

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, MAY 13, 1927

OBJECT: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the powers already obtained to elect women in Parliament, and upon other public bodies, for the purpose of establishing equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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XXX.—WHEN I AM M.P.

MISS ELEANOR STEWART, Prospective Labour Candidate for Edinburgh North.

Miss Eleanor Stewart was Labour candidate for North Edinburgh at the last General Election, being second of three candidates. Born in Glasgow of working-class parents, her father was one of the pioneer Socialists honoured by the I.L.P. at Easter as one of the founder members. The recent complaint that the Labour Party does not encourage working women as Parliamentary candidates does not apply in the case of Miss Stewart. At 12 years of age she was employed as a part-time milk carrier, starting work at 5.30 a.m., to finish in time for school. A "full-timer" at 14, it is her boast that she has "never been out of a job." This should be qualified, however. A factory inspector visited a workroom where she was employed. This was such an unheard-of procedure that someone had to suffer. The "wee Socialist," as she was called, paid the penalty, but the abuses were removed as a result of the visit. A clever worker, she was almost immediately in charge of a workroom, where a sympathetic employer gave ample scope for the introduction of up-to-date and humane conditions. A voluntary worker for the National Federation of Women



Sasha, Lid]

MISS ELEANOR STEWART.

[7, Suffolk St., S.W.1.

Workers under Mary McArthur, Miss Stewart was at the outbreak of war appointed Woman Organiser in Scotland for the Workers' Union, which position she still retains. Her grasp of industrial problems, her wide knowledge of workshop conditions, and her

"native caniness" were soon recognised, and she was in constant demand as an assessor on Local and National Munition Tribunals. A member of the Approved Societies' Advisory Committee to the Scottish Board of Health and of the Glasgow Profiteering

Tribunal, she viewed matters from a definitely woman's point of view. Post-war activities included the Scottish Committee on Women's Training and Employment and various schemes for the resettlement of women in industry. Miss Stewart was the first Labour woman to be returned to the Glasgow Town Council, and is to-day a member of many important committees in that city. Miss Stewart is a director of the Royal Maternity Hospital, and also of the Royal Samaritan Hospital for Women in Glasgow. She is remembered for her long effort in organising domestic assistants, while she is known all over the area for her work on Committees of the Ministry of Labour.

"If I were M.P.? Well," said Miss Stewart, "I have no illusions on the subject. Having met Cabinet Ministers of three Governments, M.P.s and permanent officials of various Departments, I begin to realise how difficult it is to

get anything done, particularly in the interests of women. We must work hard, however, and make the most of our increasing political influence. My programme is not new. For more than ten years I have been demanding the right to work, and, failing work,

full maintenance; the removal of all disabilities affecting married women, especially with regard to employment; adult suffrage; free education from elementary school to university, with maintenance grants where required; more schools and smaller classes. I would raise the school age to 16 years, develop vocational training, and abolish all child labour. More money should be spent on the development of social services, and a great deal less on war and preparations for war. The rehousing of slum dwellers, and a progressive home-building policy are most essential, while I would push for the State ownership of land, mines, transport, and, most important of all to-day, State control of the nation's credit. These are a few practical proposals—not idle dreams—which I believe to be inevitable for the further development of one of the richest countries in the world, and for the general good and happiness of its people."

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

First Woman Freeman of Carlisle.

It has been decided to confer the Freedom of Carlisle on Miss Creighton, sister of Bishop Mandell Creighton, who was Bishop of Peterborough, and subsequently of London. Miss Creighton is the first woman to receive the honour. She is keenly interested in girls' education, and has been active in public life.

The only Woman Delegate.

Miss L. Verity, the Secretary to the Walsall Chamber of Commerce, was the only woman present at the annual meetings of the British Chamber of Commerce, which took place in London towards the end of last month. Miss Verity is said to be the only woman Secretary of any Chamber of Commerce in the British Isles, a position she has filled for the past two years after being Assistant Secretary for seven years.

Another Woman Chairman of Board of Guardians.

Mrs. Cantillon has been unanimously elected Chairman of the Cardiff Board of Guardians, of which she has been a member for 26 years.

Cornish Guardians' Vacancy.

A male member of the Liskeard and District Board of Guardians having been absent for over six months, a schoolmistress, Miss Sophie Little, was elected unopposed for the East Looe District.

Holloway's Woman Deputy Governor.

Miss Mary Size has taken up her post as woman Deputy-Governor of Holloway Prison. Holloway is entirely a woman's prison, and should, of course, have not only a woman Deputy-Governor, but a woman Governor.

Woman Councillor wants Women Police.

Councillor Mrs. Lewcock is this week moving a resolution at Newport (Wales) Corporation meeting, approving the appointment of women police, and asking the Watch Committee to appoint two.

Telephone Service unjust to Women.

The President of the Post Office Controlling Officers' Association, in his annual presidential address, drew attention to the fact that "the Department (*i.e.*, the Telephone Service) evinced singularly little inclination to afford women the means of advancement to the higher positions in the Service which owed so much of its efficiency to their skill and direction."

Other issues of the series, "When I am M.P.":—Mrs. BEATRICE A. BAYFIELD, April 29, 1927; Mrs. PANK-HURST, February 25, 1927; MISS MONICA WHATELEY, January 21, 1927; Miss ELISABETH EDWARDS, January 7, 1927; Miss MARY RICHARDSON, September 24, 1926; The Lady RATHCREEDAN, August 27, 1926; Mrs. CECILIA STREETEN, April 2, 1926; Dr. STELLA CHURCHILL, March 12, 1926; Mrs. MURIEL MATTERS PORTER, September 12, 1924; Mrs. ANNE CORNER, August 29, 1924; Mrs. LOUIE SIMPSON, J.P., August 15, 1924; Councillor ELLEN C. WILKINSON, M.A., July 4, 1924; Miss MINNIE PALLISTER, July 6, 1923; Miss C. PICTON-TURBERVILL, September 8, 1922; Mrs. HAMILTON MORE-NEBITT, August 18, 1922; Mrs. BURNETT SMITH, June 30, 1922; Lady CURRIE, April 7, 1922; Mrs. STEWART BROWN, March 31, 1922; Miss HELEN FRASER, March 24, 1922; Lady COOPER, March 17, 1922; Commandant MARY S. ALLEN, O.B.E., February 17, 1922; Miss MARY P. GRANT, January 6, 1922; Mrs. MARJORIE PEASE, J.P., October 28, 1921; Mrs. AYRTON GOULD, October 21, 1921; Dr. ETHEL BENTHAM, October 7, 1921; Mrs. WINTRINGHAM, M.P., September 23, 1921; Mrs. ELEANOR BARTON, August 26, 1921; Mrs. SCOTT GATTY, August 12, 1921; Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY, July 15, 1921.

First Women Magistrates in Victoria.

The first women to be appointed to the office of Justice of the Peace under the Bill recently passed by the Parliament of Victoria are Mrs. Skene, President of the Australian Federal Council of Women, and Mrs. Glencross, President of the National Council of Women of Victoria.

Woman Member of Legislative Assembly.

Miss May Holmes has been re-elected to the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia, in the Labour interest.

A Compliment to a Woman Mayor.

The *New York Times* devotes space to praise of Mrs. Bertha Landes, elected last year to the Mayoralty of Seattle. It says she has dealt with a difficult situation marvellously, exceeding all expectations, and backs her strongly as future Governor.

Woman Treasury Representative.

The United States Treasury Department has appointed Miss Annabel Matthews to the League of Nations International Conference on Double Taxation. Miss Matthews is Attorney of the General Council of Internal Revenue.

"Vicaresses" in German Churches.

A Bill recently passed in Germany enables women to perform certain ecclesiastical functions, with the title of "Vicaress." These women must have had four years' study at a university, and will then be permitted to preach at children's services and Bible classes, and to give religious instruction; but may not preach at ordinary services or administer the Sacrament.

Nationality of Married Women.

The German Reichstag is framing a Bill to enable a German woman to retain her nationality on marriage to a foreigner, so long as she is resident in Germany and does not formally renounce her German nationality. Further, if she changes her domicile, she only ceases to be of German nationality if she formally adopts that of her husband under the laws of the country in which she is domiciled.

Miss Karen Jeppe Honoured.

The *Bulletin* (organ of the International Council of Women) reports that Miss Karen Jeppe, the prominent Danish woman, whose untiring work for the Armenian refugees, is well known, has had the Gold Medal of Merit conferred upon her by the King of Denmark.

Woman Official in Vatican.

Signora Ocipioni, an acknowledged authority on *incunabula* and ancient texts, has been appointed sub-librarian to the Vatican.

Equality in Mongolia.

The Constitution of the Republic of Mongolia accepts complete equality of citizenship for men and women.

Portugal Restricts Work for Women.

Portugal, following Britain's example, is publishing a decree placing restrictions upon the hours and conditions of women's work which are not placed upon men's work, and classing adult women with children. Also, like Britain, Portugal calls this "protection."

Chinese Woman Judge.

The Chinese Nationalists have appointed Miss Soume Teheng, LL.D. (Paris), as Chief Judge in the Shanghai district.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Writing Assistants and Women Clerks.

SIR BASIL PETO (U., Barnstaple) asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury whether, in the examinations held in March and May of this year, the new entrants in the Writing Assistant Class and Women's Clerical Officer Class will be limited to the number required to cover only the actual wastage vacancies on the permanent side of the staff; and, if not, what is the number of additional permanent Civil Servants it is intended to admit? MR. MCNEILL: A number of Writing Assistants from the examination held in March last will be required to deal with the additional work arising out of the award of Old Age Pensions as from January 1st next under the Contributory Pensions Act, as well as to fill wastage vacancies. It is anticipated that the new entrants from the examination for Clerical Officer posts in the women's branches will be required almost entirely to fill wastage vacancies, but I am not yet in a position to state how many candidates will be assigned to Departments as a result of these examinations, or to give details of their allocation, which must be influenced by the detailed arrangements for giving effect to the policy of restricting new entrants to the Civil Service, which are now under consideration. SIR B. PETO: Will it not be possible to find among the vast number of Civil Servants in all Departments some whose services can be dispensed with where they are now, and who could carry on the administration of the new duties referred to, which will be filled up by the new entrants into the Civil Service? MR. MCNEILL: All these facts are taken into consideration, and the best possible arrangements with regard to these new duties are being made.

First Offenders Act.

MR. MURNIN (Lab., Stirling and Falkirk) asked the Prime Minister whether his attention has been drawn to the Notice of Motion given for an early day by the hon. Member for Dundee on the administration of the First Offenders Act in Scotland, and on the necessity of drawing the attention of the sheriffs to the provisions of the Statute; and whether he proposes to find time for discussion of the Motion? THE PRIME MINISTER: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. I see no prospect of special facilities being given for this discussion. MR. JOHNSTON (Lab., Dundee): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that girls of 16 years of age, for a first offence, have been sent to prison for taking a small quantity of coal from the pit-head? Cannot he take steps to acquaint the sheriffs of Scotland with the provisions of the First Offenders Act? THE PRIME MINISTER: That, of course, is not my business. The business of the House is so congested that it is impossible to find time to discuss the Motion. I might recommend to the hon. Member, if there is something he thinks is wrong, to put it to the Secretary for Scotland.

Solicitation Laws.

SIR PATRICK FORD (U., Edinburgh) asked the Home Secretary whether the proposed inquiry into the Solicitation Laws will be extended to Scotland, as well as England; and if Scotland will be given representation on the Committee, or, if a Committee representative of both countries is considered impracticable, will a Scottish Committee be appointed? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: It is intended that the proposed inquiry should extend to Scotland, and that a person residing in Scotland should be appointed to the Committee. MR. RHYS-DAVIES (Lab., Westhoughton): Will a representative from Wales be on the Committee as well? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: If it is necessary.

Local Authorities (Women).

MR. HORE-BELISHA (Lib., Devonport) asked the Minister of Health how many women are serving on Boards of Guardians in England and Wales, and how many women are serving on other local authorities?

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: I have no official information on this subject, but, from particulars furnished to me, I gather that the services of women are available to an approximately equal extent (by means of either direct or indirect election or co-option) on Boards of Guardians and their Committees on the one hand, and on County and County Borough Councils and their Committees on the other, the figures in each case being approximately 2,000. I am not in possession of similar particulars as regards other local authorities.

Law Officers (Fees).

MR. JOHNSTON asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury what was the amount of fees and other emoluments, as apart from salary, paid to the holders of the offices of Attorney-General and Solicitor-General respectively for the years 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925 and 1926 respectively? MR. MCNEILL: The figures are as follow:—

Year ending.	Attorney-General.		Solicitor-General.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
31st March, 1923	17,278	19 11	6,565	2 3
" 1924	12,995	4 6	6,000	3 2
" 1925	23,846	1 1	7,656	10 0
" 1926	16,967	14 10	13,091	7 10

Particulars of the fees paid during the year ending March 31st, 1927, are not yet available.

WHY RAILWAY CARRIAGES SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR WOMEN.

The following is taken from the *Hackney Gazette*, of April 11th:—

"Remarking that he thought it was largely due to drink, and that he would deal with the case by fining, which he very seldom did, the magistrate (Mr. Basil Watson) inflicted a penalty of £15 on a clerk, of Stoke Newington, who had pleaded guilty to a charge of improper behaviour, with intent to insult a young girl, in a carriage on the London, Midland and Scottish Railway, between Broad Street and Dalston. Detective-Sergeant Marsh said the prisoner had not been convicted before. He was a single man living at home, and was employed as a clerk, earning 32s. 6d. a week. Previously he had been in the employment of a firm of solicitors in this district. He had an excellent character at both places. Witness believed he had been drinking rather heavily. Mr. J. C. Watts, solicitor, who defended, said that when accused pleaded guilty he did not realise what the offence was with which he was charged. He had no intention of insulting the girl, and did not think the girl could see him. He told him that he met some friends and had some drink. He had never been drunk before."

JOHN STUART MILL CELEBRATION and EQUAL FRANCHISE PUBLIC MEETING,

FRIDAY, MAY 20TH, 8 P.M.

AT CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.

Speaker: MISS BARCLAY-CARTER, Lic.-ès-L. (St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance), MISS AGNES DAWSON, L.C.C. (N.U.W.T.), MRS. FLOWERS (W.F.L.), MISS MACADAM, M.A. (N.U.S.E.C.), MISS WOODMAN (Young Suffragists), MRS. ZANGWILL (W.F.L.), and a Representative from the Women's National Liberal Federation.

CHAIRMAN - - - MRS. PETHICK-LAWRENCE.

Admission Free: Reserved and Numbered Seats, 2/6. Reserved, 1/-, from W.F.L. Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, MAY 13th, 1927.

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."
Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

JOHN STUART MILL CELEBRATION.

20th MAY, 1806—20th MAY, 1927.

In 1867, John Stuart Mill moved a woman suffrage Amendment to the Reform Bill, his Motion being to omit the word "man" and insert the word "person" in the enfranchising clause. Seventy-three Members voted with him and 196 against him. Had that Amendment passed into law, it would have given equal voting rights to women and men in this country. Women are still, in 1927, asking for equal voting rights with men, and next Friday, the 121st anniversary of John Stuart Mill's birthday, the Labour Party's Representation of the People Bill, the sole object of which is to confer the Parliamentary vote on women at the same age and on the same terms as men, will come up for its Second Reading in the House of Commons. Women are most keenly interested in the fate of this Bill. The Prime Minister has most definitely promised to introduce a Bill *next Session*, granting the vote to women of 21 and upwards, and on the same terms as men. The Women's Freedom League and all other women's organisations working for women's equal political enfranchisement with men are urging the Government to adopt the Bill now before Parliament and to pass it into law without delay, so that women will be sure of voting at the same age and on equal terms with men at the next election. Next Friday night, we shall know what has happened to this Bill, and what are the Government's intentions in regard to it. Shall we have cause for rejoicing at our Central Hall Meeting that evening, or will the Government once again resolve to delay the settlement of this question, which is of such vital importance to the women of our country? We can trust the speakers at the Central Hall to deal adequately with the afternoon's Debate in the House of Commons and with the Government's decision. Parliament has for the past 60 years been considering the matter of equal voting rights for women and men, and we are inclined to think that, if only men continued to occupy seats in Parliament, it might go on considering it for another 60 years! Fortunately, however, some women in the country now have votes, and, although the Upper House remains barred to women, and we have very few women compared with men Members in the Lower House, there are among the latter some very able and staunch champions of our cause, who are convinced that equal voting rights for women with men is a measure of justice very long overdue, and we can rely upon them to do their utmost to oppose all unnecessary delay in getting an Equal Franchise Bill on to the Statute Book. Next Friday morning, representatives of women's organisations will pay their tribute to John Stuart Mill's memory by placing a floral emblem on his statue in Temple Gardens, and in the evening, at the Central Hall, Westminster, women speakers will review the struggle of British women for political equality with men from 1867 to 1927; and we urge all our readers who are in London that day to join us in that meeting and to pledge themselves to work with us unceasingly for this elementary piece of political justice to women until it is won. We repeat that women in the Dominions, in India, in the United States, and in all those European countries in which women vote (with the single exception of Hungary), exercise the vote at the age of 21 and upwards and on the same terms as men. What is the matter with British women that they should have to wait until they are 30, or even 25, before they can vote, while British men can vote and have always been able to vote at 21, no matter what other qualifications were also necessary?

WOMEN BARRED FROM HIGHEST POSTS.

"Women who do the whole of the supervisory and the manipulative work are still barred from the highest positions in the Telephone Service," declared Mr. D. Grant, in his presidential address at the Conference of the Post Office Controlling Officers' Association, held at Norwich last Monday. He pointed out that this causes discouragement, and tends more and more to be felt by the women operators as a relic of the sex disqualification, which, by general consent, is in other services and professions now being swept away. Up to the present, the Department has shown singularly little inclination to afford women avenues of advancement to the higher positions. Discussing sex disqualification for the higher positions in the Telephone Service, a woman delegate said: "I have been engaged for more than 30 years in the Service, and have reached a stage where I must remain until this sex disqualification is removed. For years my duties have entailed the instruction of males for positions which I am precluded from occupying." On the same page of the *Westminster Gazette*, which reports this unequal treatment of women and men in the Telephone Service, is the following statement made by Mrs. E. M. Wood, director of Samson Clark, Ltd., when speaking on "Business Careers for Women," at University College the same day: "Employers are growing less interested in whether an individual is a man or woman, and more interested in whether the individual can do the job. The obstacles in the way of women rising are rapidly diminishing. It is surprising the number of high positions women are filling to-day." It is not disputed that in the Telephone Service women can do the work in the higher positions as well as men—women, indeed, teach and train men for the higher posts which women are not allowed to fill. When will the Government come into line with other employers in this country, and give equal chances to people who can do the work required, irrespective of their sex?

MARRIED WOMEN BARRED.

Last week, Durham County Council decided by a majority to approve the recommendation of the Health Committee to give three months' notice terminating the appointment of all women officers on the new staff whose husbands are in receipt of an adequate income. Councillor J. E. Morgan declared that such an action would be unjust, and asked if it was not a great advantage in dealing with women and children at the Welfare Centres to have married women medical officers? Dr. C. S. Stevenson declared that the Council had no right to interfere if the married officials were performing their duties satisfactorily, and other Councillors described the decision as a retrograde step. Councillor Peter Lee, however, remarked that the Council wanted the money of the county paid out in salaries to touch as many homes as possible! Just as though the Council were in the position of a relieving officer in dispensing the county's funds! Then the Rev. G. J. Lane said he felt there was no possible injustice in the cases of married women being given notice to terminate their engagements, and Councillor Hedley Mason seems to have said the last word on the subject when he declared that, if they allowed the present system to continue, Durham would become a happy hunting-ground for husbands and wives holding appointments under that Committee! Some of our local Councillors are really insufferable in their excuses for sacrificing the public interest to their prejudices. What the ratepayers want is the best value for their money. If a married or a single woman proves inefficient in the discharge of her duties, it is the Council's plain business to discharge her, just as it would be in the case of an inefficient man, married or single; but, when a married woman is giving every satisfaction, it is sheer impertinence on the part of local Councillors to inquire into her private means, or whether she is married or unmarried; and it is in every way acting against the interests of the community to dismiss her solely on the ground of marriage.

NOTES FROM INDIA.

The Baroda University Commission have had before them the question of including women in their university. Opinion was expressed that there should be a separate college for women students, against which it was argued that, certainly at the outset, the number of women students would be so small as to make the provision of a highly qualified and sufficient staff impossible, thus gravely handicapping the students. Another opinion expressed was strongly in favour of a mixed university, as only by associating freely with men can women gain the broader outlook on life which at present they lack. The Commission seemed in favour of the latter view, and it is probable that a system of mixed classes and separate residence, with special classes in subjects which only women would require, and possibly later developing into separate colleges. On the question of different degrees for men and women, suggested as lower in standard for women, the Commission was unanimously opposed to any such differentiation.

The women of Bihar are not yet admitted to the franchise, but, nevertheless, play an important part in the public affairs of their Province.

Miss Shoila Bala Das, member of the Executive of the Bihar and Orissa Council of Women, is also a Commissioner of the Municipality, a County Councillor, and a Justice of the Peace. Her sister, a lawyer, was the first woman to practise in the Patna High Court, and is the first woman member of the Senate of the University of the Province.

In Mysore women have won the right of voting for, and membership of, the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council, and they hope to send Srimati Parvathi Ammal Chandrashekarai to the latter. She is already on the District Board of Bangalore, while Kodar has a doctor, Mrs. Madurabi Uchgavkar, and

Kolar also a doctor, Miss Lewis, on their District Boards.

In Travancore and Cochin women are on the Legislative Councils, and the former has a woman member of the Government.

In Baroda a Committee is sitting to inquire into the prevention of child marriage, while the Ruler of Bharatapur has issued a Proclamation forbidding it.

At the Madras Historical Association, Mrs. Lakshmi-pathi, graduate of Madras University, spoke on "The Awakening of Indian Women." She alluded to the widespread stirring towards freedom among women all over the world, and then showed how Indian women were sharing in this, and how, although still largely illiterate, they had awakened to a sense of their own rights and responsibilities, and were trying to take their share in the civic, political and social life of the country. She added: "Women should be allowed to discover for themselves what is their sphere, rather than continue to occupy the sphere that men have rightly or wrongly allowed them. A new note is being struck, and women can and must realise that they are concerned with the larger life, and that a nation grows or deteriorates according to the development of its women."

In Burma, a resolution to admit women to membership of the Legislative Council has been defeated. A large meeting urged raising the age of consent to 16.

In March, in Madras, a huge meeting was held in support of the Children's Protection Bill. Stress was laid on the importance of women's work in such matters and of the great value of their opinions, founded on particular knowledge and experience. Some amusement was caused a few days after this great meeting by the announcement of a "Ladies' Protest Meeting," evidently engineered by the Indian prototypes of our British Banburys.

NO C.D. ACTS!

The Contagious Diseases Acts, first introduced in 1866, were finally repealed in this country in 1886, chiefly by the work of Josephine Butler and her helpers.

The idea of these Acts was to make vice "safe" by eliminating from the ranks of prostitutes those women suffering from venereal disease, the degradation of women being excused as a necessity.

During the war, the Regulation 40D had the same intention. It had to be dropped in answer to a storm of opposition raised by the women's organisations.

The root of the evil of these measures lies in their compulsory principle, and especially in their unequal pressure upon men and women. During recent years the chief weapon used in the fight against venereal diseases, which is so vital for the health of the people, has been the provision of free, confidential, expert treatment in voluntary clinics and hospitals, etc., with all sorts of helpful agencies, country homes, hostels, nourishment, etc., for poor patients.

By these means the amount of disease in the country has been much reduced. But compulsion is a tempting short cut, which it is a great temptation to try when dealing with unsatisfactory people who do not seem to know what is good for them, and we always have to be on the watch lest local Health Authorities should again try to introduce it.

Edinburgh Corporation is now seeking for compulsory powers.

The Women's Freedom League has sent the following resolution to the Town Clerk of Edinburgh, the Prime Minister, and the Scottish Office:—

"The Women's Freedom League strongly condemns the provisions of the proposed Edinburgh Corporation Provisional Orders, which extend the powers of the Corporation as Local Authority under the Public Health (Scotland) Act, in respect of venereal disease, so as to include compulsory medical examination, compulsory treatment, and compulsory detention under a Police Court warrant.

"The Women's Freedom League calls upon all who fought the long and arduous battle against the Contagious Diseases Acts in this country to prevent the reintroduction of their worst features, and the proposed return to a discarded and abominable method of combating these diseases, being convinced that the only sound and scientific method of stamping them out is free, voluntary, confidential medical treatment and help."

The subject was fully discussed and the Orders condemned by our Edinburgh Branch at its meeting on April 28th (see THE VOTE of May 6th), and a deputation from Women's Societies was received by the Town Clerk on May 2nd. Much opposition has been roused, and the Order is to be redrafted, but the proposed alteration does not remove the element of compulsion, and the opposition must go on with increasing vigour.

NOTES FROM THE FOREIGN PRESS.

By MARIAN BERRY.

In a recent number of *Le Mouvement Féministe* there was an interview with Marguerite Andoux, the author of "L'atelier Marie-Claire," whose third book, "De la Ville au Moulin," has recently been published. Mme. Jeanne Vuilliomont, the writer of the interview, gives us some interesting details of this author's life.

Marguerite Andoux lost her mother, a consumptive, at the age of three, and the father, who was a carpenter by trade, deserted her. The Public Assistance Authority placed the child in a convent where, frail and delicate, she struggled into girlhood, largely owing to the care and devotion of one of the Sisters, whose special care she was. Two hours each day were devoted to lessons and the child learnt to read and write, but she never opened a grammar book. When 10 years old, the mistress told Marguerite she could teach her nothing more, and that she could now take charge of the infants' class.

Life was happy at the convent, but at 13 a post as shepherdess was found for Marguerite on a farm at Sologne. Here, sitting in the fields, every possible moment was devoted to reading whatever came in her way, and it was a momentous day in her life when she discovered the "Aventures de Télémaque" in a loft. Later she went to Paris, where she worked as a sempstress to support herself and a little niece who had fallen to her charge. In order to earn another 50 centimes a day and to have some free time in the evening, work was taken in a hospital laundry, but the post was hard and a pin left in a garment caused a poisoned leg. Owing to this accident, sewing again became her means of livelihood, but her employers were for the most part the wives of literary men, who took an interest in her.

The day's impressions were jotted down, and either burnt or thrown into a drawer, until in the long hours of the night "Marie-Claire" saw daylight. The manuscript was entrusted to a literary friend, who secured its publication in 1910. From that time life became easier for the writer, who although almost

MINERVA PUBLISHING COMPANY, LTD.

The 14th Ordinary General Meeting of the Minerva Publishing Company, Limited, was held on Friday, April 29th, at the Company's Offices, 144, High Holborn, Dr. E. Knight (Director of the Company) presiding.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting, the Chairman moved the adoption of the Report and Balance Sheet, and this was seconded by Mrs. Langford (shareholder).

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the Report and Balance Sheet, pointed out that every opportunity had been seized to increase the circulation of THE VOTE during the year, that meetings in London had been attended, and THE VOTE sold on every possible occasion. Dr. Knight reported that letters of appreciation had been received from readers in all parts of the world. Later, during the discussion, Miss Underwood suggested that extracts from these letters should be published in THE VOTE. Miss Marian Berry and Miss Farmer were offered the Company's warmest thanks for the work that they had accomplished during the year in translating news of women's activities received from France, Germany, and the Scandinavian countries. Finally, an appeal was made to all concerned to co-operate with the Company during the coming year in endeavouring to secure fresh readers.

The Resolution was then put to the meeting, and carried unanimously.

On the motion of Miss Underwood, seconded by Mrs. Langford, the two retiring Directors, Mrs. Fisher and Miss Clark, were re-elected to the Board.

On the motion of Mrs. Langford, seconded by Miss Clark, the Auditor, Miss M. M. Homersham, was unanimously reappointed.

blind and frail in health, was supporting not only herself, but a niece's three children.

An interesting account of the growth of the Women Police in Germany is given in the *Schweizer Frauenblatt* for April 22nd. A number of women who have had a social welfare training for work among young people, with additional experience of police law and work, have passed the examination of the Berlin Police Headquarters as Police Commissioners. Up to now, the training for women police in Germany has not been uniform, but has differed in the various towns appointing them. From the experience gained, it is possible to lay down rules for future candidates. Women candidates must be experienced welfare workers, who have also studied at one of the schools for women's work and have had three months' experience of street and dangerous work. Secretaries for criminal work must also have had training and experience of work among young people, and to this will be added six months' training under the police authorities. The course for a welfare worker extends over three to four years.

Fräulein Josephine Erkens, who began her police work with the English women police during the Cologne occupation, has been appointed Commissioner of Women Police. Since 1925, Fräulein Erkens has organised a separate women's police section at Frankfurt-a/Main, where in the first instance women police were only appointed for street service.

In some 80 towns women have been working under the police authorities as welfare workers for several years, but the success of the women police in Cologne evoked a desire in other Prussian towns for their appointment. The Federation of German Women's Organisations, at its Conference in June, 1925, appointed a Committee to study the question of Women Police. In January, 1926, a deputation from this Committee discussed the establishment of a permanent body of Women Police with representatives of the Home Department, and laid before the Department the wishes of organised women on the matter.

The ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION for WOMEN LUNCHEON.

Over 300 people attended the luncheon given by the Electrical Association for Women, on Wednesday, 11th inst. This Association only started in 1925, and the luncheon followed its second annual general meeting. Dr. Ferranti proposed the toast of the Association, stressing the enormous development in the uses of electricity, particularly its rapidly increasing adaptation to domestic uses. He congratulated the Association on its parallel enormous growth and development, and gave great credit to its director, Miss Haslett. It was not only the coincidence of electrical development which led to the success of the Association, but its skilled organisation. Lady Astor, the President, responded in a witty speech, in which she gave the world a new word, the "woman's-place-is-the-home-man," and expressed the opinion that the world would have been a poor place if women had each devoted themselves only to their own homes. Like all great movements, she said, the Women's Electrical Association was started by a few devoted, earnest, selfless people, and she was proud to be its President. They could not have found a woman who knew less of electricity, but who, at the same time, had a greater faith in woman than herself. Major-General Sir Philip Nash gave a most interesting speech on Electricity in the Service of the Community, and Dame Henrietta Barnett, who, at short notice, had kindly replaced Mrs. Snowden, told how she had always been a homemaker and had begun her public life by pulling down slum houses and replacing them by homes. She recalled that 20 years ago she cut the first sod of the Hampstead Garden Suburb, which now housed 13,000 people. Lady Snell proposed "The Guests," a toast responded to by Sir Andrew Duncan, Chairman of the Central Electricity Board.

Women's Freedom League.

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

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, May 13th, at 2 p.m.

The Women's Freedom League Jumble Sale, to be held (by kind permission of Miss C. E.) at The Women's Freedom League Settlement, 2, Currie Street, Nine Elms, S.W.

Friday, May 20th, at 8 p.m.

John Stuart Mill Celebration and Equal Franchise Public Meeting at Central Hall, Westminster.

Friday, June 10th, at 5 p.m.

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

DARE TO BE FREE

Saturday, June 11th, at 10 a.m.

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

PROVINCES.

May 25th at 3.30 p.m.

Hastings. Annual Meeting, Open Door Club, Trinity Street.

May 27th at 3.30 p.m.

Ashford. Branch Meeting, Hempsted Street Hall.

Saturday, May 28th.

Portsmouth. Jumble Sale.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, May 14th, at 5 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting in Hyde Park, organised by the National Union of Women Teachers.

Sunday, May 15th, at 12 midday.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting at White Stone Pond, "Jack Straw's Castle," Hampstead Heath, organised by St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

Sunday, May 15th, at 3.30 p.m.

The Guildhouse, Eccleston Squares, S.W.1. Course of Addresses on "Ancient Civilisations" D. G. Hogarth, D.Litt., President Royal Geographical Society, on "The Hittite People and their Civilisation" (Slides).

Sunday, May 15th, at 3.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting at White Stone Pond, Hampstead Heath, organised by St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Speakers: Miss Fedden, Miss Wall, Miss Butler-Bowdon.

Monday, May 16th, at 8 p.m.

The Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Debate: "That Oration is a Lost Art." Proposer: "Roy Devereux."

Thursday, May 19th, at 7 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Highbury Corner, Meeting arranged by Women's Freedom League.

Friday, May 20th, at 2.30 p.m.

National Council of Women. An informal Conference on the Traffic in Women and Children, in the Council Chamber, Caxton Hall. Speakers: Mr. S. W. Harris, Mrs. Neville Rolfe, Miss Alison Neilans, Miss E. H. Kelly, and others.

Saturday, May 21st, at 5.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting in Hyde Park, arranged by Six Point Group.

Saturday, May 21st, at 7 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting at White Stone Pond, Hampstead Heath, arranged by the League of the Church Militant.

THE WOMEN'S ENGINEERING SOCIETY.

For the last four years the Women's Engineering Society has chosen universities in which to hold its Annual Conference, and Bristol had already extended a welcome for this year. Owing, however, to the Shipbuilding and Engineering Exhibition taking place at Olympia in the same month (September), it has been decided, with the cordial concurrence of the Exhibition Organiser, to hold it at Olympia, during the Exhibition, from September 15th to 17th. A full programme is being undertaken, and one item in it will be a debate on "The Relative Importance of the Commercial and Technical Sides of Engineering under Present-Day Conditions." Miss E. M. Kennedy, Secretary and Director of J. B. Stone & Co., will speak for the commercial side, and Miss Norah M. Jeans, Technical Assistant to the Infinitely Variable Gear Syndicate, will support the technical side.

"GULLIVER FEMINIST."

Under this heading, the Paris *Figaro* has recently, in one of those brilliantly witty leading articles for which this journal is so justly celebrated, made out a strong case for granting the vote to Frenchwomen, comparing France to the hare, which, while running so much faster than her competitor, yet, under certain tests, "arrives after all the tortoises." Not to lag behind our contemporary in the use of metaphor, we can only hope that this article will prove to be a very reliable straw showing which way the wind is blowing.

BRANCH NOTES.

HASTINGS.

A Members' Meeting was held at the Girls' Club, Trinity Street, on Wednesday, April 27th, Mrs. Darent Harrison in the Chair. The resolutions and amendments were read and discussed. Miss Rance wrote a letter to the meeting, regretting that she would be unavoidably prevented from attending the Conference. After some discussion, it was decided to ask Miss Mary Rance to take her sister's place. A letter was read from Miss Underwood, asking that the branch should send a letter to the local Press, dealing with the Equal Franchise question. It was decided to send a letter to both local papers. The date of the Annual Meeting was fixed for Wednesday, May 25th, at the Girls' Club, Trinity Street, at 3.30 p.m.

EDINBURGH.

On Monday, May 2nd, the Edinburgh Town Council received a deputation, on the subject of the Provisional Order to give compulsory powers for dealing with venereal disease, which was organised by the Edinburgh Society for Equal Citizenship, and consisted of representatives from that Society, from the Women's Freedom League, the B.W.T.A., certain Co-operative Women's Guilds, and Women's Labour Sections.

Chiefly, the deputation objected to the words: "If the Public Officer of Health has reason to believe that a person is suffering from venereal disease, and refuses or neglects to undergo, or to continue treatment," steps may be taken to deal with that person compulsorily. Councillors in favour of the Order argued that it was to be applied only to persons who, having once gone to the clinics for treatment, failed to continue, thus wasting the money spent on them out of the rates, and also to the parents of venereally infected children, but, as the deputation pointed out, the Order, as worded, gave vastly more power.

After the deputation had retired, Councillor Mrs. Altrincham Millar proposed an amendment, which she thought would meet our objections. As amended, the disputed phrase would read: "has reason to believe, on authoritative information received from a medical practitioner concerning a person who must be his patient." This, she thought, would ensure the reporting of persons who failed to continue treatment, and those with infected children, but was very unlikely to be applied to anyone else, as medical practitioners, other than those at the special clinics, are unlikely to report their patients, such notification not being compulsory.

The Provost said he would be inclined to agree with what the deputation had argued and with Mrs. Altrincham Millar's amendment, but suggested that, instead of the Order and the amendment being put to the vote, the clause should be sent back to the Special Committee for redrafting, probably on the lines of the amendment.

(Organiser) LILIAN LENTON.

APPEAL to YOUNG MEMBERS & READERS.

In view of the Press campaign against granting the Parliamentary vote to women at 21 years of age and on the same terms as men, we specially urge our young members and readers to write to their local papers in answer to the articles and letters opposing our cause.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT.

2, CURRIE STREET, S.W.8.

Our hearty gratitude is due to Miss Reeves and her helpers at the Minerva Club for an "American Tea," held at that address on April 27th. A musical programme was rendered by various kind friends. The Mayoress of Battersea attended to receive gifts of money, etc.; Mrs. Delbanco and a friend were in charge of the "Bring a present and buy a present" department; Norma Stutchbury had primroses from County Wicklow for sale; and last, though not least, a delightful tea had been arranged by our kind hostess. This being concluded, Dr. Knight took the Chair, whilst the Mayoress read out a list of money and gifts which had come from far and near, and included an item of £3 15s., proceeds from a concert arranged by Mr. Councillor McIver and other Nine Elms members of the Borough Council. This brought up our receipts altogether to £10 17s., plus eggs, which are still assisting in the dietary of our babies, and sweets also for their delectation. A parcel of goods for another Sale, and some household furnishings are very badly needed. Our babies, who managed to behave in a fairly respectable fashion, enjoyed a brief respite from the "black dust" as one paper describes it, our normal breathing air since certain recent happenings in Nine Elms, and came back to the only breath of spring-time we possess—i.e., primroses picked on the side of the Wicklow Hills by Miss Holmes and Miss Greenville, and growing daffodils from bulbs kindly sent down by Dr. Knight. To each and everyone who helped we send our most grateful thanks.

"THE POLICEWOMAN'S REVIEW."

We welcome the first copy of *The Policewoman's Review*, issued by the Women's Auxiliary Service, and wish it a long and useful career. The first article admirably surveys Women Police in Europe, and among the contributors to this first number are Dr. Elizabeth Sloan Chesser and Mrs. Cecil Chesterton.

FRIDAY,
MAY 13,
1927.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

REST AND HOLIDAYS.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, May 15th, 1927, 3.30. Music. Lecture. D. G. Hogarth, C.M.G., M.A., D.Litt. Maude Royden: "The People who care too much."

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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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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