

THE VOTE.  
SEPT. 24, 1926.

SILVER WEDDING DINNER—OCT 8th.

# THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXVII. No. 833.

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 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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## XXV.—WHEN I AM M.P.

MISS MARY R. RICHARDSON.

Miss Richardson has twice contested Acton, in 1922 and 1924, and has now been adopted as a Candidate for Bury St. Edmunds.

I was brought up by severe Puritanical grandparents. They instilled into me a dire respect for our greatest "Bolshie," Oliver Cromwell. I was fed on his portrait and extracts from Milton's poems. Both these ingredients have remained in my make-up! Suffrage days evidenced the former, and my three very slim volumes of very slender verse are an echo perhaps of the latter.

But another personality influenced my young days besides Oliver Cromwell. She, poor lady, was left hanging in the attic, alone and lonely, *i.e.*, a large engraving of Mary Queen of Scots. Why she was exiled to the attic I can but surmise; but even in exile she made her mute appeal to me, because I knew of her sad life and unhappy fate. The more the great Cromwell was pressed home upon my stirring fancies, the more my mind stole up to the attic to the unhappy queen! And so a love of romance grew within me.

At the age of sixteen my grandparents were both gone out of my life—I was quite alone. The three ingredients began to stir, and I wondered how to live—what to do with my life. Deciding to be an artist, I went abroad at the age of seventeen to study art, and for three years spent most of my time in Paris and Italy. But a strange thing happened—I found that the faces of people, especially the poor, whom I met in the street appealed to me more than Raffaello's or Del Sarto's models. By slow degrees—almost painfully—I began to draw back from easel and palette and paint-brush, to etch, instead, those faces of sorrow on the rim of my heart! Returning

to London, I began to read in earnest in the Museum reading room. I also began to write verse; but all the time, over the Classics, over the Elgin Marbles, behind that lonely seated Demeter, I heard and saw the people in Lamb's Conduit Street, Gray's Inn Road, and the slum streets near by. I heard and read, too, of the Suffrage Movement. I lodged in Charles

Dickens' old house in Doughty Street, and there met the Kennys, fresh from Manchester. Soon after I visited Clement's Inn, and was X-rayed by those grey eyes of destiny—Christabel's! She passed me on to Mrs. Drummond as "a worker." I began to write about meetings, and, still further, forsook the Classics and my verse-making.

I sent these articles out in vain, until one day, on the green baize letter-board of the Museum reading-room, I saw a letter for me. It was from a Canadian newspaper, enclosing a cheque for my article *re* the Women's Fight, and asking for others. In a seventh heaven I complied, and never tasted morsel sweeter than those farthing buns I ate at the near-by bun shop, perusing my cheque and planning a whole series of articles.

But fate had other plans. After a year or so of

journalistic work, I happened to be in Parliament Square on Black Friday, and although I was not one of the official deputation, I soon found myself, with the real deputants, at Bow Street. I believe a policeman and myself had a little argument as to ways and means!

This decided me! I put down my pen, and, reverting



MISS MARY R. RICHARDSON.

to my childhood's hero, the great Oliver, I became a militant!

I need not say more.

Early in the war I went to Ireland to help the Irish Women's Suffrage Federation; after this I took charge of a library in a Y.M.C.A. hut for troops. I need not say the value to me, politically, of these two experiences. In 1916, I joined the Labour Party (though my work in Bury in Suffrage days converted me years earlier; and may I here pay a small tribute to George Lansbury, as one who never forgets his help in those early Suffrage days?). In 1922 and 1924 I contested the Acton Division in Labour interests.

Now I am candidate for Bury, a wonderful old place, and Newmarket its antithesis, though interesting in more modern ways.

#### The Ghosts of St. Benedict.

Bury has the past stamped on every wall and house. My first meeting in the old Market Place gave me a great thrill. I felt it indeed an honour to lift the Labour flag officially for the first time in history—in the Parliamentary sense—within sound of the quiet caves of the monks of St. Benedict—their ghosts in memory! But memories speak in Bury! It will be interesting to weave my new pattern of Socialism on this very old loom of life! I must give the past its full colouring, and not allow the glow of the future to obscure even dust-laden beauty! This I will try to do.

As to when I am M.P. for Bury.

Naturally, agriculture will be my chief business, one which recalls my early love of the Greek Demeter—the mother of Corn—in the British Museum.

In the House I shall stick to one thing particularly, i.e., the interests of the agricultural labourer, and, where compatible with his interest, the interest of the farmer.

#### Politics and Evolution.

I want to find out about prices and middlemen, and thus help women, perhaps, by helping, as far as I can, to expose food rings and trusts, and get laws passed to ensure purer food and milk. An agricultural constituency, which might seem one unsuited to a woman candidate, is to my mind one eminently suited to her. Anyhow, I love my prospects, and even though I am up against a "stout" opponent (Col. Guinness) I shall win, sooner or later, because not I, but the policy for which I stand, must precede the older policies. This is the law of evolution. I am working with nature, and even with Divine help. Science evolves her ideas; mechanisms evolve to give the most perfect for service. Only in politics are people stupid enough to say that the old methods are or can be best. I wish every Tory woman voter would ask herself: "Do I refuse to use an electric cooker because my ancestors saw the devil in electrical power? Do I insist on being carried in a sedan chair because my great-grandmothers were so transported? or shall I light my house with tallow dips, because these once served housewives?"

A few questions such as these will clear the mind of "fear" of Socialism because it is a new policy, and when "efficiency" and "public service" become the slogan of political parties, we shall see to it that that party wins who is efficient in practical things, and can give public service—by giving better houses, cheaper food, higher wages, fewer working hours, fewer idle rich, and more healthy lives for all.

Other issues of this series in "The Vote":—The Lady RATHCREEDAN, August 27, 1926; Mrs. CECILIA STREETEN, April 2, 1926; Dr. STELLA CHURCHILL, March 12, 1926; Mrs. MURIEL MATTERS PORTER, September 12, 1924; Mrs. ANNE CORNER, August 29, 1924; Mrs. LOUIE SIMPSON, J.P., August 15, 1924; Councillor ELLEN C. WILKINSON, M.A., July 4, 1924; Miss MINNIE PALLISTER, July 6, 1923; Miss C. PICTON-TURBERVILL, September 8, 1922; Mrs. HAMILTON MORE-NESBITT, August 13, 1922; Mrs. BURNETT SMITH, June 30, 1922; Lady CURRIE, April 7, 1922; Mrs. STEWART BROWN, March 31, 1922; Miss HELEN FRASER, March 24, 1922; Lady COOPER, March 17, 1922; Commandant MARY S. ALLEN, O.B.E., February 17, 1922; Miss MARY P. GRANT, January 6, 1922; Mrs. MARJORIE PEASE, J.P., October 23, 1921; Mrs. AYRTON GOULD, October 21, 1921; Dr. ETHEL BENTHAM, October 7, 1921; Mrs. WINTRINGHAM, M.P., September 23, 1921; Mrs. ELEANOR BARTON, August 26, 1921; Mrs. SCOTT GATTY, August 12, 1921; Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY, July 15, 1921.

#### WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

##### Women Parliamentary Candidates' Movements.

Dr. Marion Phillips, Chief Officer of the Women's Section of the Labour Party, has been adopted as a Labour candidate at Sunderland. Dr. Stella Churchill, prospective Labour candidate for the North Hackney Division, has withdrawn her candidature after two years' work. Miss Ursula Williams, who once contested Consett, Durham, is no longer a Parliamentary candidate.

##### Women Grocers.

An attractive feature of the Grocers' and Allied Trades' Exhibition, which opened in London this week, was the number of women who entered the trade competitions. Last year it was a woman grocer who won the Fifty Guineas Challenge Shield for coffee roasting, and the contests for the present Exhibition in which women competed included tea blending, bacon cutting, boning, judging butter, lard, and cheese, and valuing varieties of dried fruits.

##### Swiss Women on Guardian Authorities.

The General Council of the Neuenburg (Switzerland) Canton has resolved, by 52 to 24 votes, that women shall be eligible as members of the Guardian authorities, and not only as appointed Guardians. Councillor Graber, in moving the resolution, said the Guardian authority carried on the business of the family, and the co-operation of women was necessary. These Swiss authorities will ere long have the duty of dealing with divorce and separation cases.

##### Women Art Students.

The lists of scholarships and certificates of the Slade School, which for years has led the van of modern art, provide an interesting comment on woman's place in art to-day. Of seven Slade Scholarships awarded for the session 1926-27, four have gone to women students and three to men, while only three certificates were awarded for sculpture, once regarded as an exclusively masculine branch of art, and they all went to women students.

##### Coloured Woman Lawyer's Success.

Mrs. Clara Burrill Bruce, one of 36 women among 343 successful applicants for admission to the Massachusetts Bar, is the second coloured woman lawyer in this state. She studied at Boston University School of Law, putting in an average of 10 to 12 hours a day, on some days devoting 16 hours to a subject which has always fascinated her. She hopes to return to Boston University this autumn in order to obtain two further degrees—Bachelor of Arts and Master of Laws.

##### Belgian Women's Crusade.

The crusade against indecent publications, in which Belgian women have been particularly active, has resulted in the following additions to Clause 383 of the Belgian penal code: "Whoever manufactures, possesses, imports, or distributes songs, pamphlets, books, writings, or pictures offensive to morality shall be punished by imprisonment from one month to a year and a fine from fifty to a thousand francs."

##### Women Police.

Dr. Gertrud Bäumer, technical adviser to the German Delegation, at a League Commission Assembly at Geneva, paid a public tribute to the work of Commandant Allan's British Policewomen in Cologne. Germany is most enthusiastic over the subject of women police, and 17 of these are working now in Berlin.

#### W.I.L. SUMMER SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND

The Women's International League has just concluded a very successful Summer School for Peace Workers at the Fellowship School, Gland, Switzerland.

Spreading over a period of six weeks, there has been opportunity for discussion on many subjects, and, as the lighter side of the picture, for many interesting tours where women of all nations have found that differences in language and custom, and even in outlook, can be overcome by friendliness and the common ideal of World Peace for which all are working.

Splendid lectures have been given to these representatives of 16 nations. Professor Mappard, chief of the Mandate Department of the League of Nations for four years, described the delicate problems which come under the mandate system. Pundit Jawaharlal Nehen, a personal friend of Gandhi, spoke of the National Movement in India, and the misunderstanding of the West in regard to the non-co-operation movement. Miss Tano Jodai, of Tokio University, gave an account of the rise of militarism in Japan, in order to check exploitation by Western powers, having watched events in China. America was very fitly represented by Jane Addams, who gave two splendid lectures, whilst from Sweden there was Professor Barany, of Upsala University, and holder of the Nobel Prize, who advocated an International University for the training of statesmen, diplomats, politicians, etc.

These are only a few of the many interesting lectures that were given. Of the tours, the one which will stand out most vividly in people's minds will be that to St. Claude, a co-operative community right in the heart of the Jura Mountains. This is but one of the memories which will be taken back to many countries by Peace Workers more determined than ever to achieve their aim of World Peace.

D. W.

#### WOMEN IN THE "ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA."

A woman writer in the *Westminster Gazette* draws attention to the fact that in the old "Encyclopædia Britannica" of 1768, woman was represented by four words—"Woman—the female of man"! In 1910, the estimation in which the sex was held was evidently considerably increased, for there were 20 women contributors to the 29 volumes, whilst in the three new volumes which are now appearing, there are more than this number of women contributors in each one of the volumes. Amongst interesting Englishwomen newcomers appear the names of the late Mary MacArthur, Alice Meynell, Lady Dorothy Neville, Lady Gregory and Lady Oxford, whilst among the foreign names figure that of Eleonora Duse, who is the subject of a long article, Rosa Luxemburg, Selma Lagerlöf, the famous Swedish author, Ellen Key, the well-known Swedish Feminist, who died only a few months ago, Suzanne Lenglen and Pavlova.

Women journalists will rage inwardly that in the article on "Newspapers" there is not a single mention of women journalists, not even the name of the late Miss Frances Billington of the *Daily Telegraph*, the pioneer and doyenne of women journalists in this country. Lady Lugard (once Miss Flora Shaw of *The Times*) is one of the women contributors to three new volumes, but she is not included in the list of well-known women. Women also occur very casually in the article on "Learned Societies," and even in the space devoted to "Handicrafts." The position of women in offices is indicated by means of the new inventions for simplifying office work, all of which appear to be worked by women. Nearly a column has been given to the Girl Guide Movement.

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

We ask all members and friends and fellow suffragists to gather in honour of these champions of Women's Freedom and join with us in a public

# SILVER WEDDING DINNER

TO

## Mr. & Mrs. PETHICK-LAWRENCE

AT THE

## HOLBORN RESTAURANT

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INTERESTING AND  
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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.

### WOMEN & THE UNIONIST CONFERENCE.

Unionist women are taking a fair share in the forthcoming Annual Conference of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations at Scarborough, on October 6th to 9th; but perhaps the greatest event is the fact that for the first time in the history of this political Party, a woman, Dame Caroline Bridgeman, D.B.E., is to be in the Chair.

A large number of resolutions on the agenda deal with the recent General Strike and the introduction of legislation to amend the law relating to Trades Unions, viz., "The Trades Disputes Act (1906)" and "The Trade Union Act" (1913); and almost as many again are devoted to urging the Government to deal without delay with the reform of the Second Chamber. One such resolution is being moved by Mrs. V. Rawbon (on behalf of the Rochdale Conservative and Unionist Association). No mention of the admission of women Peers, however, occurs in any of these suggested reforms. Two resolutions on behalf of Cinema Reform each have a woman mover. One of these, Mrs. E. Hilda Scaife (on behalf of the Kennington Conservative Association), urges that, having regard to the enormous influence of the Cinema upon the children and youth of the nation, and its great educational and propaganda value, the present methods of Film Censorship should be revised, and particularly deprecates the fact that films especially appealing to, and suitable for, children are included in the same programme as pictures of a less desirable kind. The Government is also urged to encourage the production of sound British films propagating British ideals. Mrs. J. H. Dipnall (Kingston-on-Thames) is also moving that the production and display of "All-British Films" should be encouraged by the Government.

A plea for a more intelligent acquaintance with Local Government is to be registered by Miss C. Isabel Green (on behalf of the Abingdon Division Constitutional Association), who will urge all members of Conservative and Unionist Associations to study the existing Acts relating to Housing, Public Health, and Education, and, by creating an active interest in Local Government, to ensure that in their own districts they obtain, through their local authorities, the full benefit of the services granted by those Acts, and all other Acts giving administrative powers to Local Government bodies.

Mrs. A. E. Plumstead (Norwich) and Mr. W. A. Ball (Deritend) will move that the Government shall be urged to introduce legislation making voting at all elections compulsory, subject to the infliction of penalties (other than disfranchisement) for not exercising the vote, and Mrs. G. Roberts (Durham County Unionist Association) urges the universal adoption by the Unionist Party of an official Conservative song.

Amongst other resolutions, we are glad to note that a protest will be made by Mr. Alderman A. J. Whittard (Islington, N.) against the "particularly detestable form of profiteering," under which a householder can demand 6/- or 7/- of an old age pensioner's weekly allowance of 10/- for one small room.

A discreet silence, however, is preserved throughout, in all parts of the agenda, on the question of Equal Franchise!

### WOMEN CHANNEL SWIMMERS.

The number of women Channel swimmers seems to increase daily. Following upon Miss Ederle's and Mrs. Corson's wonderful successes, we have first Miss E. Marriott's splendid second attempt last week, when she got to within 4 miles of Dover, after having been 13 hours in the water, finally being beaten by bad weather. On her previous swim, a fortnight ago, she was in the water 8½ hours before a strong wind compelled her to abandon the attempt when within 9 miles of the English coast. She made use of the double over-arm stroke and "scissors" kick that enabled both Miss Ederle and Mrs. Corson to achieve success. Three times the launch accompanying Miss Marriott, or Jane Darwin, her *nomme de mer*, was nearly run down by heavy Channel traffic, and her trainer, Mr. Miller, had to light an acetylene flare and wave it in the darkness. Miss Marriott is a native of Barnstable. She is only 20 years of age, a Berkhamsted College undergraduate studying for the B.Sc.

Much sympathy will be felt for the fifth attempt of Miss Mercedes Gleitze, the young London typist, who was forced to abandon her final attempt last Sunday, when 2 miles off St. Margaret's Bay, owing to the coldness of the water. She was in the water eleven hours, and hopes to try for the sixth time next year. Her sole reason for swimming the Channel is to obtain money with which to start a textile factory on a profit-sharing basis, the remainder of the profit available after payment of wages and dividends of the workers being devoted to "helping the sick and the lame who haunt the city streets."

Perhaps the most extraordinary Channel attempt by a woman this year, from the point of view of pluck and endurance and tantalising result, was this week's wonderful swim by Miss Mona Maclellan, a Hythe doctor's secretary, who was forced by the strong adverse tide to give up her second Channel attempt on Monday evening after she had been in the water for 25 hours 20 minutes, and had swum to within 600 yards of Dover. For the last four hours of her swim she was without her official pilot, who had to leave the party early in the afternoon for Dover. It may have been this unfortunate lack of skilful piloting which robbed Miss Maclellan of well-deserved success; but the sudden rough change in the weather at the finish was also another contributory factor. Miss Maclellan learnt to swim only 3 years ago; she used the back stroke for the greater portion of her 25-hour swim, varying it at times with short spells of the breast stroke. Several times she was stung by jellyfish, which her friends had to drive off by using long poles. Miss Maclellan's time in the water is easily an endurance record for a woman Channel aspirant, even compared with that of Miss Clarabelle Barratt, the American, who was in the water for 21¾ hours. The only Channel swim which has exceeded Miss Maclellan's time was made by Henry Sullivan, who took 26 hours 50 minutes.

### WOMEN RADIO ANNOUNCERS.

We very much regret the retrograde policy of the British Broadcasting Co. in its recent decision to accept men only as radio announcers. The B.B.C. has carefully explained that this decision is not a reflection on women's intelligence, but merely that the Company has found women physically and temperamentally less suitable than men to bear the heavy physical strain imposed on announcers. These arguments fail to convince us for many reasons. Firstly, because hours of radio announcers are always arranged in shifts, so that no one need undergo any undue pressure. Secondly, because in other countries, and, in fact, all over the Continent, women announcers share the same strain and responsibilities with men. Indeed, the current issue of the B.B.C.'s own publication, "World Radio," actually contains a portrait of a well-known woman announcer at San Sebastian, Señorita Juana Cincuneguy.

## WOMEN IN THE MINISTRY.

The problem of Women in the Ministry, which a few years ago appeared to its more ardent advocates to be almost stationary, or else moving in the wrong direction, is slowly but surely entering the realm of practical politics, if such an expression may be permitted in connection with this spiritual vocation. The Conference of women ministers of all denominations, which the Union of Women Voters is organising at the end of this month at Golders Green, is not only a sign of the times in which we are living, but must assuredly provide a special impetus to one of the most vital issues of the Woman's Movement.

At this Conference the women ministers of the Baptist, Congregational, and Unitarian denominations, the only religious bodies outside the Friends, the Christian Scientists, and the Salvation Army, which recognise sex-equality, will meet, and together with representative lay members of the other churches, who also sympathise with the desire of women to enter the ministry of religion, will discuss their common problems.

On the afternoon of Thursday, September 30th, at a *Conversazione* in the Hall of All Souls' Church, Hoop Lane, Golders Green, N.W., from 3 to 4.30 p.m., the Rev. Edgar Daplyn, F.R.S.L., and the Rev. Joyce Daplyn, B.A., joint ministers of All Souls' Church, will, with the Council of the Union of Women Voters, offer an official welcome. Mrs. Helena Normanton, B.A., presiding. This will be followed by speeches of welcome from representative laywomen, including Lady Barrett, M.D., M.S., representing medicine; Miss C. Morrison, representing law; Dr. Ethel Thomas, representing science; Mrs. Ada Wilson (of the Food Council), representing housecraft; and Miss McKean, representing finance. From 5.30 to 6.30 p.m., a service will be conducted in All Souls' Church by the Rev. Violet Hedger, B.D., Minister of the Baptist Church, Littleover, Derby, at which the preacher will be the Rev. Joyce Daplyn, B.A., Chaplain to the Union of Women Voters.

In the evening, at 8.30 p.m., a public meeting will be held in the hall of All Souls' Church, and will be presided over by the Rev. Dr. S. H. Mellone, Secretary

to the British and Foreign Unitarian Association. Speakers will include Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P. ("Influence of Religion in Politics"), the Rev. Elizabeth Towne, Director of Organisation of the International New Thought Alliance, President Holyoke League of Women Voters ("What American Women are doing in the Churches"), Rev. Constance Coltman, M.A., joint minister with Rev. Claude Coltman at the Cowley Road Congregational Church, Oxford ("Women and the Ministry of Religion"), the Hon. Lily Montague ("Women and Liberal Judaism"), Mrs. Booth, Director of the Women's Work of the Salvation Army ("The Work of Women in the Salvation Army").

On Friday, October 1st, opening prayers at 10 a.m. in All Souls' Church, will be conducted by Rev. Constance Harris, followed by Communion for those wishing to partake, conducted by the Rev. Joyce Daplyn and the Rev. Constance Harris. Public lectures on "The History of Women in the Ministry" will follow, held in the hall of All Souls' Church, when speakers will include Miss K. D. Raleigh ("Women in the Early Church"), and Miss Picton-Turbervill, O.B.E., Vice-President of the League of the Church Militant ("The Position in the Church of England"). A discussion from 11.15 to 11.45 a.m. will be opened by Mrs. M. W. Nevinson, J.P., L.L.A.

In the afternoon of the same day, from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m., addresses upon "The Future of Women in Organised Religion" will be given by the Rev. Helen Phillips, Senior Woman Minister in England ("The Work of the Church"), Mrs. Parker-Crane, Secretary of the London Missionary Society ("Women's Work"), and Sister Janet, West Ham Central Mission, Baptist ("Home Mission Work"). The Chairman will be Miss Helen Brooke Herford, Secretary of the Unitarian Women's League.

At 5.30 p.m., a service in All Souls' Church will be conducted by Mrs. Martin, Minister of Churchgate Street Chapel, Bury St. Edmunds, when the preacher will be Miss Maude Royden. A communal supper in the hall of the church (tickets, 2/- each), with music and brief speeches, will close what promises to be a most interesting Conference.

## THE IMPERIAL CONFERENCE.

BY M. CHAVE COLLISSON.

The change in Imperial relationships which has followed upon the independent signature of the Treaty of Versailles by the different Dominions has already raised this year interesting questions at Geneva, where Canada recently announced a possible intention of standing in the future for a Council seat. It is probable that the Imperial Conference will have a very profound significance in relation to the further definition of relationships between the mother body and the groups which have grown to full stature. So long ago as three years, one of the authorities on this subject—Professor H. J. Laski—was lecturing to a group of students at the School of Economics on the various possibilities of the Empire secretariat which would serve a body specially designed for consultation on matters of Imperial Government and Foreign Policy.

The problems which he then propounded remain much as they were, except that the British Government has now established a special department for the Dominions, a change long overdue. The merest glimpse at the state of the world to-day, and its general tendencies, shows the very great importance of an Empire machinery which will work fairly smoothly, and which must be devised to conquer very grave existing limitations of time and space. Whatever system is evolved as time passes on, it is extremely important to see that women play their share in both the Governmental and Secretarial Departments. This problem is one scarcely yet considered by women, for

as a rule they, in common with most other inhabitants of the globe, are concerned to make the best use of existing machinery without greatly troubling over the newer possibilities; but for the thoughtful few the position is one of great interest. The battle has been won as regards constitution in the secretariat of the League of Nations. It has yet to be fought in regard to that group which is so powerful within the League of Nations—the British Commonwealth. For September 30th, a special Conference has been summoned to consider the position of women in a twofold relationship: the first in regard to the machinery as it does, secondly, in regard to machinery as it might, exist.

The Conference will be held at Carnegie House, 117, Piccadilly, at 10.30 a.m., 2.30 p.m., and 8.30 p.m. The morning and afternoon sessions will deal with practical approaches to the Imperial Conference which has been summoned, and Societies which have made special studies of particular problems will contribute their share. Thus the problem of Affiliation Orders and Reciprocal Maintenance Orders will be placed before the gathering by representatives of the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child, and of the N.U.S.E.C. Miss Chrystal Macmillan will tackle the Nationality of Married Women; a representative of the Women's International League will open the discussion on Arbitration (a subject which appears on the agenda of the Imperial Conference), and attention will be paid, under the auspices of the Franchise groups,

to Franchise problems. A League representative will open the question of the position of women in regard to Migration, and Mrs. Crawford, of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, will give a short speech on the Old Age Pension in relation to Migration.

The evening session will be perhaps the most interesting of all. A special speaker, whom it is hoped will be Professor Philip Baker, of the London School of Economics, will deal with the problem of the constitutional position between the British and Dominions Governments, and perhaps alternative forms of an Empire secretariat. It is very much hoped that Miss Freda Bage, the Australian Alternate Delegate, will speak, but it is not yet certain that she will be present.

Thus the British Commonwealth League is trying to work out a two-sided policy of making the best of what exists, while preparing for a future to come.

There is no charge for entrance, and visitors will be welcomed at the gathering. It is hoped that a good audience will reward the League's attempt to awaken thought on one of the problems of the future which is most pregnant with possibility. If the British Commonwealth League means peace and stands for sane relationship, it is a good augury for sound relationships in the world as a whole.

## WOMEN AND ELECTRICITY.

### AUTUMN FIXTURES.

The Electrical Association for Women has arranged an interesting list of fixtures during the autumn and winter months, not only in London, but in its four Provincial branches. These will include visits to an All-Electric Farm in Sussex, to some London research laboratories dealing with the manufacture of electric wire, to the London Coliseum to inspect its methods of stage lighting, to the Good Housekeeping Institute, at 49, Wellington Street, Strand, and to the newly opened up-to-date Electric Bungalow of the Croydon Corporation Electricity Department. Special lectures will also be given on the A B C of Electric Lighting, with demonstrations, by Mr. W. C. Geary; on "Tariffs," by Miss M. Partridge, B.Sc.; and by Mrs. D. Cottingham Taylor on "Modern Housekeeping."

The Glasgow and District Branch is arranging to have one visit and one lecture per month. The fixtures include visits to the Paisley Generating Station, to Beattie's Bakery and All-Electric Canteen which is in operation day and night, to the Metro-Vick Showrooms (recently opened), and also to the Dalmarnock Power Station. Lectures include one from Miss Holm, from Newcastle-on-Tyne, on "Electric Cooking"; from Mr. Buckell on "Colour, and its Effect on the Human Being"; and from Mr. Cochran, of Glasgow University, on "Fundamental Principles in Electricity." It is hoped that during the session there will be a public luncheon to celebrate the first Annual General Meeting of the Branch, and also a lecture illustrating the Duo Art Electric Piano.

A special feature of the Birmingham and District Branch activities will be a series of drawing-room meetings. Various members of the Council, including Mrs. Beale, wife of the Vice-Chairman of the Electricity Committee, and Mrs. Chattock, wife of the City Electrical Engineer, will be loaning their drawing-rooms for this purpose.

A number of lectures are also to be given in surrounding districts at Walsall, Wolverhampton, etc. The branch is also taking seriously into consideration the question of arranging some simple lectures on Electricity for the Council Schools.

The Manchester District Branch has now well in hand its large public meeting at the Lesser Free Trade Hall on October 26th. Miss Ellen Wilkinson, the President of the Branch, has promised to speak at the meeting, another speaker being Dr. Ferranti. The Branch has also in hand lectures on Scientific Lighting, and visits to various places of electrical interest in the Manchester district.

The Inaugural Meeting of the South Wales Branch of the E.A.W. is to be held during the autumn.

## GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR.

Our Annual Green, White and Gold Fair will be held this year at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 23rd and 24th, and will be opened each day at 3 p.m. On Tuesday, November 23rd, by The Duchess of Hamilton; and on Wednesday, November 24th, by The Lady Amherst of Hackney. The Chair will be taken on Tuesday by Miss Anna Munro, and on Wednesday by Dr. Knight.

### STALLS AND STALLHOLDERS.

**Hampstead Branch.**—Handkerchiefs, Antiques, and White Elephants. Miss Goodliffe, Miss Lyndon, and Miss Vibert.

**Montgomery Boroughs Branch.**—Welsh Produce, Cakes and General. Miss Alix M. Clark and Friends.

**Portsmouth Branch.**—Household Goods. Mrs. Whetton and Members.

**South-Eastern Branches.**—Dairy Produce and Pound Stall.—Miss White and Members.

**China Stall.**—Mrs. Potter and Miss F. E. Potter.

**Knitted Goods.**

**Literature Stall.**—Mrs. Pierotti.

**Overalls and Aprons.**—Miss Underwood and Mrs. F. A. Underwood.

**Shilling Stall (Supported by the Minerva Club Branch).**—Mrs. Delbanco.

**Stationery Stall.**

**Sweets.**—Miss Mary Knight and Friends.

**Toy Stall and Bran Tub.**—Mrs. Knight and Friends.

**Underclothing Stall.**—Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. M. M. Abbott.

**"Vote" Stall.**—Mrs. Flowers, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Northcroft, Mrs. Newsome.

### PLEASE HELP.

All the Stallholders are much in need of Gifts to supply their Stalls with suitable and pretty Christmas presents. Will all members and friends, therefore, make a special effort to send some contribution for one or other of the Stalls.

### ENTERTAINMENTS.

The Entertainments will be on an extensive scale, and will include Dramatic Performances each day at 6 p.m. (arranged by Miss Mollie Dutchman).

Music and recitations will be given at intervals between 4 and 6 p.m. and after 7 p.m., on both days of the Fair. The following have already kindly promised to assist: Mrs. Harvey-James, Miss Olive Harvey-James, Miss Prelooker, and Mrs. Sparrow.

Character Readings by Mrs. Simons; and there will also be Phenology and Numerology.

### COMPETITIONS AND GAMES.

Special attention is being given to the Competitions, and it is hoped that these will be even more attractive than usual this year.

### TEAS AND REFRESHMENTS.

Mrs. Fisher has most kindly undertaken this part of the work, and will be assisted by Miss Reeves and the staff, and members of the Minerva Club.

Teas will be served in the Lounge and Gallery from 3.30 to 6 p.m., and Refreshments will be served after 7 p.m.

### SOCIETIES AND FRIENDS TAKING STALLS.

The British Commonwealth League.

The Nine Elms Settlement.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

The Montessori Society.

The Friends' Council for International Service.

Miss Burwood (Beads).

Miss Dobie (Batik Work).

Miss Johnson (Knitted Goods).

Miss Lindsay (Miniature Gardens).

Mrs. Shawcross.

Miss Stamm.

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

## OUR LENDING LIBRARY.

"Women in the Factory." By Dame Adelaide M. Anderson, D.B.E., M.A.

"What I Remember." By Millicent Garrett Fawcett, J.P., LL.D.

"Ancilla's Share." An Indictment of Sex Antagonism. Anonymous.

"The Police Court and Its Work." By Henry Turner Waddy.

May be borrowed from the Literature Department at 6d. per week.

## Women's Freedom League.

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

### WHERE TO GO.

#### WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

##### LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Tuesday, September 28th, at 6.45 p.m.

Mid-London Branch, Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C. Members are urged to be present at this first meeting of the Autumn Session.

Friday, October 8th, 7.30 for 7.45 p.m.

Public Dinner, Crown Hall, Holborn Restaurant, High Holborn, to celebrate the Silver Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Pathick-Lawrence. Tickets, 8/6 each. All Suffragists specially invited.

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

National Executive Committee Meeting.

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

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

Friday, October 22nd., 7.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights. Public Meeting, Caxton Hall.

Tuesday and Wednesday, November 23rd and 24th, 3 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

Green, White and Gold Fair, at Caxton Hall.

##### PROVINCES.

Tuesday, September 28th, and Thursday, September 30th.

Portsmouth Branch. Mass canvass. Helpers meet at Mrs. Poole's, 17, Green Road, at 2 p.m.

##### OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, September 25th, 10 a.m.—5 p.m.

National Union of Women Teachers. Conference at Central Hall, Westminster (see opposite column).

Sunday, September 26th, at 11.45 a.m.

The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Special Service conducted by Miss M. M. Allan (Principal of Homerton College, Cambridge). Music by N. U. W. T. Choir.

Monday, September 27th, at 8 p.m.

Public Meeting, Library Hall, Church Street, Stoke Newington, N. Speakers: Mrs. Mustard (Women's Freedom League), G. W. H. Jones, Esq., M.P., Miss Beatrice Pearson. Chair: The Mayor of Stoke Newington. Subject: "Why should Women of 21 years of age have a Vote?"

Tuesday, September 28th, at 7 p.m.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Dinner to welcome Miss Fedden on her return from South Africa, at the Rendezvous Restaurant, Soho.

Thursday, September 30th, at 10.30 a.m., 2.30 p.m., and 8.30 p.m.

British Commonwealth League Conference.

Thursday, September 30th, and Friday, October 1st.

Union of Women Voters. Conference of Women Ministers, at All Souls' Church, Hoop Lane, Golders Green.

Saturday, October 2nd.

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

October 3rd—28th.

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

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

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

October 5th—8th.

League of the Church Militant Campaign at Southport.

October 6th—9th.

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

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

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

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

Women's International League. Conference on Arbitration.

October 19th—22nd.

Annual Meeting and Conference of the National Council of Women, in the Church House, Great Smith Street, Westminster.

### BRANCH NOTE.

#### PORTSMOUTH.

The Annual Meeting was held on Wednesday, September 15th, at 3 o'clock, at 2, Kent Road. The report showed a year's steady work, the monthly public meetings having been well attended. The branch took part in the Peace Pilgrimage, and also in the Hyde Park demonstration for Equal Suffrage. New members had joined during the year. The Hon. Treasurer's statement showed a small balance in hand. Great interest and enthusiasm were shown in the candidature of Mrs. Poole for the City Council, and a vigorous campaign was planned. It was agreed to ask each member to give one article for the Portsmouth Stall at the Green, White and Gold Fair, and to start work-parties immediately after the Municipal Elections.

(Hon. Sec.) MRS. WHITTON, 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

## NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN TEACHERS.

Public Conference at Central Hall, Westminster, S.W.1, on Saturday, September 25th, 1926. Morning, 10-12.15; afternoon, 3-5. Chair: Miss A. M. Jackson, President N.U.W.T.

Speakers: Morning session.—10 a.m., Dr. J. A. Hadfield, M.A., Lecturer in Psychology, King's College, London, "Mental Health and Education." 11.15 a.m., Mrs. Beatrice Ensor, Chairman of the International Council of the New Education Fellowship, "The New Methods of the Progressive Schools of America." Afternoon session.—3 p.m., Dr. Yorke Trotter, M.A., Principal of the Incorporated London Academy of Music, "The Place of Music in Education." 4 p.m., Lecture Demonstration of Educational Films arranged by the "British Instructional Films, Ltd." Demonstrator, Miss A. Mary Field, M.A. Members will be entertained to tea at 5 p.m. in the Central Hall. Tickets: Members (Free) to be obtained from local secretaries; Non-members (1/- each session) to be obtained from local secretaries or from 39, Gordon Square, W.C.1.

## WOMEN VOTERS.

An interesting point was raised by the Unionist agent (Mr. Whited) at the Leamington Revision Court recently. Mr. Whited asked the view of the Registration Officer in regard to a decision which had been made in the county of Warwick. It had been laid down, he said, that in cases where claims were made by women residing at home, for instance, they were qualified for a vote if they occupied a room in which the furniture was their own. This was stated to qualify even if there was no agreement or rent paid, occupation having been proved. Mr. Whited observed that he had always understood that a person must either be an owner or tenant to qualify for a vote, and that the qualification for this was by agreement or the payment of rent. If the practice were to be followed in Leamington, it would mean that hundreds of women would be able to get their names on the register.

The Registration Officer (Mr. Leo Rawlinson): As there is no case before me, I prefer to say nothing.

Mr. Whited: I was afraid that was what you would say. (Laughter.) It has always appeared to me that the person had either to be the owner or tenant of the property to qualify for the vote.

The Registration Officer: That, of course, is the crux of the question; but I would rather not express any opinion at the moment.

## OUR TREASURY.

### NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1925, £43,514 4s. 11d.

| Previously acknowledged                | £ s. d. | £ s. d.  |
|--|---------|----------|
| Special Emergency War Fund:—           |         | 321 11 4 |
| A Friend                               | 3 2 6   |          |
| Mrs. Angold                            | 4 0     |          |
| Equal Political Rights Campaign Fund:— |         | 3 6 6    |
| Miss S. L. Mann                        | 2 0     |          |
| Miss Farmer                            | 1 6     |          |
| Clyde Coast Campaign:—                 |         | 3 6      |
| Donations (per Miss Lenton)            | 46 18 1 |          |
| Collections (per Miss Lenton)          | 5 15 4  |          |

|                           |         |  |
|---------------------------|---------|--|
| Mrs. B. F. Grenville      | 52 13 5 |  |
| Miss Eunice Murray        | 2 0 0   |  |
| Lady Smith, J.P.          | 1 1 0   |  |
| Miss Lang                 | 1 0 0   |  |
| Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson     | 1 0 0   |  |
| Miss M. I. Saunders       | 5 0     |  |
| Mrs. Padfield             | 5 0     |  |
| Mrs. Genevieve Allen      | 4 0     |  |
| Miss I. Davies            | 2 6     |  |
| Miss M. Ballard Dawson    | 2 6     |  |
| Miss C. I. James          | 2 6     |  |
| Miss S. L. Mann           | 2 6     |  |
| Miss A. A. Scorer         | 2 6     |  |
| Miss Constance May        | 2 0     |  |
| Mrs. Sara M. Algeo        | 1 6     |  |
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## TO LET.

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## CLUBS.

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**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 377.

**FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.**—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, September 26th. 6.30. Mr. Oliver W. F. Lodge: "William Blake."

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

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## Membership Application Form.

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

Name .....

Address .....

I enclose £ : s. d. as my first Annual Subscription.

Minimum Annual Subscription, 1/-