

THE VOTE.  
AUGUST 26, 1927.

## HOW TO CATCH THE HARE.

# THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 1927

**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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## OUR NEW MAGISTRATE.

Our cordial congratulations to our member Mrs. Gresswell, on her appointment to the Commission of the Peace for the Borough of Southport! We also congratulate the Southport Bench, where her services will be given. Mrs. Gresswell has a long record of public work, which began at the close of her school-days, and she has taken the keenest interest in police court cases in which women or girls were involved, either as accused or victims; and time after time she has protested against the attempt to clear the Court of women, while men were allowed to remain, in "unpleasant cases" in which women or girls were called upon to give evidence. In this, she followed in the steps of her mother, who gave fifty years of her life to social reform and the woman's movement, and who was particularly keen to secure the appointment of women police and matrons in police cells. Mrs. Gresswell has frequently urged the necessity for more women Justices of the Peace on all magistrates' Benches. At present, because of the small numbers of women magistrates, it is not possible to have even one woman on each rota. She

is firmly of the opinion that there should be women on the Bench to try every case, but much more especially when women and children are involved. Yet what happens? When the lists of appointments to the Commission of the Peace appear, we see there are 12 men and *two women*; eight men and *one woman*; 36 men

and *six women*; 12 men and *four women*; six men and *no woman*, etc., as recently recorded in THE VOTE. Indeed, at the present time, there are nearly 25,000 J.P.s in England and Wales, of whom only about 1,600 are women! On some Benches there are no women at all; there are certainly not enough women to go on to every rota of every Bench.



MRS. GRESSWELL, J.P.

Like her mother and her grandmother, Mrs. Gresswell is a keen suffragist. Indeed, she has been a feminist since the first morning she attended church at the age of 6. She then saw the choristers walk to their places in procession, and the one woman member of the choir steal in silently from the back. When she asked the reason why, the answer was: "Because she is a woman." "That," she says, "made my blood boil, and it has never ceased to boil at the inequalities meted out to my sex, although my own life has been in smooth places all through."

More women like Mrs. Gresswell, women with experience of social and public work, are needed on every magistrates' Bench throughout the country.

Our own view is that, until the disparity between the numbers of men and women magistrates is very much less than at present, the least we can demand is that in all new lists which appear the numbers added to the various Commissions of the Peace should consist equally of men and women.

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

### Women Motor Cyclists' Victory.

The only team of women competing in last week's six days' trials for the International Vase came through victorious over all entrants. We hope to print in our next week's issue some account of this gallant trio of British women.

### Woman's Long Jump.

At Stamford Bridge, during the holding of the Sports of the National Union of Railwaymen, Miss Muriel Gunn cleared 17 ft. 9½ in. in the Long Jump. Miss Gunn holds the women's world record.

### Opening Success of British Women Tennis Players

In the opening round of the American women's national tennis tournament at Forest Hills, New York, the British women entrants swept the board. With the exception of Mrs. Godfree, who scratched owing to acute tonsillitis, and of Miss Betty Nuthall, who had a walk-over, the other British women easily beat their American opponents, all going into the second round.

### British Women Athletes' Success.

In the International Women's Athletic Meeting held at Brussels last week, the members of the London Olympiades, who represented England, distinguished themselves by some fine performances. Miss Haynes won the 80 Metres and the 250 Metres Sprint Races, Miss Uglov being second in the latter; Miss Trickey won the 1,000 Metres; Miss Hatt won the Hurdles and was second in the High Jump; Miss Birchenough was second in Throwing the Discus and also in Putting the Weight; and the London Olympiades team won the Relay Race.

### Mrs. Elliott Lynn's Success.

Mrs. Elliott Lynn last week flew an Avro Avian light aeroplane at the second international aviation meeting at Zurich, and won the Basle Cup for the fastest speed from St. Gall to Basle. She also won the St. Gall Cup for the greatest speed over the speed course. She was the only woman pilot competing at the meeting and the only private owner, while the Avian, which is fitted with a Cirrus Mk. II air-cooled engine, was the only British machine in the races.

### Women Pilots.

All round the coasts of Britain are 4,000 pilots ready to navigate shipping to and from our shores. About 100 of these are women, facing the same dangers and showing the same courage and skill as their men colleagues.

### Women's Motor-boat Racing.

In the final for the Duke of York's international trophy for motor-boat racing, the victor was "Little Spitfire," owned by Mrs. Rand, raced by Mr. R. Snoddy, and the second was "Newg," owned and raced by Miss M. B. Carstairs, last year's winner.

### Welsh Girl Champion.

The Welsh Women's Diving Championship and the 500 Yards Championship were both won this year by a girl of 15, Miss Valerie Davies, of Cardiff.

### Woman Pharmacist's Success.

Miss Eileen Melville, of Cardiff, has won the £60 Fairchild Scholarship, in competition with pharmacists' assistants and apprentices, open to Great Britain.

### Two Girl Excavators.

Two girls, aged 14 and 16, are in charge of excavations at Bulverton Hill, near Sidmouth. They have uncovered a sun temple and a vast quantity of neolithic, Early Briton and Druidical remains, specimens of which have been placed in the British Museum, in exchange for exhibits for the girls' own museum at Bulverton.

### Woman Coroner's Clerk.

At Shoburyness, the Coroner's Clerk is a woman, reported to be the only woman Coroner's Clerk in Britain.

### Woman Owner of Brownsea.

Brownsea Island and Castle, for so long untenanted, has been bought and is to be occupied by Mrs. Christie, of Marston, Somerset. No birds will be allowed to be kept in cages on this beautiful island, and no birds or animals will be allowed to be killed. This will make a sanctuary in ideal surroundings.

### New Headmistress for Wycombe Abbey School.

The headmistress of Colchester County High School for Girls, Miss W. M. Crosthwaite, has been appointed headmistress of Wycombe Abbey School for Girls, High Wycombe, in succession to Miss Arbuthnot Lane, who has recently retired.

### Woman Freeman's Generosity.

Following some repairs to the Parish Church at Rye, discovery was made of a hidden Priest's Chamber. The generosity of Lady McIlwraith, Honorary Freeman of Rye, will allow restoration of the 14th-century staircase leading to the Chamber, a tiled floor to be laid, the old circular window to be opened, and, further, the provision of cases for exhibition of relics discovered in the Church.

### Famous Advertiser Praises Women.

Sir Charles Higham is reported as stating: "I prefer to employ young women because they are more loyal and more energetic than young men."

### Sound Advice.

The *Evening Standard* offers some sound advice about "Generalisations," and that is that when you yourself say, or when you hear another say, "Women are so-and-so," try the phrase instead, "Men are so-and-so," and you will find it is just as near to and just as far from the truth.

### Queensland Speaker.

Sir Littleton Groom, Speaker of the House of Representatives, addressing a branch of a Queensland society, spoke highly of the value of women's co-operation in the political life of the country, and said: "Once upon a time it was thought to be a man's business to be interested in politics. But it was not only a man's business; it was the business of the citizens, and

### Kilimanjaro Climbed by Woman.

Since it was first climbed by a man in 1889, no woman has reached the top of Kilimanjaro. Now, in 1927, Miss Sheila Macdonald has become the first woman to climb this peak of over 1,900 feet, the highest in South Africa.

### Confusion Worse Confounded.

Denver City, U.S.A., issues a new traffic code in which it is seriously proposed that if all men drivers will yield the road, main or cross, to all women drivers, fewer accidents will occur. Britain must resist this idea.

### Woman Game Guardian.

During the stay of President Coolidge in South Dakota, in the Black Hills, the Deputy Game Warden of Custer, Mrs. Caryll V. Hoffman, was appointed for special patrol duties in the vicinity of the summer "White House."

### Woman's Bid for Equality.

In Georgia, where men pay the poll tax whether they vote or not, and where women pay only if they vote, the solitary woman in the Legislature moved that women should pay as the men do. She was entirely defeated by the men legislators.

### Queen of Egypt's Example.

A courageous example has been given to Moslem women by the action of the Queen of Egypt in journeying abroad. She has left Egypt for a visit to France.

### German Woman Record Breaker.

A German woman, at Breslau, broke the woman's world walking record for 900 metres by doing the distance in 2 min. 23¼ sec.

## THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS ASSEMBLY.

The Agenda of the Eighth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, to be held at Geneva on September 5th, contains some items of special interest to readers of THE VOTE. The first of these is the Annual Report by the Council on the Slavery Convention, the Resolution adopted on September 25th, 1926, being as follows: "The Assembly desires that the League of Nations should continue to interest itself in securing the progressive abolition of slavery and conditions analogous thereto, and therefore requests the Council to prepare and communicate to the Assembly every year a document mentioning the laws and regulations which parties to the Convention on Slavery, in accordance with Article 7, will have communicated to the Secretary-General, and that the Council will include therein any supplementary information which the members of the League may be disposed spontaneously to furnish with regard to the measures taken by them to this end."

We also note that, under the heading "Protection of Women and Children in the Near East," the Final Report on the work of Miss Jeppe for 1926-27 is asked for, the Resolution adopted on September 25th, 1926, being: "The Assembly, seeing that Miss Jeppe is of opinion that her task will be discharged during the coming year, requests her to submit to the next ordinary Session of the Assembly a final report on all the results of her mission."

The question of alcoholism is also coming up again for discussion. Last year, the delegates of Finland, Poland, and Sweden submitted a long proposal to the Assembly. They pointed out that, in its practical activities in the field of social, economic and humanitarian questions, the League has more and more been compelled to deal with the question of alcoholism. Thus the Report to the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly on the work of the Council and of the Secretariat contains the information that the Traffic in Women and Children Committee was unanimously of the opinion that an interdependence existed between the two evils, namely: alcoholism and prostitution; and the Child Welfare Committee, after having considered the Report furnished by the International Bureau against Alcoholism, requested the Council to ask the Governments to protect children and young people from the danger of alcoholism by every possible means.

The Assembly will also discuss the Report on the Work of the Advisory Commission for the Protection and Welfare of Children and Young People under the heading: (a) Report of the Committee on Traffic in Women and Children; (b) Report of the Child Welfare Committee. The Reports on the Work of the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, of the International Economic Conference, and of the Health Organisation of the League, are also down for consideration.

Last year, the Assembly referred to its First Committee the following proposal, submitted by the British delegation: "The Assembly requests the Council to appoint a Committee to consider and report what questions are and what are not within the sphere of action of the League." The proposal for the appointment of a Committee was withdrawn by Viscount Cecil during discussion in the First Committee, chiefly on the ground of expense—it would necessitate meetings at Geneva outside the Sessions of the Assembly; but, after a full discussion, the adoption of the following resolution was recommended to the Assembly, and this will be considered next month: "The Assembly, having considered with the deepest interest Viscount Cecil's proposal and the Memorandum of the British delegation, shares the feelings which inspired these two documents; recognises that the League of Nations should avoid dissipating its activity upon subjects which might divert it from its lofty mission of promoting the peace of the world and facilitating co-operation between nations for the peaceful progress of mankind; recommends that each body forming part of the League,

before taking into consideration any proposal submitted to it, should satisfy itself that the proposal is in accordance with the objects of the League as indicated by the Covenant, and possesses real importance from the point of view of the attainment of those objects; decides that, in case of doubt, and if so requested by a member of the body, the question shall be submitted to the Council in the intervals between the Sessions of the Assembly, and, during those Sessions, to the Committee appointed by the Assembly for legal and constitutional questions. The present resolution shall be brought by the Secretary-General to the knowledge of the various bodies forming part of the League."

## WOMEN AT THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

This year's meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science opens in Leeds, on Wednesday, August 31st. Among the Sectional Officers we find Miss R. M. Fleming (Anthropology); Miss L. A. Lowe and Dr. May Collins (Psychology); Miss L. I. Scott (Botany); the Duchess of Atholl, Miss A. Fleming, and Miss E. M. Blackburn (Education).

In Section C (Geology), on September 1st, Miss Emily Dix takes "Marine Horizons in the Coal Measures of South Wales and the North of England."

In Section D (Zoology), on the 2nd, Miss S. M. Manton takes "On the Embryology of a Mysid Crustacean." On the 6th, Dr. Kathleen Carpenter takes "On the Survival of some Ice-age Relics in the Freshwater Fauna of Cardiganshire." In Section E (Geography), on the same day, Miss A. Garnett takes "The Capitals of Morocco"; and on the 7th, Miss S. Harris takes "Village Settlements in the Channel Islands."

In Section F (Economic Science and Statistics), on the 5th, Miss M. Tappan takes "Prices and Price-Control in Great Britain and the United States."

In Section H (Anthropology), on the 2nd, Miss R. M. Fleming gives a demonstration of a new Anthropometric Instrument; on the 5th, Miss W. S. Blackman takes "The Modern Egyptian Medicine Man"; on the 6th, Mrs. M. E. Cunningham takes "Woodhenge"; and on the 7th, Miss M. McInnes takes "An Ethnological Survey of Sheffield and the Surrounding District."

In Section I (Physiology), on the 1st, Miss Marion Hirst takes "Some Observations on the Excretions of Creatine"; on the 6th, Miss W. J. Wadge takes "Rapid Colorimetric Method for Measurement of pH." The same day, Miss Wadge gives a demonstration of "Methods for Determining H-ion Concentration."

In Section J (Psychology), on the 1st, Miss Hume takes "Disability in Reading"; Miss Wheeler, "Backwardness in Arithmetic"; and Miss McAllister, "Speech Disabilities"; and on the 2nd, Miss M. M. McTaggart takes "Some Causes of Backwardness."

In Section K (Botany), on the 1st, Miss E. M. Rees takes "Observations on the Structure and Reproduction of *Bifurcaria tuberculata*, Starckh"; on the 2nd, Mrs. N. L. Alcock and Miss E. Welsford take part in a discussion on "The Control of Plant Diseases"; on the 5th, Miss E. R. Saunders discusses "The Carpel," and Miss E. Roughton "The Influence of Hydrogen-ion Concentration on the Swelling of Plant Tissues"; on the 6th, Professor Dame H. C. I. Gwynne-Vaughan takes "Germination of Fungal Spores," Miss Margaret Martin "The Influence of Ultra-Violet Light on the Structure of Plants," and Miss A. Westbrook "The Influence of Ultra-Violet Radiation on the Growth of Plants."

In Section L (Education), on the 2nd, the Duchess of Atholl gives her Presidential Address on "The Broadening of the Outlook in Education"; Miss S. Bursall takes part in a discussion on "Education in Tropical Africa," and later takes "The Education of the African Woman."

In Section M (Agriculture), on the 2nd, Mrs. Alcock discusses "Control of Plant Diseases."

In the Special Section for Textile Subjects, on the 5th, Miss Hadfield takes "Nature of the Action of Sunlight on Cotton."

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NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—  
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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.

### HOW TO CATCH THE HARE.

The *Yorkshire Post* is arguing with us on two points and trying to make them one. On August 6th, the *Yorkshire Post* had a leader stressing what it felt to be the two most important matters and measures which should be kept under consideration by Parliamentarians and their constituents during the recess. These two measures were the Reform of the House of Lords and the Enfranchisement of Women. On the second of these, the *Yorkshire Post* seemed to us to trail a red-herring and to run the danger of muddling the simple-minded. It took the line that, while equality of franchise was an agreed and promised measure, the best species of equality would be the fixing of the voting age for both men and women at 25 years. We are not, as suffragists, for the present concerned with any of the details of the British franchise laws except where they are unequal between men and women. Suffragists, as such, would probably be as divided as any other members of the community are upon the best qualifications for becoming an elector—e.g., the wisest age to choose; whether education should be a test; whether financial stability, pauperism, honesty, crime, insanity, senility, nationality, all these and more, should be taken into account. This vast question has not been before the public, and is frowned upon by election and Party agents.

If the *Yorkshire Post* feels that the raising of the age, nationally, at which citizens may become voters is of prime importance, we have no complaint to make, but wish it success where it deserves success. However, where we have ground for complaint, and very solid ground, is that the *Yorkshire Post* would postpone equalising the franchise until the age is raised to 25 years. The *Yorkshire Post* rightly says: "Two wrongs do not make a right any more in politics than in ethics," but we would say, "To do a wrong by delaying our promised equality can do no good to what appears to you the right of raising the age." It has to be remembered that the question of raising the age is a new one, has few public protagonists, and has been publicly proclaimed by Mr. Baldwin, the reigning Prime Minister of England, as "not practical politics." On the other hand, equality of franchise has been worked for and fought for up and down the country, in Parliament, and in the constituencies; has been the subject of deputation after deputation to Ministers; women have died for equality of franchise, and thousands of women have spent their lives for it. As a famous feminist leader has said:

"Such work cannot be carried on without tremendous effort on our part. The things we have personally intended to do with our lives we cannot do—for this we must do instead."

This spring, after years of work and endeavour, the Prime Minister gave the women his promise of equality. At such a time to raise another issue, to becloud the clear-cut, simple, equality issue with the smoke of still ripening red-herrings is not fair. The raising of the age for voting may be right, may be desirable, even immediately and urgently desirable; on the other hand, it may be wrong and most undesirable. In either case we claim that it has nothing whatever to do with the

equalising of present franchise laws; indeed, women ought first to have the equal vote in order to voice their opinion on this very question.

Ever since women began to ask for the franchise, similar appeals have been made to them. Party officials out of power have said, "Wait until we are in power," whilst those in power have said, "Wait until the attacks of the Opposition have ceased"; manufacturers have said, "Wait until trade revives"; internationalists have said, "Wait until other nations grant the franchise to their women"; pacifists have said, "Wait until world peace is guaranteed"; temperance workers have said, "Wait until the world is sober"; workers against the white slave traffic have said, "Wait until the world is clean"; few women will be tempted by the latest appeal, "Wait until the voting age is raised."

We differ entirely from the *Yorkshire Post* when it urges that the raising of the age and the equalising of the vote are "linked, and that a Bill to confer the franchise on women on the same terms as on men should be coupled with a Bill to raise the voting age of men to 25, while lowering it to that year for women. In vain we endeavour to discover anything unjust to women in this proposal." The *Yorkshire Post* cannot be as simple-minded as that makes it appear, and it is the attempt to catch the simple-minded by such false arguments that we protest is flagrantly "unjust to women." To couple two things and expect them to arrive anywhere when one is the finished political product of years of labour, and the other is "not practical politics," is like coupling a racing greyhound with a Pekingese, and expecting him to catch the hare.

We shall be quite pleased to watch the *Yorkshire Post* in its rather quixotic crusade to alter the voting age to 25, but, in justice to the 5,000,000 unenfranchised women, we would ask it to refrain from damaging "equality" while doing so.

### STRAWS SHOW THE WAY!

An encouraging straw can be seen blowing in a comforting direction for the hopes of those who await the fulfilment of the Conservative pledge that women shall vote on equal terms with men at the next election. Straw is perhaps not the suitable word; stooks or stacks, like those corn stooks which arrived by gale in Northern Ireland and came to land in a region where no corn was, may more resemble these phenomena. It is being reported from many areas that an increase in the numbers of women Party organisers is becoming noticeable. Some are being appointed where none were before, others added to the existing staff. While yielding to a passing regret that reports do not explain this increase by the superior efficiency of women agents or organisers, we can quite wholeheartedly rejoice at the explanation offered. This explanation is the sure prospect of an imminent addition to the electors' roll of 5,000,000 more women. This really looks as if 1928 might write *finis* to this chapter of the women's movement. As 3,000,000 of these prospective voters are estimated to be between the ages of 21 and 30, the rival Parties find it necessary to appoint women to prevent, in the Conservative case, "these young women falling a prey to Socialist fallacies," and, in the Socialist case, to save them from the capitalistic pit. The Liberal Party goes steadily on building itself up with the help of an army of women organisers.

And what are the non-Party women doing, that vast group, detached from Party, attached only to feminism? During this month they are taking a well-earned holiday before assembling their ranks again for what they intend to make the final attack. After a strenuous winter, spring and summer campaign, backing the Prime Minister's promise, the work culminated in a big demonstration in Trafalgar Square in July. Now a holiday, next month an assembly, and then full speed ahead again until the Bill, which will grant them the acme of their life's work, is introduced, passed through all its stages, receives the King's assent, and is placed on the Statute Book.

## LIBRARY WORK FOR WOMEN.

By FLORENCE MARKS.

The last fifty years have seen a wonderful change in the position of women, social, industrial and economic. In the days of hoops and crinolines the uneducated girl had little choice of a career (which was the male prerogative); she could always turn to domestic service, of course; she might perhaps become a shop assistant or a barmaid, but little other opening occurred for her. For the more lettered women there remained only teaching, either private or public. There were the elementary schools and "select" private establishments, or there was the chance of becoming a "genteel" governess to the children of the wealthy. Such governesses led most commonly a hopelessly drab existence; they had no recognised status in the household, had not even the servants' privilege of an evening out, were usually not considered to be the social equal of those whose progeny they were at least capable of instructing, and were despised by the servants as being "neither fish, nor flesh, nor good red-herring!"

Indeed, the lives of many women in former days, more especially the "unattached" ones, were often tragic and full of humiliations. *Mais nous avons changé tout cela.* Contrast the freedom of choice to-day! For although there still remain many things to be desired, yet there is no doubt that most avenues are open to women. We have women doctors, lawyers, barristers, engineers, chartered accountants, and so on, and among the avocations in which women are peculiarly successful, that of librarianship is by no means unimportant.

The old idea that a librarian was a mere caretaker and dealer-out of books has long since given way to a better understanding of the situation. But along with this change has come undoubtedly the taking for granted of, and the demand for, higher qualifications in a librarian, and it is safe to say that nowadays people are justified in looking for some culture and a great deal of intelligence in the person whose services they enlist when they visit a library.

The existence of the Library Association is largely responsible for this altered status of the librarian's profession. Its primary object was to raise librarianship from the low level at which it was generally regarded, and its efforts have been supremely successful in this respect. Space forbids me to enumerate the many activities of the Library Association, which include courses of instruction, lectures, discussions, publications, examinations for diploma, etc. Of recent years, too, mainly through the generosity of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, there has been a School of Librarianship established at University College, London. This School also provides a thorough course of study for the would-be librarian. Organisation, classification, cataloguing, and indexing are only a few of the special subjects included in this course, which lasts from three to four years. Any student emerging successful therefrom with the diploma (or from the Library Association course) must do so very thoroughly equipped for the intelligence work required of a librarian, with a mind well informed, with the active and methodical brain so necessary for success in any profession, and particularly so in efficient library work.

It is a significant fact that in these librarianship courses the majority of students are girls, probably from the higher secondary schools, with their matriculation or some such qualification, which would seem to show that library work appeals more to the female than to the male mind. In America this is peculiarly noticeable; librarianship seems there to be a recognised profession for women, for many of the most important libraries in the United States are administered by women.

Now, of course, the larger the library, the more numerous will be the sections over which the work will be spread. In the many departments of a large

public library the assistants will each have specified work to do, which is frequently of a routine and monotonous nature, and which, though absolutely necessary for the efficient administration of the institution, is in itself extremely uninteresting. It is, however, in the smaller specialised libraries, research and information bureaux, that the librarian's work is of a very varied kind, and therefore infinitely more interesting than the necessarily circumscribed duties in a large general library. In these smaller specialised libraries there will probably be a very small staff—perhaps the librarian herself (I am taking the sex for granted!) and one assistant, whose duties will be multifarious. The librarian must, above all qualifications, possess tact in dealing with her visitors, who are of the most diverse types and come with very varied requirements. Some come to gain a general idea as to the lines on which the library works, its special subjects, and the important publications available on such subjects; some want specific information, and are ready to sit and study what material the librarian can put at their disposal; some want advice as to courses of study, etc. This constant variety forms the chief element of interest for the librarian. She never knows what each day may bring forth. There is absolutely no monotony in her work in this respect.

I think, too, that the infinite capacity for entering into details, which is usually the characteristic of woman, is a great asset to her as a librarian. For there is no doubt that an enormous amount of detail has to be elicited in a research and information bureau, such as the library to which I particularly allude. Newspaper cuttings, for instance, have to be gone through carefully, catalogued in some cases, with all the necessary cross references. This also is the case with pamphlets, which form a very important section in a specialised library. Magazines have to be looked over, and articles therein dealing with special subjects indexed for reference. Often these cuttings, pamphlets, or articles, are of the very greatest assistance to a student who is on some special research work. Then catalogues and reviews have to be studied for possible publications dealing directly or indirectly with the library's special subjects, in order to keep up to date. This is imperative for a bureau of information, more particularly with regard to economic questions of the present day, as such are constantly changing from one day to another.

To-day, agricultural economics and the efficient marketing of agricultural produce are the vital subjects of interest to those who have the betterment of rural life in view.

This is the especial aim of the library with which I am connected; its motto is Sir Horace Plunkett's world-famous formula: "Better Farming, Better Business, Better Living," the last of the three being the inevitable result of the other two, and Better Business in agriculture means generally co-operation in the purchase of raw materials, etc., combined with co-operation in the sale of produce.

The Co-operative Reference Library was founded in 1914 in Dublin, on the initiative of Sir Horace Plunkett, the pioneer of agricultural co-operation in these islands. The library was to serve as a bureau of information on the movement in Europe and elsewhere. For various reasons not germane to this article the library was removed to London in 1925, where it now functions as an adjunct to the Horace Plunkett Foundation, 10, Doughty Street, W.C.1, where visitors who are interested in the organisation of agriculture come from all parts of the world, both to interview the Secretary and discuss the burning question of co-operative marketing, and also to make use of the library and its publications and opportunities of gaining information.

The present location of the library is more convenient and more easy of access for visitors from the Dominions and from other countries than its first home in Dublin.

Work in such a library has the result of broadening one's interest and greatly widening one's mental horizon, as one is in constant contact with all parts of the world, either by correspondence or by personal visits.

Furthermore, it is a genuine pleasure to feel that one's daily work is definitely directed towards the goal of social betterment and the general raising of the standard of living in rural places.

Agriculture is the topic of the hour to-day, and it is all to the good that urban dwellers should try to realise that, as agriculture is indubitably the industry most fundamentally necessary for human existence, nothing should be left undone, and no effort should be spared to encourage its progress and thereby to establish more social amenities and better conditions among our rural population.

#### INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE WOMEN'S GUILD CONFERENCE.

The Third Triennial International Co-operative Women's Guild Conference was held on August 12th and 13th, 1927, at Stockholm. The President of the "Mothers' International," as it is affectionately called, Mrs. Emmy Freundlich, M.P., of Austria, stated that this Conference was the largest that had yet been held, the two previous Conferences being held in Basle in 1921, with only 37 delegates, and in Ghent in 1924, with 100 delegates. This time, in spite of distance, they had with them 205 delegates and visitors, representing 14 countries.

The first day's session was occupied with the alteration of rules and with the subject of "Low Prices or High Dividends," introduced by Miss Jonson, of the Swedish Women's Guild. The Resolution put to the Conference embraced the need for co-operative loyalty so as to increase trade, and thus gain control over prices and eventually over the standard of life of the workers; it also urged co-operative women to study the influence of the economic circumstances of their countries over prices and dividends.

The second morning's session was devoted to a housewife's subject, "The Family Wash," introduced by Mrs. Webster, of the English Women's Guild, and the discussion, which dealt with municipal and co-operative washhouses and whether women prefer to do their washing at home or to send it to public laundries, showed clearly that women of all countries desired that the "drudgery of the washing-day" should be lightened.

At the afternoon session, "Food Purity and Food Values" was introduced by Mrs. Heymann, of the Belgian Guild, who pressed for the establishment of international scientific laboratories for the study of all questions relating to the adulteration, purity, and value of all foodstuffs. Delegates spoke of the different laws on the adulteration of foods in different countries, and urged that there should be an international law for all countries, and co-operative women were advised to study the question during the coming year.

The Conference also passed a resolution of protest against the execution of Zacco and Vanzetti, while a resolution on Total Universal Disarmament included a protest against the breakdown of the Naval Conference and the failure of the Preparatory Commission on Disarmament in connection with the League of Nations. It was urged that women should be represented at the coming Disarmament Conference.

The President's Report on the International Economic Conference of the League of Nations was accepted, and it was urged that a Committee be set up at Geneva for the rationalisation of industry and that every Government should form a committee of housewives, industrialists, and technicians to work in conjunction with the International Committee for the improvement and lightening of domestic work.

The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the Swedish Guild for their hospitality, and the President, in concluding the Conference, hoped that at every succeeding Conference the International Co-operative Women's Guild would grow stronger and stronger.

#### THE GERM OF EQUALITY.

On August 5th, 1921, a Resolution was passed by the House of Commons providing that "after a provisional period of three years women shall be admitted to the Civil Service of His Majesty within the United Kingdom under the same Regulations, present or future, as provide for and prescribe the mode of admission for men."

The Resolution was the sequel to the agitation raised by the Federation of Women Civil Servants against the unequal entry between the sexes laid down in the Reorganisation Report. In that Report the age limits for entrants to the Clerical Grades differed as between boys and girls, and in the Executive and Administrative Grades the women were to be recruited by the Selection Board, whereas the men were to enter by open competition. The evils of differentiation were not only confined to the unequal status which would inevitably result from the difference in recruitment, but included the far more serious disadvantage which would arise from the power given to Departments to control the proportion of men and women entering the various grades. With separate examinations it was always possible for the Departments to make, for instance, the Clerical Grade virtually a woman's grade by limiting the number of examinations for appointments to male posts, while at the same time virtually closing the higher grades to women by reversing the process. The Resolution in question ensured that the numbers of each sex entering the Service depended solely on the numbers successful at a joint examination.

So far, the Resolution has only effected entry to the Administrative Grade, a grade to which the number of appointments is strictly limited.

Owing to the upgrading of male clerical officers to the Executive Grade as a result of the Reorganisation Report, the redundancy in this grade has made direct recruitment so far impossible, while the aftermath of war conditions and the consequent absorption of ex-Service men to Clerical posts equally prevented direct recruitment to this grade.

It is satisfactory to note, however, that in November this year the first open competition is to be held for boys and girls to enter the Clerical and Departmental Clerical Grades, and we thus begin to reap some tangible result of our efforts to obtain equal entry to the Service.

If the number of boys who are successful is less than the number required by the Departments, they will have to fill their vacancies with successful girls, and vice versa.

The immediate effects of this interchangeability of the sexes will be twofold. First, we shall have girls introduced to offices and branches hitherto regarded as sacred to men only; and, secondly, we shall build up a natural common seniority list in those Departments to which officers of both sexes are appointed. The indirect effects, though not so apparent, will be none the less valuable. With common entry at the bottom of the scale, it will be increasingly difficult to maintain separate conditions for those higher up.

We hope that open competition to the Executive Grade will not be long delayed. The fiercest fights for equality of opportunity take place in this grade, which is at present mainly filled by promoted officers; appointments of both men and women to the bottom of the grade should do much to ease the situation, and we shall then have secured equal entry to all the Reorganisation Classes.

We trust that it may not be long before other associations awoken to the fact that the Resolution of August, 1921, covers all admissions to the Civil Service, and that its application is not confined to the Treasury Grades.

[Reprinted from "Opportunity," the organ of the Federation of Women Civil Servants.]

## Women's Freedom League.

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

Telephone:—MUSEUM 1429.

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

Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.

President—Mrs. PETHICK-LAWRENCE.

Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT.

Hon. Organising Secretary—Mrs. WHETTON.

General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### WHERE TO GO.

#### WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

##### LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, September 5th, at 3 p.m.

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

Thursday, September 15th, at 7.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Highbury Corner. Open-air Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Ewen.

Saturday, September 24th, at 3.45 p.m.

Minerva Club and Mid-London Branches.

"At Home" at the Minerva Club. Tea, 4 o'clock. Members and Friends invited.

Songs, Recitations and Games. Further details later.

**DARE TO BE FREE.**

Friday, October 7th, at 5 p.m.

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

Friday, October 7th, at 8.30 p.m.

Vote-Sellers' Supper and Autumn Rally. Dr. Knight, M's: Rodgers.

Saturday, October 8th, at 10 a.m.

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

Wednesday, November 2nd, at 4 p.m.

Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Tea and Politics up-to-date.

Wednesday and Thursday, November 23rd and 24th, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Green, White and Gold Fair at Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W.

#### PROVINCES.

Friday, October 7th, at 3 p.m.

Asford. Public Meeting in Hempstead Street Hall. Speaker: Miss M. I. Neal.

Friday, October 7th, at 8 p.m.

Rye. Public Meeting at Old Cape Anchor Hotel. Speaker: Miss M. I. Neal. Chairman: Miss Ballhouse.

#### OTHER SOCIETIES.

Monday, October 31st, at 8 p.m.

Bexley Heath Congregational Guild Lecture Hall. Debate on "Equal Franchise." Proposer: Miss Marian Reeves. Opposer: Miss Carthew.

Saturday, December 17th, at 3 p.m.

Speech Club. Debate between Dr. Marian Phillips and Miss Marian Reeves on "Protective Legislation for Women," at the Mine va Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

#### HOLIDAYS.

Readers of THE VOTE who are going away for the holidays, and are not postal subscribers, are asked to send a postcard to THE VOTE Offices, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, giving their holiday address, to which THE VOTE can be sent.

#### OUR LENDING LIBRARY.

- "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.
- "The Poor Man's Court of Justice." By Cecil Chapman.
- "Life's Fitful Fever." By M. W. Nevinston, J.P., L.L.A.
- "In Darkest London." By Mrs. Cecil Chesterton.
- "Athletics for Women and Girls." By S. C. Elliott Lynn. May be borrowed from the Literature Department at 6d. per week.

#### THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE NEWS

(Jus Suffragii)

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#### GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR.

Our Annual Green, White and Gold Fair will be held this year at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Wednesday and Thursday, November 23rd and 24th, from 3 to 9 p.m. each day. On November 23rd, Mrs. Elliott Lynn has kindly promised to open the Fair, and on the 24th, the Lady Balfour of Burleigh.

Already the arrangements for the Stalls and Entertainments are well in hand. Several of our Branches have promised to provide stalls, others to send contributions. The Fair Committee hope that all Branches which have not yet responded to their appeal will consider the matter at their first meeting after the holidays.

The Stalls arranged by the Committee are Stationery, Handkerchiefs, Antiques and White Elephants, Household, Dairy Produce and Pound Stall, China, Overalls and Aprons, Toys, Sweets, Underclothing, Shilling Stall, and Literature Stall.

Our kind friend Mrs. Lloyd has, as usual, undertaken to provide a small stall. The Committee would be grateful if any other members or friends would follow her example and provide small stalls; special arrangements will be made, and good positions allotted to them.

The Misses Underwood, Mrs. Turriff, and Miss Brewer have again undertaken the Aprons and Overalls Stall, and they would be grateful to receive materials (from 1½ yards and upwards in length) for making overalls, coats, or aprons, money to buy material, or new overalls, aprons, etc., for the stall. Material received early would be much appreciated, as work could then be begun at once. All gifts in money, material, or goods can now be sent to the Misses Underwood, at the Women's Freedom League Office, or to Mrs. Turriff, 28, King's Avenue, New Malden, Surrey.

All friends of the League will be delighted to hear that Miss Grace Woollacott is arranging a Display (on Thursday, November 24th) of Operatic, Classical, and Character Dances by her pupils, whose charming dancing has so often delighted our members in the past. Our kind member and friend Mrs. Sparrow will play on both days, and we shall have also Character Readings by Miss Wall, and the Reading of Teacups by Mrs. Gilchrist. Tickets—price 1/10 (including tax) the first day until 5 o'clock; after 5 p.m. and on the second day, 1/2 (including tax)—will be on sale at the Office early in the autumn.

All communications and applications for Stalls should be sent to the Hon. Fair Secretary, Miss Elizabeth Berry, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

#### 'NORMALLY LESS.'

The following paragraphs are taken from *Opportunity* :—

"We have often wondered when the Union of Post Office Workers would take notice of the statement which appears week after week in the Post Office Circular: 'Women . . . should understand that the pay for a woman is normally less than that advertised for a man,' and we are quite relieved to see that tentative inquiries are being made, as the following correspondence taken from *The Post* shows :—

SALARIED SUB-POSTMASTERS.

The Secretary, General Post Office. April 11th, 1927.

Sir,—I have been instructed by my Committee to ask whether the Union can be informed of the general principles which guide the Post Office in deciding whether a sub-office shall be controlled by a sub-postmaster or a sub-postmistress.

I have also to ask if the reasons can be stated for paying a sub-postmistress a lower salary than that paid to the sub-postmaster who might formerly have occupied the position.

J. W. BOWEN.

General Post Office,

April 26th, 1927.

Sir—With reference to your letter of the 11th April, I am directed by the Postmaster-General to state that the question whether a salaried sub-office should be controlled by a sub-postmaster or by a sub-postmistress is determined by the circumstances of each individual case, the chief factors for consideration being the nature of the duty, the hours of attendance, and the number of male staff to be supervised.

The differentiation in salary between men and women is in accordance with the General Post Office practice.

L. A. LONG, for the Secretary.

So now we know. Nothing about capacity, output, or qualifications. Simply want of equity.

We hope the members of the Union of Post Office Workers will not allow the matter to rest there—and we suggest quite seriously to the Postmaster-General that injustice is never justified, and that the sooner the 'Post Office practice' is altered, the better for the credit of his Department."

#### W.F.L. PAMPHLETS, ETC.

- "British Women M.P.s" (brought up to date), by D. M. Northcroft . . . . . 4d.
- "The Need for Women Members of Parliament," (Second Edition), by Mrs. How Martyn, M.Sc. 3d.
- "Women's Right to Work," by Miss Lind-af-Hageby 3d.
- "Women at Work in the League of Nations," by D. M. Northcroft (Fourth Edition) . . . . . 6d.
- "What we have and What we want," by Muriel Pierotti 3d.
- "Ecce Mater," by M. A. R. Toker . . . . . 3/6

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

**D**ORSET COAST.—March to Sept. Two sitting-rooms; kitchen; three bedrooms, beds—four single, one double; bathroom (h. & c.); garage. Bridport Station, 2½ miles. Golf links and sea, 10 minutes.—Miss F. RENDALL, 6, West-cliff Road, Shipley, Yorks.

**Y**ORKSHIRE MOORS.—Apartments. Sitting and 1 or 2 bedrooms; inside sanitation; bath; garden.—ROBINSON, 6, South View, Eldwick, Bingley, Yorks.

**N**EAR FOLKESTONE.—Three friends offer a charming holiday home; large garden; tennis; garage.—Miss HASLAM, The Grey House, Lyminge, Kent.

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**S**ARK, CHANNEL ISLANDS.—Cottage to let, furnished. 2 reception; 4 bedrooms; oil-cooking; farm produce. June, July, 4 gns. per week; August, September, 5 gns.—STEWART, Dixcart, Sark.

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**H**UMANITARIAN HOLIDAY CENTRE, from July 30th to September 3rd. Southbourne-on-Sea, Hants. Large mansion, several acres beautiful grounds. New Health diet; tennis; croquet; dancing; boating; lectures.—Illustrated prospectus from Mr. F. SUMMERS, 32, Sackville Street, W. 1.

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**M**ISS CRYSTAL EASTMAN, who is returning to America for some time, wishes to sublet, furnished, her comfortable seven-room Maisonette, at 6, Upper Park Road, Hampstead. Quiet; sunny; convenient. Moderate rent.—Tel: Primrose Hill 3716.

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## NOTICES.

**I**NCOME 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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**N**EW Brick Bungalow, double fronted, square bays; verandah; six rooms, bath (h. & c.); inside sanitation; Co.'s water; good bus service; pretty piece woodland; ½ acre. Price freehold, £650. £500 mortgage obtainable.—MOCKFORD, Eastcote, Kingsnorth, Ashford, Kent.

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