

THE VOTE,
SEPT. 27, 1929.

CHILD SLAVERY IN HONG KONG.

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1929

OBJECTS: To use the power of the Parliamentary vote, now won for Women upon equal terms with men, to elect women to Parliament, and upon other public bodies; to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes; and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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THE GRAHAM MOFFATS IN EDINBURGH.

RE-UNION OF SCOTTISH SUFFRAGISTS.

We warmly congratulate the Hon. Secretary (Mrs. F. MacLeod Easson) and members of our Edinburgh Branch on the successful and enthusiastic reception which they gave last week in Pfeiffer's Rooms, Great King Street, to our old members, Mr. and Mrs. Graham Moffat, and Miss Winifred Moffat, in recognition of their services in the early campaign for the enfranchisement of women.

The Graham Moffats, Scotland's Premier Character Artistes, delighted Southerners as well as Scottish men and women with "Bunt Pulls the Strings," which was played at the Haymarket in 1911, and later, with "A Scrap' o' the Pen." Last week they presented "Susie Tangles the Strings," in the King's Theatre, Edinburgh; this week they are presenting it in Glasgow, and afterwards are taking it to Inverness and Perth. We fervently hope that "Susie Tangles the Strings" will make its way South, so that we in London may have the opportunity of welcoming our gifted fellow-members from across the Border.

Mrs. Alice M. Ross, M.A., presided at the meeting following the reception, and in introducing Mr. and Mrs. Moffat, said that in Art and on the stage they were carrying on the traditions of the Scottish drama. Mr. Moffat recalled the early days of the campaign for woman's suffrage in which he and Mrs. Moffat had taken an active part. Mrs. Moffat was the second

Suffrage prisoner from Scotland, the first being Miss Annie Fraser, of Glasgow, a member of his company, who had played the heroine in "The Concealed Bed." Mrs. Moffat had gone as a delegate to a Women's Freedom League Conference in London, and the next morning when he opened his newspaper he learned that she had been arrested. A deputation had marched to the House of Commons, Mrs. Despard leading. The police interfered. Mrs. Moffat saw Mrs. Despard in among the horses' feet, and went to her.

The policeman said:—"You had better go away, I am going to arrest Mrs. Despard." Mrs. Moffat said, "I am going to stay with her." The policeman said, "Then I shall have to arrest you too." Mrs. Moffat said, "Alright," and that was all there was in it. She was sentenced to a fortnight with Mrs. Despard, and when she came out she told him she had been kept like a jewel in a case! The rest had done her a vast deal of good.



MR. GRAHAM MOFFAT, MISS WINIFRED MOFFAT & MRS. GRAHAM MOFFAT.

After that he had started in Scotland the Men's League for Women's Suffrage, and they had had some fine times working in the suffrage cause. It was during the years of the suffrage campaign that he had started to write plays. Mr. Moffat said they had by no means been leaders in the suffrage movement, but they had tried to do their bit, and he was delighted to find the Women's Freedom League still carrying on.

Others who gave their reminiscences of the days of the struggle were Miss Alexia B. Jack, for so many

years the devoted secretary of our Edinburgh Branch, Mrs. F. MacLeod Easson, the present secretary, Miss Lees, and Miss Jacob, a former secretary. Mr. J. Dan Easson, a former member of the Men's League, proposed the vote of thanks.

In a brief reply, Mrs. Moffat, who had been the first hon. treasurer of the Scottish Council of the Women's Freedom League, thanked them all for their kind reception, and said they had had some rattling good times in the past. She remembered going with Miss Anna Munro to a meeting at Dunoon when the rowdies tried to rush them off the top of the hill. Miss Winifred Moffat, then a little girl, was there selling literature. Miss Munro had got round the rowdies, so that in the end they were all helping and cheering.

Music and social conversation contributed, with the

speeches, to make this reception one of the happiest reunions held by our Edinburgh Branch. Among those present were the original President of our Branch (Mrs. Easson), its original hon. Secretary (Miss A. B. Jack), its original hon. Treasurer (Miss Wood). All united in welcoming their co-workers of so many years ago, for it was in 1907 that Mr. and Mrs. Graham Moffat began their work with us in Glasgow, and afterwards came to help us in Edinburgh, on several occasions giving a dramatic entertainment in aid of our funds. In those days, too, Winifred Moffat, her cousin, and other very young girls, started a society of their own to help raise funds for our League. Indeed, the Graham Moffats were among our most enthusiastic and most indefatigable workers in the early days of the militant suffrage movement in Scotland.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Woman Mayor of Watford?

Watford Corporation has invited Councillor Mrs. Broad to be Mayor of Watford in the coming year. Mrs. Broad was elected to the Council when Watford was incorporated in 1922.

Woman Musician's Appointment.

Miss Mabel A. Nelson, Dip.Mus., the first person to be awarded the Music Scholarship of £180 from the University of Western Australia, has been appointed pianist in the new Australian Broadcasting Company.

Freedom of Rochester for Sybil Thorndike.

The freedom of the City of Rochester will be conferred on Miss Sybil Thorndike, on October 2nd. Her father, the late Canon A. J. W. Thorndike, was vicar of St. Margaret's, Rochester, and Sybil Thorndike herself attended the Rochester High School for Girls.

Woman Labour Party Agent.

Miss Dora Seed, of Southport, has been appointed Agent to the Skipton Divisional Labour Party, in succession to Mr. Maurice Webb, of Lancaster, who has been appointed to the Labour Party Headquarters.

Woman Fabric Specialist.

Miss Louise Huston, director of the Educational Service Bureau for Bemberg Corporation, U.S.A., is the first woman to specialise in the supervision of fibre tests, dyes, etc., used in the production of synthetic fibre fabrics.

Woman Wins Shot-putting Competition.

Miss E. Otway won the shot-putting competition at the London Olympiades meeting at Battersea Park.

An All Women Fire Brigade.

A fire brigade entirely composed of women recently took part in a parade through the streets of Windsor and Eton in aid of the King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor.

Tea and Politics

at the **Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C. 1.**

THURSDAY AFTERNOONS AT 4.30 (Tea at 4 o'clock).

OCT. 17th.	Speaker: MISS JENNER, from South Africa. Subject: "The Development of the Woman's Movement in South Africa." Chair: MRS. PETHICK-LAWRENCE.
OCT. 24th.	Speaker: MISS AGNES DAWSON, L.C.C. Subject: "Women under the new Local Government Act." Chair: DR. E. KNIGHT.
OCT. 31st.	Speaker: MRS. BIGLAND. Subject: Part I. "The Recent Assembly." Chair: MISS MARIAN REEVES.
NOV. 7th.	Speaker: MRS. ARCHDALE (Chairman, Woman Peers Committee). Subject: "Women and the Upper House." Chair: MRS. DORE.
NOV. 21st.	Speaker: MRS. POLLARD. Subject: "Women in the Ministry." Chair: MISS F. A. UNDERWOOD.
NOV. 28th.	Speaker: MRS. BIGLAND. Subject: Part II. "The Recent Assembly." Chair: MRS. MUSTARD.
DEC. 5th.	Speaker: MISS NINA BOYLE. Subject: "Slavery Convention of the League of Nations." Chair: MRS. PETHICK-LAWRENCE.
DEC. 12th.	Speaker: MISS MORGAN GIBBON. Subject: "My Election Experiences." Chair: MRS. FLOWERS.

PLEASE BOOK THESE DATES.

Collection.

CHILD SLAVERY IN HONG KONG.

In *The Times* of September 20th is a very instructive article by that paper's correspondent on the mui tsai in Hong Kong and the Failure of the Penal Ordinance. This correspondent writes:—

"The mui tsai is a pathetic outcrop of China's economic faults, the disposable part of a surplus population. Child of pauper parents, she is sold into domestic service. She goes with the daughters of the rich as part of their dowries. She toils unremittingly for wealthy people, for well-to-do middle-class families, or lower middle-class families. She may be treated well, she may be treated ill, she may be married as a first wife into a family of the lower class, or sold as concubine or prostitute.

"A frequent defence of the system is that the slaves of the better classes fare better than they would with their parents. But in all classes may be found varying degrees of cruelty. In one home it may be directly brutal, in another the result of a lazy mistress's insensitiveness to the feelings of a child who drudges throughout the day and night with but a few hours for sleep. There are homes where she is well fed, if overworked; there are others where she is beaten or tortured by burning.

"If we could forget that it is technically slavery, and if we could prevent abuse, the system might be tolerable in China's present state, but the prevention of abuse will require a great deal more control than has hitherto been exercised, and it is very doubtful whether the necessary degree of control is practicable. In Hong Kong, whenever cruelty has been reported, the Government has always prosecuted, but prosecutions are comparatively few because of the difficulty of obtaining corroborative evidence. In view of these difficulties, an agitation for complete abolition of the system has grown up."

The writer then summarises the Government's difficulties in abolishing the mui tsai system—the difficulty of departing from the traditional British Colonial policy of interfering as little as possible with native customs; the difficulty of distinguishing between mui tsai and adopted daughters—both classes being bought; the difficulty of providing for thousands of slave girls, if these were suddenly freed; the difficulty of providing for the unwanted female children of poor parents, if there were no market for them; and, lastly, the difficulty of the problem of the constant influx into Hong Kong of Chinese refugees and sojourners, who bring their slaves with them.

The writer states that the Hong Kong Government has frequently proclaimed that purchase of a child confers no property right in British law, but that has accomplished nothing, and has not satisfied the reformers, who have fought hard to compel the Government to pursue an active course. In 1923 the Government passed an Ordinance, called "The Female Domestic Service Ordinance," which declared that no person should thereafter take into his employment any mui tsai, or any female servant under the age of ten years. Other provisions dealt with the treatment of mui tsai and their restoration to parents if they wished to return home.

The Times Correspondent proceeds:—"The Ordinance made no attempt to free the then existing mui tsai, except by declaration and reassurance of their rights. It provided tentatively for registration of them, and prohibited the enslavement of any more, but it has remained a dead letter. The clause providing for registration has never been put in force. Cases of cruelty have been punished as before, but all the old evils have continued. Owners of mui tsai have been able to prosecute mothers for 'fraud' when a child has (allegedly) been enticed back home. In these cases they have pleaded 'adoption.' Prosecution has tended to confirm mui tsai owners in the enjoyment of their property.

"The Government is also embarrassed in connection with another adjunct of the mui tsai system—sale into

brothels. The Government itself registers these girls for brothels, a startling statement, but explicable. The Government tolerates brothels and licenses the inmates. When a girl appears for registration, the official can only satisfy himself that she enters the brothel of her own free will—a dubious freedom, but not always challengeable. In these official brothel transactions there is, naturally, no evidence that a girl is being sold and bought; that can only be assumed. There are however, innumerable sly brothels which defy Government action.

"In consequence of the recent outcry, the Government has taken the active measures desired. It has made another proclamation, reminding mui tsai that they are free, warning their owners against detaining them against their wills, and offering to the girls the Government's protection. So far only one mui tsai is known to have run away from her mistress, and she not because of the proclamation, but because her mistress beat her. The Government prosecuted, but the mistress pleaded that the child was her adopted daughter. The magistrate decided that the treatment of the child proved her to be a mui tsai. He accordingly fined the woman the equivalent of £2 10s. The decision was obviously designed as a precedent and a warning, and it may have its effects."

In 1920, Commander and Mrs. Haslewood initiated efforts in this country to abolish child slavery in Hong Kong. The Women's Freedom League arranged the first public meeting against this mui tsai system and continued a campaign against it up and down the country, Mrs. Haslewood speaking at many meetings held by our branches in England and Wales. In March, 1922, we rejoiced when Mr. Winston Churchill, at that time Colonial Secretary, stated in the House of Commons that he had received a telegram from the Governor of Hong Kong on the subject, adding: "I desire to make it clear that both the Governor and I are determined to effect the abolition of the system at the earliest practicable date, and I have indicated to the Governor that I expect the change to be carried out within the year." In spite of that statement, in the last week of July this year, 1929, Mr. Lunn, the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, in reply to a question, said in the House of Commons that the Governor of Hong Kong had not yet made the necessary Proclamation to abolish the mui tsai system, but that Lord Passfield, the present Secretary of State for the Colonies, was carefully considering the whole problem! As soon as Parliament re-assembles this question must be taken up in earnest with the Colonial Office. We refuse to believe that the British people will continue to tolerate a system of slavery for children under the British flag—whatever the difficulties its abolition may involve.

CHILD MARRIAGES IN INDIA.

The Third Reading of the Child Marriage Bill was passed by the Legislative Assembly last Monday by 67 votes to 14. This Bill was introduced by Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda, and provides that the age of marriage for girls shall not be less than 14 and the age of consent outside marriage not less than 16, and that the age of marriage for boys shall not be less than 18. The Bill provides a punishment of imprisonment for one month or a fine of £75 for those who solemnise the marriage of girls below the age of 14 and boys below 18. On the second reading debate, the Home Member, Sir James Crerar, warmly supported the measure on behalf of the Government, and all who spoke in support of the Bill in the third reading debate acknowledged the immense help which the Government has given. When it was apparent that the House would pass the Bill, some of the opponents walked out in protest. They have asked the Viceroy to receive a deputation to urge him to withhold his consent to the Bill, which in their view is bound to interfere with their religious convictions.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th, 1929.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.
To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders, printing, and merchandise, etc.

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Holborn 9301, London."
Telephone: HOLBORN 9301.

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.

WOMEN AND JURY SERVICE.

When a jury was being sworn in at the Old Bailey last Monday, in a case in which a man was charged with a serious offence against a girl, the defending counsel challenged all the women called to serve. The Recorder asked if the objection was on the ground of their sex, and the Counsel replied "yes." The Recorder said he objected to the practice, but he could not stop it, and the women were replaced by men jurors.

With all due respect to the Recorder, we question the right to challenge on the grounds of sex. Before women were admitted to jury service, would a woman charged with a criminal offence have been allowed, through her counsel, to have challenged all the men jurors on account of their sex? Even now, would the Recorder at the Old Bailey allow all the men jurors to be challenged by a woman or her counsel? With regard to the right to challenge, we find that in civil cases objection to the whole panel may be taken on the ground that the summoning officer has failed in his duty from partiality to one of the parties to the action; and that an individual juror may be challenged on various grounds, such as old age, alienage, conviction of crime, or partiality. If such a challenge be made, the place of the challenged juror is taken by another juror, or two "triers" may be appointed for the purpose of determining the validity of the objection raised. In criminal cases, the same rights of challenge may be exercised by the defendant or his counsel, and, in addition, the defendant can challenge peremptorily individual jurors, and need not show any cause. In the case in question, the defendant's counsel definitely stated the ground of challenge—the sex of the jurors, and we submit that sex is not a valid ground for objection. We hope there will be a question in Parliament on this subject; and if there is any doubt about the matter an Amending Bill to the Jury Act should be passed through all its stages without delay, providing that, if any woman member of a jury is challenged in cases similar to the one at the Old Bailey last week, her place shall be taken by another woman. All fair-minded people will agree that in such cases women ought to be on the jury. The girl against whom the offence was stated to have been committed had to be present and to give evidence, and this is all the more difficult when there are only men on the Bench and only men on the jury. The plaintiff has as much right to justice as the defendant.

The same Amending Bill should also take away from a judge his present power to make an order that the jury shall be composed of men only or of women only, as well as his power to exempt a woman, who makes application to him, from service on a jury because of the nature of the evidence to be given or of the issues to be tried. Jury service is an obligation of citizenship, and there should be absolute equality of treatment for the men and women who are summoned as jurors. We further think that every enfranchised person should be liable to jury service, and that the present property qualification of a juror should be abolished. It would then be possible to ensure having an equal number of men and women on all juries.

WOMAN COUNCILLOR EXCLUDED FROM COMMITTEES.

"The Manchester Guardian" reports that Miss Gladys Ashworth, the only woman member of the Preesall (near Fleetwood) Urban District Council, has been excluded from every committee of that Council. When the adoption of the minutes of the last meeting, which contained a resolution of exclusion, came up for confirmation, a councillor moved that the resolution proposed at the last council meeting be rescinded, and that the council should retain the name of Miss Ashworth on the committees. As no one rose at the moment to second the motion the chairman said that unless there was a seconder the resolution would fall to the ground. Councillor Miss Ashworth then asked: "Can I second it?" the chairman replying: "Yes, but you cannot speak to it." When Miss Ashworth had thanked him another councillor seconded the resolution, which, however, was lost by six votes to three. The chairman then announced that the council would go into committee, and Councillor Miss Ashworth declared her intention of remaining for the committee meeting!

The exclusion proposed was the sequence to criticisms by Miss Ashworth of local administration, which were strongly resented by certain of her colleagues, but which she refused to withdraw.

The legality of this expulsion is now occupying the attention of the ratepayers who elected Miss Ashworth to the council. According to the *Liverpool Post and Mercury* Miss Ashworth has declared:—"I am going to the committee meetings whether I am notified or not. I have been elected by the ratepayers as a member of the council, and, as the work of the council is done in committees, I am bound to take my part. I have no intention of neglecting the duties I was elected to perform, nor do I intend to apologise for anything I may have said or done. Of course, I can see the humorous side of the affair. It is rather funny for so many male councillors to be afraid of one woman."

We think so, too; and we would suggest to these councillors that their annoyance at anything said or done by their colleague does not warrant them in disfranchising those ratepayers who elected Miss Ashworth. It is the councillors' business to put their personal feelings on one side, and to do their best to work with her in the ordinary way, through the committees. If they find this is really impossible, they should themselves resign.

WOMEN AND THE COTTON INDUSTRY.

In THE VOTE of August 23rd we expressed our regret that no woman had been appointed to the Arbitration Board in the Cotton Dispute, this Board consisting of four men under the chairmanship of Sir Arthur Balfour. As our readers know, there are more women than men workers in the cotton industry. From *The Ministry of Labour Gazette* we learn that the Prime Minister has appointed a sub-committee of the Committee of Civil Research to inquire into the cotton industry, the terms of reference being:—"To consider and report upon the present condition and prospects of the cotton industry, and to make recommendations as to any action which may appear desirable and practicable in order to improve the position of that industry in the markets of the world." Again, no women are on this sub-committee, the members being: Rt. Hon. William Graham, M.P. (President of the Board of Trade), Rt. Hon. A. V. Alexander, M.P. (First Lord of the Admiralty), Sir Alan G. Anderson, K.B.E., Mr. Joseph Jones, Sir William McLintock, C.B.E., C.V.O., and the Joint Secretaries (Mr. A. F. Hemming, C.B.E., and Mr. H. J. Hutchinson). We consider it is imperative that women should be included on this sub-committee. Women are the majority of workers in this industry; every year women are taking a more direct and prominent part in this country's commercial activities, and they are rapidly acquiring knowledge of the markets of the world. Why exclude women who have special knowledge and experience from consultations in matters of common interest to men and women?

SCHOOL STRIKES AND RE-ORGANISATION.

By A. M. PIEROTTI.

Since the summer holidays, the newspapers have contained frequent references to "school strikes" which are taking place in some half-a-dozen districts in England and Wales; but, apart from making a rather vague statement that parents are objecting to their children being transferred to schools further away from home, there has been little explanation offered. Undoubtedly it is undesirable that young children should be required to walk a long distance to school; but this is not the only reason for complaint, as, in one case, the parents refused to let their children travel to the new schools in the special buses provided by the Local Education Authority. Some parents are merely actuated by an inherent conservatism which leads them to oppose any proposal that their younger children should be educated in a different school from the one the elder brothers and sisters attended; others are acting from a snobbish desire that their children shall attend a school with "a good name," rather than another which is, perhaps, of less repute—for there are class distinctions even between elementary schools. All these reasons should, however, be of little consequence in comparison with the undoubted advantages which will accrue from the re-organisation of schools as advocated in the Hadow Report. Under this scheme, schools will be separated into Junior and Senior Schools, the Junior ones taking the children until the age of 11 plus, after which they will be drafted to a Senior School giving the form of post-primary education for which the individual child is fitted.

The proposed raising of the school-leaving age has made it even more important that steps shall be taken to provide advanced instruction in order that the additional year of school life may be utilised to the best possible advantage. The concentration of junior children in one school, and seniors in another, will not only lead to the

better classification of children within each school, but will make possible the appointment of teachers who have special qualifications or experience in the type of work required. Those parents who are at present protesting against the transference of their children from one school to another are, therefore, in effect, hindering the establishment of an educational scheme which may be the first step towards free secondary education for all children.

There is another aspect of the question which is of particular interest to women teachers. In some districts, the re-organisation has taken the form of establishing mixed schools, Junior or Senior, where in the past there have been separate ones for boys and girls; and the men teachers, not content with claiming the headships of all Senior Mixed Schools are now, more and more, demanding those of the Junior Mixed Schools even when, as is not uncommon, there is an Infants' Department attached. The reason given for this bias in favour of men is that a headmaster is necessary in the interests of boys. It may, however, be remarked that women are almost invariably appointed to the headships of the smaller mixed schools, and especially those in rural areas, where the salaries are, of course, appreciably lower. Women teachers have long protested against the assumption that the interests of boys in mixed schools must take precedence of the girls, and they declare that fitness for a post in a mixed school cannot be determined by sex alone. It is perhaps more important that women shall secure equal opportunities with men in the teaching profession than in any other, so that the children of the coming generations may grow up in an atmosphere of comradeship and equality which is impossible so long as women are denied access to the higher posts.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, 1ST NOVEMBER, 1929.

(Reprinted from the N.C.W. News by kind permission of the National Council of Women.)

The Local Government Act, 1929, provides, as from 1st April, 1930, for the transfer to *County and County Borough Councils*, of the work now carried on by Boards of Guardians, which, in the case of county boroughs, includes not only the relief of the poor, but the care of the blind, the mentally defective, and the insane.

If the work of public assistance thus transferred is to be satisfactorily carried on, it is of vital importance that the number of women councillors on these authorities should be increased. At present approximately 2,500 women are serving as elected members of Boards of Guardians. The services of these women and their experience in regard to Poor Law administration will be lost to the community unless the most suitable of them are elected, as opportunity arises, to serve on the authorities which will be responsible for Poor Law administration after 1st April, 1930. We realise that

many Poor Law Guardians may be co-opted to the new committees, but again we emphasise the fact that co-opted members are not directly responsible to the electors and they have not the status and powers of elected members.

Eleven of the eighty-four county borough councils, which in the future, with the county councils, will be the authorities for home and institutional relief, are still without a woman member, and on the majority of the councils which have women members the number is inadequate.

In view of these facts branches are urged to do all in their power during the next few weeks to ensure the selection of suitable women candidates—especially of women with knowledge and experience of *Poor Law administration* (and, in the case of Scotland, of Education)—and their election on 1st November.

BERTHA MASON (Hon. Parliamentary Secretary).

WHERE WOMEN ARE EQUALS.

According to the reports of white men who have travelled among the Eskimos of Northern Canada, women take an equal place with men. The Eskimo woman is not a chattel, as is the unfortunate position of the Indian woman in many tribes, but is regarded as a partner of her husband or husbands—the severity of Eskimo life accounts for a shortage of women, and polyandry is practised in some tribes. The Eskimo woman, however, is very independent and will not be coerced into marriage. She works exceedingly hard in a land where life is a grim battle, and occupies a dignified position in the household.

Come to the MINERVA CLUB

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9th,

7.30 p.m.

Speakers: MRS. PETHICK - LAWRENCE
AND OTHERS.

Chair: DR. E. KNIGHT.

Collection.

OUR BOOK REVIEW.

What Women Think about Electrical Development in Great Britain, U.S.A., Holland, and Germany. Published by the Electrical Association for Women. Price 1s. (Can be obtained at our Office.)

This booklet is a report of the proceedings of the Fourth Annual Conference of the Electrical Association for Women, held at the North-East Coast Exhibition, Newcastle-on-Tyne, July 10th-12th, 1929, and is of special interest to women. In her presidential address, Mrs. Wilfrid Ashley stressed the fact that the general use of Electricity in the Homes of the Future opens up many interesting possibilities in connection with the design of houses, and that in a house equipped with electricity fires could be placed where the owner wished, and not necessarily up against a particular wall. Electricity, indeed, would make it possible for women to run their kitchens and their homes on scientific lines with modern tools. After bringing greetings to the Conference from the Electrical Industry of the United States, Miss Sophia Malicki stated that rates for electric current to-day in America were constantly being lowered—that the home-owner paid about £5 10s. for all the electric current used in the home, while he spent £84 a year for automobiles, £20 for tobacco, and £9 10s. for candy! Fraülein Käthe Böhm dealt with Domestic Electrical Development in Germany, with special reference to electrical accidents and their prevention in households. She said that in Germany women were demanding a full and plentiful supply of electricity for all domestic purposes, and were keen to know how to deal with it. A new suburb of Frankfurt and a new suburb of Berlin were entirely electrical, and housing estates being built all over Germany were subsidised by the Government, who have set up a special Committee for research into the best method of building and equipping the homes. This Report also contains a summary of speeches made by Madame E. J. Van Waveren and Madame B. Müller-Lulofs on the Progress of Electricity in Holland. The former said that the application of electricity for agricultural purposes was now more and more gaining ground in Holland, and that where it was applied women's help was no longer needed in the fields; and the latter declared that at present 95 per cent. of the houses in Amsterdam have electric light.

Dr. de Ferranti, President of the British Electrical Development Association, urged that it was very necessary nowadays that women should be mechanics, or that they should have good mechanical knowledge. They must not imagine that only men were mechanics! This report also prints a letter from Miss Bondfield, M.P., regretting that her Parliamentary duties made it impossible for her to attend this Conference. Among other things, she wrote: "When you consider how much of the time of the average woman is spent on tasks which, however useful and necessary they may be, are, in essence, mere drudgery and routine, it is obvious that a very great step forward could be taken towards a fuller, richer, and more varied existence if science could be applied to domestic work equally well with that in the factory. Electricity seems to me precisely the key that will one day unlock the door."

What Women Think about Electrical Development is very attractively arranged, and contains delightful photographs of those taking part in the Conference.

F. A. U.

WOMEN'S EXHIBITS AT THE MODEL ENGINEER EXHIBITION.

At the recent Model Engineer Exhibition, held in London, Miss Judith E. Hughes, a student of the School of Art, Plymouth, was highly commended for her water line model of H.M.S. Rodney. Last year Miss Hughes won the "Wonderful Models" Cup. At the same exhibition, a group of miniature ship models, entered by Miss Joanna Joy, a graduate of Reading University, aroused much interest.

WOMAN PIONEER IN BUILDING TRADE.

Miss Muriel E. Gough, of Cardiff, has been awarded the second prize for an essay on "Rationalisation in the Building Industry," which has been published in the *National Builder*, the official publication of the National Building Society. Among those who took part in this competition were many experienced builders. Miss Gough is only twenty-three years of age, but her essay shows a remarkable grasp of the technical and commercial aspects of the building trade. The man who secured the first prize has had many years' experience in this trade. Miss Gough studied at the Cardiff High School for Girls; after matriculating she became a student at the Higher School of Commerce of the Cardiff Technical College, where she obtained a higher commercial certificate. She is continuing her studies at the London College of Commerce, working for her degree in Commerce. She has also an important post on the staff of a London firm of builders and contractors.

AMERICAN WOMEN'S APPOINTMENTS.

The *Woman's Journal* (New York) reports that President Hoover has appointed a Planning Committee for a White House Conference on Child Health and Protection, to be held within a year or eighteen months. Secretary Wilbur, of the Department of the Interior, is Chairman of this Committee, and its members include prominent child specialists and social workers. Among its women members are Mrs. F. Louis Slade, Mrs. William Brown Meloney, Mrs. Raymond Robins, and Dr. Louise Stanley.

Miss Ella May Thornton has been re-appointed State Librarian in Georgia; and Miss Beatrice Winsor, who for twenty-nine years has been assistant in the Newark Free Library, has been appointed Chief Librarian of the large city library in Newark, New Jersey. Miss Winsor studied for her career at Columbia University Library School. She has served as a member of the Newark School Board.

GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR

Notices.

Helpers are needed for giving away Handbills outside meetings. Any readers of THE VOTE willing to help in this way should send in their names to the Hon. Fair Secretary, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

MRS. DELBANCO and MRS. WILSS are again undertaking the Shilling Stall at the Green, White and Gold Fair, at the Caxton Hall, on November 14th and 15th. They will be very grateful for any pretty and useful little gifts for this Stall. All gifts should be sent to Mrs. Delbanco, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

MRS. DORE and MRS. MUSTARD are undertaking the Stall for "Treasures Old and New." Will all readers of THE VOTE see what antiques and treasures they do not want and send them for this Stall. If you have no old treasures, please buy new ones to help this Stall.

Caxton Hall,
Westminster.

Thursday,
November
14th.

3-9
P.M.

Friday,
November
15th.

3-9 P.M.

Green, White & Gold Fair



WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

DARE TO BE FREE. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, September 30th, at 3 p.m.

Hampstead Branch Meeting at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3 (by kind invitation of the Misses Berry).

Friday, October 4th, at 7.30 p.m.

Dinner at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speeches by Delegates to the Berlin Congress. Tickets 3s. 6d. each, from the Secretary, Minerva Club.

Saturday, October 5th, at 10 a.m.

National Executive Committee Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

Tuesday, October 8th, at 7.30 p.m.

North Kensington Branch. Meeting at 14, St. Quintin's Avenue, North Kensington (by kind permission of Miss K. Raleigh).

Wednesday, October 9th, at 7 p.m.

Green, White and Gold Fair Entertainment Committee at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, W.C.1.

Wednesday, October 9th, at 7.30 p.m.

London Members' Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speakers: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence. Chair: Dr. E. Knight.

Thursday, October 10th, at 2.45 p.m.

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

Thursday, October 10th, at 7.30 p.m.

Hackney Branch Meeting (place to be announced later).

Thursday, October 17th, at 4.30 p.m. (Tea 4 o'clock.)

Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Miss Jenner, from South Africa. Subject: "The Development of the Woman's Movement in South Africa." Chair: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence.

PROVINCES.

Thursday, October 3rd, at 7.45 p.m.

Bradford Branch Meeting in the Y.M.C.A., North Parade. Speaker: Dr. Marion MacKenzie on "Mental Hygiene." Chair: Miss Randall.

Monday, October 7th, at 7.30 p.m.

Hastings Branch Meeting at 4, Holmesdale Gardens. Speaker: Mrs. Prelooker. Subject: "Berlin Congress."

Tuesday, October 8th, at 7.30 p.m.

Middlesbrough Branch Meeting at the Grey House, Cambridge Road, Linthorpe (by kind permission of Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P.).

Wednesday, October 16th, at 7 p.m.

Middlesbrough Whist Drive at Grey House, Cambridge Road, Linthorpe (by kind permission of Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P.). Tickets 2/- (refreshments).

Monday, October 21st, at 2.30 p.m.

Middlesbrough Jumble Sale. Crown Hotel, Cargo Fleet (by kind permission of Mrs. Watt).

Thursday, October 31st, at 3 p.m.

Bexhill Branch Meeting in the Albany Hotel. Speaker: Mrs. Zangwill on "What we expect from the present Government."

SCOTLAND.

Saturday, October 26th, 3-6 p.m.

Edinburgh Branch. Cake and Candy Sale in aid of the Green, White and Gold Fair, at Heriot Hill House, Canonmills, Edinburgh. Donations in money, and all kinds of articles, cakes, sweets, fruits, jams, toilet requisites, antiques, fancy goods and woollens for the Scottish Stall will be gratefully received by Mrs. MacLeod Easson.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, September 28th, at 3 p.m.

The Speech Club, at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Miss Lucy Bell "On some Excellences in Oratory."

Tuesday, October 1st, at 1 p.m.

British Commonwealth League. Luncheon at 17, Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C.2. Speaker: Mrs. Tucker, of the Bermuda Woman Franchise Society, on "The Problem of Women's Suffrage in Bermuda." Chairman: Mrs. Corbett Ashby.

Wednesday, October 2nd, at 3 p.m.

British Commonwealth League. Reception to Dr. Roberta Jull, Australian Delegate to the Assembly. Reception, including Tea, 1/6.

Monday, October 7th, at 6 p.m.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Open Meeting at St. Patrick's Clubroom, Soho Square, W., on "Recent Legislation affecting Illegitimate Children." Speaker: Miss Susan Musson (Secretary of the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child). Chairman: Miss Kathleen Fitzgerald, B.A.

Friday, October 18th, at 8 p.m.

National Union of Women Teachers. Public Meeting at the Central Hall, Westminster, on "Equal Pay." Speakers: Miss Winifred Holtby, Miss E. E. Froud, M. J. F. Horrabin, M.P., E. F. Wise, M.P. Chairman: Miss A. A. Kenyon (President N.U.W.T.). Admission free.

BRANCH NOTE.

EDINBURGH.

On Saturday, September 21st, members of the Edinburgh Branch booked seats at the King's Theatre for the matinee of "Susie Tangles the Strings," by Mr. and Mrs. Graham Moffat and Miss Winifred Moffat. At the close of an enjoyable afternoon, a large box of chocolates in green and gold, with streamers of green, white and gold ribbon,—the colours of the Women's Freedom League—to which was attached a card from the Branch thanking them for all they had done for the cause in the past, and wishing them all success in the future, was handed up to the stage. Mr. Moffat read the card and asked that thanks should be conveyed to the Edinburgh members of the Women's Freedom League for their great kindness in giving a reception, and for the handsome gift they had presented to Mrs. Moffat. He added that he had just received a telegram from the Glasgow Branch inviting them to a similar reception in that town, and he was sure they would enjoy meeting their old friends there. Branch members bade farewell to the Graham Moffats at the stage door, and went home feeling they had participated in a scene like old times.

WOMEN OF INDIA CONFERENCE.

Many interesting schemes of social reform have been initiated recently in India by pioneers both British and Indian. An outstanding example by the former is the well-known Punjab experiment of Village Uplift started soon after the War by Mr. F. L. Brayne, Deputy Commissioner for Gurgaon. Every problem of rural India is attacked simultaneously in this scheme—agriculture, sanitation, education, housing and the position of the women, the last being considered by Mr. Brayne to be the most important of all.

Remarkable movements initiated by Indian women are, firstly, a scheme for training social workers, launched in Calcutta by Miss Cornelia Sorabji, also the Women's Institute Movement started by the late Mrs. Saroj Nalini Dutt in Bengal.

A conference to discuss the furtherance of these movements and also the extension of the Women's Educational and Medical Services in India will be held at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Monday, October 7th, 3-6 p.m., 8-10 p.m., and on Tuesday, October 8th, 3-6 p.m. Among the speakers will be Mr. J. Kichey, C.I.E., former Educational Commissioner with the Government of India; Dr. Kathleen Vaughan, author of the Purdah System and its Effect on Motherhood; Captain J. Ingram, Organising Secretary of the Gurgaon Experiment; Mrs. Sen, and Mrs. Bruce Richmond. The Chair will be taken by Miss Eleanor Rathbone, M.P.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

Madam,—Saint Paul, the first pioneer of the regular "Church," upheld keenly the perfect equality of women with men in all acts and functions of public religious work, and also in the family. This opinion he clearly states in forty separate instructions written in his Greek Epistles, as printed in the Greek New Testament, now in full circulation.

The English translations of these "equality" instructions are all twisted to a wrong meaning, and inculcate inequality of the woman and subordination to the male. This monstrous injustice to a great apostle can be righted. Will any of your readers offer a room for a free lecture on this subject?

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

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NOTICES.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, Sept. 29th. at 6.30 p.m. Mr. Shoran Singha.

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

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