

THE VOTE.  
MARCH 25, 1927.

TO ABOLISH COMMERCIALISED VICE.

# THE VOTE

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

Vol. XXVIII. No. 909.

(Registered at  
the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 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.

## PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

IN PARLIAMENT.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN.

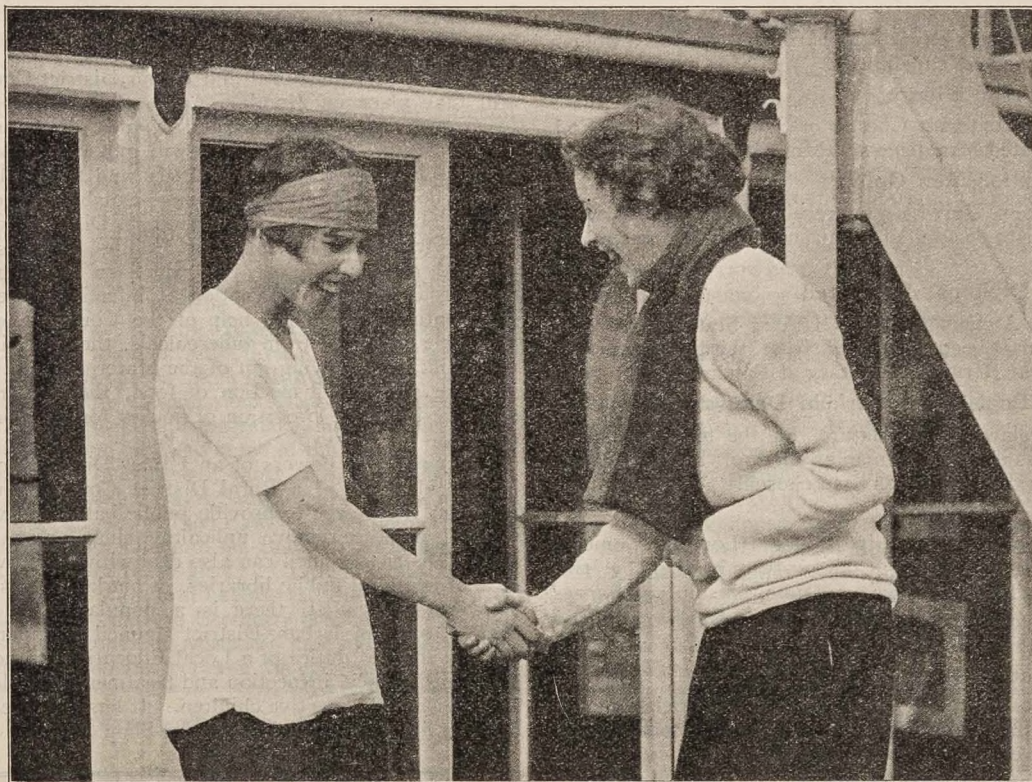
REPORT ON THE TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

NOTES FROM THE FOREIGN PRESS. By Marian Berry.

BOOK REVIEW. "Emily Davies and Girton College."

WHERE TO GO.

## THE FIRST OXFORD v. CAMBRIDGE WOMEN'S BOAT RACE.



Captains:—MISS JORIS (Oxford)

— and —

MISS ENGLAND (Newnham, Cambridge)

COME AND BUY YOUR SPRING CLEANING REQUISITES AT OUR ANNUAL

## SPRING SALE

FRIDAY, MARCH 25th.

3.0 to 7.30 P.M.

at

25, WIMPOLE STREET, W.1.

(By kind invitation of Dr. Octavia Lewin.)



## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

## Another Woman M.P.?

Miss Eleanor Stewart, who was the first Scottish woman organiser to the Workers' Union when that organisation linked up with the Federation of Women Workers, has been adopted as Labour Parliamentary candidate for North Edinburgh.

## Women Chairmen in L.C.C.

The Records and Museum Committee of the L.C.C. have appointed Lady Eve as Chairman, and the Parliamentary Committee have appointed Dame Beatrix Lyall as Vice-Chairman.

## Dame Maude Lawrence.

Dame Maude Lawrence, who celebrates her birthday next month, has had a life of hard work usefully applied. The old London School Board co-opted her as Member for Westminster. For 15 years she was Chief Woman Inspector for the Board of Education, and for the last seven years she has been Director of Women's Establishments at the Treasury.

## Woman President of Sheep Society.

In May this year, Lady Ludlow takes office as President of the Southdown Sheep Society. Her own sheep, bred at Luton Hoo, are among the most famous in the country.

## Woman Churchwarden.

Miss E. K. Lewis is Bournemouth's first woman churchwarden. She was appointed last week at the Annual Meeting of the St. Luke's Parish. Commenting on the elections the Vicar said he did not see why women should not play a big part in the administration of the Church as officials. Miss Lewis's election to the office would be a gain to the parish, as she was a woman of great business capabilities.

## Two Women Elders.

The Presbyterian Church of Scotland, Crouch End, has appointed Mrs. Rule and Mrs. Gray as Elders.

## Bursaries for Men Only.

St. Andrews University has received £100,000, of which £40,000 is to be applied in entrance scholarships for men students.

## Woman Diplomat Promoted.

Lucille Atcherson, of the United States Diplomatic Service, has been promoted from third Secretary of Legation at Berne to Secretary at Panama.

## Woman Legislative Clerk in Delaware.

The Delaware Legislature, for the first time in its history, has elected a woman as Clerk of the Legislature. Vera Eldridge Davis has been chosen.

## Women's Boat Race.

On Monday, University College (London) women's eight beat Newnham College (Cambridge) by two lengths. The course was one mile, finishing at Barnes Bridge. Newnham next races King's College (London).

## Women at Hockey.

The Yorkshire Women's Hockey Association are holding their Annual Tournament to-morrow. A record in entries has been made, 25 teams competing, and seven pitches will be in use.

## Women Candidates in Australia.

Mrs. Cowan is again contesting her old seat, West Perth, Australia. She is a Vice-President of the United Party. In State elections, Miss Holman is Labour member and candidate for the Forrest Electorate, and Mrs. Blake is Independent candidate for Leederville.

## Obligatory Education for Women in Turkey.

The Turkish Ministry of Instruction is reported to be putting into operation a scheme whereby all women, even those of nomadic tribes, will be obliged to attend courses in child welfare, hygiene, sociology, dress reform, and wearing of hats.

## LIBERAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE.

This year the Council Meetings of the Women's National Liberal Federation will be held at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, May 3rd and 4th. The Preliminary Agenda states that Urgency Resolutions dealing with Equal Franchise and other subjects may be moved in such terms as the situation at the time of the meetings demands.

The first Resolution deals with the Education of the Adolescent, and is in support of the Report of the Consultative Committee on the Education of the Adolescent in its recommendations in regard to Post-primary Education and the Raising of School-leaving age to 15 years. A resolution on Family Endowment, to be moved by the Executive, would commit the Liberal Party to a system of children's allowances. There are resolutions dealing with Disarmament and Arbitration and the Treatment of Native Races, a resolution in support of the work of the International Labour Organisation, and two resolutions on Population Emigration and Birth Control. One resolution urges that the suggestions for Co-partnership and Profit-sharing, as outlined in the Liberal Industrial Policy, should be brought more effectively before the Electorate by Liberal candidates; and another resolution calls upon the Government to introduce legislation on the lines recommended by the Samuel Commission on the Coal Industry. Only eight resolutions appear on this agenda, selected by the Executive Committee from the many resolutions sent in by the Women's Liberal Associations.

## DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

The elections for Rural and Urban District Councils will take place on Monday, April 4th. We hope to learn that more public-spirited women are standing as candidates, and that they will get every possible support from readers of THE VOTE and from all who realise how important it is to have capable women on these Councils. The work of a Rural District Council deals with questions of public health, such as the removal of house refuse, the provision of hospitals, the notification and prevention of infectious diseases, the treatment, with the help of the County Council, of people suffering from tuberculosis, the provision of pure milk, the carrying-out of the Maternity and Child Welfare Act, the inspection of food, the registration of dairies, and the provision of houses for the working classes.

The work and powers of an Urban District Council include all those of a Rural District Council, and, in addition, the power to provide public baths and wash-houses, and to remove unhealthy slum areas. An Urban District Council can also deal with the provision of allotments, of public libraries, of market places, and slaughter-houses. If there is a population of more than 20,000, an Urban District Council has many of the powers and duties of a Local Education Authority, including medical inspection and treatment of children, and the care of defective children. It has also the duty of enforcing the provisions of the Shop Acts.

## EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN.

## THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

will hold a

## PUBLIC MEETING

on

VOTES FOR MORE WOMEN.

IN THE TOWN HALL, MIDDLESBROUGH.

On THURSDAY, 31st MARCH, at 7.30 p.m.

Speakers: MISS ELLEN WILKINSON, M.P., Miss CHAVE COLLISON, M.A. (Sydney, N.S.W.), COUN. STANLEY SADLER, J.P. (Prospective Conservative Candidate, Middlesbrough West), J. W. COLEBY, Esq. (West Division Liberal Association).

Chair: MRS. SCHOFIELD COATES, J.P.

## IN PARLIAMENT.

## Savings Bank Department.

Replying to MR. BRIANT (Lib., N. Lambeth), THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL said: There are 842 male clerical officers in the Savings Bank Department, and 313 superior posts. On the female side there are 1,451 clerical officers and 124 higher posts. The numbers of promotions are 17 and 13 respectively; and the established service of the most junior officer in each case was 15 and 20 years respectively. The male and female establishments are separate, each sex having its own line of advancement; the nature and requirements of the work are different on the two sides of the establishment, and in the circumstances it is not practicable to equalise the opportunities of promotion.

## Women Franchise.

MR. GARDNER (Lab., N. Hammersmith) asked the Prime Minister when the legislation for the equalisation of the franchise, which was promised by His Majesty's Government last year would be carried out in 1927, will be introduced? THE PRIME MINISTER referred him to his previous reply to similar questions—that he would make an announcement on the subject in the House of Commons before Easter.

## White Slave Traffic.

SIR WALTER DE FREECE (U., Blackpool) asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been called to the fact that the white slave traffic could be stopped if consuls generally refused to give visas except after reference to the Consul of the country of origin; and whether he will make representations to the nations concerned to ensure the adoption of this policy? SIR AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I do not know upon what authority the hon. Member bases his belief in the efficiency of this particular proposal. It is not supported by the Report recently presented to the Council of the League of Nations, and its universal application would, I am advised, be impracticable. The question what further steps could be taken internationally to deal with this evil will be considered by the advisory Committee of the League of Nations, which is especially concerned with this matter.

VISCOUNT SANDON (U., Shrewsbury) asked the Home Secretary whether he has studied the League of Nations Report on the International White Slave Traffic; and whether any further administrative or legislative steps can be taken to safeguard such girls on the lines of the Commissions Report, or otherwise? CAPT. HACKING (Under-Secretary, Home Office): My right hon. Friend has read much of the Report, which is very long, and will give it most careful consideration. COL. DAY (Lab., Central Southwark): When the Report has been read, will the right hon. Gentleman consult with the Foreign Office to see that passports are made more difficult for these girls? CAPT. HACKING: First of all, we must wait until he has read the Report.

COL. DAY asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the number of passports that have been issued to unmarried females between the ages of 16 and 22 for

the purpose of visiting France, Germany, or any of the South American States for the 12 months ended to the last convenient date; whether the applicant for the passport has stated if same was required for holiday, study, or work; and, if for the latter purpose, are any and, if so, what inquiries made as to the *bona fides* of the intended employer previous to the passports being granted? SIR AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The statistics required of the first part of the question would entail the examination of over 200,000 applications. A statement as to the purpose of the journey is required for all applications for passports, and in the case of applications from young women and girls special precautions are taken and, where necessary, inquiries are made through British Consuls and other sources as to the *bona fides* of the prospective employer and the conditions of the employment. COL. DAY: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that many girls receive contracts to go to South America and, when they get there, there is no work for them, and they have to go into licensed houses? SIR A. CHAMBERLAIN: I have not been able to give as much study to the Report submitted to the League that I might wish. The copy only reached me just on the eve of my departure. I do not think there are many English girls or women who have been trapped. COL. DAY: Will the right hon. Gentleman take precautions if any girls are offered engagements in South America, in future, to find out the *bona fides* of their employers? SIR A. CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, every precaution is taken that can be taken to see that girls are not trapped in these places.

## MIDWIVES AND MATERNITY HOMES (SCOTLAND) BILL.

The above Bill, introduced by Mr. Barclay-Harvey (U., Kincardine and Western), secured a Second Reading last Friday afternoon. The two objects of this Bill are (1) the registration of midwives in Scotland, and (2) the registration and inspection of Maternity Homes in that country. It aims at reducing the number of unqualified midwives who are practising, and at ensuring that Maternity Homes are properly conducted. The Bill was committed to a standing committee.

## OFFICES REGULATION BILL.

MISS WILKINSON (Lab., E. Middlesbrough) has introduced the above Bill. It provides regulations for the cleanliness, sanitation, ventilation and lighting of offices, and against overcrowding. It also provides that no more underground rooms are to be used as offices. Under this Bill, a suitably equipped rest room must be provided if fifty or more female persons are employed. Safeguards must be provided against fire; and the Bill would enact that no person who is under 16 years may be employed, and that no young person shall be employed continuously for more than four hours without an interval of at least one hour for a meal.

## THE 48-HOUR WEEK.

The Consumer's League of New York State have carried through an inquiry among industrial women workers in their State as to whether they wanted limitation to a 48-hour week or extended hours. About 500 women, two-thirds of them between 20 and 30, the other third under 20, were asked, and of the 400 replying, according to *The Advance*, 343 were against any lengthening of hours, and those in favour made increased and adequate pay a condition. For limitation to a 48-hour week over 400 were in favour. These results seem very human, and their value in deciding upon legislation should not be overrated. One is beginning to feel that if the 48-hour week is not soon ratified by the nations the idea will be out of date, and we shall have to start all over again on, say, a 44-hour week.

## EQUAL CITIZENSHIP IN AUSTRALIA.

The Australian Federation of Equal Citizenship is holding its second triennial meeting in Sidney during May this year. Such subjects as "Australia in relation to Empire and International Affairs," "Australia's Pan-Pacific Relationship," "Migration," "Australia's Social and Economic Standing among the Nations," and "Women's Contribution to World Peace" are to be discussed, also whether there is need for a Federal Convention. This Federation has grown so rapidly during the three years since its last meeting that its Constitution requires revision. The work of the past three years will be reviewed and plans made for the future. It is hoped not only that all the States of the Commonwealth will be represented by appointed delegates, but that many visitors will attend from the Dominions.



## THE VOTE.

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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.

### PROTECTION OF CHILDREN.

VISCOUNT ASTOR, in an admirable speech, moved the Second Reading of the Bastardy Bill in the House of Lords last week. This Bill is exactly the same as Capt. Bowyer's Bill of 1925. Its object is to give further powers to Petty Sessional Courts in regard to affiliation cases, as follows:—(1) To hear an affiliation case at any time within four months of the expected date of birth of an illegitimate child, and to make an order against the putative father *before the birth of the child*, if he admits paternity; (2) To make an order for a contribution by the putative father *towards the support of the mother* during the latter months of pregnancy; (3) To make an order for the expenses of confinement and pregnancy in respect of the birth of a *stillborn child*; (4) To hear and decide an affiliation case *without the evidence of the mother*, if she is dead or insane, provided that the father has admitted paternity and there is corroborative evidence.

Lord Astor said he wished it had been possible to give a different title to this Bill, but he had to take notice of the wording of existing Statutes in order that this Bill should fit in with it. It was really a Bill to protect the lives of children of unmarried women. The infant mortality of illegitimate children was double that of legitimate children; and for every illegitimate child that died a large number lived and embarked upon life with insufficient vitality, vigour and health. The proposals in the Bill were supported by a large number of Boards of Guardians and by the London Magistrates' Clerks' Association, and there were precedents for them in the Dominions.

LORD DESBOROUGH, on behalf of the Government, said he could not accept the Second Reading of the Bill under which two entirely new factors were introduced into English law:—(1) the issue of an Order before the birth of the child, and (2) the payments by the father for the support of the woman. The first would, in the opinion of the Home Office, open the way to blackmail in a great many cases; and, in regard to the Second new principle, Lord Desborough pointed out that the basis of the present law is the obligation of the father to contribute to the maintenance of the child, firstly in its own interest, and secondly, in order that it may not become an expense to the community. That a woman who was with child by a man to whom she was not married was entitled to look to him for support was entirely new to the law. With regard to the woman's expenses of confinement and pregnancy in the case of a stillborn child, Lord Desborough said there was no definition in the Bill of what a stillborn child was, and this clause also was objectionable. So also was the Clause, in its present form, providing for the hearing of an affiliation case *without the evidence of the mother*, if she were dead or insane. Finally, Lord Desborough stated that the Home Office had come to the conclusion that it would not be in the interest of the community that the Bill should be read a Second time, and the motion for the Second Reading was disagreed to. We hope the Bill will come up again in the Commons; and that Members will be found in that House who emphatically disagree with the majority of Members in the Upper House and with the Home Office in their view that the safeguarding of men from possible blackmail is of so much greater importance than the protection of helpless children.

### MARRIED WOMEN (EMPLOYMENT) BILL, 1927.

The following are the full Provisions of the above Bill "to Prevent the Refusal to Employ Women in the Public Service by Reason only of their being Married," which has been presented by SIR ROBERT NEWMAN (U., Exeter), and is down for its Second Reading in the House of Commons, on April 29th:—

Be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. (1) A woman shall not be refused employment or dismissed from employment by any Government Department or Local Authority or other Public Authority on the ground only that she is married or is about to be married.

(2) Any contract, rule, or regulation made before or after the commencement of this Act which provides that a woman shall be disqualified from employment or refused employment or dismissed from employment by any Government Department or Local Authority or other Public Authority on the ground only that she is married or is about to be married shall to the extent of such provision be void and this Act shall apply notwithstanding any contract or term of any contract to the contrary made before or after the commencement of this Act.

2. (1) This Act may be cited as the Married Women (Employment) Act, 1927.

(2) In this Act the expression "Government Department" includes any Minister of the Crown acting as the head of a Government Department.

The expression "Local Authority" means any public body who have power to raise money, either directly or indirectly, by means of a rate.

The expression "other Public Authority" means any public body which is financed wholly or partly by moneys provided by Parliament, or any body of persons not trading for profit authorised by or under any Act of Parliament to carry on any public undertaking whatever.

### MARRIED WOMEN'S INCOME-TAX.

The *Daily Mail* reports that, last week, at Hanley County Court during the hearing of a man's application for discharge from bankruptcy the liability of a man for his wife's income-tax was condemned by Judge Ruegg, K.C. The application was opposed by the man's wife, who had obtained judgment against him for £205, which he was paying at the rate of £1 10s. per month. The husband said that when he filed his petition he was expecting the bailiffs on account of his wife's income-tax. His own income-tax had been paid. Judge Ruegg said: "I consider it most unjust that a man should be made liable for his wife's income-tax, and I do not hesitate to say so. Just before the war there was a promise by the Chancellor of the Exchequer that this injustice should be removed. There was one man who went to prison, and everyone admired him for it."

All readers of THE VOTE will remember Mr. Wilks' protest. The Women's Freedom League has always urged that the incomes of husband and wife should be assessed separately and taxed separately. To assess them together, as often at present, to tax them on the joint amount, and to make the husband responsible for payment is an unjust penalty on marriage and also an infringement of the Married Women's Property Act, for every woman ought to be held responsible for her own income and for paying the tax upon it. This matter has been brought before every Chancellor of the Exchequer for many years by our own League and by other women's organisations; but the only official reply we get is that this separate assessment and taxation would diminish the revenue by £20,000,000—the measure of its injustice!

### TO ABOLISH COMMERCIALISED VICE.

Report of the Special Body of Experts on Traffic in Women and Children.

(Continued from page 86.)

Turning to means to stop the traffic, the Report comes to the decision that the ultimate success in the fight depends on a strong public opinion in all countries. The attitude in many countries is now changing for the better. Indifference of public opinion and ignorance are greatly responsible; prostitution used to be accepted as normal and necessary, now the work of voluntary agencies has shown many indirect causes of the traffic—poverty, enforced migration, low wages, housing shortage, depraved homes, inordinate pleasure seeking, low places of entertainment, and publications. These can be fought by uplifting influences, ideals of truth and beauty, and healthful recreation.

Thus, public opinion has led to laws which have lessened the traffic, and international action has secured a minimum of penal measures against traffickers in many countries, but as it meets with restrictions, the traffic assumes new forms, and challenges greater efforts in the future.

There is no single or simple means of suppressing the traffic, which must be treated as an epidemic and continually fought in its endemic centres, its countries of origin; arrested at the frontiers and mercilessly suppressed after crossing them into the countries where a demand exists; all measures must be combined and adapted to each individual country. The usefulness of women police has been clearly proved. Concerted action between the different countries is essential. Some countries are lax in supervision, and many have not signed the International Conventions or have not ratified their signatures.

Some Government guarantee should be available of the decency of situations and engagements in other countries, which are offered to girls and young women, and Governments, on the other hand, should be responsible for the character of their own places of entertainment in which foreign girls are employed.

The exclusion and deporting of foreign prostitutes and traffickers cripples the business.

The age of consent is very important; in some countries it is as low as 10 years. The age of marriage is also in some countries very low. (Here, in England, women have long asked that each should be 18 years.)

As profit is at the bottom of the whole business, it is the third party which requires elimination, the wily and slippery evaders of laws and regulations; all such should be excluded or deported. Penal measures against third parties living on the earnings of prostitution need reviewing or strengthening. Licensed houses have been given up in many countries, and it behoves all Governments which still rely on State regulation of vice, to re-examine the question and consider the possibility of abandoning it.

The system of free, good, confidential, and private treatment of disease is giving advantageous results. Prostitution exists as a problem in all countries; none has solved it, but public opinion has an influence on its commercialised aspects, which find their worst developments in the traffic in women.

The raising of the standard of morality lessens the demand, so it is especially important that the youth of both sexes should be encouraged to view this matter from the highest moral standpoint. Safeguards against international traffic are difficult to enforce when the lowering of the standard of morality seems to create an insistent demand. The remedy lies in a sound and vigilant public policy. E. K.

My attention has been called to a mistake in my review of *Wir Klagen An* in THE VOTE of March 4th. The words "Effort has been made to obtain an inquiry into the conditions prevailing in Bremen and warm support has been given by the *Bremer Nachrichten*" should read "Every means has been employed in Bremen to hush up things at whatever cost, in which attempt extensive help was given by the *Bremer Nachrichten*." M. B.

### NOTES FROM THE FOREIGN PRESS.

By MARIAN BERRY.

Our French contemporary, *La Française*, has devoted considerable space in recent issues to the problem of pre-nuptial health certificates, including several interesting extracts from an address by Dr. George Schreiber, the General Secretary of the French Eugenics Society. A Bill has been introduced in the Chamber of Deputies by Professor Pinard with the object of making it obligatory on all French citizens to obtain a medical certificate before marriage is contracted to show that they are free from any form of contagious disease.

Pre-nuptial health certificates are necessary in Denmark, Sweden and also now in Turkey. In Holland, considerable propaganda has been done, and the special organisation for this work has 41 branches which are exceedingly active in holding meetings, distributing leaflets, and giving general information.

In Sweden, a marriage health certificate has been compulsory since November, 1915, and no marriage can be contracted by any person suffering from epilepsy, mental and venereal diseases. A similar law came into force in Norway, in 1919, and it is usual for the following questionnaire to be answered:—

- (1) Does the heredity of either you or your future consort preclude marriage?
- (2) Have you been previously married, and, if so, with whom?
- (3) Were there any children, and, if so, how many?
- (4) Are you infected:—
  - (a) From syphilis, and the date of infection?
  - (b) From any other form of venereal disease, epilepsy, or leprosy.

A penalty of two years' imprisonment is imposed on anyone making a false declaration. The Danish law came into being in June, 1922, and is on similar lines to that of the other Scandinavian countries.

We learn by the *Schweizer Frauenblatt* of March 4, that, as a result of recent visits from Commandant Allen, the towns of Basle, Berne, St. Gallen, Lausanne and Geneva have decided to appoint women police, following the example of England and Germany. The paper also points out that, with the appointment of women police, the need for a training-centre will arise, and the hope is expressed that Geneva—the town of international co-operation—may be selected for the purpose.

For more than a year the Strassburg brothels have been closed, and a report of the Public Health Authority of last October shows that in both the garrison and the civil population there has been a marked decrease of venereal disease: the number of cases among the garrison has fallen by 50 per cent.

The organ of the Portuguese Women's Federation includes a report of the Abolitionist Congress held in Lisbon. As a method of combating Prostitution, resolutions were carried in support of co-education, the appointment of women police and the raising of the age of consent to an age which shall become the legal age for marriage.

A pamphlet on the "Work of Women in Libraries" in Germany has recently been published. The author—Emma Schulze—traces the opening of the profession to women through the reading-rooms and the movement for popular education for the people. Details as to the training and examinations in the various German States are given; in Prussia between 1910 and 1926, 755 candidates—675 women and 80 men—took the State's Library examination. At the present time 908 women are working in German Libraries, of whom 628 are stationed in Prussia, and 234 of the latter number are working in Berlin. Among the positions occupied by women in Libraries are: Director, 1; Leaders and Administrators, 64; Inspectors, 8; Librarians 117; and Secretaries, 249.



## BOOK REVIEW.

*Emily Davies and Girton College.* By Barbara Stephen. (Constable & Co., Ltd.) Price 21s. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

The title of this book suggests that we might expect it to limit its scope to a review of the life of Miss Emily Davies and the share she has had in launching the pioneer college, through which Cambridge led the way towards providing facilities for the higher education of women; and that, therefore, it would appeal to but a limited audience. But it is very much more than that. It deals with most of the important changes in the status of women in this country that took place during her long life. She was born in 1830. It is hardly necessary to recall to readers of THE VOTE the conditions under which women were expected to remain content at that time, nor to summarise what was accomplished during her life, which lasted till 1921. No other period of 91 years has seen such revolutionary changes in every department of human affairs.

Much gratitude must be felt by all who have at heart the improvement in the eyes of the law in the position of women, for the concise and lucid way in which Lady Stephen has dealt with much of the work done, and has put on record and so saved from oblivion the story of the manner in which difficulties were overcome by the few who had unwavering faith in the ultimate triumph of right, among whom Miss Davies held a prominent position.

Nearly all the education of girls was in the hands of amateurs or volunteers. Had it not been for the charitable efforts of the few of the leisured classes, the masses of the people would have been left almost entirely illiterate. Classes were held for some of those children not already working in the factories—taken there as soon as they could be of any use at all.

The condition of the governess was pitiable. Any woman of any age who had no one to whom she could look for support, and who had no training for any occupation by which she could earn a livelihood, went forth as a governess, to enter into what is to-day considered by many to be the most important of the professions.

The Governesses' Benevolent Institution was founded in 1843 to alleviate some of the most distressing cases, and this made a start towards progress. It was soon found to be quite inadequate, and steps were taken whereby the need for some training could be met. To this end, five years later, when Miss Davies was about 18, there were founded Queens' and Bedford Colleges. Thenceforward Miss Davies made it her life's work to get open to women all educational doors, and the paths cleared right up to and through the Universities. She never wavered from this objective and fought for it throughout her life, and she lived to the great age of nearly 92. It was long enough to see most of her ambitions fulfilled, though not quite all.

Cambridge was the first of the Universities to give hospitality to women in their examination halls. That was in 1869. There are still elements there that are a little frightened of what might happen if we were given complete equality with the other sex, and the degree is still one in name only.

Though marriage was accepted as the natural provision for girls, it left them without any possessions. Indeed, a wife's personal effects belonged automatically to the husband, to do what he willed with, even to leaving them away from her after his death.

The agitation to abolish this intolerable injustice had to simmer in the minds of the authorities for 25 years from 1857 to 1882 before the Married Women's Property Act became law.

It needed all Miss Davies' native ability, courage, caution and forethought, her untiring energy and will of iron to "attack the hostile forces," headed as they were with unexampled inconsistency by the Queen. "The Queen is most anxious to enlist everyone who

can speak or write to join in checking this mad, wicked folly of Woman's Rights," and again, in a letter, dated February 3rd, 1852: "We women are not made for governing—and if we are good women, we must dislike these masculine occupations; but there are times which force one to take interest in them . . . and I do, of course, intensely."

With this example at the head of the State, it was not surprising that the difficulties to be overcome must at times have seemed to be insuperable. But Miss Davies was a person of single aim, who looked neither to the right nor to the left.

It was through Miss Davies that the medical profession was reopened to women. The enterprise was at first proposed by her to Miss Garrett while it was still "shocking to think of refined ladies making a study of the revolting details of illness." All obstacles were, however, overcome, and Miss Garrett passed the final examination in 1866. But her success only led to the making of new rules that effectually served to shut out all other aspirants. Paris stepped into the breach till, in 1878, the London University threw open its doors and admitted women to all degrees. Miss Davies' work in connection with Girton College cannot be dealt with adequately here. The book must be read through for it to be realised.

Since it was inevitable that, with the strong views she held, she should have antipathies and even make enemies, it redounds all the more to her credit that she was able to enlist the sympathies and secure the friendship and co-operation of many of the most far-seeing of her day, and bring them to see with her eyes.

In 1865, John Stuart Mill announced his conviction that the franchise ought to be extended to women. Miss Davies only took an active part for a very short time in the campaign that followed; she returned to it in 1890. She wished to avoid the risk of damaging her work in the education field by being associated with the agitation for the franchise. She thought it wise to develop the mind first before giving powers that might not be well used.

It is not realised by all to-day that the franchise for women was discussed in and out of Parliament for nearly 50 years before a small band of women, to be known to history as the Militant Suffragettes, decided that matters must be brought to a head, since peaceful penetration had not succeeded. Miss Davies and her party were greatly shocked at the new tactics, but it led them to much greater activity in advancing their views, and Miss Davies lived to record her vote in the election of 1918, at the age of 89. "Within her lifetime the work had been accomplished."

There is, however, work still for us who follow in her footsteps. She did not rest till she had a vote; we must not rest until we have Equal Franchise.

I commend the book to all who have difficulties to overcome.

OCTAVIA LEWIN.

## CRUELTY TO TOWELS!

Last Monday, COL. DAY stated in the House of Commons that one towel only is provided for the use of, approximately, 166 children in London County Elementary Schools, and that the Medical Officer of Health for Tottenham had stated that the washing convenience at the London County Council Schools in that district was scandalous, there being one case where 300 children had been using the same towel for a week. The President of the Board of Education was asked if more adequate provision of clean towels could not be made. In reply, the DUCHESS OF ATHOLL (Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education) said that head teachers were furnished on requisition with such supply of towels as they considered necessary, out of the annual allowance for such equipment made to each school, and they could arrange for the washing of towels at the charges approved by the Council. The inspectors, however, were now instructed to pay special attention to this matter when visiting schools. It seems to us that a searching inquiry should be made into these matters.

## Women's Freedom League.

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

Telephone:—MUSEUM 1420.

Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT.

President—Mrs. PETHICK-LAWRENCE.

Hon. Organising Secretary—Mrs. WHETTON.

General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

## WHERE TO GO.

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

## LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, March 25th, 3—7.30 p.m.

Spring Sale at 25, Wimpole Street (by kind permission of Dr. Lewin). Songs, Recitations, little stalls, and Dainty Teas.

Saturday, March 26th, at 8 p.m.

Minerva Club. Whist Drive in aid of Branch funds. Tickets 2/- including refreshments, from the Secretary, The Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

## DARE TO BE FREE.

Saturday, March 26th, at 10 a.m.

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

Friday, April 22nd, at 3 p.m.

Hampstead Branch. Members' Meeting at 7, Gainsborough Gardens, N.W.3 (by the kindness of Dr. Knight).

Saturday, April 30th, at 10 a.m.

Annual Conference of the Women's Freedom League, at Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Friday, May 6th, at 2 p.m.

The Women's Freedom League Jumble Sale, to be held (by kind permission of Miss Cole) at The Women's Freedom League Settlement, 2, Currie Street, Nine Elms, S.W. Send your parcels from now onwards to 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

## PROVINCES.

Wednesday, March 30th, at 3.30 p.m.

Bexhill. Whist Drive at the Albany Hotel. Hostess: Mrs. Skinner.

Thursday, March 31st, at 7.30 p.m.

Middlesbrough. Equal Political Rights Campaign. Public Meeting in the Town Hall. Speakers: Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., Miss Chava Collinson, M.A., Councillor Stanley Sadler, J.P., J. W. Coleby, Esq. Chairman: Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P.

## OTHER SOCIETIES.

Friday, March 25th, at 8.30 p.m.

The League of the Church Militant. Public Meeting. Miss Maude Royden on "Christ and International Relationships." Miss Margaret Bondfield, M.P., on "Christ and Industry." Canon Raven, D.D., on "Christ and the Ministry of Women." Chair: H. H. Judge Shewell Cooper. Reserved seats 1/-, from League of the Church Militant, Church House, S.W.1.

Saturday, March 26th, at 3 p.m.

The Speech Club. Discussion on "Citizenship," opened by Lady Balfour of Burleigh.

Tuesday, March 29th, at 5 p.m.

The London Group of the American National Woman's Party, at 92, Victoria Street. Debate on "Partnership v. Salaries for Wives." John E. Mitchell and Raymond Gram-Swing. Chair: Rose Macaulay.

Wednesday, March 30th, at 3 p.m.

North Hackney Women's Liberal Association Meeting, at St. Michael's Hall, Northwood Road, Clapton. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Subject: "The Legal Position of Married Women."

Thursday, March 31st, at 7.30 p.m.

Sunderland. Subscription Library Hall, Fawcett Street. Public Meeting, on "Equal Franchise." Speakers: Miss Macadam, Miss Agnes Dawson, N.U.W.T. Chairman: The Mayoress of Sunderland.

Friday, April 1st, 4—5.30 p.m.

In aid of the Six Point Group. Miss Ada Moore's Party. Lady Rhondda. Madame Bertha Moore will tell Stories. Miss Eva Moore will Recite. Cards of admission from Miss Ada Moore, 153, Elm Park Mansions, S.W.10.

Monday, April 4th, at 3 p.m.

The Six Point Group. Miss Chrystal Eastman on "Recent Tendencies of American Fiction."

Monday, April 4th, at 8 p.m.

The Open Door Council. Annual Meeting in Caxton Hall. Miss Monica Whately, Mrs. Abbott, Mrs. Aldridge, and others. Chair: Professor W. Cullis.

Thursday, April 7th, at 5 p.m.

Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations. Public Meeting at Women's Service House, 35, Marsham Street, Westminster. Speaker: Dame Janet Campbell (British Expert on League of Nations Committee on Infant Welfare) on "Work of the League of Nations Committee on Infant Welfare." Chairman: Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, J.P., D.Sc.

Thursday, April 7th, at 7.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Bradford, Mechanics' Institute, Public Meeting, on "Equal Franchise." Speakers: Miss Froud (N.U.W.T.), and others.

Friday, April 8th, at 6.30 p.m.

Women's Engineering Society. Miss E. M. Kennedy on "A Business Woman's Trip to America." Chair: Mrs. Willson.

## WOMEN UNIONISTS' AREA CONFERENCES

Ministers will speak at many of the area conferences which have been arranged by the Women's Parliamentary Committee of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations. Mr. Chamberlain addressed the Essex conference at the Wharnclyffe Rooms, on Wednesday, 23rd; Mr. Bridgeman will speak on Friday, at a meeting at Bath, connected with the Somerset conference; Lord Birkenhead will speak at a similar meeting at Coventry, on Thursday, March 31st; and the Duchess of Atholl will address a meeting of Devon women Unionists at Torquay, on Friday, April 8th. These conferences will culminate in a mass meeting of the Women's Unionist organisation, which the Prime Minister will address at the Albert Hall, on Friday, May 27th.

## CHILD ENDOWMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

The Times reports that, after a conference lasting seven days, the "managers" of the two Houses of the State Parliament failed to agree on major differences concerning the proposals for child endowment, though a majority agreement was reached on minor points.

Mr. Lang, the Premier, informed Parliament that the majority agreed, first, that a scheme of family endowment is a necessary complement to the living-wage system; secondly, that, subject to the establishment of a satisfactory scheme of child endowment, the living wage should be based upon the requirements of a childless couple; thirdly, that the Industrial Commissioner should have the power to declare a separate wage for rural employees, but the standard of living should not be lower; fourthly, that any scheme should be provisional, pending Federal determinations; fifthly, that the allowance should be not less than 5s. weekly per child of 14 years and under.

The conference was unable to agree on the income limit to which endowment would be payable. This limit will probably be the subject of amendments, hitherto unacceptable to the Government, to be moved in the Legislative Council, which is still dealing with the Bill.

## LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND INFANT WELFARE.

A meeting of special interest and importance has been arranged by the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations (to which the Women's Freedom League is affiliated), on Thursday, April 7th, at 5 p.m., at Women's Service House, 35, Marsham Street, Westminster, when Dame Janet Campbell, the British Expert on the League of Nations Committee on Infant Welfare, will speak on "The Work of the League of Nations Committee on Infant Welfare." Dame Janet Campbell, D.B.E., M.D., M.S., is one of the Senior Medical Officers at the Ministry of Health. The Chair will be taken by Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, J.P., D.Sc.

## WOMEN'S LUNCHEON.

The International Council of Women held a very successful luncheon last Tuesday at the Lyceum Club in honour of Princess Radziwill of the Information Section of the League of Nations. The Hon. Mrs. Franklin presided in the place of the President, the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, who was unable to be in London for the occasion. Quite a number of different countries were represented round the table including New Zealand, Western Australia, Newfoundland, Yugoslavia, the Netherlands, Germany, Estonia and Peru. Lady Aberdeen had sent a letter of welcome to the guests, Mrs. Franklin in her short speech drew attention to the forthcoming meetings of the Executive and Standing Committees to be held in Geneva in June. Princess Radziwill showed how the women's organisations could help and supplement the work of the League of Nations, while Madame Kallas spoke of the pleasant memories she had of the meetings of the International Council she had attended two years ago in Washington. All present felt glad to have had an opportunity of meeting fellow-workers from other countries, and of hearing from them of the work they were doing to further peace and International understanding.

To Branch Treasurers. Capitation fees should now be sent in.—E. KNIGHT.

Women's Freedom League Report. Now ready, price 3d., from 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

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**FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.**—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, March 27th, 1927. 3.30. Music. Lecture. The Chief Rabbi, The Very Rev. Joseph Herman Hertz, Ph. D., Heb. Litt. D. 6.30. Maude Royden: "Beethoven."

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

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Minimum Annual Subscription, 1/-