

THE VOTE,  
FEB. 3, 1928.

NEARING VICTORY!

# THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXIX. No. 954.

(Registered at  
the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1928

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

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## KING'S SPEECH ACTIVITY.

Wednesday, February 8th, 4—5.30 p.m.

Tea and Politics-up-to-date. Minerva Club, Brunswick Square.  
To discuss the King's Speech of February 7th. Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence  
will lead the discussion.

To be followed by the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee

## KING'S SPEECH MEETING

**Caxton Hall**

**8 p.m.**

Community Singing 8.0.—8.15.

Chair: THE VISCOUNTESS RHONDDA.

Speakers: Miss G. F. Abbott (Open Door Council).

Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence (Women's Freedom League).

Miss E. E. Froud (National Union of Women Teachers).

Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell (St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance)

Admission Free. Tickets 1/- (Reserved), from 144, High Holborn.

*Friday, February 10th, at 7.15 p.m.*

**KING'S SPEECH DINNER**, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square.

Short Suffrage Reminiscences. Tickets, 3/6.



### WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

#### Woman President of Agricultural Society.

Mrs. J. M. Hanbury, of Chelmsford, has been elected President of the Essex Agricultural Society for 1928. Mrs. Hanbury has placed Hylands Park at the disposal of the Society for the County Show.

#### Peeblesshire's Three Women Stationmasters.

Peeblesshire claims a record in women stationmasters, having women in charge in three places—Lamancha, Machbie Hill, and Eddlestone.

#### Women Unionists' Canvassing Corps.

A good deal of credit is being given to the excellent organisation and work done by the Unionist Women's Canvassing Corps, who attend instructional classes and work actively in elections.

#### Woman Liberal Secretary.

The three Leicester Divisions have appointed Mrs. Moss as secretary to the Liberal Party. She was formerly joint secretary for the Eastern Division and secretary of the Women's Section.

#### I.L.P. says, No Wages for Wives!

The question whether wives should receive wages was negated at Swansea last Saturday by the Conference of the Welsh Divisional Independent Labour Party.

#### Congratulations to Miss Ida Samuel.

Miss Ida Samuel (a member of our Minerva Club Branch) has been appointed assistant secretary of the National Playing Fields Association out of 300 applicants.

#### Five Women Called to the Bar.

January 26th was Call-night of the Hilary Term at the four Inns of Court. Five women are among the new barristers—Mrs. Florence Earengy, J.P., B.A., of Middle Temple, the first woman J.P. to be also a Barrister (our old member, to whom we send our warm congratulations); Miss Seeta Narayan, of Lincoln's Inn; Miss C. R. Dantra and Miss M. K. P. Willison, of Inner Temple; and Miss Dorothy Scott Stokes, M.A., of Gray's Inn.

#### Women's Squash Rackets Championship.

Miss J. Cave, winner also in 1922 and 1924, took the Women's Squash Rackets Championship last Saturday from the 1926 and 1927 holder, Miss C. Fenwick. The match was played at Queen's Club.

#### Another Woman M.P.?

Miss Barbara Bliss, Hon. Secretary of the Liberal Council, has been unanimously adopted as the prospective Liberal candidate for the East Grinstead Division.

#### Woman Secretary of Farmers' Union.

One of the largest branches of the Farmers' Union—the Leicestershire—which federated seven smaller branches into one, with headquarters in Leicester, has a woman secretary. She is herself a farmer's daughter and has received many well-deserved compliments upon the able way she carries on the multifarious duties of her office.

#### Victory of Women Skaters.

The Lescher Challenge Cup for team figure skating in the English style, competed for at Morgins, has this year, for the first time in its history, been won by a team of women, who scored 219 out of a possible 300.

#### Women Fencers.

On Saturday, at Cannes, in the International Fencing Tournament, Mrs. Freeman (British) defeated Mlle. Prost (French).

#### Woman Member Counsels Peace.

The only woman Member of the Canadian Parliament has given notice of a resolution to create a separate Government Department of Peace and International Understanding.

#### Woman Bacteriologist.

The Society of American Bacteriologists has existed for 29 years, and has for the first time elected a woman head. Miss A. C. Evans is President, after being Vice-President last year.

#### Finnish Women gain a Step.

Another advance has been made by the women of Finland. A Presidential Decree now admits them to eligibility as diplomatic representatives in foreign countries and also as judges in the inferior Courts of the Republic.

### NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

In Australia, a Royal Commission on the Revision of the Federal Constitution is taking evidence. From *The Dawn* (Women's Service Guilds, Western Australia) we learn that three women witnesses have so far appeared, and in each case they have spoken in support of increased Federal responsibility to deal with questions of a national character.

*The Dawn* also says:—

"The attention of the Commission was directed to the fact that the present legislation dealing with Nationality Laws is inconsistent with the fundamental principle of the Federal Constitution.

"This Constitution is memorable in the history of the Empire, in that it is the first to recognise the equality of citizenship between men and women under the electoral laws of the Commonwealth.

"At present, on marriage with an alien, an Australian man retains his citizenship, whilst an Australian woman loses both nationality and the franchise. The Nationality Law is a case in point where, in order to establish a uniform law throughout the Empire, there has been a levelling down, as far as Australian women citizens' rights are concerned, instead of a general levelling up. Nationality is a precious possession, and particularly precious to enfranchised Australian women.

It was urged:—

"That, if necessary, the principle of equality of citizenship should be embodied in the Federal Constitution."

### EQUALITY IN THE AMERICAS.

While the Press of the world has been full of the Pan-American Conference at Havana, little has been reported of a remarkable action which occurred there. The expressed objects of this Conference were to create or draw up a form of Constitution, to which all American nations would subscribe. On the agenda for this Conference appeared an item setting down for consideration "measures for extending to women the same civil rights as those enjoyed by adult males." The American National Woman's Party inquired at what stage this would be discussed, and were told that it would not come up at all. At the last Pan-American Conference, the women of Guatemala and of Costa Rica succeeded in bringing forward a resolution demanding for women equality of civil rights, and with this lead the Woman's Party decided to press the matter at this year's Conference.

The relation of the Pan-American Conference to the nations participating is analogous to that of the International Labour Office. Its decisions are not binding, but come with very strong advisory backing, giving a lead to national action.

The National Woman's Party realised the danger of permitting a pronouncement on equality or an ignoring of the subject by a Conference without adequate representation from women, and sent down a group of its officers and members to back up the South American feminists. We hear that, on January 16th, they succeeded in placing a proposal before the Conference urging that "Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the twenty-two Republics of the Western Hemisphere." We shall hope to report further upon the reception of this proposal and any subsequent action to be taken.

### WOMEN STILL WINNING!

There are still some men who continue to think that men alone should decide what women may or may not do; but, in spite of them, women are making their own way, and more and more occupy ground which has hitherto been reserved for men.

#### Woman Estate Agent.

Last week, the Chester City Council, by 23 votes to 10, decided to appoint a trained woman manager, at a salary of £250 to £300, and one assistant, at a salary of £150 to £200 per annum, to take charge of its housing estates. The *Manchester Guardian* tells us that the Sheriff, Councillor Gerrard, objected to the appointment of a woman to take the duties of a man, and referred to young men's difficulty in obtaining employment! The present number of houses to be managed is 615 and next year it will be 733, and the Council recently sent a deputation to visit estates in London, managed under the Octavia Hill system. The Council now wants a woman trained under this system to take charge of its estates.

#### Women and a Bowling Club.

The *North Mail* reports that the Berwick Ravensdowne Bowling Club, after having opposed the suggestion last year, has decided now to admit women. There was a lively discussion on this matter, and the proposal was not carried unanimously.

#### Women and the Ministry.

The *Daily News* tells us that a special committee of ministers and laymen, appointed by the United Church of Canada in 1926, has issued its report in regard to admission to the ministry. In the majority report is a recommendation that "the diaconate of women shall be recognised by the United Church of Canada as an order of ministry, with authority to perform such pastoral duties as may be required, and particularly to teach and preach, and, where necessary, to baptize; that women manifestly called of God and adequately trained be ordained to this office." An exception was made, however, regarding women administering the Communion.

The Rev. Thomas Tiplady, writing in the *Methodist Recorder*, advocates a course of hospital training for deaconesses, and says: "I have always supported the whole-time service of women in the Church, and I think that it will be a mistake to divide these workers into 'ordained' and 'consecrated' ministers and deaconesses. Let the women develop a ministry of their own—one such as 'mere men' cannot undertake and one in which the work of healing will have a predominant place."

We wonder why men take it upon themselves to dictate to women what their work shall be and to limit women's sphere of usefulness?

### OUR PROPHETIC WOMEN.

Like our Press, which is accepting the inevitability of Equal Franchise, our social reformers are doing likewise. All up and down the country, in Scotland and in England, there is a spate of instructional wisdom pouring over women, young and old. Long lectures upon their coming responsibilities, upon how they must bear themselves under the burden of enfranchisement, are flowing beside equally long lists of the opportunities which enfranchisement will bring to the enfranchised. Church workers are consoled for their exclusion from office by such phrases as "In spiritual things the highest place was the lowest, the place of service. Their place within the Church was the place of service. They were delighted to serve, and rejoiced in their service." Social reformers survey the wide field before them and pick out such subjects as "housing, public health, local government, education, authority, trade unions, Empire Marketing Board," etc.

Others show a fear that the more homely virtues may suffer, as "motherhood, good management of the homes, good cooking and home-making are the very

backbone of our nation, and it will be a catastrophe if our women give them up." Others solemnly lecture the young girls upon their coming responsibilities, as if world chaos might follow any relaxation of the devotion of these young things to active citizenship.

Is it not all somewhat exaggerated? Indeed, almost tending to put into the uninformed mind a depressing view of citizenship rather than an encouraging one. No duty, whether that of citizenship or any other, should be presented as so heavy with solemn responsibility that all of lighter natures will automatically avoid it.

### THE SHANGHAI BROTHELS.

The following is taken from the *New Leader*, January 20th:—

"At last the existence of brothels within the International Settlement at Shanghai has been officially acknowledged. A letter from Mr. Locker-Lampson, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs (January 2nd, 1928), to Wilfred Wellock, M.P., is a frank admission that the evil is clamant and most difficult to handle. It is difficult to understand why the facts were not admitted earlier. The answer given by Mr. Locker-Lampson to Mr. Pethick-Lawrence on June 20th, 1927, encouraged the belief that no brothels existed in the Shanghai International Settlement. There is a mass of evidence to the contrary. For instance, the Rev. G. Carleton Lacy, who made a tour of investigation for the Moral Welfare League of Shanghai, reports the condition of houses in Berkell Road, where Chinese girls of 14 and 15 were at the service of British and American marines. Mr. Locker-Lampson now states that these houses have been closed down by the police of the International Settlement, but if they have it is largely due to Mr. Wilfred Wellock's persistency in drawing public attention to an unpleasant subject. Many members of the official and trading classes consider these inquiries and protests fussy to a degree. Cannot they be led to appreciate that to allow our troops to use red lamp houses, occupied by Chinese girls, and guarded by British police, is to add deadly moral insult and irony to economic injury? In old-time fighting it was understood that the women belonged to the conqueror. The Shanghai system only differs in the sense that it is infinitely more mean and sordid."

### PRINCIPLE BEFORE PARTY.

Mrs. Bass, 1916 Chairman of the National Women's Bureau of the American Democratic Party, has decided to support the candidature for Congress of Mrs. R. Hanna McCormick, a Republican, for Illinois. Mrs. Bass says: "Because Congress needs women . . . Party considerations dropped from me. . . . There are issues that transcend to me all Party ties, issues about which I believe there should be solidarity among women. I believe it will be a great thing for Illinois to have an able woman in Congress, a woman who worked shoulder to shoulder with us in the struggle for suffrage." The *Christian Science Monitor*, from whom we quote the above, adds that Mrs. Bass has, in the past, always declared that, after winning the franchise, women should enter and work within the political Parties. Illinois is so strongly Republican, adds the *Monitor*, that nomination is equivalent to election.

### MORE L.C.C. CANDIDATES.

*Labour Party.*—Mrs. Beavan is standing for Putney, and Miss Mary Garlin for Balham and Tooting. Mrs. Malone and Mrs. Tawney have withdrawn their candidatures.

*Liberal Party.*—Mrs. M. E. Martin for East Fulham; Miss Grace Mottram for N. Islington; Miss Morgan Gibbon for S. Islington; Miss D. Woodhead for N. Paddington; and Miss J. Joseph, M.A., for Marylebone.



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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd, 1928.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—  
To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.  
To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders,  
printing, and merchandise, etc.

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

EDITORIAL.

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

### NEARING VICTORY!

For very many years the Women's Freedom League has urged that the subject of Equal Franchise should appear in the King's Speech. It was often with very little hope that we expressed our demand to the Government; but we always felt that it ought to find a place there, and this year we confidently expect that it will. We cannot see, after the definite pledges that women have received from the Prime Minister and the Heads of Government Departments, how it can be omitted from the King's Speech next Tuesday, when Parliament reopens. We cannot, of course, tell what plans the Government will disclose in that Speech for dealing with the franchise question. Women's organisations are asking for a simple Equal Franchise measure conferring the Parliamentary vote on women from the age of 21 and on the same terms as men, and they urge that no extraneous clauses shall be added to the Bill. We are convinced that such a measure would be the straightest and safest way to carry out the Prime Minister's promise that women shall vote on an equal footing with men at the next General Election. Our hopes are high for an early victory for equal suffrage. The King's Speech will be in the Press next Tuesday afternoon. The following afternoon (Wednesday) we shall have the first of our Tea and Politics-up-to-date Meetings at the Minerva Club, 56, Brunswick Square, W.C.1, at 4 p.m., when there will be a discussion on the King's Speech. Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence will lead that discussion, and we most cordially invite our readers to come and join in it, and hear what is the opinion of the Women's Freedom League on the Government's plans for granting Equal Franchise, always supposing that they disclose them. The same evening, at Caxton Hall, there will be a King's Speech Meeting, at 8 p.m., arranged by the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee. Twenty-eight women's organisations are affiliated to this Committee (the Women's Freedom League among them), and at the meeting well-known suffragists who belong to one or other of those organisations will deal with the King's Speech so far as Equal Franchise is concerned. We expect all our friends to crowd to this meeting, when the Chair will be taken by the Viscountess Rhondda, and the speakers will include Mrs. G. F. Abbott, Miss E. E. Froud, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, and Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell. Come and give them a rousing welcome!

As a piquant *hors-d'œuvre* to the serious business of our immediate political campaign, the week-end—February 4th-6th—will celebrate a reunion of those who underwent imprisonment in the militant movement for the vote, 15 to 20 years ago. This reunion takes the form of a celebration of the 10th anniversary of our partial victory in 1918, when women over 30 won the vote. On February 4th, there will be an ex-prisoners' Dinner, and many pioneer suffragists are coming together to recount old experiences and retell some of the many humorous stories that enlivened that unique campaign. The Dinner is not open to the public or the Press, but on Monday, February 6th, there will be an opportunity for all to meet the ex-prisoners at Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, at 8 p.m.

About 50 ex-prisoners, women and men, will be present and will occupy an extended platform. What memories some of these names call up! Sylvia Pankhurst, whose experiences would fill a book, Mrs. Drummond, Mrs. Billington Greig, and Muriel Matters who pulled down the grill in the House of Commons, could keep us entertained for the evening, recalling the dramatic events with which they were directly connected. The Chair will be taken by Mrs. How Martyn. The resolution will be proposed by the President of the Women's Freedom League in a 10-minute speech, and will be supported by 12 or more 5-minute speeches by women and men who are known and beloved throughout the whole suffrage movement.

To conclude our King's Speech activities we have arranged a Dinner at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1, on Friday, February 10th, at 7.15 p.m., and we cordially invite all suffragists to join us. Tickets can be obtained beforehand from Miss Reeves, at the Minerva Club. After dinner there will be short reminiscent speeches of pre-suffrage days. We promise a thoroughly enjoyable evening to all who will come and share it with us. The following day our National Executive will meet and will then decide what resolutions to send forward for the agenda of our Twenty-first Annual Conference, to be held in Caxton Hall, on Saturday, April 28th.

### EDINBURGH CORPORATION BILL.

This Bill, which was lodged at the Private Bills Office on December 17th, is to be introduced into the House of Commons probably about February 9th. It will be introduced unobtrusively as one of a batch of Private Bills.

Its Second Reading is expected about February 13th. At the Second Reading of these Private Bills there is no discussion, but any member has the right to rise and say "I object," whereupon the Bill is postponed till another day. This process may be repeated indefinitely unless the Speaker comes to the decision that it is advisable for debate to take place.

Our readers will remember that this Bill introduces the principles of compulsion and penalisation into our present system of the treatment of venereal diseases, and, as the easiest persons against whom it could be put in practice would be immoral women, it, to a certain extent, involves the Edinburgh Corporation in the system of State Regulation of Vice, a system found useless and disastrous, degrading both to women and men, and discarded in Great Britain in 1886 mainly through the devoted work of Josephine Butler, whose Centenary we are this year celebrating.

A number of Members of Parliament have promised to do all in their power to oppose the Bill, and our readers are asked to urge their own Parliamentary representatives to do the same.

### INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.

The next International Labour Conference will be held in Geneva on May 30th next, and we have again written to the Prime Minister urging that a woman should be sent to that Conference as a fully accredited delegate and that women should be sent as technical advisers. Two items appear on the agenda, which are of special interest to women: (1) A Minimum Wage Standard, and (2) Accidents in the Course of Employment. The Minimum Wage Standard for certain unorganised industries in which wages are exceptionally low was dealt with by the Conference last year. They are for the most part home industries, in which women are particularly engaged. As women in all countries are entering into a large number of occupations, in factories and workshops, and are exposed to accidents in the course of employment, this second item is also of direct concern to women. The activities of the International Labour Organisation have affected women's right to work, so that it is all the more necessary that women should be included in the Conference which deals with that work.

## THE STREET OFFENCES COMMITTEE.

The Street Offences Committee held another public sitting on Friday, January 27th, at which the first witness was Mr. Macpherson, Public Prosecutor in Edinburgh. His evidence did not differ in essence from that of the other male officials who have been heard earlier. The procedure he described and the staffing of Courts in Edinburgh differed from some of the English methods, but resembled them in its attitude towards the woman offender. In the case of a woman accosting a man, police evidence alone is required; in the case of a man accosting a woman, the Bench would require the evidence of the woman. Considerable discussion was held on the retention of the classification of "common prostitute," this witness being in favour of its retention. He agreed that it must prejudice the woman charged, but it made it much easier for the Bench to decide the case, and was also a protection for the virtuous woman. If the Committee decide to hear any women in public, which they have not yet done, although the Chairman has described "the prostitute" as "our special province," it should be interesting to hear their views on this point. Mr. Macpherson quoted figures showing the same large decrease in the numbers of cases of solicitation by women, as witnesses from other parts of the country have also shown. He expressed also a similar difficulty in accounting for it, suggesting increased temperance as one probable factor. He expressed also the same complete faith in the integrity of the police, and was sure that they never took bribes from prostitutes, being unable to see any reason for their doing so. He spoke in praise of the co-operation of the police and the "probation ladies" in warning young girls and preventing them from becoming habitual prostitutes. The probation officers in Edinburgh are unpaid, and are not officials of the Courts. Of the figures of men arrested for accosting women he could not speak, for two reasons: one, that, being exempt from any such classification as that of "common prostitute" applied to women, these men can only be charged with "breach of the peace," and the cases are not analysed; the second, that the evidence of the woman is required, and this is rarely forthcoming except in very gross or persistent cases of molestation. Mr. Macpherson was in favour of a section to deal with such cases, which he agreed were increasing and frequently took place from and in motor-cars and bicycles. He was not in favour of increasing the penalties for solicitation by women, being of the opinion that some form of reformatory detention in institutions was likely to be more effective than short imprisonments.

### SCOTTISH WOMEN CITIZENS.

The Annual Meeting of the Scottish Council of Women Citizens' Association was held in Glasgow a fortnight ago, and showed itself to hold the right views on equality by unanimously passing resolutions on equality of franchise and equality in industrial protective legislation.

The Council demanded that the Government should introduce and pass at the beginning of the next Session a measure conferring the franchise on all women, and that there should be Equal Franchise at the next General Election. In industrial matters, the Council welcomed proposals for the increased statutory protection of factory workers in general; deprecated the grouping of women workers with young persons for special protective measures; urged that: (1) the terms of the Washington Hours Convention be applied to all workers, irrespective of sex; (2) regulations as to maximum weights to be lifted and moved by workers should be laid down for men as well as for women and young persons respectively; and (3) special provisions in regard to fire drill and the prohibition of the cleaning of machinery which entails risk of injury should be made irrespective of the sex of the worker.

In the afternoon, the first witness was Mr. Ross, Chief Constable of Edinburgh, who was clear that it was, under the methods employed in Edinburgh, quite impossible for the police to charge an innocent woman. Two witnesses, that is, two policemen, were required, as to take only one would not be fair to the officer. In the case of a man soliciting a woman, the woman would have to attend the Court, but in the opposite case police evidence alone would be sufficient. He thought the designation of "common prostitute" harsh and cruel for young girls, and favoured the substitution of some such phrase as "habitual." He expressed the view that money was the cause of prostitution, and that the diminution was accounted for by counter-attractions, such as cinemas, dance halls, football matches, etc. Where there was more work and more money, there was less prostitution. He would welcome power to send all prostitutes to institutions. When asked what, if the supply was thus cleared off, would then satisfy the demand which would still exist, he replied that virtuous women could not walk safely in the streets. He had no solution for this difficulty. Asked as to the employment of women police, the Chief Constable said he did not believe in using women for this class of work, preferring to use them to make inquiries into cases of assaults on women and children.

The next witness was Mr. Smith, Stipendiary Magistrate in Glasgow. Mr. Smith declared that it was neither possible nor even desirable to clear prostitution from the streets. He could not explain the great diminution in cases, and made no reply to the Chairman's suggestion that perhaps equilibrium had been reached between the supply and the demand. He did not believe that all prostitutes were irreclaimable, and entirely repudiated the idea that any prejudice was created against a woman in Court, introduced as a "common prostitute"; he had never allowed it to bias his judgment, and its removal would endanger the virtuous woman. He was against the substitution of "habitual" as the offence of solicitation is very difficult to prove. He agreed that the fewness of cases of men soliciting men was due, not to their non-existence, but to the difficulty of proof. Mr. Smith made three points: (1) He would retain the classification of "common prostitute"; (2) he would omit "annoyance" as having to be proved; (3) he considered police evidence adequate if sufficiently corroborated. Asked what corroboration he would require, he replied, the evidence of another policeman. He had no fear of any injustice under such a system.

### INTERNATIONAL PRESS EXHIBITION.

An International Press Exhibition is being arranged to be held at Cologne from May to October this year. Madame Jane Misme gives an interesting account of it in this week's number of *La Française*. Newspapers and reviews from all countries of the world are taking part in what is the first exhibition of this kind ever held. Nations will be separately grouped, and the history of the Press of the world from its earliest days will be set forth. German women have claimed a separate exhibit for women's work. There will, therefore, be a large and important section devoted to showing the activities and development among women as seen through the medium of the Press. The International Council of Women, through its National Councils, is organising the participation of other nations. The Section will be in two parts: (1) historic; (2) publications and allied institutions. Madame Misme then has the following: "French feminists should respond brilliantly to this cordial invitation. We must by its means prove that, although she is almost the last of the great nations to deny citizenship to her daughters, France has not succeeded in nullifying either their intellectual development or their sense of social duty."



## OUR BOOK REVIEWS.

*Social Insurance.* By Evelyn Martelli. (P. S. King & Son.) Price 2s. 6d. (Can be obtained from this Office.)

The Signpost Series is being published by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, and the books are, therefore, written from the woman's point of view, with an introduction by Miss Eleanor Rathbone.

The volume on Social Insurance is full of useful information, including all kinds of insurance—National Health, Unemployment, Contributory and Non-Contributory Old Age Pensions, Compensation, and Burial Insurance. (It is very interesting to notice, by the way, that the workers pay a good deal more easily for Burial Insurance than is spent on the aggregate amount of Sickness, Disablement and Maternity under the State scheme. Strange, that the happiness and well-being of the nation seems of less account than that of the dead!) Some account is also given of the Family Endowment Scheme, as worked out by Mr. J. R. Cohen, in his book on "Family Insurance."

A useful chapter shows the exact position of women under the State schemes, with some useful criticism thereon. The author points out that the Maternity Benefit is "obviously not achieving its object, as it is inadequate," and I wish she had added that some more provision of maternity hospitals is required throughout the country, under the present terrible housing conditions, for many places have nothing other than the maternity wards at the workhouses, where the company is most undesirable. Also the fact that Medical Benefit with most approved societies, if not all, includes nursing and surgical and dental appliances, is not mentioned, for Sickness Benefit is not only a cash benefit. The criticisms of these approved societies seem also rather hard—they have done a wonderful work among the working classes, without sapping proper pride in thrift, as, alas, so much modern legislation has done. The unification of all these systems of Social Insurance is dealt with in another chapter, and some kind of "all-in" scheme, such as the "Spectator" advocated not so long ago, does seem a wise and economic ideal. The final recommendations and bibliography conclude a useful and helpful handbook for all interested in these matters.

J. M. T.

*The World's Pilgrim.* By Eva Gore-Booth. Published by Longmans, Green & Co., Ltd. Price 3s. 6d. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

Each additional volume of the works of this distinguished poet and mystic finds a warm welcome from her countless friends and fellow-pilgrims.

The present book consists of conversations written at intervals between 1914 and 1926.

We are given discussions between Buddha and Pythagoras, Francis of Assisi and Brother Giacomina, Giordano Bruno and One Unknown, Lorenzo and the Prior of St. Mark's, Michelangelo and Pheidias. The Lament of Lazarus, The House of Life, and Easter Eve are also included.

To the mystics come the sages and philosophers of other ages. Pythagoras is shown that higher than Beauty is Truth; the dying Francis of Assisi comforts his despairing followers and the Lady Jacoba, his "little brother Giacomina," for mystic love needs no farewell in wakening from "the sleep of this life"; Giordano Bruno, waiting in a cell of the Inquisition in Rome, is visited by a veiled lady, "change and freedom and life," an Englishwoman; Pheidias warns his fellow-sculptor that not violence and ceaseless toil can win Beauty and Truth. None can tread the way of Peace and Beauty who do not know how to wait and rest. Yet he would win peace in his soul, when with gentleness and reverence he would approach Apollo.

E. K.

## ANOTHER RAILWAY TRAIN OUTRAGE!

Last week, a man was sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour for unlawfully wounding a domestic servant girl in a train travelling between Bradford and Shipley. It was a corridor train, and the girl was alone in the compartment when the train started. After a little while, a man entered, and after trying in vain to get into conversation with her, pulled down the blinds of the carriage, took out a pocket-knife, and threatened her. A violent struggle followed and passengers heard the girl's screams and found her in an exhausted condition, with a cut on her left hand. The man was caught, and pleaded for leniency. The police described the man as a violent character and too lazy to work. His wife and children are in the workhouse because he refuses to maintain them. He has been before the magistrates 16 times—once for an assault on a girl of 11 years of age in appalling circumstances. He has also been convicted for cruelty to a dog. In passing sentence upon him, the Chairman of the Bench said: "Young girls who travel by train must be protected." We submit that it is the duty of the railway authorities to provide adequate protection for young girls and women travelling in their trains. By a law in 1868 they are obliged to provide smoking compartments—in those days that was not for the comfort of women—why should they not also be compelled to provide separate compartments for women travelling alone, or women officials whose duty it would be to go up and down the train to see that women are not subjected to brutal treatment on the part of undesirable men?

## INDIA AND "MOTHER INDIA."

On January 19th, the London Indian Majlis held a Public Meeting on "India" and "Mother India," at Essex Hall, the word "Majlis" meaning an association or union. Mrs. H. Sen presided, and stated that a great number of organisations, including women's organisations, had been invited to send representatives to hear what Indians had to say in regard to Miss Mayo's book. Dr. S. K. Datta, National Secretary of the Y.M.C.A. in India, quoted various statements in "Mother India," which, to his personal knowledge, were inaccurate. He described the poverty of so many Indians, and showed that Indians themselves were doing a very great deal to alter their own social conditions, and they had cause of complaint against the British Government when that Government stood in the way of the reforms for which Indians were working. Lady Emily Lutyens, Secretary of the Commonwealth of India League, said that the publication of Miss Mayo's book had aroused public interest in India. For years she had tried to awaken that interest in vain. One had now only to advertise the fact that "Mother India" would be discussed, and one found an audience waiting. She pleaded for a better understanding between the two countries, and urged that India should have the status in the British Empire of the Overseas Dominions. Miss Nur Jehan Yusuff, a young Indian woman, who at home lived in Purdah, emphasised the keen desire of Indians for education. All the speakers were agreed that "Mother India" in no way gave a fair presentment of Indian life, and an opportunity was given to the audience to ask questions.

## MUNICIPAL WORK IN GENEVA.

*Le Mouvement Feministe*, the fortnightly paper of the National Alliance of Swiss women, reports the election of women to local government office in the Canton of Geneva, and warmly congratulates the successful candidates. *Le Mouvement Feministe* gives the credit for the elections not only to the sterling qualities of those elected, but to a new feminist element in the Cantonal Council.

Mlle. le Dr. Maystre goes on the Executive for Health and Maternity; Mlle. le Dr. Mathel on the Executive for Homes for Incurables; Madame Gallay-Lafache is re-elected to the same.

## Women's Freedom League.

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

## WHERE TO GO.

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

## LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, February 6th, at 8.30 p.m.

**Golders Green Branch.** Meeting at Oak Cottage, 94, Brookside Road, N.W.11 (by kind invitation of Mrs. Burnett). Speaker: Miss E. E. Froud (Secretary of National Union of Women Teachers) on her Experiences in her recent visit to Russia.

Tuesday, February 7th, at 4 p.m.

**Political Sub-Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.**

Wednesday, February 8th, at 4 p.m.

**Tea and Politics-up-to-date.** First meeting of Session. **Minerva Club, Brunswick Square.**

Leader of Discussion: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence.

Wednesday, February 8th, at 6.30 p.m.

**Mid-London.** Branch Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. All members are urged to be present, and to go on afterwards to Caxton Hall.

Thursday, February 9th, at 7.30 p.m.

**Equal Political Rights Campaign.** Open-air Meeting at Highbury Corner, arranged by the Women's Freedom League.

Friday, February 10th, at 4.30 p.m.

**Organisation Sub-Committee at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.**

Friday, February 10th, at 7.15 p.m.

**King's Speech Dinner** at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square. Tickets 3/6 each from Miss Reeves.

Saturday, February 11th, at 10 a.m.

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

Tuesday, February 14th, at 8.15 p.m.

**Golders Green Branch.** Whist Drive (by kind invitation of Mrs. Gugenheim) at 15, Ravenscourt Avenue, N.W.11.

Wednesday, February 15th, at 8.30 p.m.

**Minerva Club.** Short Readings from Greek Writers by Miss Eith Rodgers. 1. Epic Lyric Poetry.

Thursday, February 16th, 7.45 to 10 p.m.

**Hampstead Branch.** Social at 49, Haverstock Hill, N.W.3 (by kind invitation of Councillor Irene Fisher, to meet Miss Ida Homfray (L.C.C. Candidate). Speakers: Mr. Samuel James on "The Cecil Lodging Houses," and Miss D. C. Biggs on "Local Housing Associations." Chairman: Mrs. Fisher. Tickets, 6d. each, from Miss E. Berry, 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

Saturday, April 28th at 10 a.m.

**Annual Conference at Caxton Hall, Westminster.**

## PROVINCES.

Saturday, February 11th.

**Portsmouth.** Tea and Politics-up-to-date, 2, Kent Road, at 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Peacock.

Friday, February 24th.

**Ashford.** Branch Meeting. Nurse Scott on "Home Nursing."

Friday, March 30th.

**Ashford.** Branch Meeting. Dr. Littledale on "Local Birds."

## OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, February 4th, at 3 p.m.

**Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square.** Debate: "That voice and manner are of more importance than matter in Public Speaking." Proposer: Miss Howells. Opposer: Mrs. Hilliard.

Saturday, February 4th, at 7 p.m.

**Suffragette Dinner.** Craig's Court Restaurant. Tickets 5/-, from Mrs. Elsa Gye, "Adsett," Ridgeway, Mill Hill, N.W.7.

Monday, February 6th, at 5.45 p.m.

**The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, Miss Sybil Thornike** reading the "Tr. Jan Women." Chair: Professor Percy Dearmer. Tickets, 5/-, 3/-, 1/-.

Monday, February 6th, at 8 p.m.

**Public Meeting on Anniversary of Votes for Some Women.** Speakers will be ex-Prisoners. Admission free. Reserved seats 1/- and 2/6. from Mrs. Elsa Gye, "Adsett," Ridgeway, Mill Hill, N.W.7.

Monday, February 6th, at 8 p.m.

**Caxton Hall.** New Year's Party (arranged by S. Joan's Social and Political Alliance). Attractive Musical Programme, and Short Speeches by His Lordship the Bishop of Pella, the Hon. Mrs. Walter Ruch, Mrs. Laughton Mathews. Tickets, 3/6 (including Refreshments), from 55, Berners Street, W.1.

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

**Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee.** "King's Speech" Meeting in Caxton Hall, to decide Policy of Action. Chair: The Viscountess Rhonda. Speakers: Mrs. Abbott, Miss E. E. Froud, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, Miss N. Stewart Parnell.

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

**Queen's Hall Demonstration Community Singing Practice** at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.

Friday, February 10th, at 8.30 p.m.

**Queen's Hall Demonstration Community Singing Practice** at 35, Abercorn Place, N.W.8 (by the kind permission of Miss Bell).

Sunday, February 19th, at 11 a.m.

**Hampshire House Club, Ravenscourt Park.** Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood on "The Life and Work of Josephine Butler."

Tuesday, February 28th, at 3 p.m.

Meeting on "Maternal Mortality," at the Central Hall, Westminster.

## BRANCH NOTES.

## GOLDERS GREEN.

The Golders Green Branch held a meeting at 98, Brookside Road, N.W.11. Mrs. E. Burnett occupied the Chair, and after the minutes of the last meeting (held at 13, Temple Fortune Court, on December 13th, 1927) had been read and passed as correct, arrangements were discussed for the next meeting. It was decided to hold a meeting at Oak Cottage, 94, Brookside Road, Golders Green, N.W.11, by kind permission of Mrs. E. Burnett, at 8.30 p.m., on February 6th, 1928. Then followed a discussion regarding the raising of funds, and a Whist Drive was arranged, to be held at the residence of Mrs. Gugenheim, 15, Ravenscroft Avenue, Golders Green, N.W.11, on St. Valentine's Day, February 14th, 1928, at 8.15 p.m., the members themselves to undertake the provision of the refreshments in order to cut down expenses as much as possible. Tickets from Mrs. Jaynes, 98, Brookside Road, N.W.11, or Miss Cockle, 21, Bessborough Gardens, S.W.1.

Mrs. J. Lewis gave a most interesting lecture on the Christian Student Movement, after which a discussion took place, during which many questions were asked. The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks being proposed to Mrs. Lewis by Mrs. Gugenheim, seconded by Miss Cockle.

(Hon. Sec.) MRS. JAYNES.

## MIDDLESBROUGH.

It will be of interest to readers of THE VOTE to hear that, in the recent election for a co-opted member on the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee of the Middlesbrough Town Council, two names were proposed—that of Mrs. Schofield Coates, President of our local branch, and Mrs. Turford. The result of the voting was equal, and the Mayor declined to give the casting vote on the ground that Mrs. Schofield Coates was an ex-Councillor, and Mrs. Turford the wife of a Councillor. The decision is yet to be made, and will come up at the next meeting of the Town Council.

(Hon. Sec.) MISS HOLMES, The Grey House, Linthorpe.

## EDINBURGH.

Business and Social Meeting at Heriot Hill House, Canonmills, on Wednesday, February 15th, at 7 p.m. Hostess, Mrs. Easson, from whom tickets may be obtained on request.

## GLASGOW.

McLellan Galleries, Thursday, February 9th, at 7.45 p.m. Branch Meeting. Business: Resolutions for Conference. Speaker: Dr. Alison Hunter, on "Why We Oppose the Introduction of Compulsion into the Methods of Dealing with Venereal Disease." Chair: Miss Jane Thomson, F.E.I.S.

Public Meeting at McLellan Galleries, on Monday, February 27th, at 7.45 p.m. Chair, Bailie Mrs. Bell. Speakers, Miss Isabel Hamilton, L.L.A., F.E.I.S., and other women candidates for education authority elections.

## OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

Dear Madam,—Why does R. M. Ewens flatter the psychologists to the extent of agreeing that "If women do not get married and have children, their character and health usually suffer"?

Does she seriously contend that, woman for woman, the mother of children has a finer character, through having children, than the woman who has none? And as for health, we are always hearing about the ills and evils of thwarted nature; why are we never told of the ills and evils of satisfied nature? What about the gynaecological wards, crammed to bursting with women because they have had children?

Psychological generalisations are very dubious guides in practical matters, in my opinion.—Yours faithfully,

C. NINA BOYLE.

To Branch Treasurers.—Many thanks for the balance sheets that have already reached me, and will all remaining branches please send me this week their balance sheets if possible, or, at any rate, a note of receipts and expenses during 1927.—E. KNIGHT.

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### MISCELLANEOUS.

**CLOTTED CREAM, 3/- lb., post free.**—Furnished House to let at NEWQUAY, 5 rooms; also Flat.—Apply SELSEY, St. Stephen's, St. Austell, Cornwall.

### REST AND HOLIDAYS.

**BRIGHTON.**—"Sea View," Victoria Road. Midday dinner. Gas fires in Bedrooms. Wireless. Vegetarians catered for.—Hostess: MISS TURNER.

**FRENCH ALPS.**—Furnished Chalet to let. View Mt. Blanc. Seven beds, bath, inside sanitation.—"E.C.F.," 31, Meadhurst Road, Leicester.

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**BOSCOMBE, Bournemouth, 39, Parkwood Road.** Comfortable Board-residence; 2 mins. cliffs; good locality. Terms from 2 1/2 gns.—MISS MILLER.

**BATH.**—2 miles, 1/2-hour by tram. Vegetarian Holiday Home. Parties taken. Cubicles 30/- week; single rooms £2 5s.; shared rooms £2 2s 6d.—Batheaston Villa, Bath.

### EDUCATIONAL.

**SCIENTIFIC RIGHT THINKING.** Daily Public Meetings, showing method of healing by Right Thinking. All interested invited. Times on application. Teaching, orally and by correspondence. Literature on Sale and Loan. For full information apply:—THE SECRETARY, The Society for Spreading the Knowledge of True Prayer, 12, Buckingham Palace Gardens, London, S.W.1.

### TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS.

"Votes for Some Women."

**Public Meeting on Equal Franchise.** Speakers: Suffragette ex-Prisoners. Monday, 6th February, 8 p.m., Essex Hall. Admission free. Reserved seats, 1/- and 2/6. Tickets from Mrs. Elsa Gye, "Adsett," Ridgeway, Mill Hill, N.W.7.

### CLUBS.

**MINERVA CLUB, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.** Open to non-residents. Restaurant. Smoking Room. Papers. Library. Bedrooms available at holiday times. Membership, £1 1s. Entrance Fee suspended during present year. All particulars from the SECRETARY. Telephone: Museum 4791.

### NOTICES.

**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 0377.

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

**FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.**—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, February 5th, 1928. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Major E. Manning 6.30. The Rev. Percy Dearmer, D.D.: "Christianity Oversea."

### TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

**64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS AND HOW TO USE THEM.** 2d. Send for one.—TRIMNELL, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond Road, Cardiff. Est. 1879.

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