

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 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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WOMEN PEERS.

There has been some doubt among feminists as to the wisdom of supporting the new Peeresses Bill, the Parliament (Qualification of Peeresses) Bill, 1927. True to their faith, the faith of equality and nothing less, feminists have tested the new Bill and have not, on first reading, been convinced that it came up to the required standard. The burnt child of feminism is thoroughly suspicious of the fire of compromise. She has been tempted to accept it so often during her years of political apprenticeship that the merest gleam causes her to draw back, to hesitate to accept.

In this case of the admission of Peeresses in their own right to sit and vote in the House of Lords, what at first may seem to be the direct step towards the old and dreaded fire of compromise, is really a way round existing barriers.

In 1924, in 1925, and again in 1926, Bills were introduced by that fine friend of feminism, Lord Astor, which simply sought to admit Peeresses on the same terms as Peers. All these Bills were rejected by the House of Lords. Discussions on them have shown where opposition lies, and on what it is based. Difficulties have been disclosed and now, at a fourth attempt, and by agreement of the Peeresses' Committee, the new Bill has been so worded as to avoid at least the objections which have, in the course of earlier discussions, been discovered, and which have anything more than personal prejudice to support them.

In the new Bill, which is down for Second Reading on June 21st, 1927, Clause I (Section 1) gives power to His Majesty the King to summon to Parliament any English Peeress in her own right. Section 2 qualifies Scottish and Irish Peeresses to vote and to be elected at elections of representative Peers of Scotland and Ireland, and, if so elected, entitles them to receive a Writ of Summons to Parliament, with the right to sit and vote in the House of Lords. Section 3 makes the same disqualification at present in force for Peers to be applicable to Peeresses. Clause II deals with consequential amendments of existing Acts. Clause III names the Bill.

The chief objection formerly raised was that in the Patents of Nobility held by some of the existing Peeresses a clause specifically excluded them from the right to sit and vote in the House of Lords. These patents are granted by the reigning Sovereign, and it

was held to be a discourtesy to Royal prerogative to cancel or alter a favour from Sovereign to Peer. The new Bill entirely meets this by giving the Sovereign power to summon Peeresses to Parliament, and any Peeress receiving a Writ of Summons shall be entitled to sit and vote in the House of Lords. Nothing is said in the new Bill as to the qualification to be required of Peeresses, other than that they are Peeresses. This makes the rejection of a Peeress invidious and unlikely, and, rather than cancelling a former Royal favour, gives an additional power of granting a favour to the Sovereign.

An often repeated objection was that some of the present Peeresses were unfit and unwilling to participate in the learned deliberations of the House of Lords. This objection is also completely met by the new Bill. Those Peeresses who desire to participate can apply for a Writ of Summons. Those unfit and unwilling will not have this onerous duty forced upon them, as would have been the case under the three former Bills, while the rejection of an application made by those fit and willing, following on the passage of the Bill by the Peers, would seem an illogical impossibility. A passing regret that such a test is not applicable to Peers may here be allowed.

A proposal has been made from one quarter that a better method of achieving the admission of Peeresses would be to make English Peeresses subject to election in the same manner as are, at present, Scottish and Irish Peers. This would entail an alteration in the Constitution, always a formidable and reluctantly granted thing, and would, at the same time, definitely close the door of equality. Such a procedure would first require a Constitutional alteration, which, if achieved, would in its turn bring about a completely different status between English Peers and Peeresses. The former would retain the right to sit and vote in the House of Lords; the latter would be debarred by Constitutional enactment, and would be subject to election by some body over which they had no jurisdiction.

Another objection raised was that the former Bills proposed, by one stroke, to cancel existing patents and to admit about 20 women to the Upper House, by reason only of their birth, while in the Lower House, where election is the test, only six women have suc-

ceeded in entering. The new Bill proposes to make any individual Peeress eligible, the onus of refusal lying on His Majesty, advised by His Majesty's Ministers.

If the Lords pass the Bill, it is difficult to see what reason can be given for the exclusion of any individual Peeress who is sufficiently interested to desire and to take steps to attain inclusion. On the other hand, if it becomes a custom to honour women by peerages, the way is clear for their admission as and when they may be created.

The new Bill closes no door of equality. It will be for the Peeresses themselves to make it equality in fact, instead of, as in the old Bills, equality in words. Equality is not in the words of the new Bill, but may well be in its operation. On the principle that a visible bird in the hand is worth two invisible ones in an undiscovered bush, this Bill has been accepted by the sponsor of the former Bills and by the Peeresses concerned, and it is hoped will receive also the whole-hearted support of organised women.

If the Lords reject it, the matter is no further back; if they accept it, the door is open, and wide open, for the admission of Peeresses with Peers.

HELEN ARCHDALE.

THE PARLIAMENT (QUALIFICATION OF PEERESSES) BILL, 1927.

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT TO ENABLE PEERESSES IN THEIR OWN RIGHT TO SIT AND VOTE IN CERTAIN CASES IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH.

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

1.—(1) His Majesty may direct that a peeress in her own right (not being a peeress only of Scotland or of Ireland) shall during her life be summoned by writ to Parliament and any peeress receiving a writ of summons by virtue of such a direction of His Majesty shall be entitled to sit and vote in the House of Lords.

(2) A peeress in her own right of Scotland or of Ireland shall be qualified to vote and be elected at elections of representative peers of Scotland or of Ireland as the case may be and when elected at any such election shall be entitled to receive a writ of summons to Parliament and to sit and vote in the House of Lords.

(3) Provided that anything which would disqualify a peer for receiving a writ of summons to Parliament or for sitting and voting in Parliament or in the case of a peer of Scotland or of Ireland for voting or being elected at elections of representative peers shall likewise disqualify a peeress in her own right.

2.—The following provisions shall be substituted for those of subsection (5) of section nine of the Representation of the People Act, 1918:—

"Any incapacity of a peer to vote at an election arising from the status of a peer shall extend to any peeress entitled to exercise any right by virtue of the Parliament (Qualification of Peeresses) Act, 1927, or any direction given by His Majesty under that Act but not to other peeresses in their own right."

3.—This Act may be cited as the Parliament (Qualification of Peeresses) Act, 1927.

WOMEN'S PIONEER HOUSING LTD.

A Public Dinner and Professional Women's Housing Conference

at the Hyde Park Hotel on Monday, May 30th, at 7.15 for 7.45 p.m. SIR JOSIAH STAMP, K.B.E., will be the principal speaker. Tickets 12/6 each, from Women's Pioneer Housing Ltd., 92 Victoria Street, S.W.1. Telephone Victoria 4494.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

O.U.D.S. Invite Women Undergraduates.

The Oxford University Dramatic Society has invited women undergraduates to compete for the part of "Miranda," in its production of "The Tempest." This is the first time the Society has invited a woman undergraduate to take part in a production.

Women Called to the Bar.

Last week, the following two women were called to the Bar at the Inns of Court:—Miss W. B. McConnell (Inner Temple), and Miss Kathleen M. Stretzell (Gray's Inn).

Dover's First Woman Freeman.

Mrs. Emma East, widow of Mr. W. J. East, who died last year during his period of office as Mayor, was recently presented with the honorary Freedom of the Borough. The certificate handed to Mrs. East by the Mayor showed that she was the first woman freeman of the Borough.

Stepney's Youngest Woman Councillor.

London's youngest woman Councillor is Miss Laura Chamberlain, age 23, who has been elected for the Mile End Ward to the Stepney Council. She cannot, of course, claim a Parliamentary vote.

Women Health Visitors.

The Ministry of Health has drawn the attention of local authorities to the fact that it is desirable that applicants for posts as health visitors should obtain the new certificate. While Mr. Neville Chamberlain is anxious that nothing should be done to prejudice the satisfactory records of experienced health visitors who do not hold the certificate, he makes it clear that, from April 1st, 1928, he will not approve the appointment by a local authority of a woman as health visitor unless she possesses the certificate. There are now about 4,000 women health visitors employed on maternity and child welfare schemes.

Lady Pirrie Honoured.

The Belfast Chamber of Commerce has made Lady Pirrie a life member. Lady Pirrie, widow of Lord Pirrie, head of the shipbuilding firm of Harland and Wolff, is the first woman so admitted, was Belfast's first woman J.P., and takes an active part in her late husband's business.

The Rev. Mrs. E. Pickles.

Mrs. Edith E. Pickles, the woman minister of Stanley Congregational Church, Stonecroft, Liverpool, was among the ministers received last week by the Chairman of the Congregational Union of England and Wales at the City Temple, London. Mrs. Pickles will now hold the title "Reverend," for which she has by study qualified. Mrs. Pickles received a call to the pastorate of Stanley Church three years ago, in succession to her husband upon his sudden death. She was educated at Alexandra College, Dublin, and graduated in Classics at the Royal University of Ireland.

Scottish Woman Artist's Success.

Miss Margaret Findlay, who won a travelling scholarship at the Glasgow School of Art last year, has had a bronze statuette accepted for exhibition by the Royal Academy of London. The exhibit is an interpretation of "The Bathers," a plaster cast of which was on view at an exhibition of the Glasgow Lady Artists' Club last year. This is the first occasion on which Miss Findlay has done bronze work.

Scottish Woman's Appointment at Studley.

Miss S. E. B. Blair, B.Sc., has been appointed lecturer and instructress in agriculture at the Studley Horticultural and Agricultural College for Women, Studley, Warwickshire. Miss Blair was one of the earliest of the women students at the Edinburgh College of Agriculture to obtain the degree of B.Sc. in Agriculture. Mrs. Blair, the mother of Miss S. E. B. Blair, was very well known as a staunch supporter of votes for women in pre-suffrage days.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Franchise (Failure to Vote).

SIR FREDERICK WISE (U., Ilford) asked the Prime Minister whether, in the forthcoming Representation of the People Bill, any steps will be taken to disfranchise for a period those persons who fail to vote at any election without good cause shown? THE PRIME MINISTER: No, sir. In the view of His Majesty's Government, the proposal contained in my hon. Friend's question would not be practicable. MR. WALLHEAD (Lab., Merthyr): Will the Prime Minister consider the advisability, on the introduction of this measure, of abolishing two-Member constituencies and making them single-Member constituencies? MR. SPEAKER: That is entirely a different question.

Electoral Register (Spinsters).

MR. THURTELL (Lab., Shoreditch) asked the Home Secretary whether, in view of the decision of the Government to increase the number of women electors, he will take whatever steps are necessary in order to authorise registration officers to incur the additional expense involved in printing the prefix Miss before the names of single women voters, and thus reduce the possibility of unfortunate mistakes in communications addressed to women electors? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I am not aware of any untoward results arising from the present practice, and I am not prepared to recommend the expenditure of public money in making a change which is not required for electoral purposes.

League of Nations (Traffic in Women Report).

COL. DAY (Lab., Central Southwark) asked the Secretary of State whether he has made any representations to the Permanent Advisory Committee of the League of Nations with a view to having Part II of the League of Nations Report on Traffic in Women published; and, if so, if he can state the answer he has received? SIR AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: No, sir. As stated in reply to the hon. Member on 27th April, publication can only be decided by the Council. COL. DAY: Does the right hon. Gentleman not think that in the public interest this Report ought to be published? SIR A. CHAMBERLAIN: I think there is an exaggerated importance attached to Part II of the Report. All that is of substance for the formation of judgment and policy is contained in Part I. Part II is complementary, supplementary, and illustrative, but does not really add to the information already in possession of the public. I would like to say that I am not prejudging the question of the publication of Part II. That rests with the Council, which thought—I did not suggest it to them—that it was only courteous to the Governments whose countries were particularly mentioned in Part II, that they should have an opportunity of seeing the Report beforehand.

Ministry of Health.

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR (U., Plymouth) asked the Minister of Health how many men and women, respectively, are employed by the higher administrative, junior administrative, higher executive grades, and above, in his Department; and how many are employed in the Headquarters Department of the Ministry? SIR KINGSLEY WOOD (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health): 223 men and 14 women are employed in the administrative and higher executive grades and above in my Department. All are at Headquarters.

Women and Girls (Probation).

MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE (Lab., Leicester W.) asked the Home Secretary whether he is aware that in some Courts the women and girls who are released on probation are placed under the supervision of local superintendents of rescue homes; and whether he will take steps to end this practice? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: Courts are empowered by the existing law to insert a condition as to residence in a probation order, and I am aware that in some cases probationers are required, as a condition of their probation, to live in a Home for the whole or part of the period of probation. The

Young Offenders Committee commented on this practice in their recent Report, and their recommendations will receive careful consideration.

Waitresses (Hours of Employment).

LT.-COM. KENWORTHY (Lab., Central Hull) asked the Minister of Labour if he is aware that the waitresses in Lyons' teashops worked for twelve hours at a stretch on the occasion of the Cup Final at Wembley; whether these hours are their usual working hours, or only for special occasions; whether, in view of this apparent hardship suffered by the waitresses, he is still satisfied with the decision that special Boards are not necessary in the catering trades; and what action he proposes to take to prevent the employment of women for such abnormal hours? SIR ARTHUR STEEL-MAITLAND: I have no information as to the hours or wages of these waitresses on the occasion of the Cup Final, nor have any complaints been addressed to me. If the hours worked were as stated, they were certainly in excess of those usually worked. LT.-COM. KENWORTHY: Would the right hon. Gentleman be good enough to answer the last part of my question? This evidence was given me direct. SIR A. STEEL-MAITLAND: If the hon. and gallant Member will give me evidence, I shall be very glad to consider it, and as regards the last part of his question, it depends on the answer to the foregoing. It would also depend on whether the case was entirely abnormal, or whether it was partly normal as regards the hours worked. VISCOUNTESS ASTOR: Does not the right hon. Gentleman know that the wages paid by Lyons and the hours of their workers are better almost than any other in the trade; but is it not also true that in no industry is a Trade Board more necessary than in the catering industry, because the wages are perfectly outrageous? MR. KELLY (Lab., Rochdale): In view of the right hon. Gentleman's first reply, and the unsatisfactory conditions in Lyons' and other places, is he prepared to set up a Trade Board in this industry? MR. SPEAKER: We cannot discuss Trade Boards on this question.

Poor Law (Women Representatives).

MR. HORE-BELISHA (Lib., Devonport) asked the Minister of Health whether, seeing that the services of approximately 2,000 women are available on Boards of Guardians and on County and County Borough Councils in England and Wales, respectively, he will consider, in the scheme of Poor Law Reform, making such definite provisions as will ensure the retention of the services of an adequate number of duly elected experienced women? SIR KINGSLEY WOOD (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health): My right hon. Friend appreciates fully the importance of retaining the services of women in connection especially with the administration of the Poor Law, and the matter will be borne in mind in the scheme of Poor Law reform.

Legitimacy Act, 1926.

MR. HORE-BELISHA asked the Minister of Health whether he has now made inquiries into the administration of the Legitimacy Act, 1926, and whether he has found it possible to ameliorate the present conditions and arrange that a certificate on re-registration shall not be distinguishable from any ordinary birth certificate? SIR K. WOOD: My right hon. Friend has considered this matter carefully. The arrangements for the re-registration of births under the Legitimacy Act, 1926, have been so framed as to render the entry indistinguishable from that of an ordinary legitimate birth wherever this has been possible without hardship to the parties, and it would not be possible to take any further measures without amending the whole of the general registration law. I may add, with reference to the particular points which the hon. Member has in mind, that all entries of births registered after the expiration of 12 months are required to contain the words, "on the authority of the Registrar-General," and must bear the date on which they are registered.

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EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

BATTLEDORE AND SHUTTLECOCK.

To-day (Friday) should have seen the Labour Party's Representation of the People Bill, the avowed object of which is to confer the vote on women at the age of 21 and on the same terms as men, come up for its Second Reading in the House of Commons. The Labour Party, however, have annoyed the Government by their opposition to the Trade Disputes Bill, and the Government have retaliated by taking up all Private Members' time in the House, the first Private Member's Bill to be victimised being the Bill of most importance to women—the Labour Party's own Equal Franchise Bill, the object of which coincided with Mr. Baldwin's proposed Equal Franchise Bill, to be introduced next Session. Had the Government not taken this Friday for its own Trade Disputes Bill, and had it adopted the Labour Party's Representation of the People Bill and passed it into law this Session, much Parliamentary time would have been saved, and women would certainly have been on the Register in time to vote at the next General Election, whenever it may come, at the age of 21 and on the same terms as men. But, as usual, the Women's Bill has been the first to be tossed aside in the conflict between Party issues. Time after time in the history of women's struggle for equal political enfranchisement with men, their Bills have been lost by "great pressure of other business," or by the fears and jealousies of opposing political Parties. The present occasion is no exception to the general rule in the game of politicians so far as women's interests are concerned, and we have seen no protest from any one of the political Parties against the consignment of yet another women's Bill to the political scrapheap. Women are now left solely with the Premier's promise of the introduction of an Equal Franchise measure next Session, with the ever-overhanging dread of "an unexpected catastrophe" of an early General Election foreshadowed by Mr. Baldwin himself. This cavalier treatment of British women can only serve to increase their tenacity and determination to win equal political enfranchisement with men at the earliest possible date, in spite of all obstacles. Until women have this measure of political equality with men, they have no chance whatever of winning any real equality with men in any other sphere, either in national or international life. While men wield so much greater political power than women, men alone will always appear to be "the most suitable representatives" to be placed on Committees and Commissions by heads of Government Departments. Only last Wednesday, the Secretary to the Ministry of Labour gave a list of those appointed to attend the International Labour Conference at Geneva next week, and all those appointed are men! Yet sickness and insurance, and the minimum wage fixing where wages are exceptionally low, with special reference to the home working trades, are the two important subjects to be discussed! Are not the interests of women even more than those of men involved in these subjects? Yet our Government consider men alone to be the most suitable representatives to discuss them! First and foremost, women must win political equality with men; only then will politicians realise that they cannot play fast and loose with women's interests!

MARRIED WOMAN DOCTOR DISMISSED.

Last week we reported that the Durham County Council decided to give three months' notice, terminating the appointment of a woman medical officer. The following was the resolution carried at the Council meeting:—

"That the County Council give three months' notice terminating the appointment of all married women officers on their medical staff whose husbands are in receipt of an adequate income, and that in future no married women be put in appointments on the medical staff of the department whose husbands are in receipt of an adequate income."

This resolution, which provoked a full-dress debate at the meeting, was aimed at one solitary member of the County Council staff—a woman doctor. This woman doctor was appointed by the Council last August, being selected as the best from over 20 applicants. She resigned an appointment in London to take up her position under the Durham County Council, and when she took up her work, the chief in the Welfare Department was a married woman doctor, whose husband was earning a separate livelihood. It may be inferred, therefore, that the new member of the staff saw no objection to marrying another member of the Welfare medical staff, Dr. J. W. McIntosh, B.Sc., M.B., F.R.C.S. (Edin.), last December. When she was told the decision of the Council, amounting to dismissal in three months, her husband handed in his notice to terminate his services also at the end of that period. In view of the insufferable remarks of some of the Councillors when discussing this resolution, we hardly see how he could have done otherwise; but this means, of course, that Durham Welfare Department loses two exceptionally good medical officers, and we hope the ratepayers will realise what they have to pay for the stupidity of their elected representatives. In a letter to *The Times* on this case, Mr. Pethick-Lawrence asks the following pertinent questions:—"Is the employment of doctors and teachers by public bodies to be regarded as a form of charitable out-relief of the professional classes, or as a means of securing for the community the highest qualified service available? And, if the latter, is the interest of the public really served by such action as has been taken in Durham? Secondly, granting the legal right, have public authorities the moral right arbitrarily to change the conditions of service and to enforce summarily and retrospectively on efficient public officials new standards affecting their private lives?"

We repeat once more that a woman in this country has no legal claim to any portion of her husband's earnings, salary, or income, and that all he is bound to do is to keep her off the rates, and that a husband may, if he chooses, will all his money and property away from his wife and leave her practically penniless at his death. While the law is so niggardly in the protection of a wife, so far as her economic position is concerned, why should it allow local governing authorities the right to deprive women from protecting themselves by earning their own livelihood?

MORE ABOUT WOMEN POLICE.

Delegates at a Council meeting of the West Sussex County Federation of Women's Institutes passed the following resolution at Horsham last week: "That this meeting desires that the proper authorities be urged to appoint a suitable number of women police in West Sussex, and that Members of Parliament representing the West Sussex Divisions be asked if they are in favour of the appointment of policewomen." It was stated that there was only one policewoman in West Sussex—at Worthing. One delegate urged that women police could take over the duties now imposed upon women warders and policemen's wives—such as escorting women prisoners by train—as well as the valuable police duties they could perform in the prevention of crime.

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN TEACHERS' EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE.

The National Union of Women Teachers held an Educational Conference at the Central Hall, Westminster, recently, when the President, Miss C. Neal, of Swansea, presided. The four lectures given during the day were of exceptional interest and excellence, and were received with great appreciation and enthusiasm by the audience, which was, of course, mainly composed of London and Provincial members of the Union.

Miss Neal, in her opening speech, explained that, until the last few years, it had been the custom to devote Friday afternoon during the Annual Conference to lectures on educational subjects. As the interests of the Union widened, however, the work increased, and it was found time could not be spared for the educational lecture. It was therefore arranged that this Educational Week-end Conference should be held. The experiment has been so successful that it will, no doubt, become a permanent feature of the Union.

Miss E. E. Froud, the General Secretary of the National Union of Women Teachers, gave impressions of her recent visit to some social and educational institutions in Russia, and, in order that the audience might realise the nature of the problems with which Russia is faced, extracts were read from Baron Wrangel's recently published Memoirs. Under the old regime men and women were mere chattels, ruled and governed entirely by cruelty, and even at the time of the 1920 Census, 47 per cent. of the Russian people were illiterate. The problem of education was, therefore, not only how to deal with the children, but also with the adult population. The new educational system is arranged to cater for children from seven to seventeen years of age, and is based upon the Complex Plan, which is similar to the Project System of America.

Referring to the position of women in Russia, Miss Froud said she believed it would be their own fault if they did not become economically free. The Government, realising that unless both men and women are entirely free and fully developed, progress is impossible, encourages women to come out of the home and into public life. Drudgery in the home must inevitably destroy the capacity for interest in public life, and, consequently, communal kitchens have been established, where meals can be obtained more cheaply than in the home. Communal washhouses are also being used. Men and women receive equal pay for equal work, and the latter are not dismissed on marriage, but are encouraged to marry and to continue their work. Leave of absence with pay is granted for four months during maternity.

WOMEN AND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCILS

We have received the names of women on the following Urban District Councils:—

IRTHLINGBOROUGH (Northamptonshire).—Mrs. W. S. Palmer.

SOUTHALL-NORWOOD (Middlesex).—Mrs. B. A. Chard, J.P., Mrs. L. M. Waddington (re-elected on April 4th).

There are no women on the following Urban District Councils.—Neyland, Pickering (Yorks), St. Neots (Hunts), Wellington (Somerset).

WOMEN AND MUSSULMAN LAW.

L'Egyptienne, the paper of the Egyptian Feminist Union, contains, in its April number, an analysis of the proposed reforms in Mussulman law, and shows wherein these meet the demands of the women and where they conflict with them. In introducing the analysis, Madame Nabaroui accuses the

Miss Froud described a crèche attached to a factory she had visited, where children between the ages of two months and seven years can be left in the hands of skilled nurses and doctors. At the age of seven the children become the care of the Education Authority, and those who do not pursue more advanced study may return to the factory at the age of fourteen. At that age they work for four hours daily, and receive four hours' instruction in technical and cultural subjects. Every effort is made to ascertain the work for which each child is best fitted.

Speaking on the "Psychology of the New Education," Professor Marcault, formerly of the Universities of Grenoble and Pisa, said that the school system in the past was based on the idea that the child's mind is of wax, on which society has to print the contents of its discoveries, and the teacher was regarded as the intermediary between society and the blank mind of the child. To-day, however, we are beginning to realise that the child is an individual, with the creative forces of education within him. The new education, which is in reality the education of the self, will bring about social changes, which at present cannot be imagined; and when all children are developed according to their possibilities, instead of their social status, we shall have a true democracy—democracy of the spirit.

Miss Margaret Morris gave a delightful lecture-demonstration on the "Margaret Morris Movement," showing how the artistic and medical points of view might be effectively combined in physical exercises for use in schools. Some of Miss Morris's students illustrated various exercises for both normal and crippled children, and a demonstration was given by children ranging in age from seven to thirteen, from a Bethnal Green Elementary school.

Mr. C. Fleming Williams, the well-known artist and art teacher, emphasised the need for creative self-expression rather than technical skill in the child. He regarded it as essential that children should paint pictures before learning to draw, should be allowed to paint anything they wished to paint, and should be supplied with the best possible materials, for the poor artist needs the very best tools.

During the evening Mr. Gibson Young conducted community singing, and the Conference closed on Sunday morning with a special service, conducted by Miss Maude Royden.

LILIAN PIEROTTI.

legislators of an attempt to run simultaneously with the hare and the hounds, and, consequently, of causing greater difficulties rather than of reforming old ones.

The points particularly dealt with in this analysis are: (1) Polygamy; (2) divorce; (3) annulment of marriage; (4) incompatibility; (5) maintenance; (6) guardianship of children. Madame Nabaroui takes them point by point, giving the demands previously formulated by the Feminist Union, and the conditions under the existing law which those demands were meant to alter and alleviate. She then gives the new proposals, and shows how, in some few points, they improve the position of women, but how, in others, a reactionary effect will ensue. The whole analysis is clearly informative.

That Egyptian women feel very strongly on this question of the new laws relating to their position is shown further by an interview with Madame Charoui, in which she deals with the proposed reforms, and shows also, as does Madame Nabaroui, how little they will, on the whole, improve the position of women, while in particular instances they will worsen it.

BOOK REVIEWS.

The London Child. By Evelyn Sharp. Illustrated by Eve Garnett. (John Lane.) Price 7s. 6d. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

What a contrast with the London child of Dickens! Oliver Twist and Bumble, little Dorrit's surroundings in the Marshalsea, all have faded into the dim past, and instead we have the inmates of day nursery, nursery school, and, for the wilful and unadjusted, the Children's Court and the Probation Officer. Nowhere has the nation made such progress as in the treatment of children, both invalids and healthy schoolchildren, those on probation, or inmates of certified schools. Froebel's motto, "Come, let us live for our children," bids fair to be fulfilled, although much yet remains to be done. But this little volume is no dry brochure; it teems with sketches of young folk, both by Miss Garnett and Miss Sharp, is full of life and interest, and ranges from Tommy at the hospital, who takes pride in his sore finger, Elsie from "Wapping" in the country, Andy with a grand garden in the backyard, down to the baby who crows in the scales at the After-Care Centre.

Full credit is given to the work of the London elementary teacher, and, if a little fun is poked at some of the earnest and rather puzzled helpers, who are striving to brighten and straighten the devious ways of the London street child, that is all part of the game. The London mother comes in for full appreciation, with all her difficulties and wonderful and hopeful efforts, as well as her limitations—she who begs for an entrance into school for a toddler, because "I've had two drowned, and I'd like to keep Johnnie"; the beggar who sends her weary child out to bring in money; and the proud parent who rejoices in the curls that have developed since X-ray treatment for ringworm—these and many others will delight the reader. At the same time, the dangerous street life of the young barbarians and their ready wit, the students at the Children's Library, the joyful players in the sandheaps in the parks, the earnest dramatist who brings the habit of the early Britons into his or her daily life, are depicted with a sure and fascinating pen and pencil. Not the least charming thing in the book is the preface, with its reminiscent personal note which makes the reader feel that Miss Sharp was, of all people, most fitted to be the children's historian.

Many of us, having read the book, will long to gird up our loins to go out to battle for the London child on the fields of dirt, ignorance and danger, and even those of us who cannot do that, will look with clearer vision at the little people "playing with three banana skins in a dirty puddle," or out shop-gazing with the family baby—remembering that, "as we train the children, so shall the future be, which shall reign when we are low." Much yet remains to be done, while England alone among the nations realises the need for a National Society to protect children from cruelty, and homes are filled with little outraged children of early age. May this little book help to arouse us all to what can and should be done, and what still is to do.

J. M. T.

The Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries: What it is, and what it has done. A short history, issued by the Executive Committee. Price 3d. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

This comprehensive little pamphlet gives the history of the "Awks" from their start in 1903 under the older name of the Association of Shorthand Writers and Typists. One finds the curious fact recorded that in 1907 the Association refused to assist the woman's suffrage movement because "The Association had agreed not to enter into social or political questions." Still more curious is the fact that in the same year they affiliated to the Women's Trade Union League. The main work of this Association has been devoted to securing better pay and better working conditions for its members, and through them all women employed in clerical categories. In 1912 a wider basis was

adopted, and the present name chosen. In 1916 the Association was registered as a trade union, and in 1919 became affiliated to the Trade Union Congress. A summary is given of the work done among Government employees, temporary and established, and also among private employees, and the history ends with a glance into the future. The Association considers that in no other trade union or association for clerical workers do women receive adequate consideration, and therefore the need for their separate Association is still great.

The Countryman; No. 1. Published at Idbury, Kingham, Oxford.

The Countryman makes its first appearance this month. Edited by Mr. Robertson Scott, it is a quarterly, devoted to the cultivation, not of the land, but of the dwellers on the land. All sorts of rural activities are dealt with in this first number, such as electro-culture, women's institutes, agricultural wages, community councils, rural district councils, cottage planning, and many suggestions are made as to the possibilities still latent in them all.

A WONDERFUL RECORD.

Last week, there retired from the Savings Bank Department of the General Post Office a Principal Clerk. This Principal Clerk retired after 40 years' service, during which time she had not had one single day's sick leave. This is an astounding record for man or woman, and comes with peculiar aptness just now, when men are determined on lower pay for women and refusing opportunities of employment to women on physical grounds. If one woman can make such a record, other women can do the same. If one man can make such a record, other men can. In this connection, some enlightening statements were made by Dr. Little in the House of Commons during the Debate on the Married Women's (Employment) Bill. After dealing with particular objections raised against the employment of married women, Dr. Little continued the argument for any woman, and asked if men did not also suffer from sexual disability alleged to be operative only in women? He continued: "I think anyone comparing the numbers of absentees in any service, both male and female, will find quite as many males suffer from sexual disability, and absences from this cause are an important set-off to the absences of women caused by disabilities resulting from sex."

"The universities of this country have had this question before them, and have solved it for themselves. They have made no distinction whatever between the sexes. I submit there is no support for what I call the medical argument. It has not been urged by any medical authority, and it falls to the ground the moment it is examined."

All arguments favouring inequality and based on grounds of women's ill-health must feel shaken by the record stated above.

"THE MODERN WOMAN" IN POLAND.

We have received various copies of *The Modern Woman* ("Kobieta Wspolczesna"), a woman's paper in Warsaw. It is beautifully illustrated, and in the last number is an interesting article on "The Elections to the Common Council" and an interview with Senator Miss Szechko, informing us of women's activity in the social and political life of Poland. In another article on "The Fight for Equal Laws," Mrs. C. Walewska gives a lively account of the work of Mrs. Kazimiera Bujwidowa, one of Poland's well-known pioneers of women's progress. Reviews are also given of the works of women writers. English readers will at once recognise the portrait of Mr. G. K. Chesterton, who is on a visit to Warsaw, and *Modern Woman* shows how up-to-date it is by giving extracts from some of his writings. Another article, "In the Wide World," deals with women's publications in India.

Women's Freedom League.

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

Telephone:—MUSEUM 1429.

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

Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.

President—Mrs. PETHICK-LAWRENCE.

Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT.

Hon. Organising Secretary—Mrs. WHETTON.

General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

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.

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

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

DARE TO BE FREE.

Tuesday, July 5th, at 7 p.m.

Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party at Caxton Hall.

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, May 25th, at 3.30 p.m.

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

Thursday, May 26th, at 8 p.m.

Darlington. Public Meeting in Temperance Institute. Speakers: Miss Anna Munro and Miss Walker (Principal of Teachers' Training College). Chairman: The Mayor, Councillor Snaith.

Friday, May 27th, at 3.30 p.m.

Ashford. Branch Meeting, Hempsted Street Hall.

Friday, May 27th, at 7.30 p.m.

Middlesbrough. Whist Drive and Dance at The Grey House, Linthorpe. Tickets 2/- each.

Saturday, May 28th.

Portsmouth. Jumble Sale.

SCOTLAND.

Saturday, June 18th, at 3 p.m.

Glasgow. Public Meeting in the McLellan Galleries.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

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. Speakers: Mrs. Gahan, Miss Ada Moore, Miss Japp, Miss Crystal Eastman, Miss Ursula Williams, Miss Winifred Mayo, Miss Winifred Holtby.

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

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting at White Stone Pond, "Jack Straw's Castle," Hampstead Heath, arranged by the League of the Church Militant.

Sunday, May 22nd, at 7.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting arranged by St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance at "Jack Straw's Castle," Hampstead. Speakers: Miss Dorothy Woodman, Miss Butler-Bowdon.

Tuesday, May 24th, at 3 p.m.

Women's Institute. Lecture on Psychology and Happiness by Dr. E. Sloan Chesser. Chair: Dr. Jane Walker.

Tuesday, May 24th, at 3 p.m.

North Hammersmith Liberal Association, 155, Uxbridge Road, W. "Votes for Flappers." Miss Reeves.

Wednesday, May 25th, at 3 p.m.

East Ham Liberal Association. "Equal Franchise." Miss Reeves.

Saturday, May 28th, at 5.30 p.m.

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

Monday, May 30th, at 7.30 p.m.

Women's Pioneer Housing Dinner and Conference. Speakers: Sir Josiah Stamp, K.B.E., and Professional Women on "Different Aspects of Housing for the self-dependent woman." Tickets 12/6, from W.P.H. Offices, 92, Victoria Street.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell, Hon. Secretary of the Liverpool Branch of the St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, and who spoke on the recent Equal Franchise deputation to the Prime Minister, has been made President of the Liverpool Branch of the Dickens Fellowship, the first woman to hold the office in its 25 years' existence.

BRANCH NOTES.

HAMPSTEAD.

The Annual Business Meeting of the branch was held (by kind invitation of Miss Lyndon) at 53, Willow Road, N.W.3, on Tuesday, May 10th. Miss Lyndon, the Hon. Treasurer of the branch, gave the statement of accounts for the past year, and Miss Berry read the report of the work done by the branch during the year. On the motion of Dr. Knight, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Irene Fisher, the report and balance sheet were adopted. The hon. officers were re-elected. Mrs. Fisher reported on the work of the Hampstead Housing Vigilance Committee.

It was decided that the branch should make a collection towards the expenses of the John Stuart Mill Celebration on May 20th, and also a collection towards Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party Fund. Donations to both these funds will be gratefully received by the Hon. Treasurer, Miss Lyndon, 53, Willow Road, N.W.3, and should be sent as early as possible.

(Hon. Sec.) Miss E. BERRY, 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

DARLINGTON.

There is to be a Members' Meeting on Wednesday, May 18th, in the Temperance Institute, when Mrs. Ayton will give her report of the Women's Freedom League's Annual Conference. This will be followed next week, on the 26th, by a Public Meeting in the hall of the same building, when Councillor Snaith, the Mayor, will preside. Miss Anna Munro will speak, and also Miss Walker, the Principal of the Teachers' Training College here. There will, we hope, be other local speakers.

Last Friday, Mr. Shepherd, M.P., spoke at a meeting organised by the local Labour Party, on Equal Franchise. We were selling THE VOTE outside, and were very kindly invited on to the platform and asked to speak; this we were very pleased to do, putting the Women's Freedom League's point of view.

A resolution in favour of votes for women on the same terms and at the same age as for men was passed unanimously.

(Organiser) LILIAN LENTON.

GLASGOW.

The Jumble Sale on Saturday, 14th inst., realised £16 2s. 3d., which is very good indeed, all things considered. About 200 appeals, with reply postcards enclosed, were sent out, and out of that number only ten replies were received. I do not think members realise how very hard that is on the few, and how disheartening to the Committee and those who are giving their time and energy to the work.

On Saturday, at the Sale itself, we had too few helpers, but they did the work with a will. Thanks are due to Miss Lambie, Miss Jane Thomson, Miss A. B. Black, Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Toffolo and Mrs. Curdie. Also our thanks to Mr. Curdie, who rendered yeoman service in a hundred and one ways.

It is earnestly hoped that there will be a much greater response for the Cake and Candy Fair, which we intend having in McLellan Galleries, on June 18th, at 3 p.m. We hope to induce some influential person to perform the opening ceremony. Further details will be published in due course, and members will be advised.

(Hon. Sec.) L. MOSEN.

THE LEAGUE OF THE CHURCH MILITANT.

The League of the Church Militant presented its Annual Report to its Seventeenth Annual Council in March, and now issues it. It forms a fine record of work done, not only for the opening of wider opportunities for the service of women within the Church, but for the raising of their status in service for the State.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

The occasional paper published in May by the National Council of Women is a compendium of useful information to all interested in social reform. *The News* covers a wide field, with full reports of past meetings and a programme of meetings to come.

TO-NIGHT!

John Stuart Mill Celebration and Equal Franchise Meeting,

To demand Votes for Women at 21 and on same terms as men.

FRIDAY MAY 20th, 8 p.m.

Speakers: MISS BARCLAY-CARTER, Lic.-ès-L. (St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance), MISS AGNES DAWSON, L.C.C. (National Union of Women Teachers), MRS. FLOWERS (Women's Freedom League), MISS MACADAM, M.A. (National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship), MISS WOODMAN (Young Suffragists), MRS. ZANGWILL (Woman's Freedom League), and MISS IDA SAMUEL (Women's National Liberal Federation).

Chairman / Mrs. PETHICK-LAWRENCE.

Come and join in our demand for An Equal Franchise Measure on the Statute Book without further delay!

FRIDAY,
MAY 20,
1927.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

REST AND HOLIDAYS.

BRIGHTON.—"Sea View," Victoria Road. Midday dinner. Gas fires in Bedrooms. Wireless. Vegetarians catered for.—Hostess: MISS TURNER.

RYE, SUSSEX.—OLD HOPE ANCHOR. Ideal Guest House. Modern comforts; good cooking. Separate Vegetarian cooking a speciality. Write for booklet.

FRENCH ALPS.—Furnished Châlet to let. View Mt. Blanc, Seven beds, bath, inside sanitation.—"E.C.F.," 31, Meadhurst Road, Leicester.

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

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

NEAR FOLKESTONE.—Three friends offer a charming holiday home; large garden; tennis; garage.—MISS HASLAM, The Grey House, Lyminge, Kent.

CORNWALL.—Guests. Lady's country Cottage. Picturesque situation; 3 miles sea, Perranporth. Sanitation; Garage. Accessible to all interesting places.—"VOTE Office," 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

BATH.—Member desires holiday guests. Good centre; music; bridge; own car; bath h. and c. Terms reasonable.—Apply 2, Lower Oldfield Park, Bath.

CLUBS.

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.

MINERVA CLUB, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Open to non-residents. Restaurant. Smoking Room. Papers. Library. Bedrooms available at holiday times. Membership, £1 1s. Entrance Fee suspended during present year. All particulars from the SECRETARY. Telephone: Museum 4791.

FAMOUS FOR ITS 1/6 LUNCHEON. 10/6 First Fifty Members Join. The Owls Club in the 16th-century "Wig & Pen," 230, Strand. Open till midnight. Very cosy Writing Room, etc., for people of literary and kindred pursuits. Excellent Devonshire cooking. Founded by H. & F. Ames.—Apply Secretary, Owls, 230 Strand.

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OFFICE OR STUDIO. Well-lighted room in High Holborn.—Apply "M.E.G.," THE VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

BOARD-RESIDENCE in small comfortable home at Leamington Spa. Suit business woman, or lady requiring care.—Box J.M.F., THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

HAVERSTOCK HILL, HAMPSTEAD, N.W.3 (opposite Belsize Park Tube). Pleasant bed-sitting-room in private flat, electric light; gas stove with ring and check-meter. 35/- weekly including electric light, breakfast and baths. Recommended.—THE VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

DAFFODILS: 2/6 per box. Clotted Cream, 3/- lb., post free. Furnished House to let at NEWQUAY, 5 rooms.—Apply SELSEY, St. Stephen's, St. Austell, Cornwall.

MEDICAL.

PARK LODGE NURSING HOME, Bath Road, Reading. For Medical, Nerve, Chronic, and Rest Cure Patients. Terms moderate.—Phone: Reading 1948.

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ORGANISER to work in London.—Apply by letter only to Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

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NOTICES.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, May 22nd, 1927. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Miss M. Murray, F.S.A. 6.30. Maude Royden: "The Trade Unions Bill."

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

PUBLIC SPEAKING.—Lectures, classes, and private lessons. Saturday Speech Club.—Miss LUCY BELL, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Tel.: Museum 4791.

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.

EDUCATIONAL.

"AUTO-EDUCATION," 46, Gt. Russell Street, W.C.1. DR. JESSIE WHITE invites parents and teachers to consult her as to Teaching Appliances.

SWISS NURSE wishes to exchange French or German Lessons for English; daily 2-6, at 12, St. Edmund's Terrace, N.W.8. Tuesdays 11 to 6.—Write Mlle HAUDSCHIN.

TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

SPRING CLEANING.—Send to us for "Sensa," the perfect cleaner, tins 1/6 and 3/-, and the perfect knife sharpener, 3/9, as sold at the Spring Sale, also for "Mutax," the little dry-cleaning clothes-brush, 10/-, and help your League. Postage extra.—144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

HOTEL.

MONTAGUE HOTEL, Montague Street, Russell Square, London, W.C. First-class accommodation; room, breakfast and attendance from 7s. 6d. En pension from 3 guineas.—Phone: Museum 4660. (Highly Recommended.)

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