

THE UNEQUAL GUARDIANSHIP BILL.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

NON-PARTY.

VOL. XXV. No. 763.

(Registered at
the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1924

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 AND WORLD UNION.

Interview with Mme. Clara Guthrie D'Arcis.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

A NEW HONOURS LIST!

IN PARLIAMENT. F. A. U.

THE GOVERNMENT'S GUARDIANSHIP OF INFANTS BILL.

OVERSEAS SUFFRAGISTS. Reception at Minerva Club.

WOMEN HOUSE PROPERTY MANAGERS.

MRS. DESPARD'S BIRTHDAY.

WOMEN AND WORLD UNION.

INTERVIEW WITH MME. CLARA GUTHRIE D'ARCIS.

Madame Clara Guthrie D'Arcis, who was one of the principal speakers at the recent memorable Conference at Wembley, on the Prevention of the Causes of War, is a native of New Orleans, where she spent her childhood with two quite remarkable grandparents. Her grandfather, Judge E. T. Merrick, was a distinguished lawyer, who, for ten years during and after the Civil War, acted as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Louisiana. Her grandmother, descendant of a long line of warm-hearted and open-handed Southern planters and slave-holders, was at the head of a number of important women's organisations, and was practically the pioneer of the woman suffrage movement in the Southern States. As a young girl, Madame D'Arcis accompanied her grandmother to many a suffrage meeting, and it was a chance observation from the elder lady at one of these gatherings which later became the inspiration of Madame D'Arcis' own public work.

"My grandmother felt very acutely that she was preaching to the converted," Mme. D'Arcis told a representative of THE VOTE, "and one day she rose suddenly in her seat, and cried to the astonished audience, 'Oh, do let's go out into the open, and leave these everlasting public halls! Let us preach the Suffrage gospel to the woman in her home, who can't or won't come to meetings.' Whether she ever fulfilled this aspiration, I do not remember, but her words made a deep impression on my young mind, and many years later, after I had come to Europe and settled in Switzerland on business, the opportunity came to put her suggestion to a practical conclusion, not for Suffrage purposes, but for the for-

mation of a Union which would unite the women—especially the mothers—of the world for the creation of a new world based on mutual understanding.

"A chance coincidence, early in the Great War, determined the aim of this new movement. My little boy of six was playing at soldiers in one corner of the room, and the tremendous noise he was creating presently led me to inquire into its reason. He ran towards me with flushed cheeks and shining eyes. 'Bang! Bang! Bang! I've killed the enemy,' he shouted, gleefully. 'But, darling,' I remonstrated, 'what about their poor mothers?' 'Pooh!' he returned, scornfully, 'the enemy have no mothers.'

"That set me thinking. I was already convinced that women all the world over are responsible and all-powerful, that women make men, men make Governments, and Governments make war—that it all goes forth from women, and comes back upon them. The sacred responsibility of motherhood, and the essential unity of humanity, were the chief tenets of my creed, and I determined to weld these together into a new and irresistible weapon which should reorganise the old material ideas of force and dominance into a new spirit of constructive peace.

"I accordingly founded in Geneva the World Union of Women for International Concord, and, mindful of my grandmother's words, I sought, with the aid of my Committee, to reach the woman in the home, rather than the woman already prominent in public organisations. This was in 1915, and to-day, nine years later, we have thousands of members and associates enrolled in 26 different countries both in the Eastern and Western hemispheres,



MME. CLARA GUTHRIE D'ARCIS.

in Geneva the World Union of Women for International Concord, and, mindful of my grandmother's words, I sought, with the aid of my Committee, to reach the woman in the home, rather than the woman already prominent in public organisations. This was in 1915, and to-day, nine years later, we have thousands of members and associates enrolled in 26 different countries both in the Eastern and Western hemispheres,

including Great Britain, America, Italy, Greece, Transylvania, Poland, Ukraine, Denmark, and Sweden. In Australia, the Sisterhood for International Peace is affiliated to our Union, and in Holland the Dutch Association works with us in the same way. The World Union of Women has been represented at all the important Peace Conferences which have been held at Geneva, Zurich, Vienna, Berlin, or London. Our Central Office at 17, Boulevard Helvétique, Geneva, has become the centre of an extensive peace propaganda, and there is no peace organisation in the world which has not written to ask us to make its work known in every country."

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Wives' "Trade Union"?

The Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen have voted £500 for the inauguration of a guild for the wives and mothers of members of the Society. These women have long desired an opportunity of meeting to discuss matters of common interest, and, since they are directly affected by disputes, they will be able, in guild meetings, to consider possible means of co-operating with the men. Discussions at the guild meetings, however, will usually deal with social and industrial questions, and the guild will not be concerned in any way with the management of the Union.

Girl Preacher Ordained.

Although only 19 years old, Miss Emily Bishop, of Chatham, has been ordained a lay preacher of the Primitive Methodist Church. She is the youngest preacher. Few churches will ordain even men under 21. Miss Bishop, who is a fluent speaker, is engaged to marry the Rev. E. D. Butler, of Hereford.

A Wonderful Record.

Mrs. William Reed, the wife of an Irish sea-captain, is believed to be the world's most travelled woman. She has a record of having journeyed 1,100,000 miles. Although she has rounded Cape Horn 17 times, she has never passed through the Straits of Magellan. She has crossed the line 108 times.

French Women Librarians.

The Paris Library School, which is being opened this week, thanks to a gift of 50,000 dollars from the American Committee for Devastated France, will not only give France a training in American library method, but will give this training to women as well as men. Miss Florence Wilson, Librarian of the League of Nations Library, will assist at the opening.

Porto Rican Women.

The women of Porto Rico, who are demanding their political enfranchisement, will carry their cause, next November, to the Supreme Court of the United States. The Supreme Court of Porto Rico has decided against them in mandamus proceedings through which they attempted to be registered as voters. The registration officials refused their registration.

Post Office Needlewomen.

An Exhibition of the "Dolls of France" is being held in a building in the Rue de Madrid, Paris, for the benefit of the orphanage maintained by the Post-office workers. Over 2,500 dolls are shown. Their dresses have been made by women postal workers in all parts of the country, and there is a remarkable variety in the costumes.

NEW THEATRE, ST. MARTIN'S LANE.

Miss Sybil Thorndike

has consented to give a special Matinee Performance of

TROJAN WOMEN

(Professor Gilbert Murray's Translation)

On FRIDAY, 27th JUNE, at 2.30 p.m.,

to help the work of

THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Tickets from Box Office and the Women's International League, 55 Gower Street, W.C.1, from June 5th. Stalls, 12/- (including tax), Dress Circle, 10/6 and 8/6 (including tax), Upper Circle, 5/9 (including tax), Pit, 3/6 (including tax), Gallery, 1/6 (including tax).

A NEW HONOURS LIST!

The Birthday Honours List was issued at the beginning of the week. Women have a peculiar interest in these Honours Lists, not so much from the point of view of their inclusions as from their exclusions. There is a curious disproportion in the numbers of men and women figuring in the present list. Mr. T. P. O'Connor is made a Privy Councillor—no woman has yet received that honour. The Order of Merit has been conferred upon two distinguished men, but on no woman. Two men have become baronets; thirteen men have been made knights, and nine men Knights Bachelor. The Order of the Bath has been conferred on men only, as follows:—G.C.B. on two, K.C.B. on eight, and C.B. on thirty. Of the Royal Victorian Order, one man has received the G.C.V.O., four men the K.C.V.O., three men the C.V.D., and seven men the M.V.O. Of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, four men have received the K.C.M.G., and fifteen men the C.M.G. The Imperial Service Order (Companions) has been conferred on 26 men, the Star of India, G.C.S.I., on two men, K.C.S.I. on one man, and C.S.I. on seven men; the Order of the Indian Empire, G.C.I.E. on one man, K.C.I.E. on six men, and C.I.E. on 24 men; while 4 men have become Knights. The Imperial Service Order (Indian Civil Service) has been bestowed on ten men, and the Imperial Service medal on eight men. All the foregoing Honours have been reserved to men only; but women have a small share in some of the following:—Eight men receive the Kaiser-I-Hind Medal; so do two women—Lady Reading, wife of the Viceroy of India, and Mrs. Cowasji, of Bombay. The Order of the British Empire, in its various grades, has been bestowed as follows:—G.B.E. on six men and one woman, Lady Willingdon, who was of great assistance to her husband in his Governorships of Bombay and Madras. Twenty men receive the K.B.E., and three women the D.B.E.—Mrs. Barnett, who has so ably continued and supplemented the social work of her husband, the late Canon Barnett, Miss Janet Campbell, M.D., Senior Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare, Ministry of Health, and Chief Woman Medical Adviser, Board of Education; and Her Highness the Rani Shiv Kunwar Sahiba, Senior Rani and Rani-Regent of Narsingarh, Central India. Seventy-four men and three women received the C.B.E.—Miss Margaret Steenson, Matron, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Service; Miss Kennedy Fraser (in recognition of her contributions to folk-music); and Mrs. Campbell Hay, Chairman and Founder of Queen Alexandra Hospital Home, Roehampton. One hundred and thirty-seven men are recipients of the O.B.E., and two women—Miss Gertrude McKinnell, voluntary worker, Northampton and District War Pensions Committee, and Mrs. Odgers Elsa, Madras. One hundred and twenty-seven men are awarded M.B.E., and eleven women—Miss Margaret Best, Junior Administrative Assistant, Foreign Office; Miss Minnie Crocker, Higher Clerical Officer, Ministry of Pensions; Miss Annie Norman, Junior Administrative Assistant, Foreign Office; Miss Gwendoline O'Rorke, voluntary worker, St. Pancras and Hampstead War Pensions Committee; Mrs. Annie Simonds, Vice-Chairman, Bradford, Shipley, and District War Pensions Committee; Miss Constance Whitmore, voluntary worker, Birmingham and District War Pensions Committee; Mrs. Georgiana Humphries, Headmistress of the Central School, Eldoret, Kenya Colony; Miss Annie Landan, Principal of Evelina de Rothschild's School, Jerusalem; Sister Emma Ollershaw, of the Deaconess's Society of Wesleyans, Johannesburg; Lady Louisa Mary Giles, Burma; and Mrs. Gladice Keevil Rickford, Bombay. When our readers remember all the public service rendered by British women, they will agree with us that this is a paltry list, so far as it concerns Honours conferred on women.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Unemployed Women.

MR. E. BROWN (Rugby) asked the Minister of Labour if he would give the latest estimate of the number of women who were insured persons in the Unemployment Insurance scheme; how many of them were estimated to be unemployed; and how many of them were in receipt of unemployment benefit at the last date for which he had statistics? MR. SHAW replied that the estimated number of women in insured trades in Great Britain was two and a half millions, of whom 225,026 were registered as unemployed on April 28th. The number of women with claims to unemployment benefit current at that date was 183,718. Many of those women were textile workers on short time. LADY ASTOR inquired if the Government had any plan for those women, but the Speaker declared that that did not really arise out of the question.

Widows' and Children's Pensions.

MR. W. A. JENKINS (Brecon and Radnor) and Mr. Raffety (Bath) asked the Minister of Health if he was aware that Boards of Guardians and the public generally urged that the immediate introduction of legislation to provide pensions for widows and children, in addition to fulfilling a moral obligation, would result in great social and moral advantages to the community at large; and would he give the matter immediate consideration, and urge the Government to promote legislation to carry it into effect? MR. GRAHAM (Financial Secretary to the Treasury) said he regretted he could add nothing to the statements made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Snowden) during the debate on that subject on February 29th, and in the Second Reading of the Finance Bill. VISCOUNT WOLMER (Aldershot) asked if it was true that the matter was under the consideration of the Government? MR. GRAHAM replied that it was. If the Noble Lord had heard the Chancellor's speech the previous day, he would have heard, not only that it was being considered, but that progress had been made, and it was hoped, without giving a pledge, to be able to overtake it before the end of the year.

Poor Law Institutions (Cost).

MR. LINFIELD (Bedford, Mid.) asked the Minister of Health the average cost, including food, clothing, medicine, attendance, doctors' fees, and all overhead charges, of a Poor Law institute? MR. WHEATLEY replied that, in the financial year 1922-23, the average weekly cost, per inmate, of all the Poor Law institutions in England and Wales was about 26s. 6d. That amount included food, clothing, medicine, fuel and lighting, salaries and other remuneration of doctors, masters, matrons, nurses, attendants, and other persons; the cost of the upkeep of buildings and furniture; rent, rates, taxes, and insurance, interest on loans for capital works, and provision for repayment of such loans.

Mental Hospitals (Hours of Duty).

MAJOR COLFOX (Dorset, W.) asked the Minister of Health if he was aware that nurses in the hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board worked continuously for 13 hours a day, for a salary of only £30 a year, going on duty at 7 a.m., and leaving off at 8 p.m.; that when they came off duty they were expected, two or three times a week, to attend lectures from 8.15 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.; and if he would take steps to improve those conditions? MR. WHEATLEY replied that the conditions of service nurses employed by the Metropolitan Asylums Board were within the discretion of the managers. He would, however, communicate with them, and inform the hon. Member of their reply.

Lunacy Laws.

MAJOR MOULTON (Salisbury) asked the Minister of Health if he was now prepared to form the proposed Committee to inquire into the Lunacy Laws; and if, pending its Report, he would take steps to provide for more frequent inquiries into the mental state of patients detained in asylums by persons extraneous to such

asylums? MR. WHEATLEY replied that a Royal Commission would be appointed within the next few weeks. Pending their Report, he would continue to keep a careful watch on the administration of the Lunacy Acts.

Juvenile Centres.

MRS. WINTRINGHAM (Louth) asked the Minister of Labour if, since the present scheme of financing Juvenile Unemployment Centres bore with hardship on the teachers for the purposes of the Superannuation Act, he would consider financing them through the Board of Education? MR. TREVELYAN (President of the Board of Education), who had been asked to reply, said that the grant for Juvenile Unemployment Centres was made out of the Vote for the Relief of Unemployment. The question of making arrangements which would bring those centres within the scope of the Vote of the Board of Education was one which he was discussing with his right hon. Friend the Minister of Labour, but he was not in a position to commit the Government on the matter. MR. HOPE SIMPSON (Taunton) asked if it was not a fact that those teachers were not entitled to be superannuated? MR. TREVELYAN's reply was "Yes." MR. GRAHAM WHITE (Birkenhead, E.) asked the Minister of Labour if there were any statistics available to show the average period of training received by unemployed young persons at juvenile unemployment centres? MR. SHAW replied that he proposed to ask the local education authorities concerned if they had kept any statistics of the kind which the hon. Member had in mind, and he would communicate the result of those inquiries to him.

Smoke Abatement.

MR. LORIMER (Derbyshire, S.) asked the Minister of Health if he was aware that public opinion was ready and eager to strengthen the Public Health Act of 1875 regarding smoke abatement; that many of the largest towns in the country had given up attempts to prevent atmospheric pollution, under the Public Health Act, and had applied to Parliament for special powers; and was he ready to grant the special powers asked for? MR. WHEATLEY replied that the Government hoped to introduce a Bill dealing with the subject at an early date.

Competitive Appointments (Women).

MRS. WINTRINGHAM asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury the number of appointments to the administrative, higher executive, junior executive, and higher clerical grades, respectively, made under the temporary Regulations for competitions governing the appointment of women to the Civil Service; and if he would furnish a list of the successful candidates in the order of merit in which they were placed in each grade by the Selection Board? MR. GRAHAM replied that the number of appointments made to each of the classes mentioned on the result of the competitions for women held in November-December, 1922, under the Regulations dated May 26th, 1922, was as follows:—Administrative, 3; special posts, 2; executive 7; higher clerical, 22. He was sending the hon. Member a complete list of the appointed competitors, their classes and departments. No list in order of merit was issued by the Selection Board, which had to take account of the relative qualifications of the competitors for the vacant posts which were to be filled.

Probation Officers.

MR. GRAHAM WHITE asked the Home Secretary how many courts of summary jurisdiction had appointed probation officers, and how many had failed to make such provision? MR. HENDERSON replied that a recent return showed that, out of 1,029 petty sessional divisions in England and Wales, about 170 had not appointed probation officers. MR. WHITE inquired if the right hon. Gentleman contemplated taking any action to bring those authorities into line with the rest? MR. HENDERSON said that they were constantly taking action, and bringing all the influence they could to bear upon them in the direction indicated. F. A. U.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.
Offices: 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.
FRIDAY, JUNE 6th, 1924.

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

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 a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

THE GOVERNMENT'S GUARDIANSHIP OF INFANTS BILL.

The Lord Chancellor, on behalf of the Government, has introduced into the House of Lords "An Act to amend the Law with respect to the Guardianship and Marriage of Infants." After the following preamble: "Whereas Parliament by the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919, and various other enactments, has sought to establish equality in law between the sexes, and it is expedient that this principle should obtain with respect to the guardianship of infants and the rights conferred thereby," comes a clause dealing with the custody or upbringing of infants, and setting forth the principle that, when proceedings on these matters come into the Court, the Court shall decide the question at issue solely from the point of view of the welfare of the child, and not from the claim of either parent to be superior to that of the other. Another clause gives the mother of a legitimate infant the same powers to apply to the Court in respect of any matter affecting the infant as are possessed by the father. Clause 4 gives the father and mother power to appoint by deed or will any person to be guardian of the infant after their death, and these guardians are to act jointly with the surviving parent. Under this Bill also the consent of both parents, when living together, must be obtained to the marriage of an infant, when the child is legitimate, but when the child is illegitimate, the mother alone is required to give her consent to the marriage.

Clause 3 of the Bill, introduced by Mrs. Wintringham, which passed through the House of Commons last April without a Division—that the mother of every legitimate infant shall have the guardianship and custody of such infant jointly with the father, and have equal authority, rights, and responsibilities with regard to their children—is entirely absent from the Bill now in the House of Lords. We fervently hope that a clause to this effect will be introduced into this Bill, if and when it reaches the House of Commons. Why should a mother have to bring an action in the Courts on the chance of establishing her claim to an equal right with the father to say where her children shall live, and how they shall be educated? And why should her claim to the guardianship not take effect until after her death? Without such a clause as that appearing in Mrs. Wintringham's Bill, the Government's Bill, from our point of view, is worthless. Women want equal guardianship of their children, and equal responsibility for them in their homes. The agitation of all women's organisations has been for the establishment of this principle. The actual effect of Mrs. Wintringham's Bill would have been to raise the status of mothers to an equality with that of fathers in respect of their children. The Government's Bill will continue to leave the mother practically in the position of an upper servant to the father, so far as her legal rights in their children are concerned, with three small differences: (1) if the dispute between them about the children's custody and upbringing is sufficiently violent, she may in future bring the matter into Court, and the Court will decide the matter without being obliged to take into account the father's claim to settle it in his favour; (2) she may in future appoint a guardian for her children; to act, after her death, jointly with the

father or the guardian appointed by the father; and (3) her consent, as well as that of the father, will have to be obtained for the marriage of the child when under age. Unless the Government's Bill can be amended so that real equality of guardianship by both parents can be established, we hope it will be wrecked. Instead of having to spend our time in the future working for Amending Bills to the one now in the House of Lords, we should prefer to wait until we have a Government who will introduce and pass into law a Bill conferring a real, not a sham, equality of guardianship on both parents in respect of their children. The Government's Bill has now passed its Second Reading in the House of Lords.

EQUAL FRANCHISE.

We warmly congratulate Mr. W. M. Adamson (Can-nock), and the other promoters of the Representation of the People Act (1918) Amendment Bill, on their decision to drop practically all the provisions of this Bill with the exception of the one conferring the franchise on women of 21 and upwards. This is an immense step forward in the direction of the equal enfranchisement of women and men; and the Home Secretary stated, at a meeting of Standing Committee A, last week, that if there is a genuine desire to get the equalisation of the franchise upon the Statute Book during the present Session, the Government is prepared to star this measure, and do what it can, having regard to the Parliamentary situation, to put it upon the Statute Book. Of course there are a few die-hards prepared to use ingenious methods in obstructing the passage of the Bill—Lord Eustace Percy (Hastings), Sir Victor Warrender (Grantham), and Mr. Hopkinson (Mossley) being among them. The first-named gentleman was anxious to postpone the operation of the Act until after 1928; the second said there was an honourable understanding that the women's franchise should not be altered for ten years; and the last-named Member pessimistically talked about the possibility of the disappearance, in the future, of Parliamentary institutions and of democracy, and doubted the desirability of adding to the electorate. But there have been political Jeremiahs before this date, when the enfranchisement of women was under discussion!

BORSTAL BOYS.

We are glad to see that an effort is being made by the Borstal Association again to send Borstal boys into camp at the seaside, this summer. The progress of the boys in training and trustworthiness is marked by promotion in grades, and the proposal is to take the boys in the highest grade to a seaside camp for a week during the summer. Last year, 280 boys were taken to camp, where they lived in the freedom of hut and tent. They were put on their honour not to abuse this freedom, and 274 of the boys kept their word and gave no trouble. This camp-life makes a welcome break from the ordinary routine and discipline of the institution, and gives the boys a chance of exercising self-control and good-fellowship under normal conditions of life. When the boys have finished their term in a Borstal Institution, they have their lives to live in the world like other people, away from the restraint and routine of institutions, and even a week's foretaste of freedom is a valuable aid for this testing-time. We wholeheartedly approve of this part of the training of lads who at an early age have come within the grip of the law. We would also urge the authorities to extend a similar kind of treatment to the girls in our Borstal Institutions. They will probably be of the opinion that it is more difficult to prevent these girls from abusing their freedom, but the value of any system of education or training of a reformatory character lies wholly in the preparation of those who come under it for the ordinary freedom of life. Given the right education and training, we do not believe that Borstal girls will abuse their freedom in any greater proportions than Borstal boys.

OVERSEAS SUFFRAGISTS.

RECEPTION AT MINERVA CLUB.

The Women's-Freedom League held a delightful Reception at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, last Friday, to welcome Suffragists from the British Dominions, now over in this country. The Dominions were very widely represented.

Two-minute speeches were the order of the day, and were preceded by a couple of charming songs from Miss Daphne Wheeler, and some delightfully comic anecdotes from Mrs. Harvey James. A delicious tea was most attractively served by Miss Reeves and her numerous helpers at the Minerva Club.

Dr. Knight, who welcomed the visitors most cordially, explained that, whilst the British Empire Exhibition remained open, the London Suffrage Societies were combining together to show hospitality to suffragists from overseas. It was often extremely difficult to get hold of such visitors, especially when their stay in London was brief, and the Societies would be grateful if overseas suffragists would make themselves known at any time, either at the Suffrage Pavilion at the Exhibition, or at one of the London head offices.

Mrs. Mustard pointed out the very anomalous political position still occupied by British women, as compared with their sisters overseas, who had practically all become enfranchised on equal terms with men. She begged those present who had any acquaintance with influential politicians, to stir these up, so that British women should no longer suffer the stigma of partial enfranchisement.

Mrs. Ferner (New Zealand) said that, although New Zealand women had been enfranchised on equal terms with men since 1893, they had not yet returned a woman to Parliament, partly because, until 1919, an Act had forbidden this. Immediately permission was granted, however, three very fine women stood as candidates, but had not been elected. At last year's Elections, too, women had again failed. This meant, of course, that the women were not supporting their own sex, though men were. There was no doubt New Zealand women had won their political independence too easily. Mrs. Ferner reminded her audience that New Zealand was the first country amongst the British Dominions to grant University degrees to women.

Mrs. Holman (Australia) asserted that Australian women also had obtained the vote too easily.

Mrs. Waterworth (Tasmania) said that a belief in the necessity for absolute equality between the sexes was part of her flesh and blood, and she was convinced that, until women were eligible for every position, as

men were, the regeneration of the world would not begin.

Mrs. Ramsbotham and Mrs. Floyd (South Africa) described the difficulties connected with suffrage work in South Africa, especially in regard to language, native questions, and great distances. A crisis, however, was now impending, and they were hopeful of obtaining woman suffrage within the next few months. South African women felt very acutely that theirs was the only country amongst the self-governing Dominions where women had not been given the vote.

Mrs. Swaminadhan (South India) described how, in Malabar, a Province of Madras, where she lived, Society was still controlled by a Matriarchate, and property descended to daughters only, and from the mother's side. Shut in by the Western Ghats, the Province was probably unique in India for its absolute equality between the sexes. Malabar women had the vote in accordance with recent legislation in Madras, but were not yet eligible for seats in the Legislature.

Mrs. Parsons (Canada) described the steps by which Canadian women had gradually become enfranchised. At first they were given a certain amount of municipal suffrage. During the war, they obtained the provincial vote, and in 1917, women whose husbands, sons, and brothers were fighting in the Great War became enfranchised. At the close of the war, however, full voting powers were accorded to both sexes.

Miss Anna Munro sounded a hopeful note with the news that she had been told by "one in the know," that if the present Government only lasted long enough, British women would become enfranchised on equal terms with their menfolk.

Mrs. Dexter spoke of the great dissatisfaction amongst British women over the present inequalities of the suffrage. Women of 21 were thinking very seriously of politics to-day, in terms of the home, their own work, general trade, etc. Women stood more strongly for specific legislation than for mere party politics. Mrs. Dexter then paid a warm tribute on these lines to Lady Astor and Mrs. Wintringham.

Miss Underwood expressed her hopefulness of the prospects of the Franchise Bill now before the House of Commons, especially since Mr. Adamson, its promoter, had generously agreed to drop all its controversial clauses, and narrow its scope down to the one simple proposition giving equal voting rights to both sexes. Equal Franchise had always been the first and dominant plank in the political tenets of the Women's Freedom League.

WOMEN HOUSE PROPERTY MANAGERS.

Mr. Neville Chamberlain, M.P., was the chief speaker at last week's Conference at Wembley, convened by the Association of Women House Property Managers.

Lady Emmott, who presided, said that, when Mr. Neville Chamberlain was at the Ministry of Health, he always showed a very real and practical interest in the subject of Housing, and also in the Association of Women House Property Managers, which was doing a very valuable work in this country. In the past, rent collecting had been a mere commercial business, with very little interest taken either in the tenant or in the state of the houses. Miss Octavia Hill was the pioneer, 60 years ago, not only in taking care of working-class property, but in promoting a good relationship between landlord and tenant. To-day there were between five and six thousand houses managed according to her system in London alone, as well as a large amount of Crown property. The system had also spread to Edinburgh, Manchester, Birmingham, and Nottingham. This work afforded a peculiarly suitable opening for educated women, for whom there was an excellent

training scheme in connection with the Association. Many municipalities were asking that more women should be trained in this work.

Mr. Neville Chamberlain, who was warmly received, explained that his interest in Housing did not date from his advent to the Ministry of Health; it had always been one of his principal interests. Many years' experience had convinced him that women could and ought to play a great, if not a dominant, part in solving the slum difficulty. No other subject needed such clear thinking as the treatment of slum property. The very existence of these great slum areas in all our industrial areas provided a terrible contrast to what decent home-life should be. It was degrading and shocking to our social consciousness. Opinions differed as to how slums were manufactured. Some people ascribed them to the capitalist system, as in the case of all other ills of humanity. Others said that they were the result of building methods of the past, when the standard of housing was less evolved. Slums, however, were largely the result of faulty management, and the best results would always be obtained from private owner-

ship with the promotion of co-operative methods between landlord and tenant. Where a tenant was disposed to regard the landlord as an enemy, he would not trouble himself much as to the care of the property. This was often the case when the landlord was represented by a professional agent, who wanted to get the largest return with the smallest possible outlay. It was not so much the landlords, but the system under which their property was managed, which was at fault. Another source of trouble lay in the multiplicity of landlords, who were unable to co-operate with one another, so that each one went his own way, regardless of the general surroundings of the area in which his property was situated.

Miss Octavia Hill, a great and noble woman, had found the solution of the slum difficulty. Her name deserved to be cherished among the great heroines of this country. Her profound vision saw to the heart of things, and her real understanding of poor people and practical good sense produced a system of immense practical importance. She recognised that the function of ordinary rent collecting must be combined with a real friendship for the tenant, and power to control any necessary house repairs. Miss Hill knew that women were more suitable for this office than men, especially as the work usually led to direct contact with other women, the working-class housewife. It was Ruskin who first gave Miss Hill the opportunity of employing her system upon a few small houses in London. Her success with these attracted the attention of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, owners even in those days of a great deal of house property in London. They entrusted Miss Hill with some of this property, with most remarkable results. An area which had been the terror of the whole neighbourhood became a model of good order, with happy tenants, and a greatly increased income. To-day Miss Hill's system was being carried on in the same spirit by the Association of Women House Property Managers, which she had founded, and which was opening out a new field of occupation for women.

He (Mr. Chamberlain) very much regretted that, when he was at the Ministry of Health, the heavy strain involved in carrying two important and controversial measures successfully through the House of Commons had prevented him from being of more service to the Association. If he were ever re-elected, he would hope to push their system of management amongst local authorities all over the country. The best way to improve the lot of the slum-dweller was to get rid of the small landlord, and put the property under one control like the Association. The Association had a great future before it. He (Mr. Chamberlain) paid his tribute of admiration for the work it had already accomplished, and hoped it would play a still greater part in the future.

Miss Joan Sunderland pointed out that a great deal depended on the character of the woman who took up the work of House Property Management. Though she herself had been twenty years in the work, she was still finding new opportunities. The Association, unlike the majority of landlords in the present day, gave the preference to large families, provided the accommodation was suitable, thus making the most of any available space. To-day, Dutch women managers, trained by Miss Hill, were administering house property in Holland. At The Hague and in Amsterdam, women were managing some 6,000 municipal houses, with smaller numbers in other Dutch cities. Philadelphia also employed women managers. Two Swedish women had been trained by the Association, and inquiries concerning the work had been received from Jerusalem. Since the passing of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, students of the Association were permitted to study for the Surveyors' Examination. Two women had already passed it, and others were in course of training. The Association always endeavoured to co-operate with the borough authorities in a locality, and with any other organisations, such as School Care Committees, which were working for the good of the people.

MRS. DESPARD'S BIRTHDAY.

DEAR FELLOW-MEMBERS, FRIENDS, AND READERS,

I am just as pleased to tell you, as you will be pleased to learn, that the Women's Freedom League's Thirteenth Annual Birthday Party for our beloved Mrs. Despard is fixed for Friday, July 4th, at 7 p.m., in the Council Chamber, Caxton Hall, Westminster.

All our members and friends will want to unite to make this a record gathering, with a record amount as the Birthday Gift to be presented to Mrs. Despard for the work of the League.

Mrs. Despard now comes specially from Ireland to keep her Birthday Festivals with us, surrounded by all her old comrades of the Women's Freedom League; she will be with us on July 4th, and is now looking forward with great joy to greeting, and being again greeted by, all her dear friends of the old days, and to making friends with the new members of our League.

Many of us remember with gratitude the long years of constant working, speaking, and travelling for the equality of women by which our dear First President inspired her colleagues and fellow-members with enthusiasm and steadfastness; our newer members reap the benefit in our better political position to-day through the devotion of the past.

The Birthday Fund, as you know, is devoted to the work of the Women's Freedom League, and supports our organisation through the summer scarcity. We can to-day spend money to better advantage than ever before, so it is the truest economy for all our friends to send as large a contribution as they possibly can. Without money we cannot continue the fight, but the work that we can now effectively carry out is only limited by our income. Everywhere women are waking up to realise the unfair conditions under which they are obliged to share in the world's work. Forced into the labour market by economic necessity, they find that they are in most cases compelled to undertake equal work and equal responsibility with their male fellow-workers for less pay and under less satisfactory conditions. Thus many women workers are prevented from giving the best work of which they are capable, and both worker and community suffer. Individuals are powerless to alter this; only the pressure of public opinion is effective, and it is independent, non-party organisations of women, such as our Women's Freedom League, with the prestige of its courageous and successful history and its years of experience, that can best educate the public in the necessity of Equal Pay.

We rejoice in eight women M.P.s and 6,000,000 women voters, but we press towards our goal that women shall hold half the seats in the House of Commons, sit in the House of Lords, and vote on equal terms with men.

All this means much work, and money with which to pay workers. Organisers are needed to consolidate our constant new members into branches, and to break fresh ground. Our branches are working hard to send generous contributions to the Birthday Fund, and are organising gatherings to swell their collections. Every member and friend will, I am sure, also rally round her League, and make her contribution as large as possible. Nothing can be too large or too small for us to turn into work, and all will be warmly welcomed for the Fund. Please talk to your friends, tell them of the particular part of our work which interests them, and give them the chance of sharing in our support. I will send you a Collecting Card with great pleasure. Then on July 4th we shall meet and rejoice together with fresh vigour to carry on the work.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Birthday Party with all your friends, and relying on your fullest support, with best wishes and grateful thanks for all your help,—Yours sincerely,

E. KNIGHT (Hon. Treasurer).

144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, June 6th, at 8 p.m. Branch Business Meeting at "Holmwood," Waldegrave Road, Teddington (by kind permission of Mrs. Foster Lumb).

Tuesday, June 24th, 3.30 to 7.30. Mid-London Branch. Pound Tea, at 25, Wimpole Street, W. (by kind permission of Dr. Octavia Lewin). Proceeds for Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund.

Monday, June 30th, at 3.30 p.m. "Fair" Committee, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday, July 4th, at 7 p.m. Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, Council Chamber, Caxton Hall, Westminster. Further particulars later.

Saturday, July 5th, at 10 a.m., at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. National Executive Committee Meeting.

PROVINCES.

Monday, June 16th, at 3 p.m. Letchworth. Drawing Room Meeting, at 27, Baldock Road (by kind permission of Mrs. J. Lynn). Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Subject: "Pensions for Widows" and "Equal Guardianship of Infants Bill."

Tuesday, June 17th, at 7.30 p.m. Portsmouth. Public Meeting, 2, Kent Road. Speaker: Allan F. George, Esq., B.Sc. Subject: "The Extension of Unemployment Benefits to Children of 14." Chair: Mrs. Whetton.

Wednesday, June 18th, at 3 p.m. Portsmouth. Whist Drive, at 36, Stanley Street (by kind invitation of Mrs. Ball). Tickets, 1/6 each.

Wednesday, July 2nd, at 7 p.m. Middlesbrough. Garden Party at "Agecroft," Linthorpe Road. Tickets 6d.

SCOTLAND.

Thursday, June 12th, at 8 p.m. Edinburgh. Branch Meeting at 44, George IV Bridge.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, June 11th, at 8 p.m. Women's League of Union. Kingsway Hall. Speaker: Miss Edith Pye. Subject: "The Work of the Women's International League."

EQUAL FRANCHISE DEMONSTRATION IN EDINBURGH.

A united Demonstration, organised by the Women's Freedom League, National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, Women's Co-operative Guild, and other local women's societies, was held at the Mound on May 31st. In spite of unfavourable weather conditions, a good audience assembled, and much interest was shown. The meeting was ably presided over by Councillor Adam Millar, and the speakers included representatives of the Northern Men's Federation, the N.U.S.E.C., Fabian Society, Edinburgh Trades and Labour Council, and other bodies. Apologies were read from Mr. James Brown, M.P., the late Lord High Commissioner, from Lady Margaret Sackville (representing the Women's International League), and other well-known persons who were unable to be present. A resolution welcoming the Prime Minister's contingent promise to "star" Mr. Adamson's Bill, and calling upon all Scottish members of the Standing Committee to vote against wrecking amendments, was carried unanimously. Our banner was well displayed, and THE VOTE sold freely, as well as the new pamphlet on "Women M.P.s." It was encouraging to note the number of men in the audience, who were evidently quite "sound" on the question of Votes for All Women.

MUNICIPAL HONOURS.

We warmly congratulate our member, Mr. Charles Coates, on his very substantial victory at the recent Middlesbrough Town Council By-Election. With Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., also on that Council, the women's cause in Middlesbrough has two excellent champions.

INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE, BRITISH OVERSEAS COMMITTEE PAVILION.

Wednesday Conferences on "The Legal and Economic Status of Women throughout the Empire," in the Wembley Pavilion at 5.30 p.m.; admission free.

June 11th.—The Unmarried Mother and Her Child. Miss Musson (N.C.U.M.C.).

June 18th.—Custody and Guardianship of Legitimate Children. Mrs. Hubback (N.U.S.E.C.).

June 25th.—Nationality of Married Women. Miss Macmillan (N.U.S.E.C.).

WOMEN POLICE.

Conference organised by British Overseas Committee and Women's Auxiliary Service.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14TH, 1924, 3-5 P.M.

In Conference Hall 4 in Palace of Industry, British Empire Exhibition, Wembley.

Speakers—

MRS. CORBETT ASHBY, DAME HELEN G'WYNNE VAUGHAN, COMMANDANT ALLEN.

Chair: LADY NOTT-BOWER.

Tickets 1/- (including Admission to Exhibition), from 144 High Holborn

BRANCH NOTES.

MID-LONDON.

Will all London members and friends read this carefully, please? On Tuesday, June 24th, Dr. Octavia Lewin has very kindly consented to allow us the use of her house at 25, Wimpole Street, W., to hold a POUND TEA, from 3.30 to 7.30. Please help to make this a great success. We want everyone to "bring a pound and buy a pound." From £1 in cash to a pound of anything. Food (tea, sugar, coffee, chocolates, fruit, jam, marmalade, cake, etc.), or wool, material, flowers, or anything useful. Anyone may bring £2, or two pounds of food, etc.; in fact, any number of £s—pounds—will be gratefully received. There will be two or three speeches, music, singing, etc. We want this to be really successful, as all the proceeds will be devoted to Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund for the work of the League. Come yourself, and bring a friend.

(Hon. Sec.) MRS. G. FLOWERS, 3, Sidney Rd., Forest Gate, E.7. EDINBURGH.

It was indeed a pleasure to welcome Miss Alix M. Clark to our meeting on May 29th, and hear the latest news from Headquarters. We are very glad to know that the Conference was so successful, and anticipate a record year for the League under the leadership of our new President—crowned, as we hope, by the passing of the Equal Franchise Bill. We shall do our best to assist the latter by worrying a few M.P.s and Cabinet Ministers during the coming weeks. Our next objective, of course, is the Birthday Fund, and those of us who can make the journey to London are looking forward eagerly to seeing our beloved first President once again, and gaining inspiration from her presence and speech. Miss Clark made an eloquent appeal for the Fund, and also for assistance in the Clyde Campaign, which she is gallantly undertaking again this year. Those who cannot go south should make their way westwards, and help to celebrate the victory which we hope by that time will be an accomplished fact. Another old member of the League has rejoined the branch, and we shall be glad to welcome many more members, both old and new.

(Hon. Sec.) W. M. SPRIGGS, 44, George IV. Bridge.

HASTINGS.

The next event will be a "Thé Chantant," which Mrs. Darent Harrison is holding at 1, St. Paul's Place, some time in July. The organiser will be glad to have offers of help from members. Further details later.

(Organiser) Miss M. L. WHITE, Glenroyde Hotel.

LETCHWORTH.

A Drawing-room Meeting will be held at 27, Baldock Road (by kind permission of Mrs. J. Lynn), on Monday, June 16th, at 3 p.m., with the object of re-forming the Letchworth Branch of the Women's Freedom League. Mrs. Mustard will speak on "Pensions for Widows," and "The Equal Guardianship of Infants Bill," and a collection will be made. Tea and coffee will be served at the close of the meeting.

(Hon. Organiser) ALIX M. CLARK, 27, Baldock Road.

BRITISH OVERSEAS COMMITTEE PAVILION.

All readers visiting Wembley must make a point of dropping in for a chat at our Suffrage Pavilion, to which a number of visitors came last week. It is in the Eastern Section, near the Exhibition Station within the Exhibition, under the shadow of that prominent landmark, the States Express Cigarette Tower, directly behind Hampden's pretty little house, and Day & Martin, flanked by Spratt's exhibit, and looking on to the Shetland ponies and Pekingese puppies. On Monday next, our members, Mrs. Ewen, Miss Wolfe Murray, and others, will be in charge.

JUMBLE SALE.

Will all the friends who so kindly sent us parcels of Jumbles please accept our thanks, through THE VOTE, as it is impossible to write each one? L. PIEROTTI (Hon. Head, Literature Dept.). G. FLOWERS (Vote Secretary).

WHITSUNTIDE HOLIDAYS.

The Women's Freedom League and VOTE Offices will be closed from Friday afternoon, June 6th, 5.30 p.m., until Tuesday morning, June 10th, 9.30 a.m.

MRS. DESPARD'S BIRTHDAY FUND, 1924.

THIRTEENTH YEAR.

I am pleased to (enclose) £ s. d. to this fund, (promise)

and please send me a Collecting Card.

I hope to be at the Party on July 4th.

Name

Address

Date

FRIDAY,
JUNE 6,
1924.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Please send me *THE VOTE* every week, post free, for 6 months, for which I enclose 3/3.

Name.....

Address.....

THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

EDUCATIONAL.

YOUR Character and Capabilities delineated, with colours, jewels, etc., from handwriting, and date of birth. P.O. for 2/- and stamped addressed envelope to Miss Adams, Box 2, 92, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

THE NEW PSYCHOLOGY. A correspondence course in Biology, Psychology, and Religion has been arranged under the title "The Ladder of Life." It is hoped that the course will help students to co-ordinate the ideas which are contributing to form the new age. Particulars will be forwarded to those sending a stamped and addressed foolscap envelope to—**THE PRINCIPAL**, Walsham Hall, Walsham-le-Willows, Suffolk.

NOTICES.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, June 8th. 3.30. Music. Reading of John Drinkwater's, "A Night of the Trojan War," by the Guildhouse Players. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden, "The Power of the Spirit."

WANTED.—**SPEAKER** for Clyde Coast Campaign. Six weeks, July—August, must be a good outdoor speaker on Political, Industrial and Social equality of women and keen Suffragist.—Particulars to **MISS CLARK**, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

SOUTH COAST.—Lady, on Exhibition route, wishes to exchange her four-room London flat for similar accommodation at any South Coast resort for the months of July and August.—Apply No. 40, **THE VOTE**, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED. Consult **H. M. BAKER**, the only woman Income Tax Expert, 275, High Holborn. Telephone: Holborn 377.

MISCELLANEOUS.

BARGAIN—list free. Plants, Garden Utensils. Beautiful dwarf roses, named varieties, 6/- dozen, carriage paid.—**McELROY**, 33, Saville St., South Shields.

64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS AND HOW TO USE THEM. 2d. Send for one.—**TRIMNELL**, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond Road, Cardiff. Established 1879.

WANTED.—Second-hand Clothing, best prices given; parcels sent, valued, and money sent by return. Stamped addressed envelope for reply.—**RUSSELL**, 100 Raby Street, Byker, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

HOME-MADE Cakes and Chocolates. Luncheons and Teas.—**RESTAURANT**, 36, Dean Street, Soho, W. 1.

ANCONAS lay the largest eggs. Hand-some birds, good layers. Sittings 6/- Chicks 12/- doz., carriage paid.—**PARRIS**, Danecroft Poultry Farm, Bagshot.

SUMMER JUMPERS.—All Colours, hand crocheted, made to order, 10/- Materials extra, complete, 30/-.—Apply **A.B.C.**, **THE VOTE**, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Prepaid Classified Advertisements.

Number of Words.	Once.		Three Times.		Six Times.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
20	1	6	4	0	7	6
30	2	3	6	3	12	0
40	3	0	8	6	16	0

Displayed Advertisements,
8/- per Inch.

REST AND HOLIDAYS.

BUSY WOMEN requiring Rest will find comfortable Board Residence at Miss **TURNER'S**, "Sea View," Victoria Rd., Brighton. Early dinner. Tel. Brighton 1702

FOOD REFORM GUEST HOUSE, 13, Marine Parade, Dover. Excellent cooking. Gas-fires in bedrooms. Specially recommended Eustace Miles. Unequaled excursion centre.

ISIS CLUB, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue (2 minutes Hampstead Tube Station). Magnificent Reception Rooms. Central heating. Sunny bedrooms. Sandy soil. Lectures, dancing, listening-in. Telephone: Hampstead 2869.

PEACEHAVEN.—On the Downs by the Sea. Vegetarian Guests received in Bungalow Home, £2 2s.—**MRS. MILLS**, Southdown Avenue, Peacehaven, nr. Newhaven.

MINERVA CLUB, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C. 1. Open to non-residents. Restaurant. Smoking Room. Papers. Bedrooms available during summer months. Membership, £1 1s. Entrance Fee suspended during present year. All particulars from the **SECRETARY**.

WENSLEYDALE.—Comfortable board-residence, country cottage. Lunches packed when desired. Special terms long period.—**SMITH**, Low Green, Thoralby, Aysgarth, Yorks.

HOLIDAYS ABROAD.—Whitsun Summer Holidays, in Germany, Switzerland, France, Italy. Two weeks (2nd class travel, hotels, service), £4 to £15.—**FRIENDSHIP TRAVEL**, 22, Princeton Street, W.C. 1.

THE PIONEER CLUB has reopened at 12, Cavendish Place. Entrance fee in abeyance *pro tem*. Town Members £5 5s.; Country and Professional £4 4s.

VEGETARIAN LUNCHEONS

Served from 12 to 2

IN THE MINERVA CAFE

(over the W.F.L. Office, 144 High Holborn, W.C.)

LUNCHEON & SMOKING ROOMS.

GOOD FOOD. QUICK SERVICE. BRIGHT ROOMS.

SMART CUT, AND :
PERFECT TAILORING :
AT MODERATE :
PRICES.

H. Melissen,

Ladies' Tailor,

PERSONAL ATTENTION.

62, GREAT PORTLAND STREET, LONDON, W. 1.

Membership Application Form.

To be returned to The Secretary, 144, High Holborn.

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

Name.....

Address.....

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

Minimum Annual Subscription, 1s.