on October 9th and 10th, to discuss the Housing Problem. The subjects for discussion include: The housing of the professional and working women and the question of homes for such workers in their old age; provision of houses for the section of the population which is without capital; house-planning, from the point of view of the woman and the family. The provision of houses to meet the increasing demands is a matter of importance to all women concerned with social work, and the promoters of the Conference trust that the meetings will help to ventilate the question and will do something towards the solution of the problem which is so acutely felt in all parts of Germany.

* * * * *

It is a recognised fact that work in a coal-mine is a most strenuous occupation, but there are countries—Japan, for example—in which women are still engaged in the occupation. One can only conclude that the work must have detrimental effect on the women's health and that of their children.

Mme. Kate, on behalf of the Sub-Committee on Women's Work, recently presented a report on the problem to the Commission of the Body for the Organisation of International Labour, and a resolution was adopted agreeing that action should be taken to secure a change in the law, so as to prohibit the work of women in mines. With a view to avoiding unnecessary hardships, it is proposed that women who are now working in the Japanese mines should continue to do so for a further period of two or three years. In order to secure this alteration in the law, the Association agreed to take the following action:—

- Certain sections of the report of the women commissioners to be printed and circulated.
- To secure the support and co-operation of the workers' and women's organisations.
- To make representations to the Government and to the Imperial Diet.
- To study the conditions of labour in certain mining areas; and, if necessary,
- To bring the question of the work of women in mines before the Conference of the International Labour Bureau.

* * * * *

In the Berne Canton an inquiry has been made into the conditions of labour among home-workers, and an interesting article on the subject recently appeared in the *Schweizer Frauenblatt*. Fräulein M. L. Wild carried out the inquiry in the Wangen area, where there are five clothing factories. Only twenty to thirty women work in the factory, and the greater part of the work is given out by middlemen to women living in the district; the garments are cut out in the factory, and the home-worker machines and finishes them. Typical cases are given by Fräulein Wild—one being the case of a widow with an aged mother and two boys to support. This woman had provided an electric motor for her machine, so as to avoid cramp and for the sake of speed. She made the blue cotton over-trousers which are worn by Swiss workmen, and stated one dozen could be made in ten hours if she and her mother worked continuously; the boys helped to sew on buttons during the evening. For a dozen pairs the woman received 5 frs. 40 (4s. 5½d.); but from this she had to deduct the cost of the cotton, the electricity, the oil for the machine, and needles.

Another woman, who had worked for five years, was the sole support of her family, her husband being unemployed. This woman was an excellent worker, but could only earn 6 frs. 30 (5s. 2½d.) after ten hours' work. In a third home visited, the investigator found the house untidy and dirty, and the work was scattered about on the chairs and floors.

WHY RAILWAY CARRIAGES ARE WANTED FOR WOMEN.

This month we have heard of several cases of railway assault by men on women, girls, and children.

John Moore, a man who has been frequently convicted, was sent to prison for three months for assaulting a lady in the train between Coventry and Kenilworth.

James William Clayton was, on September 16th, fined £3, and £3 4s. 6d. expenses, for assaulting a 15-year-old Bolton confectioner's assistant when travelling from Wigan to Bolton on the evening of August 17th. She struggled and bit his thumb. The fireman of the train at Bolton advised her to complain to the railway police. Robert Ramsden, who was with Clayton, was also prosecuted by the railway company for interfering with the comfort of a passenger. He was proved to have annoyed the girl, but escaped upon a legal point.

George Gay, a Norfolk magistrate, and shareholder in the Southern Railway Company, was, on September 17th, fined £2 and 10 guineas costs, or a month's imprisonment, for interfering with the comfort of a passenger, on the afternoon of June 16th, while travelling on the Southern Railway. The carriage contained two mothers, who were travelling from Charing Cross to a convalescent home at Hythe, a baby and two little girls, and another man. The train was fast from London Bridge to Sevenoaks. George Gay entered the carriage complaining that he had been turned out of another compartment. He had been drinking. He annoyed the two women and the little girls; all were terrified at his vile language and behaviour. The other man present tried to keep him in order, and at Sevenoaks had him put out into another compartment.

LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

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

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

PLEASE SEND US AN ORDER.

The following, published by the National Council for the Abolition of the Death Penalty, are on sale at this Office:—
Do You Consent? by E. Roy Calvert, 1d.; *Eight Reasons why Capital Punishment should be Abolished*, 1d. each, or 2s. per 100; *America and Capital Punishment*, 1d.; *Ten Different Notes on the Punishment of Death*, 1d. each, or 2s. per 100.

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To be held this year on
TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 23RD AND 24TH,
 at
THE CAXTON HALL,
WESTMINSTER,
 from 3 to 9 p.m.

To be formally opened each day at 3 p.m.

ON TUESDAY BY
THE DUCHESS OF HAMILTON.

Chair: MISS ANNA MUNRO.

ON WEDNESDAY BY
THE LADY AMHERST OF HACKNEY.

Chair: DR. KNIGHT.

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 (arranged by Miss Mollie Dutchman).
 EACH DAY AT 6 P.M.

COMPETITIONS. GAMES.
 CHARACTER READING.
 PHRENOLOGY. NUMEROLOGY.

Teas and Refreshments at moderate prices served in the Lounge and Gallery.

Teas from 3.30 to 6 p.m.

Refreshments after 7 p.m.

Other Societies and Friends taking Stalls:—

The British Commonwealth League.
 The Nine Elms Settlement.
 St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.
 The Montessori Society.
 The Friends' Council for International Service.
 Miss Burwood (Beads).
 Miss Dobie (Batik Work).
 Miss Johnson (Knitted Goods).
 Miss Lindsay (Miniature Gardens).
 Mrs. Shawcross.
 Miss Ida Stamm (Veloutine).

Tickets—1/10 (including Tax) the first day until 5 p.m.; after 5 p.m. and on the second day 1/2 (including tax)—will shortly be on sale at 144, High Holborn, or from the Societies and Friends taking Stalls.

All Communications and Gifts (also applications for Stalls) should be sent to Miss E. Berry, Hon. Fair Sec., at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Women's Freedom League.

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

Telephone:—MUSEUM 1429.

Telegrams:—"DESPARD, MUSEUM 1429, LONDON."

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Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT.

Hon. Organising Secretary—Mrs. WHETTON.

General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

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

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

National Executive Committee Meeting.

Monday, October 11th, at 3.30 p.m.

"Fair" Sub-Committee at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Monday, October 18th, at 3 p.m.

Hampstead Branch. Meeting at 16, Denning Road.

Friday, October 22nd, 7.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights. Public Meeting, Caxton Hall.

Tuesday and Wednesday, November 23rd and 24th, 3 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.
 Green, White and Gold Fair, at Caxton Hall.

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, October 27th, at 8 p.m.

Bexhill Branch. Meeting at the Albany Hotel (by kind permission of Miss Skinner).

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, October 2nd.

Electrical Association for Women. Visit to All-Electric Farm of Mr. Borlase Mathews, Greater Felcourt, East Grinstead, Sussex. Party leaves London at 11 a.m.

October 3rd—28th.

Guildhouse, Belgrave Road, S.W. Seventh Centenary of St. Francis of Assisi.

Monday, October 4th, at 6 p.m.

Six Point Group, 92, Victoria Street, S.W.1. Speaker: Miss Agnes Dawson. Subject: "Equal Pay for Equal Work."

October 5th—8th.

League of the Church Militant Campaign at Southport.

October 6th—9th.

National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations. Annual Conference at Scarborough.

Saturday, October 9th, at 3 p.m.

Saturday Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C. Speaker: Miss Lucy M. Bell. Subject: "Some Notes on Debating."

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

Women's International League. Conference on Arbitration.

BRANCH NOTES.

DARLINGTON.

As a first step towards the formation of a branch of the Women's Freedom League in Darlington, a large public meeting was held in the Temperance Institute on Thursday, September 23rd, at 7.30 p.m. The Rev. T. C. Gobat, M.A., deservedly one of the most popular men in Darlington, presided, and Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P. (an ex-President of the W.F.L.), made a very impressive and effective speech as principal speaker, after which Mrs. J. A. Foster, a well-known Liberal, seconded the vote of thanks, drawing attention to the fact that the Women's Freedom League is a non-party organisation. The proceedings were most agreeably varied by instrumental music (violin and piano) played by Miss Dixon, Miss Thistlethwaite, and Miss Todd, of Polam Hall. Several young girls from the L.L.P. Guild of Youth acted as stewards. A collection was taken, Votes and literature were sold, and several members were enrolled. Towards the end of October, Mrs. Baynes, B.A., is very kindly giving a drawing-room meeting in Polam Hall, at which it is hoped definitely to form the local branch and appoint office-bearers. Our sincere thanks are due to all who helped to make the last meeting a success, to the Chairman, the speakers, the entertainers, the stewards, those who helped beforehand by distributing handbills and showing posters, and the members of the audience, without whom no meeting is of avail.

(Organiser) LILIAN LENTON.

ASHFORD.

The Monthly Meeting was held at the Hempsted Street Hall on Friday, when a very interesting address was given on the subject of the "National Savings Association." Mr. Miles presided. At the close of the meeting a discussion took place as to whether it would be advisable for the W.F.L. members to join the Association. The matter was left over to be considered at a further meeting. Arrangements are being made for an equal suffrage meeting to be held at the end of October.

S.E. BRANCHES STALL.

Will members please help the organiser to make this stall a success? This year we are running a pound and produce stall. Anything in the eatable line will be welcomed.

BEXHILL.

A Branch Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 27th, at the Albany Hotel (by kind permission of Miss Skinner), at 8 p.m. (Organiser) Miss M. L. WHITE, 8, Holmesdale Gdns., Hastings.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

New Occupation for Women Prisoners.

According to *The Christian World*, a new experiment has been tried with success in Walton Gaol, the great Liverpool prison. Early last year it was suggested that the writing of Braille might be a suitable occupation for women serving long terms. A class was started. In three months many of them had attained considerable efficiency. Those who did best were the forgers and "false pretences" cases; others failed through lack of education, being unable to spell. The proficient began in their spare time to copy story-books for the use of blind children. Up to date, ten volumes have been copied. The work has been done in place of handicrafts by which they might have earned money for themselves. The girls who received the books have sent letters of thanks. Thus links of sympathy have been formed between the prisoners and the outside world, and a new and helpful interest has been added to their lives.

Another Step Forward for Indian Women.

A writer in *New India*, for September 8th, says that the removal of the sex disqualification for membership of the Assembly marks another step forward towards a goal which might have been reached seven years ago but for the timidity of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Government of India Bill. Qualified women in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies are eligible now for election to the Assembly, and as the local councils in the other provinces throw their doors open to women they will become automatically entitled to stand as candidates for the Assembly. As Mr. Haig has pointed out, the Government may even now nominate a woman in any part of India. We hope it will exercise this right, and thus give the Assembly the benefit of the feminine point of view in those matters in which women have a distinctive contribution to make. The presence of women in the chief legislative House in the country will bring before the eyes of the world a proof of India's inherent liberality of attitude towards a question which, in even the advanced West, has been a cause of violent and protracted controversy.

A Disgruntled Magistrate.

Mr. Hay Halkett, the Marylebone Magistrate, when a lieutenant-commander in the Navy asked for process to compel his wife to let him see their son, exclaimed: "The Guardianship of Infants Act is a one-sided Act in which everything is done for the woman and nothing for the man. The Act has been arranged between the Home Office and women's societies, and there is no remedy for the man at all. The man has the legal custody, but he cannot get the child." Clause 1. of the Guardianship of Infants Act, 1925, states: "Where in any proceeding before any Court the custody or upbringing of an infant is in question, the Court, in deciding that question, shall regard the welfare of the infant as the first and paramount consideration, and shall not take into consideration whether from any other point of view the claim of the father, or any right at common law possessed by the father, in respect of such custody or upbringing, is superior to that of the mother, or the claim of the mother is superior to that of the father." That is the law; it is the magistrate's business to see that it is administered, not to grumble about it.

A Woman Lord Mayor of Liverpool?

The Liverpool Post and Mercury states that there is no news of the new Lord Mayor, and adds: "Perhaps the city would enjoy a new departure this year by the election of a woman to the Chair. It is not, perhaps, generally realised that the chamber includes seven able women representatives, not one of whom has yet reached either the aldermanic bench or the Lord Mayoral dais. They are Lady Muspratt, Miss Eleanor Rathbone, Miss Mabel Fletcher, Mrs. Frank Wilson, Mrs. Rosa Hoch, Miss Margaret Bevan, and Miss Alice M'Cormick." We ourselves would rejoice to see Miss Rathbone in the Mayoral Chair. She has done such splendid work on Liverpool's City Council.

Woman Preachers in Synagogue.

For the first time in Jewish history a woman, the Hon. Lily Montagu, preached in a synagogue on Saturday, September 18th. Jewish law forbids women to officiate at religious services, but the Liberal Synagogue, St. John's Wood Road, London, has abolished the ban.

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NOTICES.

SUBJECTS OF FOUR LECTURES by Miss Mary Chadwick. Thursday, October 14th, "How the Understanding of Adolescence may affect the later life of Men and Women." Thursday, October 21st, "The Fear of Death." Thursday, October 28th, "Difficulties in the Care of Children." Thursday, November 4th, "Some Modern Theories upon the Psycho-Genesis of Women's Neuroses." The above Lectures will be given in the Large Hall at the College of Nursing, Henrietta Street, Cavendish Sq., W.1, at 8 p.m. Course 10s. Single Lectures 3s. Apply at above address for Tickets, or pay at door.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED.—Consult Miss H. M. BAKER, 275, High Holborn, W.C.1. Income Tax Returns, Repayment Claims of all Descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 377.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, October 3rd. 3.30. Music. Lecture by Sir Richard Gregory, D.Sc. 6.30. Rev. James Adderley: "St. Francis."

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

PUBLIC SPEAKING.—Lectures, classes, private lessons. Speech Club beginning October 2nd. MISS LUCY BELL, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Tel: Museum 4791.

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