

# THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXIX. No. 965.

(Registered at  
the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20 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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## THE "GREAT CRUSADE."

No woman of the 19th century was more bitterly reviled than Josephine Butler, yet the Report of the League of Nations Experts' Commission, published last year, supports every contention made by her over half a century ago.

To-day, Josephine Butler is revered as the woman who had the supreme courage to speak openly and publicly on a subject on which the strictest silence had previously been imposed. The indomitable courage and invincible faith which led her to follow the rulings of her conscience, not pausing to count the cost to herself, make her an outstanding figure among the pioneers of all ages.

Born on April 13th, 1828, the daughter of John Grey, of Dilston, a keen reformer, and a personal friend of Clarkson, whose name is inseparably linked with the abolition of the Slave Trade, her early surroundings were conducive to the development of a keen social sense. Her marriage to George Butler, son of the Dean of Peterborough, strengthened her growing desire to become the champion of outcast women.

The first years of her married life were spent at Oxford. In the midst of the pleasant and agreeable society in which her lot was cast, there grew up in her mind a feeling that all was not well with the world. The conversation at social gatherings where she was the only woman cut her to the quick. Every instinct of womanhood within her revolted against the accepted theories of society on questions she had pondered over long and earnestly. In vain she tried to break the discreet silence observed at Oxford on questions which robbed her of happiness. The injustice of the sentence passed on a young mother imprisoned in Newgate for the murder of her illegitimate

child was not a topic which Oxford dons were prepared to discuss with a woman! This particular instance of the injustice and harshness of the law troubled Josephine Butler so much that her husband suggested they should take the unfortunate woman into their own household on the expiration of her sentence. She was the first of an army of outcast women to be sheltered under the Butlers' roof.

In 1865, the appointment of her husband to the Principalship of Liverpool College threw Josephine Butler into the midst of the human wreckage of a great seaport. The immense Liverpool workhouse, with its Bridewell for women, gave her the opportunity to get into sympathetic touch with women, who, in many cases through no fault of their own, had fallen into the substrata of our social life. The women laughed at her because she could not pick oakum; at the same time, they learnt to love and trust her for her understanding of the tragedy of their lives.

When, in 1864, the first Contagious Diseases Act passed into law, Josephine Butler had already served a valuable apprenticeship for her life's work. From the founding of the Ladies' National Association for the Repeal of the Contagious

Diseases Acts in 1869, until the battle was won with the total repeal of the Acts in 1886, Josephine Butler never relaxed her efforts.

The history of the "Great Crusade"—repeated to some extent in the hostility shown to the women's suffrage movement—is one which can only evoke the profoundest respect for the leader of this tremendous fight for freedom. It was "as a citizen of a free country first, and as a woman secondly," that



JOSEPHINE BUTLER.

FROM A PORTRAIT BY G. RICHMOND, A.R.A., CIRCA 1852.

Josephine Butler came forward in defence of right. Those who were privileged to come under her influence spoke of her as a pure, radiating soul, who gave strength to the least courageous. Her beauty, the charm of her gentle personality, and her profound sincerity, won the admiration and respect even of her opponents. Her almost miraculous escapes from great personal danger must be attributed to the courage and composure which carried her through such an ordeal as the attack made on her at the by-election at Pontefract in 1871. Speaking of this terrible experience, she said:—

"It seemed all the time as if some strong angel were present, for when these men's hands were literally upon us, they seemed held by some unseen power."

When the final victory—"a victory of righteousness over great selfishness"—was won in this country, Josephine Butler immediately turned her attention to fighting "the accursed system" on the Continent. A stranger in a foreign land, in France, Italy, and Switzerland, Josephine Butler expounded the Abolitionist creed, and, although speaking in a foreign tongue, pleaded so effectively that she won many friends and supporters. She speaks of herself in those days as—

"Going from city to city, tired and weary, always to meet with sharp opposition and cynicism, and ever new proofs of the vast and hideous oppression."

Her labours bore fruit in 1877, when the first International Congress, held in Geneva, was attended by over 500 men and women delegates, who represented the most advanced thinkers in Europe and America.

Throughout the "Great Crusade," Josephine Butler felt that the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts was part of a much greater movement. When extending her work to other countries, she declared: "Our aim is to purify society by doing battle with what Victor Hugo calls 'The slavery of modern times'—not yet abolished—prostitution itself."

With the death of Josephine Butler on December 30th, 1906, there passed from the world not only a courageous and noble personality, but a great leader of men and women, whose life's work has left a mark for all time.

#### CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS.

The Centenary of the birth of Mrs. Josephine Butler will be celebrated in London on April 24th and 25th. On Tuesday evening, April 24th, there will be a Special Commemoration Service in Westminster Abbey at 7.30, when the Bishop of Lichfield will preach; and on Wednesday, April 25th, there will be a Public Meeting in the Central Hall, Westminster, at 8 p.m., when the speakers will be Sir Michael Sadler, K.C.S.I., C.B., Miss Margaret Bondfield, J.P., M.P., the Rev. Dr. Ude, Mrs. Bramwell Booth, J.P., Dame Rachel Crowdy, D.B.E., LL.D., and Miss Alison Neilans; chairman, the Lord Balfour of Burleigh.

During April and May there will be Commemoration Services for Josephine Butler in the cathedrals, and Public Meetings in the following cities:—Glasgow, Liverpool, Carlisle, Cardiff (Llandaff), Swansea, Sheffield, Edinburgh, Newcastle, York, and Birmingham. The United States is sending a delegation to this country headed by Mr. Abraham Flexner, whose authoritative book, "Prostitution in Europe," effectively demolished the supposed medical case for the system of the State Regulation of Vice, and among the representatives of the International Abolitionist Federation (founded by Mrs. Butler in 1875 to fight the State Regulation of Vice), who are coming to take part in our Centenary Celebrations, are Madame Avril de Sainte-Croix from France, Dr. A. de Graaf from Holland, M. de Meuron from Geneva, and Professor Dr. Ude from Austria. Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and South Africa are having Centenary Meetings and services in the large towns. On the Continent meetings are being arranged in Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Norway, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, and Yugoslavia. Dame Rachel Crowdy spoke at a great meeting in Geneva on April 15th. The United States is giving the matter great publicity, and is holding many special meetings.

#### NEWS FROM THE FOREIGN PRESS.

In the French, German, Swedish, and Swiss papers which have reached us during the past fortnight, there are appreciative articles on the work of Josephine Butler, and personal reminiscences of her crusade against the State Regulation of Vice in various countries.

From the March number of *Woman's Struggle*, the organ of the Grecian League for Women's Rights, we learn that a great meeting was held on March 18th, in the theatre Apollo, at Athens, on the subject of votes for women, this being the first public feminist demonstration in Greece. Mme. Avra Theodoropoulo took the Chair, explained the objects of her League, and pressed for both the municipal and political vote. She read messages from Mrs. Corbett Ashby and Princess Alexandrine Cantacuzène of Roumania, and called upon the following speakers:—Mme. Agnes Stouditis, who, in the name of the National Council of Greek Women, demanded full political rights for women; Mdlle. Dora Moatsou, who, on behalf of the women of Crete, demanded the complete political enfranchisement of women; Mme. A. Tourtoulis, speaking for the women of Epirus, pointed out that they, more than any others, needed to be enfranchised, since nearly all the male population had emigrated, and women were left almost alone to carry on the work of the community; Mme. Yannios, who demanded the municipal vote for the women of Macedonia; Mdlle. Olga Economos, who, on behalf of the Teachers' Federation, declared that the entry of women into political life would be of special value to the education of the country and to the children in the charge of teachers; and Mme. Marie Catsoulou, who, on behalf of working women, maintained that the vote was necessary to protect working women against the many injustices under which they suffer. This meeting was an outstanding success. Congratulations to the Greek suffragists, and our best wishes for the early success of their cause!

The first number of *La Femme Polonoise*, edited by Mme. Wanda Pelczynska, has reached us. It aims at becoming a link between the women's organisations of all nations. Among its very interesting articles is one on women police in Poland, an interview with Mdlle. Stanislawa Paleologue, the Chief of these women police, who says that their work consists chiefly in exercising a strict watch on individuals suspected of being connected with the White Slave Traffic, and searching for secret brothels, which are prohibited in Poland. They are also actively engaged against any traffic in drugs. At the present time, Mdlle. Paleologue has 18 women police working under her, and she hopes to secure a larger number. At first, the authorities were loath to try women police as an experiment, but have become convinced of the importance of their work, which has been carried through with success.

Writing in the April number of *Die Frau im Staat* (Munich), Frau Lida Gustava Heymann, the editor, writes on the Reichstag elections of 1928, and has some interesting things to say about women candidates. She is concerned because the women candidates who appear on the men's lists are chosen by the Party men and are dependent on the men's Party machinery for their election. She urges women of all Parties and belonging to all women's organisations to unite, sink their differences, and prepare to put forward their own candidates for the elections of 1932, through their own political machinery. She points out that an election fund is necessary, but if only a million women would subscribe for it one penny a day from the present time, women would have their own machinery for election purposes within the next four years.

#### TO ALL FRIENDS AND MEMBERS.

To all friends and members.—Jumble sales are now being arranged, and any goods available may be sent to the Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, and will be welcomed warmly.—E. KNIGHT.

#### WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD

##### Deptford's Woman Mayor.

Congratulations to the Mayor of Deptford, who is to be presented at the first Court of the season at Buckingham Palace, on May 8th. Mrs. Drapper has just completed 21 years' service as a member of the Greenwich and Deptford Board of Guardians, and has been Chairman for the last three years. She is also a member of the Food Council.

##### A Woman Managing Director.

Councillor Helen Fraser has been appointed managing director, with a four-figure salary, to a new match booklet enterprise. She is one of the few women to pilot a company through its public issue. After a hard fight to break down the sex barrier, she is now able to claim that her fellow-directors at last accept her merely as a business brain.

##### Women Sculptors.

Lady Hilton Young, formerly Lady Scott, widow of the Antarctic explorer, has been elected an Associate of the Royal Society of British Sculptors. Other women Associates are Miss Mary Morton and Mrs. A. Lindley Millican.

##### Women Photographers.

At the Annual Exhibition of Pictorial Photography held by the Wimbledon Camera Club, Mrs. J. Barton received the highest award for portraiture for a study of a mother and her child, and Miss Dorothy Wilding was awarded the silver medal for a picture of Tallulah Bankhead. Exhibits have come from the Dominions and other countries, the Photographic Society of Latvia having sent 60.

##### Woman's Three New Air Records.

Lady Heath's arrival at Cairo in her Avro-Avian light aeroplane, in which she set out from the Cape, registers three new records for women aviators. She is the first woman to fly through Africa; the flight is the first light aeroplane flight from the Cape to Cairo; and hers is the first solo flight from the Cape to Cairo.

##### Flying Victory.

Miss Winifred Spooner won a handicap race for light aeroplanes against men pilots at the Suffolk Aeroplane Club's meeting at Hadleigh, on Easter Monday.

##### A Woman Nailmaker.

The output of a woman nailmaker, who works at an anvil in her workshop at Lye, Worcestershire, is 20 lbs. a day.

##### Woman President of Zurich Nurses' Association.

At the last General Assembly of the Zurich Nurses' Association, Mme. Freudweiler, sister-directress, was elected President. This is the first Swiss Nurses' Association to choose a woman for its President in place of a man doctor.

##### More Women Members of Legislative Councils.

The Government of India has appointed Mrs. Ahmeed Shaw to represent the Indian Christian Community on the United Provinces Legislative Council in place of her husband, who has come to England, and Mrs. Kale, of Nagpur, has been appointed member of the Central Provinces Legislative Council.

##### More Women Magistrates in India.

Mrs. Ananda Rao and Mrs. Sirkar, members of the Alandur Branch of the Women's Indian Association, Madras, and Mrs. Chakko, member of its Saidapet Branch, have been nominated honorary magistrates in their districts.

##### Woman Vice-Consul at Valparaiso.

Miss Frances Willis has been appointed Vice-Consul of the United States at Valparaiso, Chili.

##### Women Musicians.

Aranhra Nádor, Hungary's first woman conductor, has just made her début at a concert in the Royal Academy of Music. She is only 21 years of age, and her ambition is to become a symphony conductor.

Frau Lise Maria Mayer, well known in Vienna as a conductor, recently gave an interpretation of "Cocaine," her symphony in one movement, which expresses in music the temptation, intoxication, and disillusion connected with that drug.

#### ONE CHOSEN OF THE PEOPLE?

The electors of Spennymoor, the majority of whom, we must remember, are men, have sent a Mr. Batey to Parliament as their representative. Mr. Batey made a contribution recently, following a question on women being admitted to the Diplomatic Service, as follows: "Does the Foreign Secretary not consider that where a woman takes on a man's job and gets a man's pay, she ought to maintain an unemployed man and not spend the salary upon herself." This marvellous example of pure fatuousness assumes that the Diplomatic Service is "a man's job." Who says so? It also assumes that women spend their earnings on themselves. They don't; but, if they did, it would be their affair and not anyone else's. Who inquires on what variety of things and persons a man spends his money? We know the tradition exists that a man spends his money on his wife and family, and there is as much ground for a similar tradition that woman spends her money on husband or family, or aged parents, or any other dependent. Few men and few women are free of some such responsibilities.

The Diplomatic Service is not a man's job, nor are its salaries men's salaries, and one hopes that Mr. Batey has few followers in his suggestion that women should support parasitic men as men have too long supported parasitic women.

#### (IN)SUBORDINATION OF MEN.

At the Annual Conference of the National Association of Schoolmasters, held last week in Newcastle, attention was drawn to the danger of feminising the elementary schools. Indignation was expressed at the subordination of men teachers to women headmistresses. It was put forward that no woman could educate a boy to the same degree of perfection as a man, but the real fly in the ointment appeared when reference was made to the feeling of indignity a man would experience when he had to approach a woman as his superior! In the opinion of a certain member of the Conference, a master who took his orders from a woman would be degraded in the eyes of his pupils!

## TEA AND POLITICS-UP-TO-DATE.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25.

4 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

LEADER OF DISCUSSION: MRS. PETHICK-LAWRENCE.

Come and discuss with us the Committee Stage of the Government's Equal Franchise Bill; the Edinburgh Corporation Bill; and other subjects dealt with in Parliament during the week.

## THE VOTE.

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 20th, 1928.

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.

### A STRENUOUS WEEK.

The week ahead of us is a very crowded one. The Women's Freedom League will be represented at the Special Commemoration Service of Josephine Butler, to be held in Westminster Abbey next Tuesday evening. Our own special activities will begin on Wednesday afternoon, when we shall resume our Tea and Politics-up-to-date Meetings at the Minerva Club, and when our President, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, will lead the discussion, for which there will be plenty of material—the further stages of the Equal Franchise Bill, the Edinburgh Corporation Bill (the rejection of which, in the House of Commons, Mr. Pethick-Lawrence moved on Thursday), and other matters discussed in Parliament of particular interest to women. The same evening, members and friends of our League are urged to attend the great Meeting in Central Hall, Westminster, in honour of Josephine Butler, while on Saturday we shall hold our Twenty-first Annual Conference at Caxton Hall. Never were the prospects brighter for women than they are at the present time, and the Women's Freedom League will have great occasion for rejoicing that Saturday. This Conference, which begins at 10 a.m., is open only to members of our League, but every member will be most cordially welcome all through the deliberations, and we urge every member who can possibly do so to come to Caxton Hall next Saturday and hear the discussion on the various resolutions and amendments, the policy for the coming year being framed on the decisions arrived at during this Conference. Only delegates sent by our branches in England, Scotland and Wales, members of the League's National Executive Committee, and officials will be allowed to speak on the resolutions and amendments appearing on the agenda, but at the close of the Conference, about 4 o'clock, we shall hold a general discussion on "What the Women's Freedom League will do when Equal Franchise is Won"; and in this discussion any member present who has anything to contribute to it will be heartily invited to join. In *Equal Rights* for April 7th, the organ of the National Woman's Party in America, we see that Mrs. Landes, the first woman Mayor of a metropolitan American city, said that, "Just as it has taken many years for women to obtain the right of vote, so it will take many years and generations for them to get true political equality. The progress of women in politics, however, is entirely dependent on women themselves." In America, women have had equal voting rights with men since 1919, and still Mrs. Landes insists that the women of her country have certainly not yet achieved true political equality with men. And women in this country will not have won true political equality with men when Equal Franchise is on the Statute Book. As for women's economic equality with men, can we say that it is at present even in sight? On every hand, whether in the professions, in commerce, or in industry, women have to encounter restrictions, limitations, or obstacles in regard to their training and progress which men do not have to contend against, and it is only by hard work, grim determination, and by co-operation with each other that women can overcome these hindrances, and this can surely be done most effectively by working together inside strong independent women's organisations.

### "SHOULD A MARRIED WOMAN FOLLOW A PROFESSION?"

Last week, at Huddersfield Women's Luncheon Club, a debate took place between two local solicitors on the subject, "Should a married woman follow a profession?" We are glad to note that the meeting declared itself in favour of women undertaking professional work. We hope, however, that the day will come when such a question will be no more a "debatable" subject than the question, "Should a married man follow a profession?" What is done by a married woman is no more the concern of the community than what is done by a married man. Notwithstanding that fact, education authorities still take it upon themselves to deprive the community of some of its best and most efficiently trained workers by making it a rule that women employed by them shall resign their posts on marriage, and they afterwards will only consent to employ these women—whether doctors or teachers—if they can prove to the satisfaction of the authorities that their husband either will not or cannot provide for them, a searching inquisition being made into the private affairs of the women concerned. Apparently, the matter of the efficiency of the worker in these two great professions has no weight at all in the consideration of these local governing authorities, but only the abject need of the worker! We think these authorities have an altogether mistaken view of the way the money of the ratepayers should be spent. What ratepayers desire most is surely the best value for the money they contribute in rates. Nor can we overlook the studied affront to women which this unwarrantable interference in their private affairs involves. Would not a man, when applying for a responsible post under a municipal authority, rightly resent a strict investigation into his wife's means, as well as his own means, by this authority, especially if he were made to feel that his success depended not so much on his qualifications, as his need for a salary? Women undoubtedly resent such treatment.

### COMMITTEE STAGE REACHED.

As we go to Press, the Committee stage of the Government's Equal Franchise Bill is being taken in the House of Commons. Amendments are to be moved in regard to the voting age, successive occupation, and the cost of elections. An attempt will be made to fix the voting age at 25 for both sexes, with the proviso that men of 21 now on the Register will remain there. This proposed Amendment is not expected to meet with much success. As the *Morning Post* reminds us, "since the reign of Henry IV, when freeholders were first summoned to elect Knights of the Shire to Parliament, 21 has always been the qualifying age." Sir Robert Sanders' Amendment, dealing with successive occupation, would provide that a voter moving from one part of a county to any other part of the same county should not be required to obtain a new residential qualification. At present, this applies only where the two constituencies adjoin. As the *Yorkshire Post* points out, Lancashire has 44 Parliamentary Boroughs, and very few of them are contiguous. A man living in Manchester can move to Morecambe and preserve his qualification, but cannot do so if he moves to Liverpool, which is not a contiguous Parliamentary area. London is regarded as a single borough. Thus, a voter may move from an Essex county division to London, and still retain the franchise; but if he moves from the Borough of Southend, he loses it, because a county division is interposed. There are several proposals to reduce the rate of expenses per head of the electors. The maximum now is 7d. in the counties and 5d. in the boroughs, and the great number of the new voters will, of course, much increase candidates' expenses. As there is a division of opinion as to what the new scale should be, the Government will probably leave the decision to a free vote of the House of Commons.

## BRITISH WOMEN PIONEERS.

We were particularly pleased that some of the pioneers of women's political enfranchisement were mentioned in the Debate on the Second Reading of the Government's Equal Franchise Bill. The *Daily Telegraph* recalls another, Harriet Mill, the wife of John Stuart Mill. In July, 1851, this gifted woman wrote a famous article in the *Westminster Review* on "The Enfranchisement of Women." Curiously enough, it was agitation in America that led to the endeavour of Harriet Mill to reproduce agitation in this country, and it was her influence which induced John Stuart Mill to take Parliamentary action in the cause and afterwards to publish "The Subjection of Women," which he wrote in collaboration with her.

Miss Eunice Murray, writing in *The Lennox Herald*, March 24th, reminds us of the work of Priscilla Bright M'Laren, and says that "no name in Scotland connected with the movement is more worthy of mention and honour than that of Priscilla Bright M'Laren, the wife of Duncan M'Laren," who, in one Parliament—that of 1866—had her husband, her sons, two brothers, and a nephew, all in the House of Commons at the same time. Mrs. M'Laren, however, did not believe in indirect representation, but in sex equality. As president of the Edinburgh Suffrage Society, her signature was among the 1,499 to the Petition which John Stuart Mill presented to Parliament. Other signatures were those of Josephine Butler, Miss Davies, and Miss Garrett, afterwards Mrs. Garrett Anderson. At this time, Miss Murray tells us, Mrs. M'Laren's energy was unbounded, her enthusiasm unlimited, and her courage indomitable. She further relates that, in 1880, Lydia Becker, the staunch supporter of our cause, conceived the bold idea of holding a great demonstration in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, for women only, to promote enthusiasm among the women and to

educate the public. She wrote to Mrs. M'Laren and unfolded the great plan to her. The scheme was carried through more successfully than anyone had dared to hope. When Mrs. M'Laren took the Chair, every corner of the great building was filled with eager, upturned faces of women, in a hall, which, Mrs. M'Laren reminded them, was built in the great cause of freedom. Room for an overflow meeting had to be provided. Mrs. M'Laren's interest never flagged in the cause she had espoused. Miss Murray says: "She passed away without seeing the victory, but she was a torch-bearer, one who saw the goal ahead and never swerved in her determination to reach it. She is one whom Mr. Baldwin meant, who saw the goal from afar, and who has a place in our hearts on the eve of victory."

Another pioneer woman, whose name will long be held in remembrance, is that of Florence Balgarnie, who died last month at the age of 70. The *Manchester Guardian* tells us that, with tireless activity between, roughly, 1890 and 1910, she traversed every part of Great Britain, and wrote at length in the Press to promote women's suffrage, total abstinence, Liberalism, and university extension, and to urge, among other reforms, the appointment of police matrons, who may be regarded as the forerunners of policewomen. She also undertook successful lecture tours in Canada, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, and India. Daughter of a Congregational minister, Miss Balgarnie served on the Scarborough School Board, and afterwards became Secretary of the National Women's Suffrage Society. She went to America as a delegate to the Women's Convention at Washington. In 1892, in conjunction with Lady Aberdeen, she secured an innovation from the Home Office in the appointment of women factory inspectors.

### AN INTERNATIONAL PIONEER.

MME. ANNA BUGGE-WICKSELL.—It is with sincere regret that we record the death, on Feb. 19th, of Mme. Bugge-Wicksell, a Vice-President and one of the founders of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, to which the Women's Freedom League is affiliated. At Budapest, at Geneva, at Rome, and at Paris, Mme. Wicksell was well known to the women who attended these Conferences of the Alliance, and her ready and invariable helpfulness, friendliness, and courtesy were warmly appreciated by all who had the privilege of coming in contact with her. By birth a Norwegian, she went to Sweden as a young student, studied at the University, Upsala, and there met her husband, Mr. Knut Wicksell, the radical author, later professor in political economy at the University of Lund. He died two years ago, and she lost her best friend and colleague. Throughout her life, Mme. Wicksell was an ardent suffragist; she spoke five languages fluently; she was a fervent believer in the League of Nations, and took an active part in the preparatory work for Sweden's entry into it. In 1921, she was appointed as the only woman member of the Mandates Commission, on which she did extraordinarily good work, her one regret always being that she had no woman colleague there. Mme. Wicksell was a convincing speaker and a ready writer, and wrote innumerable articles, pamphlets, and reports in newspapers in many lands.

### STREET OFFENCES INQUIRY.

The Street Offences Committee meets to-day (Friday) at 10.30 a.m., at 5, Old Palace Yard, Westminster, to hear evidence from Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Dr. Mary Gordon (formerly H.M. Inspector of Prisons), and Bailie M. A. Snodgrass, of Glasgow. This meeting is open to the public, and readers of THE VOTE are urged to attend.

### BOOK REVIEWS.

*Josephine Butler: An Autobiographical Memoir.* Edited by George W. and Lucy A. Johnson. Published by Arrowsmith. Price 5s. (Can be obtained from this Office.)

This book is in the form of an autobiographical memoir, faithfully edited from the correspondence of Josephine Butler by her devoted friends Mr. and Mrs. Johnson. It gives us a picture of her early life at Dilston, including a delightful description of her father, her mother, and brothers and sisters, of her life at Oxford as a happily married young woman, and afterwards at Cheltenham and Liverpool, and of her strenuous work on behalf of outcast women and against the State regulation of vice, a seemingly impregnable fortress, upheld in every country by the Government, the military and naval authorities, the medical authorities, and the Churches. This book gives the reader a lasting impression of the character, the gracious personality, and the wonderful achievement of this great Englishwoman and of those who worked with her for the recognition of an equal moral standard for men and women, and against a system which licensed vice and which not only degraded and enslaved women, but brutalised men and blunted the moral sense of every nation. By their efforts, this system came to an end in Great Britain in 1886, but Josephine Butler and her friends carried on their work with increased zeal in other countries and laid the sure foundations for international co-operation in the suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children throughout the world, as embodied in the recent Experts' Report on this subject to the League of Nations. This book has an excellent Appendix, giving notes on the Abolitionist Movement from 1906, the year in which Josephine Butler died, up to the present day, and an admirable Preface by Professor Stuart, one of Josephine Butler's co-workers, at the conclusion of which he says: "And now, what is the sum of it all? It seems to me to be this, that we



FRIDAY,  
APRIL 20,  
1928.

# THE VOTE

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