

THE VOTE

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 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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A DANISH WOMAN LEAGUE COMMISSIONER.

The League of Nations Commission at Aleppo for the rescue of deported women and children from the Moslem harems is now entering upon its seventh and final year of work, for at the end of 1927 its eight Stations will be closed down. Unfortunately, too, this final year will need to be carried on without the League's financial assistance, for after a careful examination of the Report from Aleppo the Fifth Committee of the League, which deals with this and allied humanitarian questions, unanimously voted at the Assembly last September that a seventh additional year should be granted before the task could be regarded as finished, but, owing to the present difficult economic conditions of the League, the work must be carried on without the accustomed budget from Geneva.

Miss Karen Jeppe, the devoted woman commissioner who is in charge of the work at Aleppo, where she has rescued over 1,400 women and children from Moslem harems, and who recently came to London in order to raise financial assistance for the remainder of her term of office, is confident, however, that the necessary funds will be forthcoming, and intends to continue the work as if nothing had happened.

At a recent Evening Meeting at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, Miss Jeppe gave a graphic account of her League work at Aleppo since 1920, during which period her energies have been mainly directed to assisting Armenian women and children to escape from the Turkish harems and the tents of the nomads, where many had been imprisoned for years without hope of

escape. Of the 1,400 lives she has rescued, three out of four have been returned to relatives, whilst all have been assisted to become self-supporting by means of the embroidery work for which Armenian women are famous, and work on the land for the men. During the year left to her, Miss Jeppe hopes to explore more fully the region about Ras-el-Ain, where the Stations

have worked only a short time as yet. An additional reason for continuing the work lies in the fact that many Kurdish tribes have recently fled over the Syrian frontier seeking protection against the Turks, who were cruelly massacring the Kurds. These tribes are bringing with them many Christian women and children, for whom freedom will be found.

Those listeners who had the privilege of hearing Miss Jeppe broadcast recently from the London Studio will recollect the vigorous methods which she adopts in order to get into communication with the harem captives. Armenian soldiers are always a great help in spreading the news of her Reception House at Aleppo. Friendly chauffeurs, too, haunt the districts where the women are imprisoned, not only in the towns but also in the open country, on

the chance of getting into communication with them. But the most successful of all are the flour millers of the country; for Syrian women always go in person to take the corn to be ground, so it is easy on such occasions for a few words of information to be whispered.

Although Miss Jeppe is so unfortunately deprived of



MISS KAREN JEPPE.

the League's financial assistance during her final year of work, she at least has the moral support of the League, which is, of course, invaluable. She also has the collaboration and protection of the Mandatory Power in Syria, a collaboration that has proved very real and effective. In addition, too, there is at her back the whole organisation she has built up at Aleppo, with a trained staff that has proved capable of doing the work, buildings, cars, industries, schools, and colonies.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

The Oxford Union and Women.

Last week, for the first time in the history of the Oxford Union, a woman student of the University addressed the House. Quaintly enough, they granted her this privilege probably because the evening's motion was: "That the women's colleges in this University should be levelled to the ground." The woman who opposed it was Miss L. S. Sutherland, President of the Somerville Debating Society. She was, of course, the only woman on the floor of the House, but in the gallery her sex was well represented. After an hilarious debate, in which Miss Sutherland's was one of the best speeches, the motion was carried by 223 to 198.

Women Solicitors.

In the recent Final Examination of the Law Society, six women were successful: The Misses Daisy Eveline Arnold, Doris Lilian Elder, Ulrica Anne Hastie, Katharine Ogilvy Heaton, Kathleen Hoaning, Frances Muriel Slack. In the Intermediate Examination two women were successful: Miss Edith Margery Barker, who obtained a First Class, and Miss Agnes Carus Neville. In the Trust Accounts and Bookkeeping portion, two women were successful: the Misses Margretta Bulkeley Phillips and Alice May Platt.

Frenchwomen Air Pilots.

Three Frenchwomen have now qualified for an aerial pilot's licence in France. They are Mlle. Adrienne Bolland, who, in 1921, was the first Frenchwoman to obtain a licence; Mme. Louise Maryse, who qualified as a pilot last year; and Mlle. Denyse Collin, who has qualified just recently. Mlle. Collin was a nurse with the French Hospital Corps during the war, when she accompanied a wounded French general in an aeroplane from Rheims to Paris, and vowed she would become a pilot.

France's Woman Surgeon.

Dr. B. Garfield, the wife of an American, after studying in a leading French hospital, has taken up surgical practice. She is said to be the first woman surgeon in France.

Irishwoman Parliamentary Candidate.

Mrs. Noel Guinness is to stand as the Irish Women Citizens' Association candidate for County Dublin at the forthcoming General Election.

Women and Aviation.

On her return from an African tour, Mrs. Elliott Lynn will take up aviation again next April, when she will act as assistant to Colonel G. L. P. Henderson, who is starting a school down at Brooklands.

More Women Barristers.

Two more women were called to the Bar last week: Miss Eileen Macdonald, of Lancashire, at the Middle Temple; and Miss Ma Pwa Honee, a Burmese student.

In Sympathy.

EAGLE.—On October 4th, by cycle accident, Ernest Reginald Eagle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eagle, of 6, Biddulph Road, South Croydon, aged 37 years.

We join in deepest sympathy with our members in their great and terribly sudden loss.

INTOLERABLE POSITION OF THE MARRIED WOMAN.

On the advice of the Twickenham Higher Education Committee, of which Dr. J. Leeson, J.P. (Mayor of Twickenham), is Chairman, the Middlesex Education Committee have decided to dismiss Dr. Isabel Turnadge, Ph.D., B.Sc., and Fellow of the Linnean Society, from the position of headmistress of the Twickenham County School for Girls on the ground that "the responsibilities of motherhood are incompatible with her school duties." This particular Education Committee had a rule that marriage should terminate the employment of women teachers in the elementary schools of the country, but no such rule existed with regard to teachers in the secondary school, and the question had not arisen until the marriage of Dr. Turnadge two years ago. At that time the Committee thought that the rule should apply to her, but the Governors, with whom rested the powers of dismissal, thought otherwise. Since then, however, new rules have been approved placing teachers in secondary schools in the same position as those in elementary schools, and vesting powers of dismissal in the county authorities. Dr. Turnadge, who married Mr. C. J. Turnadge about two years ago, recently became the mother of a baby boy. She has been a teacher for 18 years, and has been headmistress of Twickenham County School for Girls for the last four years. Dr. Turnadge's salary was £600 a year, and by her dismissal she loses all chance of obtaining any pension, for which she would have qualified in two years' time. Her little boy is now eight months old. Dr. J. Leeson, the Mayor, with characteristic male impertinence, is reported in the *Daily Express* to have said, "It was against my advice that Dr. Turnadge, holding the position she did, ever married." He added that it was impossible for her to give the pupils the fullest attention which was expected from the headmistress, concluding with, "We pay her a good salary, and we want her undivided interests." Dr. Turnadge complains that she has not been given a chance to prove whether she could combine the duties of motherhood and her profession. If she proved incompetent in her work that would be a legitimate ground for dismissal; but it is grossly unfair that she should be dismissed simply and solely because of a man's prejudice against the paid work of married women. But in Dr. Turnadge's case there was no fear of incompetence, and her dismissal is an unwarrantable interference with the rights of the individual. Her domestic and family affairs are entirely her own business, and not the business of any committee of meddling officials. It is their business to see that ratepayers get good value for their money, and that was certainly the case so far as Dr. Turnadge was concerned. The only test for the retention or dismissal of any man or woman employed under local councils should be their ability or incompetence to do the work required of them. In this matter, as in all other matters, women should be placed on exactly the same footing as are men.

From the last number of *Education* we learn that the Education Committee of the London County Council have considered the question of the employment of married women as examiners and as superintendents of examinations conducted by the Council. Examiners are engaged only for very short periods of the year, and are paid on the basis of the number of papers set or scripts marked. Superintendents are also only paid for work actually done, and individually receive only very small sums during the course of the year. The Committee are of opinion that the employment of married women as examiners or superintendents is free from objection. The General Purposes Committee concur, and will submit the necessary amendment of Standing Orders in due course. If this work had been better paid, would the Education and General Purposes Committee have so amicably concurred in the view that the employment of married women was "free from objection"?

IN PARLIAMENT.

Compulsory Voting.

CAPT. A. EVANS (U., Cardiff, S.) asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will request His Majesty's representatives abroad to furnish particulars of any instance where compulsory voting at Parliamentary and local elections is in force or has been tried, and with what degrees of success or otherwise? SIR AUSTIN CHAMBERLAIN: I am reluctant to lay upon His Majesty's diplomatic representatives abroad the labour of collecting this information. My hon. and gallant Friend will recollect that in 1922 reports were placed in the Library of the House on the working of systems of compulsory voting in Belgium and the Netherlands, and I have no reason to think that experience elsewhere has furnished very different results.

Sexual Offences against Young Persons.

CAPT. A. EVANS asked the Home Secretary whether it is proposed to take action on the Report of the Departmental Committee on Offences Against Young Persons, and, if so, what form will the action take? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS: As regards administrative action, I have already commended the Report to the consideration of magistrates and the police. Whether any, and, if so, what, legislation should be proposed is a matter which will be better considered when the other Committee now sitting has made its report.

Ministry of Agriculture.

MR. CAMPBELL (U., Camberwell, N.W.) asked the Minister of Agriculture the number of appointments to higher clerical grade which have been made in his Department since 1st January, 1923; the number of clerical officers who have been appointed to higher clerical posts since 1st January, 1923; and the number of male clerical officers in his Department who are classified A, or above average, for promotion purposes? MR. GUINNESS: The numbers are 14, 2, and 12 respectively. The first figure includes three women higher grade clerical officers who secured their posts by open competitive examination.

Hop Fields (Inspection).

MR. BRIANT (Lib., Lambeth, N.) asked the Minister of Health if inspectors from his Department visited the hopfields during the last season; if any Reports have been received from them; and, if so, if such Reports can be made available for Members of this House? MR. CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, Sir. A Report is in preparation, and I will consider on its receipt how far its publication might serve a useful purpose.

Mental Defective and Attempted Murder Charge.

COL. DAY (Lab., Central Southwark) asked the Minister of Health whether his attention has been drawn to the charge of attempted murder against Reginald Farndale, aged 11 years, at Chester; and, in view of the fact that this lad was certified as a mental defective three years ago, will he state what action has been taken with a view to providing accommodation for such cases? MR. CHAMBERLAIN: My attention has been drawn to this case, and I am informed that accommodation has been found for the lad in an institution in Gloucestershire. Unfortunately, there is at present a shortage of accommodation for mental defectives throughout the country, and local authorities are being urged to make further provision. The local authorities for the County of Chester are now considering a proposal to provide a joint institution to serve the whole county. MR. R. MORRISON (Co-op., Tottenham, N.): Does not the right hon. Gentleman think it a deplorable state of affairs that a mental defective should have to attempt the crime of murder before he can be put into one of these Homes? MR. CHAMBERLAIN: That is not a correct statement of the case. COL. DAY: Is not the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Chief Constable said that the doctors in Chester had been trying for three years to get this lad into a

home, but, on account of lack of accommodation, they could not do so, and that he committed this crime before he could be put into a home? No reply was given.

Legislature and Councils (Women Representatives)

MISS LAWRENCE (Lab., East Ham, N.) asked the Under-Secretary of State for India whether it is the intention of the Government of India to include women among the nominated members of the new provincial councils and legislative Assembly? EARL WINTERTON: The selection of the persons to fill the nominated seats is, under the statutory rules, a matter for the personal discretion of the Governor-General in the case of the Indian Legislature, and of the Governor in the case of a provincial Legislative Council. My noble Friend has no information as to their intentions in this matter.

Condensed Skimmed Milk (Importation).

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR (U., Plymouth) asked the Minister of Health whether he is aware that the importation of condensed skimmed milk is prohibited in Cuba, the Bahamas, Chile, Argentine, British Honduras, British East Africa, the Straits Settlements, Italy, and other countries, and why he considers that it is not practicable to take similar steps to prevent the sale in this country of a product which he recognises to be unfit for babies? SIR KINGSLEY WOOD (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health): My right hon. Friend is aware that the importation of condensed skimmed milk is prohibited in some countries. He is advised that, though the absence of fat renders this article unfit for feeding babies, it is not unsuitable for other purposes. Containers in which condensed skimmed milk is sold are at present required to bear the label "Unfit for Babies," and from the point of view of the public health he sees no grounds, so long as this warning is given, for prohibiting its importation into this country. LADY ASTOR: Will the hon. Gentleman bear in mind that many Medical Officers of Health have reported that the label is quite inadequate as a means of ensuring that this condensed skimmed milk is not used for babies? If we are to allow it at all, could we not get more prominent labels, because this is really a danger in many parts of the country? SIR K. WOOD: I will look into the question of the label and see what can be done. MR. PALING (Lab., Doncaster): Is it not the case that they buy this skimmed milk because they do not get wages sufficiently high to buy other milk?

Widows' Pensions (Forfeiture).

MISS BONFIELD (Lab., Wallsend) asked the Minister of Pensions what is the number of widows' pensions that have been forfeited owing to alleged immoral conduct; the number of these cases in which the widow was, or became, the mother of an illegitimate child; whether the Ministry of Pensions acts on anonymous communications; if, concurrent with the investigation by members of the War Pensions Committee, the local police are requested to furnish a report; and, if action is taken on anonymous communications, could he state the number of cases in which it was proved that the anonymous allegations were unfounded? LT.-COL. STANLEY (Parl. Sec., Ministry of Pensions): I regret that the records of the Ministry do not enable me to give the information asked for in the first two parts of the question; but I am informed that during the past three years pension has been declared forfeited by the Special Grants Committee in 1,596 cases, whilst in the same period 576 pensions that had been previously forfeited have been restored. Allegations of misconduct made anonymously are acted on to the extent only that they may form the subject of inquiry, but in no case is investigation by the police employed unless and until the War Pensions Committee concerned have had an opportunity of inquiring into and expressing an opinion on the case. I understand that there is no record of the number of cases referred to in the last part of the question.

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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.

SEX DISQUALIFICATION (REMOVAL) ACTS.

Mrs. Iimi Hallsten, writing on the Sex Disqualification Removal Act in Finland in this month's *Bulletin* (the organ of the International Council of Women), tells us that after 20 years of preparation the Finnish Parliament passed, on November 24th, 1925, a Bill admitting women to all Government and other official positions. The beginning had been made in Parliament in 1906 by the first woman Member, and since then much preparatory work has been done by the women's organisations. The new law, which came into force on April 23rd, 1926, acknowledges that women have the right to occupy any position under the State; but in practice it is weakened by a decision which empowers the Government to make a special order by which certain positions can be definitely allocated either to men or women. The writer states that the Government at once took advantage of this decision, and on the same day on which the Act came into force an Order was published giving a list of the positions which could only be occupied either by men or by women. It is surprising to note how many of these positions require a male employee! All the important positions in the Civil and Diplomatic Services are reserved for men. No woman can represent Finland in a foreign country, and no woman can become a Consul. Only men can be heads of departments in the Foreign Office; and all the higher administrative positions under the Central or Local Authorities, as well as in the Police Service, are reserved for men. Women are entirely debarred from all higher legal positions, and are not allowed to be either magistrates or judges. With regard to the positions reserved for women, the following are mentioned:—Inspectors of domestic subjects and of gymnastic and hygienic teaching to girls, and the teaching of these subjects in girls' schools; also certain posts in women's prisons can be occupied by women. These few positions are all that are left to women as their own special domain, and when we compare them with what are reserved to men, we agree with the writer in her view that men have certainly not come off second best! But what, we ask, is the use of this high-sounding Act to Finnish women who, like ourselves, are working for the equal opportunities, rewards, and responsibilities of women with men throughout all branches of their national life? The Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act in Finland resembles a similar Act passed in this country in 1919, in the fact that it is a mockery of women's aims and work for equality. It will be remembered that Clause I. of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act in this country states: "A person shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from the exercise of any public function, or from being appointed to or holding any civil or judicial office or post, or from entering or assuming or carrying on any civil profession or vocation"; but Command Paper 1244, issued by the Civil Service Commissioners, declares that the following posts are reserved to men: (1) All posts in the Diplomatic and Consular Services; (2) all posts in the Government Services of the Colonies and Protectorates; (3) all posts in the Civil Services of His Majesty in India; (4) all posts in the Commercial Diplomatic Service and the Trade Commissioner Service. Moreover, no married woman is eligible for a post in our Home Civil Service, and local governing

bodies, with impunity, continue to dismiss their women employees simply and solely on account of marriage, or insist upon their women employees signing an agreement that they will resign their posts on marriage. Why are Governments allowed to make such a farce of women's interests? The time will come when all Governments will be compelled to act impartially as between men and women citizens. Until that time arrives, women's organisations throughout the world must work with might and main to secure equality of opportunity, rewards, and responsibility of women with men throughout every department of our national and international life. This means persistent and unceasing agitation on the part of women; but the agitation is well worth while. We live in a lop-sided world weighted by men's monopolies of most of the things that matter. Women themselves must restore the balance by insisting upon their right to take their full share in everything which concerns the life and conduct of the world in which they live.

COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS.

The number of Committees and Commissions appointed by Governments in recent years is extraordinarily high. Much time is expended in listening to the evidence of many witnesses, and after a time, in some cases a very long time, a Report is issued and reviewed by the general Press. After that, no more is heard of the matter, except perhaps an occasional question is asked in Parliament as to whether legislation may be expected embodying some of the recommendations of that Report, when the usual reply is that the Head of the Department most concerned with the Report is too busy to consider it. The appointment of Commissions and Committees is a favourite method of Governments. They make the public think that the Government is really doing something, while in reality it is doing nothing, and when any questions are asked in Parliament on the subject which is being investigated, the only reply is that nothing can be said on the matter until the Report of the Committee or Commission is issued. What has been done by this Government on the Coal Commission Report? Nothing. On the Report of the Royal Commission on Lunacy? Nothing. The Nursing Homes Report? Nothing. On the two Reports issued by the Committees on Sexual Offences Against Young Persons in this Country and in Scotland? A Circular has been issued by the Home Office and sent to Justices' Clerks calling attention to two or three administrative recommendations contained in this Report! What has happened in regard to the Reports of the Committees on the Treatment of Young Offenders, appointed in January, 1925? Nothing. What has happened in connection with the Reports of the Committees appointed in this country and in Scotland to inquire into the public system of education in relation to the requirements of trade and industry? Nothing. What is the result of the findings of the Committee of Inquiry into the Incidence of Mental Deficiency appointed in August, 1925? Nothing. Of the Committee on Post Graduate Medical Education? Nothing. We may well ask what is the use of all these Commissions and Inquiries. Apparently they do not say the last word on any subject, and very rarely indeed lead to legislation. Presumably a few years hence other Committees and Commissions will be appointed by future Governments on the same and other subjects; innumerable witnesses will again give evidence; Reports will be issued and pigeonholed once more, and still nothing will be done.

In view of the barrenness of the results accruing from the Committees and Commissions appointed by the present Government, is it any wonder that women's organisations vigorously protest against the subject of equal franchise being relegated to the mercy of a Conference? Women's enfranchisement has already been talked out in the House of Commons on more than one occasion. And we have no desire to afford loquacious Members another opportunity to repeat this performance.

NOTES FROM THE FOREIGN PRESS.

BY MARIAN BERRY.

Since the granting of Women's Suffrage in Finland, the position of women has greatly improved. Eighteen women are members of the Finnish Parliament, and one of the women members is President of the Parliamentary Commission on Labour Legislation. The women members have devoted their efforts—irrespective of Party—to the improvement of the status of women teachers, the establishment of pensions for widows and school-housekeepers, and the reform of the marriage laws.

All Government offices have been open to women since last year, and they have obtained the right to plead in the Courts of Justice. Many changes have been made in the laws affecting the mother and child. A State maternity insurance is now in being, and the position of the illegitimate child has been considerably improved.

Few local authorities are without women members. The Helsingfors Council, which numbers 59 members, includes 9 women councillors representing all Parties.

In Sweden, according to the last return, 212 women are serving on town councils (representing 98 Conservatives, 55 Liberals, 66 Socialists, and 2 Communists) and 481 on rural local authorities. The Swedish women councillors have taken action to secure the appointment of women officials in the various municipal services. In Stockholm and in several other towns the women councillors have secured for the women municipal employees the same rate of pay and the same conditions of labour as those given to the men.

The Union of Jewish women in Budapest includes among its activities a Maternity Home, through which 10,000 mothers and their babies have passed. The Home—the Alice Weiss Maternity Home—was founded sixteen years ago by Baron Manfred Weiss in memory of his wife, and up to the end of the war it was open to all women in need without payment, irrespective of their religion. Often the mother received a present of baby-clothes for her little one in addition. After the Communist regime and the Roumanian occupation, it was necessary to close the Home for some months; but

it has now been reopened with financial assistance from America and Holland. A section of the Home is set apart for women who are able to pay a small sum for the nursing and assistance given. Last year the expenditure showed a deficit of 200,000,000 kronen over the annual income.

In view of the economic depression in Palestine, the Executive Committee of the International Zionist Women's Organisation has resolved to devote the larger part of its income for the ensuing year to the organisation and training of girls. The Committee will at once place one hundred girls, who are now unemployed, on a land colony.

A measure of Woman's Suffrage has been passed by the French Chamber, but the vote will not be given to women on the same terms as men. By Clause 2 of the Bill, the father, as head of the family, has additional votes. These are to be given in accordance with the number of his children who are living and who are not of age. The Clause does not restrict the vote to the children of the legal marriage only, but to any recognised or adopted child. Only on the husband's death, or in the case of his physical or mental incapacity, does the mother or legal guardian (man or woman) have this additional franchise. The preamble of the Bill states that, from the experience gained in other countries, it would appear that the woman's vote is given towards the solution of social problems rather than to the larger questions of politics and business that affect the whole nation.

A home for the aged and infirm is to be established in South Bavaria. The land will be given by the Landtag, and the Munich City Council has promised to contribute 85 per cent. of the building costs on condition that so many free places are reserved. Sisters of the German Nursing Order will staff the new institution. A room may be secured for a small payment. The monthly rent for each room will be 30 marks, and with nursing, attendance, heating, etc., 80 marks. There will be public rooms, a garden, and a good library.

LEAD PAINT BILL AND WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT.

Last week the Government's Lead Paint (Protection Against Poisoning) Bill was discussed in the House of Lords. Clause 2 of this Bill reads: "On and after the nineteenth day of November, 1927, it shall not be lawful to employ any woman or young person in painting any part of a building with lead paint." LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH moved that the words "woman or" should be deleted from this Clause. He said he thought the exclusion of women was unfair to them, and that adult women engaged in the painting trade ought to be allowed to choose for themselves. Moreover, he considered that this work, particularly of interior painting, was work specially suitable for women. Certain artistic qualities were required in the work, and in the matter of lead poisoning questions of personal cleanliness and the care of the hands and nails entered very largely, and he thought that women were probably better capable of looking after themselves in those matters than were men. With regard to the theory that women, as women, were more susceptible to lead poisoning than men, Lord Balfour pointed out that what had been overlooked was the fact that the women engaged in that work had been, as a whole, very poorly paid, and therefore there were predisposing causes to lead to lead poisoning. He contended that this prohibition played straight into the hands of one of the most powerful vested interests—the trade unions, many members of which wanted to

keep women out of the job. Lord Balfour said that in 1875 his father was a member of a Royal Commission to look into the Factory Laws, and, speaking in that House in 1878, he had declared that the evidence taken in the Black Country—it was not lead, but one of the trades carried on in the Black Country—asking for the exclusion of women, came from men who admitted that it was a wages question, and that they wanted to do away with the competition of women. Lord Balfour urged the Government to accept his amendment, and send the whole matter to be investigated by the Civil Research Committee. LORD DAWSON OF PENN supported this Amendment, and said it was a serious matter to hinder women in seeking employment where they were able to engage in it. He declared he would place far more reliance upon the women themselves in deciding whether they should undertake the painting industry or not than on any Regulations. Unless a further inquiry was undertaken in the light of modern knowledge, he doubted very much whether there was any case for excluding women from the painting trade. LORD BANBURY OF SOUTHAM said he could not conceive how anyone could contend that a woman who was twenty-one years of age, and was capable of voting in municipal and Parliamentary elections, was not capable of deciding whether or not she should occupy herself in painting. VISCOUNT HALDANE thought the question needed careful inquiry, and considered it

should be undertaken by the Medical Research Committee of the Privy Council, or by the Committee on Civil Research. LORD PHILLIMORE hoped that their Lordships' House would not, on a disputed medical question, pass a prohibitive piece of legislation which would at once add to the number of unemployed by throwing a certain number, possibly small, of honest women out of work. The Factory Acts treated women and young children as on a level, as people incapable of protecting themselves, and therefore needing protection from the Legislature. That was not the case with women now. Women were resenting, and had for some years resented, their being put in that position, and were saying, with considerable truth, that the result was only to handicap them in their contest with men in professions or trades for which both were equally fit. He also urged that the matter should be thoroughly investigated by the Committee of Scientific Research, and that the Government should not legislate in a hurry against women.

LORD DESBOROUGH, on behalf of the Government, said he could not accept the Amendment. If the matter was to be referred to a committee of experts, it would certainly be a long time before the Regulations would come into force. He gave some quotations from medical authorities; but Lord Balfour of Burleigh referred later to others which considerably weakened their substance, and he again urged that the matter should be investigated.

On a division being taken, the Amendment was lost by 35 to 17.

WOMEN'S PROGRESS IN THE BALKANS.

Lady Aberdeen, President of the International Council of Women, who has recently returned from a tour in the Balkan provinces, gave an interesting interview recently to the *Manchester Guardian* on the progress of women in Yugoslavia. Lady Aberdeen attended the Annual Congress of the Yugoslavian National Council of Women at Bled, and also visited Bulgaria, Rumania, Transylvania, and Hungary, returning home via Austria and Germany.

Lady Aberdeen told the *Manchester Guardian* that all over Yugoslavia women were taking their full share in tackling the very difficult problems confronting the nations, though they had their own special problems as well to confront. None of the women in the Balkan countries have the Parliamentary or any other vote. A hopeful development, however, was the friendly co-operation between the various national Councils and the women of the minority races in their respective countries, which had grown up from a resolution passed two years ago at the I.C.W. Congress in Washington, asking the National Councils of those countries where there were minorities to try to bring the women together on non-political lines, a recommendation which was being loyally carried out.

Everywhere Lady Aberdeen and her attendant officials went they were received with great enthusiasm as the officers of an international organisation working for the welfare and the greater co-operation of women in all countries. Although, for instance, they did not reach Ljubljana (formerly Laibach), in Yugoslavia, until 3.30 a.m., Mme. Petrovitch, President of the N.C.W., and other ladies were nevertheless on the spot to greet them, and to take them by motor-car to Bled, where the Congress opened six hours later. This Congress was attended by delegates from 350 Societies. At Belgrade the visitors had an intimate meeting with the leaders of the National Council of Women, and were entertained by the Foreign Minister. On the journey to Sofia, they were met at many of the railway stations by deputations of women who were eager to consult them, and in Sofia they met the leading women to discuss their problems. The Bulgarian National Council of Women was formed 25 years ago, and their first President, Mme. Julie Malinoff, remained in office until the Council celebrated its 25th anniversary, when she retired. On their way to Rumania later, the

little party again met deputations of women at the stations as they passed through. The Rumanian Government sent a boat to convey them across the Danube, and the first town they reached was beflagged in their honour.

At Bucharest a wonderful meeting was held, and attended by the Crown Princess of Rumania, the wife of Prince Carol, her mother, Queen Sophie of Greece, seven Cabinet Ministers, and the whole of the Diplomatic Corps. Princess Alexandra Cantacuzene, Mme. Botey, Lady Aberdeen and her officers, all addressed the meeting, and also five women representing the minority races in Rumania. Princess Cantacuzene publicly thanked the Crown Princess for attending the meeting, and expressed the admiration felt for her by the women of the country. Next day the visitors were entertained at a party at the Palace, and were privately received by the Crown Princess. They were also received privately by the King of Rumania, who told them he was sure that the Queen was doing splendid work for Rumania in America.

BOOK REVIEW.

O Toyo Writes Home. (Herbert Jenkins.) 1s. 6d. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

Many wireless listeners (especially our daughters of school age) will remember Mrs. E. Romanné-James's amusing talks of a Japanese girl in England, and will be glad to find that these letters have been collected and published under the title, "*O Toyo Writes Home.*"

Mrs. Romanné-James has lived long in the East, and has the rare faculty of getting behind the mind of this Oriental maid and seeing Western civilisation through her eyes. "Mine Honorably Aged Ones" is the respectful way in which O Toyo addresses her parents, and some of us, accustomed to the unpleasant modern habit of salutation—"Old bean" or "Old thing"—must feel half envious of the greater reverence shown to parents in this non-Christian country, which knows not the law given on Sinai or the 5th Commandment.

O Toyo is a great observer, and her criticisms on our customs, our habits, our food, our dress, our athletic crazes, our education, are shrewd and sarcastic, and may startle many minds to fresh thought and remind us of the wisdom of the old saying:—

Oh! that the gods the gift would give us
To see ourselves as others see us.

This book will be an ideal Christmas gift for young or old.

Many readers will remember Mrs. C. Romanné-James as a hard worker in the Suffrage Cause. For many years she was Honorary Secretary for the Women Writers' Suffrage League. W. M. N.

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., LL.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.

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, December 6th, at 3.30 p.m.

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

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, December 1st, at 7.30 p.m.

Darlington Branch. Meeting in the Temperance Institute.

Wednesday, January, 5th, 1927, at 4-6 p.m.

Haslings Branch. New Year's Party at 1, St. Paul's Place.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, November 27th, at 3 p.m.

Saturday Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

Debate: "That, in the interests of the progress of the people of this Country, the Cinema should be discouraged." Proposer: Mrs. Barron. Opposer: Mrs. Hilliard.

Monday, November 29th, at 2.30 p.m.

Six Point Group. Christmas Sale at 92, Victoria Street, S.W. Opened at 2.30 by Miss Eva Moore. Admission Free.

Monday, November 29th, at 3.30 p.m.

Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations. Annual Meeting. 25, Marham Street, Westminster.

Tuesday, November 30th, at 5.45 p.m.

Margate Pinner Society. Meeting at Fort Lodge Hotel, Cliftonville. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Subject: "Equal Franchise."

Wednesday, December 1st, at 3 p.m.

Electrical Association for Women. Visit to Good Housekeeping Institute, 49, Wellington Street, Strand, W.C.2. Short Lecture by Mrs. D. Cottingham Taylor, Director, on "Modern Housekeeping."

Wednesday, December 1st at 8 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Public Meeting, organised by Six Point Group, at Chelsea Town Hall (Lower Hall) to demand "Equal Political Rights for Women with Men." Speakers: Miss Harley Bacon, Miss Ada Moore, Dr. Ethel Bentham, Miss Ursula Williams. Chair: The Viscountess Rhondda. Admission Free.

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

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Public Meeting, organised by St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, at Swedish Hall, Harcourt Street, St. Marylebone.

Thursday, December 9th, at 3 p.m.

Parents' National Educational Union. Drawing Room Meeting at 34, Tite Street, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, S.W. (by kind permission of M. S. Adrian C. F. Hope). Speaker: Paymaster-Commander H. B. Bowring, R.N. (Director of the Junior Red Cross). Subject: "Youth and Service—The Junior Red Cross as a Factor in Education." Chair: Mrs. Evan Campbell.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

Girls who Disappear.

Madam,—As you are probably aware, owing to young girls from Wales coming to London and then completely disappearing, two meetings were convened by Welsh religious leaders in London on September 23rd and November 11th last, their object being to help girls in every possible way who come from Wales to London. However, at these meetings no suggestion whatever was made to do away with the cause why some of these girls had completely disappeared.

And yet everyone knows there is a slave trade in young girls, and that it exists solely because the trade of prostitution exists. Why, then, do not people fight against this trade, not against those who are broken in, bought and sold like some of these young girls from Wales—but against this trade? Why never a word of censure for its numerous clients? And why no demand at all for the total abolition of all houses of ill-fame and for the punishment of all those in any way connected with this trade, if people are really so concerned about these particular girls disappearing?

In 1807 the African Slave Trade was declared unlawful by this country, and at the same time effective measures were taken for its immediate and utter abolition. Yet that trade must have been rampant at the time, and considered necessary for the welfare, prosperity, etc., of the stronger white races.

Therefore, why is not the far more revolting trade of prostitution likewise declared unlawful, and by effective measures forthwith abolished? Then there need be no meetings in London, etc., and endless work in a finally hopeless cause of fighting the results of a trade, but not the trade itself.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) F. K. POWELL.

[We welcome the above letter from our old member. If not the mind of Man, then the Heart of Woman is getting ready to abolish the intolerable system of commercialised prostitution which now blights all the civilised world.—Ed.]

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN.

The Six Point Group have arranged a public meeting to demand Equal Political Rights for Women with Men, at Chelsea Town Hall, Wednesday, December 1st, at 8 p.m. Speakers: Miss Harley Bacon, Miss Ada Moore, Dr. Ethel Bentham, and Miss Ursula Williams. Chairman: The Viscountess Rhondda. Admission free.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance have arranged a public meeting on Monday, December 6th, at 8.15 p.m., at the Swedish Hall, Harcourt Street (beside the Queen Charlotte Hospital, Marylebone Road), to demand an immediate Government measure giving votes to women at 21 and on the same terms as men. Speakers: Miss Adeline Bourne, Miss Helen Ward, Miss Nancy Lightman, Dr. Octavia Lewin, and Mrs. Anthony. Chairman: Councillor Mrs. V. M. Crawford. Admission free. Reserved seats, 1s. each.

At the London Teachers' Association Conference, held November 13th, at Essex Hall, after the "previous question" had been moved and defeated, a resolution, urging the Government to take steps at an early date to amend the law so that women may exercise the vote on the same terms as men on reaching the age of twenty-one, was carried.

On November 16th, Miss Beatrice Pearson addressed the Central Hackney Labour Party on Equal Franchise, when the following resolution was passed unanimously and sent to the Prime Minister and Mr. Gower, the local M.P.: "This meeting of the Central Hackney Labour Party calls upon the Government to introduce and pass without delay a Bill giving votes to women at 21 years and on the same terms as men."

On November 22nd, Miss Froud spoke at a public meeting on Equal Suffrage at the Girls' High School, The Parade, Cardiff, the meeting being arranged by the National Union of Women Teachers.

On Tuesday, November 30th, at 5.45 p.m., Mrs. Mustard is speaking on Equal Franchise at a meeting arranged by the Margate Pioneer Society at Fort Lodge Hotel, Cliftonville.

WOMEN AND ELECTRICITY.

VISIT TO COLISEUM STAGE LIGHTING.—A large party visited the Coliseum on Wednesday, November 17th, at 12 noon, in order to get a "peep behind the scenes" in connection with the wonderful stage lighting arrangements of the Coliseum.

The party was especially interested in the very natural daylight effects which were obtained by the lighting. As the guide pointed out, they did not give the audience daylight in chunks, but, as far as possible, tried to arrange for a natural appearance.

An interesting interlude was the Revolving Stage which is used for quick removal of the scenery.

At the end of a very fascinating hour's visit, the audience was asked to guess how much the electricity bill cost. The cost was less than 35s. per week.

Miss M. PARTRIDGE gave a fascinating talk at 3 p.m. on the same afternoon at the E.L.M.A. Lighting Service Bureau on "Tariffs," when Mrs. Llewelyn Atkinson took the Chair.

In order to describe to her audience various costs which went to make up the price of a unit of electricity, she likened the Power Station to a dressmaking business—the coal being the material, wages of workmen being equal to wages of dressmakers, the cost of buying sewing machines, needles, cotton, etc., being likened to the cost of purchasing turbines and other plant.

A very interesting discussion followed, the women present expressing their point of view as to the best method of paying for electric current.

Dr. Ferranti had kindly sent some meters and parts, which were explained to the members, as also was the reading of a meter.

At the conclusion of this meeting, a party of the members went on to the STAGE LIGHTING SHOWROOM OF THE GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY. Tea was provided at the Magnet House Electric Bungalow, and a demonstration of stage lighting was especially interesting in view of the morning's visit to the Coliseum.

On Thursday, the 18th, at the invitation of Mr. J. S. Bush, of the Delco Light Co., a party of members visited the Cookery and Food Exhibition, Olympia, and were entertained to tea by the Directors of the Company. The party were given interesting demonstrations of Frigidaire.

BRANCH NOTE.

MIDDLESBROUGH.

On Monday, November 11th, a Tea Meeting was held in the Scottish Tea Rooms to discuss the future activities of the local branch. After Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., had spoken, pointing out the necessity for the continued existence of the Women's Freedom League, several new members were enrolled. Miss Holmes, B.A., kindly consented to become Hon. Secretary, and a Committee was formed. Mrs. Schofield Coates continued in the office of President, and Mrs. Harrison in that of Treasurer.

FRIDAY,
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1926.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, November 28th. 3.30. Music. Lecture. The Rt. Hon. Viscount Haldane, K.T., O.M., F.R.S. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden: "Narrow is the Way."

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OF INTEREST TO WOMEN CITIZENS.—The Edward Wright and Cavendish-Bentinck Library contains sections on current political and social problems, including the Woman's Movement, Family Allowances, and League of Nations. Book Boxes of 20 books available for Study Circles.—Apply Librarian, N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster.

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