

THE VOTE.  
APRIL 23, 1926.

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO-MORROW.

# THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 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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## WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

For many years past, women in the Union of South Africa have carried on an uphill struggle for political enfranchisement, and so far their efforts have been unsuccessful. Since the Union, in 1910, the principle of Woman Suffrage has been affirmed three times, and Private Members' Bills have been introduced five times. The last Bill passed the Second Reading, and was referred to a Select Committee, but Parliament was dissolved before this Committee reported, adding one more disappointment to the many women have endured.

In 1911, Mrs. Chapman Catt, then President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, visited the chief centres of South Africa, and, in conjunction with the leading Suffrage women of the country, founded the Women's Enfranchisement Association of the Union of South Africa. This organisation consists of a number of Branches, or Leagues—the aim is to establish a Branch in every town—and delegates from these Leagues meet annually in Conference and choose a President and other officials, the Executive thus chosen forming the Women's Enfranchisement Association. The name has been somewhat unfortunate, as it has proved difficult to make clear to the public the difference between the Leagues and the Association.

The first President was Mrs. Macintosh, of Port Elizabeth. Her successor, who has held office since Mrs. Macintosh's death, is Lady Steel, O.B.E., of Maritzburg. The Honorary Organising Secretary is Miss Alice Jenner, who was for many years head of a High School in the Cape Province, and was the first woman to be chosen President of the South African Teachers' Association.

Miss Jenner, during a visit to England, was kind enough to give THE VOTE the following exclusive interview:—

"The work of the Women's Enfranchisement Association," she said, "is at present entirely carried on by unpaid officials, and the vast extent of the country makes the work of organisation very tiring and expensive.

Railway journeys which take days to complete are a great strain, and although a most hospitable welcome always meets the organiser, still the work is somewhat strenuous. In the early days of the Association much valuable work was done by the Secretary, Mrs. Ruxton, and when a Parliamentary Secretary was appointed for the work in Cape Town, during the Session, Miss Johnstone Scott accomplished much in making the question of Woman Suffrage a matter of practical politics.

"You ask what is the present position in South Africa," Miss Jenner continued. "In January last, the Labour Party definitely decided that a Bill should be introduced conferring the franchise on European women. In inserting the word 'European' they departed from the policy of the W.E.A.U., which has always been to obtain the vote on the same terms as



MISS JENNER.

it is given to men. When Mr. Mullineux, on behalf of the Labour Party, brought forward the Bill, an amendment was at once moved that the word 'European' should be deleted. This amendment was lost by a large majority. The original resolution should then have been moved, but by some oversight this was not done, and it seemed as if the question would be shelved for another year. However, the Labour Party

carried a resolution that a Select Committee should be appointed to inquire into and report on the best steps to take to remove sex disqualification from the franchise laws.

"It remains to be seen whether a way can be found to reconcile the conflicting parties: the members from the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, who will not vote for a measure which means the increase of the native and coloured vote; and the members of the Cape Province, who will not support a measure which excludes them.

"The matter is difficult, but women feel that, if the franchise of men was at stake, a way out of the difficulty would be found. In the meantime, women are taking their part in the public life of the community. There are 16 women on Town Councils, and many are working on Hospital Boards, School Boards, and other public bodies. The Legal and Medical Professions are open to women, and some Grades of the Civil Service, but in the important matter of Enfranchisement, South Africa lags behind the rest of the British Commonwealth of Nations."

#### WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

##### Heroines of the Coast.

Miss Stephenson, daughter of the coxswain of the Boulmer lifeboat, Northumberland, and Mrs. Stanton, wife of the second coxswain, were recipients, at Caxton Hall, Westminster, last week, from the Governors of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, of the Institution's "Vellum of Thanks," for the heroism and courage of 35 Boulmer women who helped to drag the lifeboat 1½ miles in the face of a blizzard, ready for launching, in December of last year.

##### Woman Botanist's Distinction.

The degree of Doctor of Science is to be conferred upon Mrs. Nesta Ferguson, of Stanford Rivers, Ongar, Essex, by the University of London, for her research work in botany. Mrs. Ferguson has carried out her research work in the laboratories of King's College, London, and formerly at Bangor, the Royal College of Science, Royal Holloway College, and at the textile laboratories of Manchester University.

##### A Poet's Mother.

An interesting project has been launched by Burns Clubs in East Lothian to provide a memorial to Agnes Brown, the mother of Robert Burns. Mrs. Burns survived her son by a good many years, and having removed from her native Ayrshire, died at Grant's Braes in East Lothian, and was buried in the neighbouring churchyard.

##### Titled Women Barristers.

Lady Ankaret Howard, a sister of the present Earl of Carlisle, who is studying for the law at the Inner Temple, is the second daughter of the 11th Earl of Carlisle, and was born in 1900. The only titled woman called to the Bar, so far, is the Baroness Clifton, of Leighton Bromswold, a peeress in her own right.

##### Woman High Chamberlain Appointed.

Peebles Town Council have appointed Miss Catherine Williamson to the position of burgh chamberlain and assessor, held by her father before his death.

##### Woman Assistant M.O.H. Appointed.

Dr. Susan Gilchrist, aged 29, of Liverpool, was appointed Assistant Medical Officer of Health at Hull recently, at a yearly salary of £600.

##### Woman Overseer Appointed.

Mrs. A. C. Belshaw, appointed an overseer for Wealdstone, is the first woman to hold the office in the district.

#### INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE WOMEN

At the recent Committee meeting of the International Co-operative Women's Guild, held at The Hague, the most important business was the consideration of arrangements for the International Conference of Co-operative Women, which will precede the Congress of the International Co-operative Alliance, in August, 1927. The following subjects for discussion were decided upon:—(1) Low Prices or High Dividends in the Co-operative Movement; which do women want? (2) The Family Wash: how Co-operative Societies and Municipalities can help. (3) Food Purity and Food Values. It was also agreed to try and organise a women's section of the Co-operative Press exhibition in connection with the Congress. The action to be taken by co-operative women in connection with the coming Disarmament Conference was considered, whilst another question of public interest discussed was that of migration as affecting women and children. Resolutions were passed expressing the Committee's profound disappointment over the conduct and outcome of recent events at Geneva in connection with the application of Germany for admission to the League of Nations, and urging the representatives of all nations to come to the Assembly in September prepared to remedy the previous failure, and so to renew the confidence of the peoples in the League of Nations. Congratulations were also tendered to the women of Turkey on the freedom they have won through the new civil code recently adopted by the Assembly, and to the Turkish Government on this important step to bring the position of women in Turkey into conformity with the standards of modern civilisation. A desire for the collaboration of the newly emancipated Turkish women in the great work of raising the status of women, and the economic conditions of the peoples throughout the world, was expressed.

#### MORE WOMEN BARRISTERS.

Sixteen women were successful at the Easter Bar Examinations held in March. In Roman Law, four women were successful:—Miss Winifred Margaret Goode (Lincoln's Inn), who obtained a Second Class, Lady Ankaret Cecilia Carolyn Howard and Miss Margery Lawrence (both of the Inner Temple).

In Constitutional Law and Legal History, five women were successful:—Miss Winifred Margaret Goode, who obtained a Second Class, and the Misses Marie Angela Carryer (Middle Temple), Vida Mary Sturge Crichton (Lincoln's Inn), Harriet Elizabeth Vaisey (Inner Temple), and May Louise Gordon (Gray's Inn).

In Criminal Law and Procedure, six women were successful:—Miss Mary Josephine Clark (Middle Temple) and Miss Winifred Packard Shyvers (Gray's Inn), who each obtained a Second Class, and the Misses Winifred Margaret Goode, Alice Josephine Mackie (Inner Temple), Katherine Mary Evelyn Fearnley Sander (Gray's Inn), and Kathleen Marjorie Strettell (Gray's Inn).

In Real Property and Conveyancing, four women were successful:—Miss Hilda Craig Harding (Lincoln's Inn) and Miss Olive Reid Morris (Gray's Inn), who each obtained a Second Class, and the Misses Ethel Denison James (Gray's Inn) and Mary Elizabeth Moclair (Lincoln's Inn).

#### REMEMBER!

The Meeting at the MEMORIAL HALL, Farringdon Street, E.C.1, at 6.30 p.m., on Tuesday, April 27th, in support of the

#### OFFICES REGULATION BILL.

The Meeting is held under the auspices of the—  
CITY OF LONDON BRANCH OF THE N.U.S.E.C.  
THE ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN CLERKS & SECRETARIES.  
THE GUILD OF INSURANCE OFFICIALS.  
CITY WORKERS INVITED.

## IN PARLIAMENT.

##### Peereesses Bill.

Lord Astor introduced the Peereesses Bill into the House of Lords on April 20th, and it passed the First Reading.

##### Franchise and Electoral Law.

MR. FENBY (Lib., Bradford, E.) asked the Prime Minister when the proposed conference to consider alterations in the franchise and electoral law will be called; and whether he will postpone his decision with regard to the substitution of one register a year for two, and reduction of the qualifying period until the subject can be discussed at that conference? CAPT. HACKING (Under-Secretary, Home Office): I have been asked to reply. I am afraid that on the first point no statement can be made at present, and that the answer to the second part is in the negative.

##### Woman Factory Inspector (Birmingham).

MR. HANNON (U., Moseley) asked the Home Secretary whether his attention has been directed to the appointment of a lady inspector to the post of Deputy Superintending Inspector of Factories for Birmingham and the district, and if, in future, when making appointments to the post of deputy superintending inspectors of factories, he will consider the advisability of appointing a male inspector, preferably with actual experience of the most important industry in the district to which the appointment relates? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS: The appointment referred to was made by me after very careful consideration. I could not agree to the suggestion that it is desirable that all the higher divisional posts should be filled by men. Under the present system of organisation, the women inspectors are placed on the same footing as the men, and it is both desirable and necessary that they should share in the higher appointments. If all that is suggested is that in making an appointment the fitness of the inspector should be considered in relation to the particular character of the division, that is already the practice, and was observed in regard to the particular appointment in question. There are, however, various other considerations which have to be taken into account, and which, from the point of view of the general efficiency of the service, may be of equal or greater importance. MR. HANNON: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that representations have been made by manufacturers that, owing to the peculiar nature of the trades carried on in these factories, it would be much more appropriate to have a man inspector rather than a woman inspector? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: No, sir, I have had no details as to the reasons why particular Birmingham factories require a man inspector rather than a woman, but if the hon. member will let me have the reasons I will consider them.

##### Palestine (Civil Service Salaries).

MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE (Lab., W. Leicester) asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies why the rule which previously existed in the Palestinian Civil Service, that the office or capacity of the official should determine the rate of payment, and that the men and women should be paid equally for the same work, has now been departed from, so that a different scale of salaries is being paid as between men and women in the junior service? MR. AMERY: The present arrangements were introduced in 1924, as part of a general revision of the salaries of the junior service in Palestine. They are in accordance with precedents in the Home and Colonial Services. MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE: In view of the fact that this is causing a good deal of feeling, will the right hon. Gentleman consider this method of payment? MR. AMERY: I think this a matter which can best be left to the authority on the spot.

##### Domestic Training.

MR. H. WILLIAMS (U., Reading) asked the Minister of Labour the number of women who have passed through the Government's domestic training course since March, 1925, what percentage of these women

have on the completion of their course been placed in situations, and what percentage are at present registered as unemployed? SIR AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I have been asked to reply for my right hon. Friend. Between 31st March, 1925, and 31st March, 1926, 5,947 women completed courses in home training centres conducted by the Central Committee of Women's Training and Employment. Complete information as to their subsequent employment is not available, but not less than 62 per cent. are known to have obtained situations. With regard to the last part of the question, information is not available. MR. WILLIAMS: Is the Department in a position to state what percentage of the unemployed women are engaged in skilled industrial occupation, and therefore are not suitable for domestic servants? MR. SPEAKER: That question had better be put on the Paper.

##### Unemployed Young People.

COL. DAY (Lab., Central Southwark) asked the Minister of Labour the number of persons under the age of 18 who were on the Employment Exchange registers in Great Britain at the last convenient date; will he give the figures for each sex separately; and will he give the figures separately appertaining to the Walworth Road Exchange? SIR ARTHUR STEEL-MAITLAND: There were on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain at 5th April, 26,700 boys and 29,500 girls under the age of 18. Corresponding numbers Borough Employment Exchange were 210 boys and 396 girls.

##### Prostitution.

MR. CECIL WILSON (Lab., Attercliffe) asked the Under-Secretary of State for India whether he will cause an inquiry to be made into the condition of brothels in the great cities of India; and if he is aware that in Calcutta many hundreds of young girls from 9 to 13 years of age are at present in brothels? EARL WINTERTON: The Bengal Legislative Council passed in 1923 a special measure to deal in general with the control of brothels, and, in particular, with the removal of minor girls from them. I should hope, therefore, that the statement made in the last part of the question is no longer accurate, though I have no definite information. My noble Friend thinks it would be inconsistent with the present Indian Constitution if he were to direct an all-India inquiry into the question of prostitution, the control of which is primarily the responsibility of the provinces; moreover, he has no reason to think that the Local Governments and their Legislatures are not fully alive to the necessity of vigilance. SIR HENRY CRAIK (U., Scottish Universities): On a point of Order. Is not this question primarily one which ought to be dealt with primarily by the Government of India, and, therefore, one which ought not to be put down in the first instance for answer in the House? MR. SPEAKER: I have said more than once that it is difficult for me always to understand the distinctions between reserved and non-reserved subjects, and there are some questions which I have to leave for the Minister to deal with. I think that his answer shows that this is a local question. SIR H. CRAIK: Does the fact of a subject being reserved, or not, make any difference, seeing that reserved and unreserved questions are equally under the supervision of the Government of India? Under the peculiar administration of the Government of India, the fact of a subject being reserved or non-reserved does not permit of interference by this House with the details of the Government of India. MR. SPEAKER: I must remind the right hon. Baronet that, by the Government of India Act, the salary of the Secretary of State was put on the Estimates, in order that this House might have, in proper cases, an opportunity of discussing the affairs of India, so that I cannot accept a wholesale suggestion of that kind. F. A. U.

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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.

### OUR POLITICAL WORK.

Throughout the past year we have worked strenuously for equal franchise, our demand being that the Government should bring in a simple equal franchise measure conferring the vote on women at the age of 21 on a six months' residential qualification, and pass it into law without delay. Whenever opportunity occurred, we have urged that peeresses in their own right should have a voice, a seat, and a vote in the House of Lords. Time after time we have pointed out to the Minister of Labour and the heads of political parties that training and schemes of work should be provided for unemployed women as well as for unemployed men. Whenever a Departmental Committee has been set up we have pressed upon the Government that suitable women should share equally with men in its membership. We worked hard to secure support for Miss Wilkinson's Women Police Bill, and continue to urge the Home Secretary to make it compulsory upon watch committees to provide an adequate number of fit women as well as an adequate number of fit men as Borough constables. Twice during the year we have protested to the Prime Minister against the practice of omitting the names of women for adequate Honours in the Honours List. We have pointed out to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the injustice to married women of the present system of assessing the incomes of husband and wife jointly for the purpose of Income Tax; and on more than one occasion we have protested to the Minister of Health that the higher posts in the administration of the Widows' Pensions Act are almost entirely in the hands of men, and have urged that, when the permanent appointments are made, an adequate number of the higher posts shall be allotted to women. We have co-operated with other women's organisations in demanding equal pay for men and women in the Civil Service and in the teaching profession. We have taken up with the Home Office cases of imprisonment of women when we considered that the penalty should be lessened. With regard to the Factories and Lead Paints Bills, we have urged upon the framers of those Bills our view that no restrictions should be placed upon the work of women which are not imposed upon the work of men, and we have protested against adult women being classed with young persons for the purpose of restrictive legislation. We strongly supported Lady Astor's Public Places (Order) Bill, and have urged upon the Home Secretary to appoint, without delay, a Committee of Inquiry into the state of our streets and our Solicitation Laws. As usual, upon the publication of the Prison Commissioners' Report, we have pointed out the necessity for women as well as men on the Prison Commission, women governors and women deputy governors as well as women medical officers in all women's prisons and women's sections of prisons, a medical woman inspector of prisons and women inspectors of prisons. We have continued, without success, to urge the Sergeant-at-Arms for permission for a representative of THE VOTE to go to the Press Gallery of the House of Commons. When the International Prison Commission held its meetings in London we asked that a VOTE representative should be given admittance, but that request also was refused.

### NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

We learn from *The Dawn*, the organ of the Women's Service Guilds in Australia, that the following resolution, moved by Mr. Duncan Hughes, has been passed by the Federal Parliament: "That, in the opinion of this House, a British woman should not lose, or be deemed to lose, her nationality by the mere act of marriage with an alien, but that it should be open to her to make a declaration of alienage." *The Dawn* states that Great Britain, Canada, and Australia, three important portions of the Empire, have now approved of the principle involved; that it now remains for other parts of the British Empire to come into line; and it is important that this should be done before the Imperial Conference is held in London, in October, 1926. It will be remembered that on February 15th, 1925, Major Harvey secured a general agreement for an identical resolution in the British House of Commons. On behalf of the Government, the Under-Secretary for the Home Department, Mr. Locker-Lampson, said that the Government did not want to resist the Motion, but that it was quite impossible, until they had the assent of the self-governing Dominions, to engage in legislation. Directly they got their replies, if they were practically unanimous, they could pass legislation on the subject. Since that date, numerous questions have been put to the Home Secretary on this subject, and the replies have been mostly unsatisfactory. On the 18th of March, Sir William Joynson-Hicks referred Mr. Pethick-Lawrence to the reply he had given on this question on the 21st of December. On that date he referred the questioner to a reply given on November 19th. On November 19th there happened to be two replies—contradictory in essence. The reply to Major Harvey, on November 19th, was: "I am informed that no reply has yet been received from any of the Dominions except the Irish Free State. I think it will be better not to make any statement as to the nature of any of the replies until they are complete." The same day the Home Secretary's reply to Sir Geoffrey Butler was: "I am informed that replies on this question have now been received from the Governments of all the self-governing Dominions with the exception of the Dominion of Canada." We think it is a pity that the Home Office does not verify its statements on this subject before they are made in the House of Commons. The question of the nationality of married women is one of vital importance to British women, and we earnestly hope that the matter will be settled at the forthcoming Imperial Conference on the lines of the resolution moved by Major Harvey in the House of Commons, and, more recently, by Mr. Duncan Hughes in the Federal Parliament.

### SCHOOLMASTERS—BRITISH AND GERMAN

In this country the general Press has given wide publicity to the Resolution, passed recently by the National Association of Schoolmasters, declaring opposition to service of Assistant Masters under Headmistresses. We now learn from the *Bulletin*, published by the International Council of Women, that in the Girls' High Schools in Germany the principals are in most cases men, that most of the advanced teaching is still almost entirely in the hands of men, and that when properly qualified women apply for such posts they meet every time with opposition on the part of their male colleagues. In Hamburg, Miss Emmy Beckmann, President of the German National Union of Women Teachers, was recently appointed Principal of a Girls' Municipal High School. The whole body of male teachers at once protested against this appointment, and the daily Press was only too glad to give space to their diatribes. Similar opposition was raised against the appointment of a headmistress to the Girls' High Schools at Halle and at Dusseldorf. In spite of all this opposition, however, women in Germany are gradually coming into their own and obtaining posts which are their due.

## POLITICAL WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES.

THE WOMEN'S UNIONIST ORGANISATION, under the Chairmanship of Viscountess Elveden, will hold its Seventh Annual Conference at Queen's Hall, on April 29th, to be followed by a Divisional Secretaries' meeting at Caxton Hall on the morning of April 30th, while in the afternoon there will be a Mass Meeting at the Albert Hall, to be addressed by Sir Austen Chamberlain. The Conference Agenda contains some interesting resolutions. The first calls attention to the necessity for the political education of all classes, and to the importance of the work of the Phillip Stott College. Another resolution approves of the principle of Family Allowances, as referred to in the Coal Commission Report, and expresses the hope that it may be adopted in other branches of industry. There is a resolution dealing with Empire Migration; one calling upon the Government to restate its Election pledges in regard to education policy; and another warmly supporting the claims of Peeresses in their own right to sit and vote in the House of Lords, and urging the Government to further legislation to remove the disabilities of such Peeresses at an early date. There is also a curiously framed resolution in regard to the Franchise, which reads as follows:—"That if an Equal Franchise Bill be introduced by His Majesty's Government the age for registration be fixed at 25 years." Do women Unionists not wish to see their women enfranchised under the age of 30? Can they not trust the political ability of their own women under that age? We should have thought that Unionist women, who worked so splendidly for the return of members of their own Party at the last General Election, would not have used the word "if" in this connection, but that they would have held the Government to its pledge to grant Equal Franchise. Again, the age of 25 is only to be inserted *if women come in*. Should the Government *not* introduce an Equal Franchise Bill, then there is to be no question about any alteration of the age of men voters—twenty-one! This is letting down the cause of women, and their own women, with a vengeance! Other resolutions deal with Safeguarding of Industry and Economy; with the encouragement of British Films; the necessity for the improvement of the Milk Supply; and for ensuring that local authorities carry out the principles of the Housing Acts. The last resolution on the Agenda urges the Home Secretary to continue to employ such powers as he has to suppress the so-called Bogus Night Clubs.

THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL LIBERAL FEDERATION will hold its Council Meetings on May 11th and 12th in the Kingsway Hall, presided over by Mrs. Wintringham. The first resolution deals with Education. It protests against the recent proposals made by the Government to Local Education Authorities, and considers that there is an immediate necessity for (1) The reduction of classes to a reasonable size; (2) A great increase in secondary, central, and technical school places; (3) A replacement of insanitary and defective school buildings; (4) An effective extension of the school medical service. It further declares that the present system of "Percentage Grants" should be maintained. This resolution also urges the Government to give every facility for instruction in rural areas which will make for an improvement in the agricultural industry, and, in particular, fit boys for work on the land, and girls for farm homes. Another resolution "views with concern the Government's failure to keep its pledge to remove the existing anomalies in the franchise between men and women." A resolution dealing with industry affirms belief in the need for Trade Unions, and urges all Liberal Trade Unionists to work for a wider industrial and political freedom within the movement. It regrets that no mention was made in the King's Speech of legislation on the lines of the Factories Bill, 1924, and calls upon the Government to introduce a measure to consolidate and strengthen existing factory legislation. There is a resolution on Temperance, calling upon the Government to legislate for the better control of the Drink Traffic, especially on three particular points:—(1) Local Option for England and Wales; (2) Supply of intoxicants in clubs to be made subject to the grant of an annual permit, or licence, by the local justices; (3) No sale or supply of intoxicating liquor on Sundays. Other resolutions uphold the Liberal Party's policy in regard to Free Trade, Land, and Foreign Policy. With regard to Family Endowment, it is stated that no formal resolution will be moved, but that an Interim Report, issued by the Women's Liberal Federation's Family Endowment Enquiry Committee, will be in the hands of delegates for discussion at the Council meetings.

In neither of the above Agendas can ardent feminists find a great deal of consolation. They both prove the urgent necessity for the work of women's organisations—outside Party organisations—which devote their energies and resources to securing equality of opportunity, rewards, and responsibilities as between men and women throughout all branches of our national life.

### EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS DEMONSTRATION.

It is to be hoped that by now the diary of every suffragist, and every woman under 30, contains a red ring round the date of Saturday, July 3rd, when the great Equal Political Rights Demonstration is to take place in London.

The procession will line up on the Embankment early in the afternoon, and march through Trafalgar Square and Clubland (not causing, we will hope, too great consternation to its retired colonels) as far as Hyde Park Corner, and thence into the Park itself.

Preparations for the procession are still necessarily far from complete, but the name of the Chief Marshal, Miss Dorothy E. Evans, inspires confidence. The catalogue of the colours under which the different contingents will march—green, white and gold, blue and silver, rose and green, blue, yellow and black—has a pleasantly heraldic sound; while the demonstration, as a whole, will proclaim its complete neutrality with the colours of the rainbow, the diverse participants ready to blend their differences in the white light of a common purpose. The scheme for a corps of medical women, graduates, nurses—any group, in fact, that possesses a distinctive professional costume—is one that should appeal both to the public and to those who

can claim such honourable distinction. Recruits have still to come in, however, and names of individual volunteers would be a real help to the cause.

The various organisations have their own plans for giving a picturesque or dramatic turn to their section of the procession. Tableaux representing the work, or objects, of the organisation may be mounted on lorries, the object being, in the case of professional organisations, to show the valuable work done by voteless women. A corps of women Members of Parliament and candidates under the banner of "Big Ben" has been suggested. A marching choir will serve one association instead of a band. A Pageant of Famous Women is among the suggestions, and an international section has been proposed. Enthusiastic organising work is being carried out by every society taking part, but it depends, as usual, on individuals everywhere to turn paper schemes into ranks of marching women.

A notable gathering of distinguished women, and friends of the women's cause, will address the crowd from 12 platforms in Hyde Park. Old and trusted leaders will speak, as well as the younger generation of women who are just entering public life, and the careers of those on the platform will be representative of the wide field of women's service. M. D.

## THE ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN.

The Electrical Association for Women, which was formed at the end of 1924 as a branch of the Women's Engineering Society, but which is now an independent organisation, is holding its first Annual Meeting on March 7th, followed by a public luncheon at the Criterion Restaurant, at which Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., and the Minister for Transport (The Rt. Hon. Lt.-Col. Wilfred Ashley) will be the principal speakers.

There is a wide distinction between the work of the Women's Engineering Society and its young and growing offshoot. For nearly a decade the Parent Society has worked for the establishment of the highly trained and technical woman in engineering, whilst the Electrical Association caters specially for the needs of the non-technical woman. In practice, however, the one is being made the complement of the other, for the woman in education, science, and industry is helping along the new Association, and taking a leading part in determining its policy and laying the foundations for its future work. This factor is largely the reason for the unprecedented success which, ever since its inception rather over a year ago, has attended the progress of the Electrical Association.

The Government Electricity Bill will also provide a valuable stimulus to the activities of the Association. The Bill is the outcome of the recommendations of a Report made by a committee of experts under the Chairmanship of Lord Weir, assisted by the Electrical Commissioners, the body of men who are now at the head of the country's electrical supply system. Its chief point lies in the proposal to co-ordinate all the generating and electrical supply stations, clearing away the numerous private and municipal companies now responsible for the generation of electricity, and thus securing greater efficiency in the electrical supply at a lower cost of production and transmission, all of which will react beneficially on the housewife in the home.

Miss Haslett, who in addition to acting as Secretary of the Women's Engineering Society, is also Director of the Electrical Association for Women, and to whose vigorous personality and unique publicity sense most of the success of both organisations is due, contends that the spirit of electrical power is service, and ultimately must be made available for all. The poor, and the servantless woman need it more than the rich, and Miss Haslett is a great advocate for labour-saving appliances being brought within reach of the humblest home. In the United States, housewives can hire every kind of electrical labour-saving device imaginable by paying a fixed sum a quarter to the company, and one of the chief planks in the Electrical Association for Women is to get supply undertakings in this country to start a system of hiring out all electrical appliances, and also to arrange to wire houses on the deferred payment scheme, so that everyone will be able to have electricity in the home.

The vitality of the Women's Electrical Association may be gauged by the fact that within its first year it has already formed important Branches in Glasgow and District, Birmingham and Manchester. The Glasgow and District Branch was formed in November, 1925, and already has a membership of nearly 200, under the Presidency of the Lady Belhaven and Stanton. The Council includes names of prominent women in Glasgow, Paisley, and Greenock. The Birmingham and Midlands Branch was formed in February of this year, with Lady Brooks as President, and with a representative Council of prominent women in Wolverhampton, Walsall, and other districts. The Manchester District Branch was inaugurated in March of this year, and has Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., as President.

## A LECTURE

## THE ART OF PUBLIC SPEAKING

will be given by

MISS LUCY D. BELL

AT THE MINERVA CLUB, BRUNSWICK SQUARE, W.C.1  
on Thursday, April 29th, at 8.15 p.m. Tickets 2/6.

## BOOK REVIEW.

*Recollected in Tranquillity.* By Janet E. Courtney. (Heinemann.) 12s. 6d. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

In these charming reminiscences Mrs. W. L. Courtney sets forth many interesting experiences and shrewd reflections on the modern progress of women. She was the daughter of an English clergyman officiating at Barton-on-Humber, and was one of a family of 14, six of whom died in infancy, three little sisters being swept off by diphtheria when the writer was eight years old. "My mother," says Mrs. Courtney, "had never heard of birth control, and would have scouted it if she had," and in spite of her numerous progeny, Mrs. Hogarth lived to the age of 86.

Mrs. Courtney's father, who was Scotch, was a firm believer in education, and on the strength of a Junior Cambridge local success, permitted his daughter to become a student at Lady Margaret Hall, a rare thing for girls in 1884, when the women's colleges in Oxford were only five years old. Among her contemporaries were three Archbishops' daughters, Agnes Tait and the two daughters of Archbishop Benson, and Miss Gertrude Lowthian Bell, Great Britain's "unofficial" woman diplomat in Arabia and Iraq, who is mentioned as the most brilliant student of all the women's colleges at Oxford. She took a First in Modern History after only two years' residence, when she was barely 20, and put one of her examiners right during her *viva voce* in his own special subject! Mrs. Courtney's remarks anent the strict social rules for women students at Oxford in force in those early days make amusing reading under present conditions. Before 1875, she records, Oxford was still semi-monastic. Nevertheless, she managed to dance with her future husband at a Magdalen ball!

Mrs. Courtney's professional life was full and varied. In 1888, having just come down from Oxford with a good class in Philosophy, she accepted a half-time teaching post at Cheltenham Ladies' College, then in the zenith of its prosperity, and where May Sinclair, the famous novelist, was among her pupils. London called insistently, however, and in 1891 Mrs. Courtney took another half-time teaching post in one of the girls' public day schools in the West End before finally deserting educational work in favour of a temporary clerkship in connection with a newly-appointed Royal Commission on Labour. A contemporary in this work was Dame Adelaide Anderson, the well-known woman Chief Inspector, now retired.

Mrs. Courtney's next appointment was as first superintendent of women clerks in the Bank of England, when women in the City were still few and far between. In connection with this position, which she held for 12 years, she narrates many grim facts of soul-destroying routine for women in the Civil Service in the days before the war.

Mrs. Courtney left the Bank of England in 1905, when there was no further prospect of rising. "Had I been a man I might have aspired to the glories of the Chief Accountancy, or the Chief Cashiership. As a woman I could only look to security, consideration, and a pension." The next five years were spent in very different surroundings: first as woman librarian at *The Times* Book Club in Oxford Street, and latterly as an indexer and contributor to the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, when this became dissociated from *The Times* and the Northcliffe management. Her marriage, in 1911, to Mr. W. L. Courtney by no means put an end to her professional life, and perhaps the most pertinent chapter in these reminiscences is the one which deals very trenchantly with the subject of Married Women's Work. Strange to relate, Mrs. Courtney was inimical to woman suffrage until she sat on commissions with Members of Parliament, and recognised the "change in their attitude to the potential voters, and their respect for the opinion of the women's organisations, especially at election times." D. M. N.

## Women's Freedom League.

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

## WHERE TO GO.

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

## LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Saturday, April 24th, at 10 a.m.

Women's Freedom League Annual Conference, Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Sunday, April 25th.

Hyde Park Meeting at 11 a.m.

Reception at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C., at 3.30—5.30 p.m., to Conference Delegates, Members and Friends of the Women's Freedom League.

Friday, April 30th, at 2 p.m.

Jumble Sale at Nine Elms, for the Benefit of the Women's Freedom League.

Monday, May 10th, at 3 p.m.

Hampstead Branch. Members' Meeting at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

May 30th—June 6th.

Tenth I.W.S.A. Congress at the Sorbonne, Paris.

Saturday, June 19th.

Peacemakers' Pilgrimage, Great Demonstration in Hyde Park.

June 22nd, 23rd, and 24th.

British Commonwealth League Conference.

Wednesday, June 30th, at 7 p.m.

Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, Caxton Hall.

Saturday, July 3rd.

Great Combined Equal Political Rights Procession and Hyde Park Demonstration.

## PROVINCES.

Friday, April 30th, at 3 p.m.

Ashford Branch. Members' Meeting at the Hempsted Street Hall.

Monday, May 3rd, at 7.30 p.m.

Middlesbrough Branch. Members' Meeting at Agecroft, Linthorpe.

Conference Report by Delegate.

## OTHER SOCIETIES.

Tuesday, April 27th, at 6.30 p.m.

Public Meeting in support of the Offices Regulation Bill at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, E.C. Speakers: Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., Mr. George Lathan (President, National Federation of Professional Workers), Miss Dorothy Evans, M.A. (General Secretary, Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries), Mr. H. S. Syrett, C.B.E., LL.D. Chair: Mrs. Hoster, F.I.P.S.

Thursday, April 29th, at 8 p.m.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Public Meeting at Caxton Hall, Westminster, to Demand Equal Franchise. Speakers: The Rt. Rev. William F. Brown, Bishop of Pella, Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., LL.D., Sir Robert Newman, Bart, M.P., Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., Miss Barclay Carter, Lic.ès-L. Chair: Councillor Mrs. V. M. Crawford.

Monday, May 3rd, at 5.45 p.m.

Six Point Group, 92, Victoria Street, S.W. Meeting on the Peeresses Bill.

Wednesday, May 5th, at 3 p.m.

Golders Green Study Circle, at 13, Temple Fortune Court, N.W.11. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood. Subject: "The Work of the Women's Freedom League."

Friday, May 7th, at 1 p.m.

Electrical Association for Women. Luncheon at the Criterion Restaurant, Piccadilly. Speakers: Rt. Hon. Lt. Col. Wilfred Ashley, M.P. (Minister of Transport), Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., Sir Hugo Hirst, Bart. Tickets 6/6.

## EQUAL FRANCHISE CAMPAIGN.

An open-air meeting, arranged by the Mid-London Branch, will be held in Hyde Park on Sunday next, April 25th, at 11 o'clock, when the speakers will be Miss Munro, Mrs. Schofield Coates, and others. All members of the Women's Freedom League who are in London on Sunday are urged to come to the Park and support us. Dates of future meetings will be announced in THE VOTE.

## EQUAL FRANCHISE.

Equal Franchise is within sight, but not yet within reach. It is therefore urgent that women should show their determination to possess the franchise on the same terms as men have it during the life of this Parliament. For this reason they are specially invited to attend the public meeting to demand Equal Franchise at Caxton Hall, Westminster, Thursday, April 29th, 8 p.m. This meeting is being organised by St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, who point out that FIVE MILLION women are still VOTELESS, consisting of all women under thirty and some two million women over thirty, who, if they were men, would be qualified to vote. The Chair at this meeting will be taken by Councillor Mrs. Crawford; and the speakers include the Rt. Rev. William F. Brown, Bishop of Pella, Dame Millicent Fawcett, Sir Robert Newman, M.P., and Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P.

## BRANCH NOTES.

## HAMPSTEAD.

A meeting of the Branch was held at 7, Gainsborough Gardens, N.W.3 (by the kindness of Dr. Knight), on Tuesday, April 13th. Dr. Knight presided, and there was a good attendance of members. Mrs. Harverson was elected as the Branch delegate for the Conference at the Caxton Hall on April 24th. The resolutions and amendments were read and discussed; also the Secretarial report, Hon. Organising Secretary's report, and Political report. The casual vacancies on the Borough Council and Board of Guardians, caused by the death of Mrs. Munro, J.P., were considered, and a letter was sent to the Hampstead Municipal Electors' Association expressing the view that, as the seats had previously been held by a woman, it was most desirable that in both cases women should be elected. They wished to suggest that Miss C. Dugdale should be nominated to fill the vacancy on the Council, and their member, Councillor Mrs. Irene Fisher, for the Board of Guardians. A further letter was sent from the meeting to the Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee of the Borough Council drawing their attention to the atmospheric conditions prevailing in the Hampstead Picture Playhouse, and urging that the building should be better ventilated. Letters from the Housing Committee of the Borough Council re the flats at South End Close were read and discussed, but it was agreed that nothing further could be done at the present time. The date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday, May 10th, at 3 p.m., at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

(Hon. Sec.) Miss E. BERRY, 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

## PORTSMOUTH.

A delightful afternoon was spent at Mrs. Cory's, 142, Laburnum Grove, on Wednesday afternoon, April 14th. A Whist Drive was arranged for those who cared to play, and numerous prizes were given. Non-players were entertained in another room by Miss Wills, who sang some delightful songs. A dainty tea was served, after which a business meeting was held, and our delegate to the Annual Conference was instructed how to vote. The numerous members and friends present greatly appreciated Mrs. Cory's generous hospitality, and the Hon. Treasurer was gratified by the substantial sum handed to her for the Branch funds.

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

## THAMES VALLEY.

A meeting of members of the Thames Valley Branch was held at 26, Cedar Road, Teddington, last Monday evening. Resolutions and amendments on the Conference Agenda were discussed. The Branch decided that the Conference delegacy should be shared by Miss Brewer, Mrs. Turriff, and Miss F. A. Underwood.

(Hon. Sec.) Miss BREWER, 2, Myrtle Cottages, The Rushett, Ditton.

## OFFICES REGULATION BILL.

We draw the special attention of our London readers to the meeting on this subject at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, on Tuesday, April 27th, because this is a matter which affects every woman who is working in the City. Offices are not subject to the same restrictions as factories, and consequently, very frequently, conditions obtaining in offices are much worse than those to be found in many factories. The Bill is supported by many of the local authorities and sanitary inspectors, whose present powers are so restricted in the matter of office inspection, but general interest among the public has still to be aroused before the Bill is likely to pass through the House of Commons. In addition to the London meeting, other meetings are being held in the Provinces in order to focus attention on this matter.

## HEADQUARTERS SALE.

Miss Cole is most kindly holding a Jumble Sale for the Women's Freedom League at the Nine Elms Settlement on Friday, April 30th, at 2 p.m. Goods of all descriptions are urgently wanted, and may be sent to 144, High Holborn. Delegates' parcels will be welcomed at the Conference. E. KNIGHT.

## EAST HAM BY-ELECTION.

The fight in East Ham is in full swing, and all members of the Women's Freedom League and readers of THE VOTE who can help Miss Lawrence win this seat are urged at once to go to her Committee Rooms at 532, High Street North, Manor Park, E. 12 (opposite Coronation Picture House), where her Agent, Mr. Stewart Rainbird, will give all particulars. Canvassers and open-air speakers are most particularly wanted; and cars are specially needed on the day of the Poll—Thursday, April 29th. All who recognise the great need for more women in Parliament should seize this opportunity to get Miss Lawrence sent back to Westminster. With energy on the part of her workers, Miss Susan Lawrence ought easily to regain this seat. A fifth woman Member of the House of Commons is very necessary at the present time.

The quickest routes to her Committee Rooms are via Aldgate, by buses 25a, 25b, 126, or Ilford trams; via G.E.R. (Liverpool or Fenchurch Street) to Manor Park Station; via District Railway to East Ham Station, and then by Wanstead tram, or 101 or 126 bus. North Woolwich trams and buses pass the doors. Motors from City via Mile End Road.

Be sure you do your share to get Miss Susan Lawrence returned top of the Poll!

FRIDAY,  
APRIL 23.  
1926.

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**FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.**—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, April 25th. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Rt. Hon. David Lloyd George, O.M., M.P. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden: "Why we must forgive."

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Name .....

Address .....

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