

# THE VOTE

(THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE).

VOL. III. No. 66.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 1911.

ONE PENNY.

## NOTICE.

Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and SECRETARY respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.

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

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

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## WHAT WE THINK.

### Saving Daylight.

"Mr. Churchill stated that as regards the Daylight Bill he was a converted man." He further observed that he did not know whether it would be quite in order for him as a member of the Government to put down his name for the ballot, but if such a course was a correct one, he would do so, and "it would afford him great pleasure to move the Second Reading of the Bill in the House." The humanities have before now found an ardent champion in Mr. Churchill, but it has always been when they appeared to be directly associated with votes. Mr. Churchill has no use for legislation from which he himself cannot directly hope for some personal popularity in promoting; and in this lies the secret of his action over the Conciliation Bill. The new Daylight Bill has the backing of 163 Corporations, 109 Chambers of Commerce, and the support of many important men; therefore it will be directly to Mr. Churchill's interest to advocate its merits, and as it is a non-party measure he may hope to find there is little or no opposition; he is delighted to have the limelight thrown before him—a method of illumination which he has always preferred to the more natural daylight. Though a professing suffragist Mr. Churchill has never shown any alacrity to sponsor a suffrage measure. Where there is shot and shell going—as the cinematographs prove in the case of the Stepney tragedy—Mr. Churchill, as someone deftly put it, prefers the comfortable end of the cannon.

### Encouraging Wife-Murder.

Recently in Aberdeen a man, who admitted that he caused his wife's death, had a sentence of ten years passed upon him. The man's counsel declared that the blame lay with the woman because "she began the quarrel." The facts as they were heard in court proved that the man's wife and children spent half the night searching for him, found him in a state of intoxication, and tried to get him home. If the woman spoke harshly to a brute habitually in this condition, under the circumstances she was merely performing her duty for the sake of her unfortunate children. A reprimand to a man who richly deserves it is only countenanced as an incitement to murder when it comes from a long-suffering wife.

### Hats Off to Mr. Justice Darling!

There were few women who did not read with sincere pleasure the result of the West case. To the woman who suffered unspeakable wrongs at her husband's hands, and whose silence was made use of by her father-in-law to hound her out of society, the sympathy of every woman who loves justice went out in no small measure. Life is very hard on women, and they bear too much and bear it too silently, and it is not every wronged woman who has Mr. Justice Darling to hear her case. We know the views of many of our judges on sex matters; the Divorce Commission was a revelation to us, and though the case in the form it was heard was not one for the Divorce Court, it might have been heard by a man prejudiced in sex matters who could have refused much of the evidence. As it was, one of the most kindly and humane men on the Bench, Sir Charles Darling, tried the case and justice was done in a thumping verdict for the plaintiff.

### Unemployed Women.

A scheme which has many points to commend it is the inauguration of cookery classes in connection with the unemployed workrooms for women. If while learning to cook the women were not deprived of the chance of making a little money in the workrooms, it seems a feasible idea. *The Morning Post* says of it:—

The Women's Work Committee of the Central (Unemployed) Body for London have for some time past had under consideration the advisability of instituting cookery classes in connection with their workrooms. Urgent representations were made by both the South London and Poplar Local Advisory Committees to the effect that classes of this kind would prove of great advantage to women, and, from inquiries made in the workrooms, it appears that a large percentage of the women would be glad of the opportunity of joining such classes. The committee are now making arrangements for early evening classes at the London County Council cookery centres nearest the workrooms, and will report later as to the progress made.

### A Humble Woman.

An astounding statement was made by the head-mistress of one of the London County Council schools at a prize-giving last week. She remarked that "The chief danger of the commercial competition in which women and girls were now forced to take part was the hardening of the character—the loss of that humility of mind and gentleness of manner which alone gave dignity to womanhood." We have had quite enough of this kind of thing in the past; humility of mind, when it is found in a woman who has to earn her own living, generally leads to an undervaluation of herself and the acceptance of starvation wages. If "hardening of character" means anything it means that the doormat woman is on the decrease, and that the realisation of the difference between what is just and what is unjust is becoming more common amongst women.

### Some Lurid Facts.

At a meeting of the Wolverhampton Trades Council last week some strange rates of payment came to light arising out of a discussion over the action of employers in dismissing girls because they had joined trade organisations. One of the male speakers declared it was a shame that they should start female workers at the paltry sum of 2s. a week. "As a body of workmen they in his trade," he said, "had nothing to grumble about on the score of male workers; they were one of the highest paid towns in the kingdom as male workers. But female workers were from 20 to 25 per cent. less than any other manufacturing towns. Wolverhampton was a low-paid town for female workers and child workers."

## PROPAGANDA.

### "Deeds, Not Words."

On February 6 we begin our King's Speech meetings throughout the country to work up public interest for the new protest campaign which is to be started if the Government does not recognise the imperative necessity of removing our political disabilities. For this we need the help and the enthusiastic support of every member. The country must be made to see the strength of the movement and the force to which it has developed. W. F. L. Parliaments, debates, lectures, drawing-room meetings, members' meetings, must be arranged everywhere, followed by open-air meetings, parades, and all the other methods of publicity which have helped our movement in the past. Action is needed; one recruit enlisted in the service of the cause and fighting valiantly is worth oceans of talk. There is no standing still, for if we cease advancing, we drift backwards as the world moves on.

### Next Sunday's Reception.

Every London member will be anxious to meet at Caxton Hall on Sunday, January 29, at 3 p.m., the Provincial delegates to the National Conference, and to learn what splendid work has been done up and down the country. Many of the W. F. L. branches have become local centres of brilliant progressive thought and action, not only destined to influence profoundly the national conscience, but to spiritualise and uplift their own immediate social and communal organisations. It is a wonderful thing to bring into the lives of thousands of people such creative ideas as the fundamental equality of rights for men and women, and the high ethical value and importance of their relation one to another. It is this which the branches of the W.F.L. are doing, and it is worth the while of every friend of progress to come to next Sunday's gathering.

### Municipal Canvassing.

Our enthusiastic and energetic colleague, Miss Madge Turner, reports as follows with regard to the Battersea canvass, which is progressing most satisfactorily:—"Any Suffragist knows that a policeman's lot is not a happy one, and when she is presented with a packet of canvassing cards and told gently but firmly by a determined organiser to 'Canvass that street, please,' she feels very much in sympathy with the policeman. She is, indeed, quite sure that her lot is not a happy one—just for the moment, at all events. Wishing herself well out of the work she has undertaken for 'the cause,' she goes forth armed with her canvassing cards, a pencil, and several last instructions from the organiser. Having arrived at the street—probably a rather dull, respectable side street, where the small houses have apparently been designed by someone who had left his sense of beauty and fitness of things at home when engaged on that particular piece of work—she regards the primness, the long rows of shut doors, and the general air of aloofness from such burning questions as Votes for Women with something like dismay. Then she takes her courage in both hands and knocks at the first door. Probably the lady is out. With a gasp of relief she goes on to the next. Here the lady doesn't hold with the Suffragettes, and before the canvasser has time to say a word, marks her disapproval of unladylike conduct by slamming the door in her face. Singularly enough this gives our canvasser distinct encouragement and she goes on to the next house very determined to state her case. Here perhaps she finds that the occupier is uncertain, or has never understood the reasons why women want votes, but is willing to listen, or perhaps is very sure that she ought to have a vote. After a while she finds herself growing interested as she goes from house to house; here all her sympathies are called for. There her sense of humour is brought into play; she finds herself gaining experience and looking forward to the next house with a sense of something like joyous adventure. At the end of the street she reckons

up gains and losses and finds that so far from canvassing being something terrible, it is work that is full of humour and interest, and she decides that she will do another street. She finds herself smiling over the queer ways and manners of the anti's, who are so often far more ill-mannered than the average bold, bad one who demands a vote; she recalls with a thrill of complacency how her arguments won over the gentle lady who thought that 'men should manage these things'; and remembers with pride the straightforward self-reliant women, who, though disapproving perhaps of the tactics and not altogether seeing the need for a vote, yet listened and argued, and finally signed the card in the affirmative. And she thinks sadly of the many who will not take any further action at all beyond a decided 'Thank you; I'm not at all interested,' their whole tone (and action as they endeavour to shut the door without being absolutely rude to her) implying that they have no intention of being interested. She goes home late, but convinced that for those interested in their own kind, who have a sense of humour and a love of the unexpected, there are far worse things than canvassing.

"This, at all events, has been the experience of canvassers in Battersea, where a good percentage of the women voters have declared themselves in favour of votes for women. The canvass also proves how wrong our democratic politician is when he declares that our demand is for a class of women and that class a rich one. Apart from this, the canvassing is a piece of good, solid work, which should have results which will help the work of our friends inside the House of Commons. If this canvass is properly carried out we shall have reliable information on many points. It is work, too, in which all Suffragists can engage, and they are cordially invited to do so. It is necessary work, it is hard work, but it is interesting work, and work where one can see at least some of the results of one's labours."

### London "At Homes."

Our Caxton Hall meetings continue to grow in popularity, and in helping to swell our members' lists. On Thursday, January 26, the speakers will be Mrs. Despard on "Woman and the Changing World," and Miss Manning on "What Lancashire Thinks To-day"; on February 2, Mrs. Despard and Surgeon-General Evatt, C.B.

## NATIONAL FUND.

### Branch and District Funds Not Included.

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Amount previously collected, October, 1907, to December, 1910—	11,595 3 2		
Balance Dec. 31, 1910	247 1 4		
Amount previously acknowledged (part of last list, from Jan. 1)	59 11 11		
Mrs. J. E. Snow	7 5 0	M. Mitchell, Esq.	0 5 0
Miss J. Ball	5 13 0	Miss Corben	0 10 0
Mrs. Fox-Bourne	3 3 0	Montgomery Borough:	
"A Friend"	8 0 0	Mrs. Busts	5 0 0
Miss A. Potter	1 0 0	Mrs. Scott	2 0 0
Miss F. E. Johnson	2 17 6	Miss Naylor	0 10 0
Mrs. Drysdale	1 0 0	Political and Militant Dept., per Mrs. How Martyn:	
Mrs. M. E. Thomas	2 0 0	Mr. and Mrs. Goodland How	1 0 0
Anonymous, P.A. form	0 2 0	Miss Shaxby, M.A.	1 0 0
Miss M. H. Saunders	0 2 6	F. Macpherson, Esq.	0 10 6
Mrs. F. E. Thomas	0 2 6	Mrs. Macpherson	0 5 0
Miss Boothby	0 1 0	Collected by Mrs. How	
Mrs. Harrison	0 2 6	Eurency	0 5 0
Miss Shaw	0 2 6	Tottenham Branch	0 5 0
Miss V. Antoniadis	0 1 0	Collected by Jack and Gene on Christmas Day	0 3 11
Mrs. Cops (collecting box)	0 1 11	Mrs. E. How	0 1 0
Mrs. H. Best	0 2 6	Collected in box	0 1 10
Mrs. W. Clark	0 1 0	Collections and Sales:	
Mrs. E. Richmond	0 1 0	London	13 6 6
"P.W." per Miss B. Spencer	0 1 0	Profit on Dance, Dec. 20	12 0 6
C.T. 6, per Miss Woolf	0 10 4	Welsh campaign and Montgomery	6 7 2
Branch Affiliation Fees:		Total	£392 16 11
Croydon	0 5 0		
Urmston	0 5 0		
Wolverhampton	0 5 0		
General Election:			
Miss M. E. Byham	5 0 0		

## THE IDEALS & FUTURE OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

### BY C. DESPARD. PART II.

Last week I spoke of the ideals put forward by our League. Democracy, which must include a large recognition of our place in the life of the community, and a keen sense of our responsibility towards our race. Tolerance, a frank and full statement of our own attitude, a wise setting forth of our own theories, with a calm acknowledgment of the indubitable fact that others may differ from us in opinion, and may present a different front to the world, without being necessarily misguided or untrue; in short, a practical acceptance of the truth which many of us proclaim in church—but unfortunately, nowhere else—that like sheep we can and do go astray. Democracy, then, good citizenship, tolerance, these we set before ourselves as ideals. The question is, have we, so far as we have gone, been true to them? Democracy first! It was said by Mazzini, one of the great masters and heroes of my youth, "the flag of Democracy is torn in many pieces, and one waves one fragment and one another, and all say that they have and hold Democracy." But, said he, Democracy is none of these. And he proceeded to give his definition, which to my mind is one of the clearest and noblest that has ever been put before us: "Democracy is the progress of all through all, under the guidance of the wisest and the best." In dealing with ourselves and our truth or untruth to our ideals, I will take the two words: Progress, Guidance.

Progress! Here I boldly and fearlessly maintain that from the platform of the Women's Freedom League, from its initiation until now, the one note has continually been sounded, Progress for all; an agony of longing for better conditions, larger possibilities for all, men, women, children, workers, sufferers from the injustices of Society—this has ever been behind our demand. To many, most of us, I believe, it means just that.

Bearing on this, I would point to the fact that we have amongst us women who have taken, and who are taking, a prominent part in public life as Poor Law Guardians, educationalists, social workers of many a different kind. These, these who, through their service, touch us most closely, know that in the Women's Freedom League there is no such thing as class. We are proud of this, that quiet, gallant, voluntary help is given to us constantly by those who have to earn their own living, often painfully, in the world outside. We maintain, with my master Mazzini, that no great advance will ever be made until the class block is removed, until "by all and for all" is our watchword. To this also the Women's Freedom League has been true.

Our constitution is democratic, and here I would remind my readers that democracy, like everything else that is great, needs learning. No doubt we have made mistakes, no doubt there have been misapprehensions. We have our own particular little fragment of the flag, and we cannot understand why the world does not follow it. This may have been the attitude of some. What I maintain is that as a body we have, up to this, been true to our democratic ideal of government.

I come to the second word, more difficult, I think, to interpret than the first: Guidance. As reason and intelligence—all that we include under the term mind—is necessary for the right ordering of the human body, so is guidance necessary for the groups of people who bind themselves together to effect a common purpose. That guidance should be given by those who are felt by their fellow members to be best fitted for the task. There must be a certain definite policy of action. That, too, must be agreed upon by the corporate body, after careful deliberation. Hence our conferences; hence our elections.

It may be necessary in a society, as in a nation, on a sudden and unexpected crisis, for an executive to act independently. They may even appear to depart from the exact words of resolutions. If such an executive is composed of members chosen by the

society, surely confidence should be reposed in them, at least until Conference meets and they are given the opportunity of explaining their reasons for their action, when it will remain for the society to decide whether or no they are worthy of further confidence. Unfortunately the conception of democracy entertained by some is that every individual member, or little group of members, has a right by criticism, which is often barren, to hamper an executive, occupy its time fruitlessly, and draw it away from its proper work. I am sure this idea, which, if persisted in, would lead to disintegration of any society, is not that entertained by the Women's Freedom League as a body.

Good citizenship! This I have given as the second of our ideals. Not only to obtain the right of citizenship, but to educate women in the duties of that high and noble calling we have ever put before ourselves as our object. I maintain that we lose no occasion of making this evident. Let anyone who may care to verify my statement look back over the past three years, and see what our work has been. The child, the mother, the home, industry, sanitation, Poor Law, education, child and girl labour, art and literature—all these have been shown to be women's questions, with which she cannot deal effectively until she has recovered her lost independence.

And tolerance! I wish we could all clearly realise that no one of us stands at exactly the same point, physically, mentally or morally, as anyone else. Your conscience, my readers, is not my conscience; my conscience is not yours. That may be sad for me, for, no doubt, some of you will say that I ought to have your conscience, which is the only right one. Unfortunately, perhaps, I cannot help myself. In the inner recesses of my being I know that to my own master I stand or fall. The point for each one of us is that we should obey our own master—our own highest voice. Looking back upon history, I believe that more spiritual tragedies have arisen from trying to act up to the conscience of those whom we feel to be above us than in falling lower than our own true level.

Could we all grasp this tolerance, the last and the noblest of virtues—that from which the great harmony is to spring would be easier of attainment.

Yet I do believe that, in the middle of many difficulties and dangerous pitfalls, we are holding up this ideal; also, we are, on the whole, true to it in our League. Neither the arrogance of the mere critic, who pulls a machine to pieces, and finds, in most cases, that it cannot be put together again, nor the humble submission of those who have not recognised their right to a conscience of their own do we require, but the calm survey of the whole situation, with the consequent resolve, "I am here, so help me God! And now I will remain until the inner voice bids me leave."

I think this spirit is in the League. I think there is no true member who is not ready, respecting her own responsibility of choice, to respect those whose

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choice may be different from her own. And now comes the question, do we deserve to go on, and, if we do, what is our future to be?

This, I fear, I must keep for another issue. Not the next, for I shall be too much occupied with work for the Conference, but for an early number afterwards.

### FREE OPINIONS FREELY EXPRESSED.

\* \* \* In this column we publish, as far as space permits, the views of our readers on any subject of interest to members without favour and without prejudice. Only matter coming within the scope of the law of libel will be barred. Letters intended for publication must be written on one side of the paper only, and authenticated by the name and address of the writer. It must be clearly understood, however, that we do not necessarily identify ourselves with the opinions so expressed.

#### Concerning Mrs. Billington-Greig's Resignation.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

DEAR MADAM,—It was with very real regret that I read in THE VOTE on Wednesday last of the resignation of Mrs. Billington Greig, and of her change of view which necessitated this course; also I am deeply grieved and concerned to learn that the Freedom League has in her opinion drifted away from the high ideals with which it started, and that the movement is no longer governed by reason and conviction, but has yielded itself up to emotion.

I must confess that I was not aware of any relaxation of ideals in the Freedom League. I have been deeply interested in the League for the last two years, and I have always held up the lofty ideals and high principles of the League when seeking to interest friends and others in the Suffrage movement. If this is really the case, cannot we of the Freedom League rise superior to the down-dragging forces around us? Surely we have not forgotten the great issues of which THE VOTE is but the symbol and key. I take it that the Freedom League does not exist for militancy, but that, when all other means have been tried and failed, revolutionary force is bound to be brought into operation; but now that Women's Suffrage has come within the range of practical politics, the need for militancy may not, and I trust will not again arise, but I think as a militant society we ought to be prepared for all eventualities. I refer to militant tactics with diffidence, not being in a position to offer my own services. I dare not advocate that which entails so much on others, but I know how to honour those others.

May I again say how sorry I am that Mrs. Billington Greig has found herself obliged to resign the work of the League, for many of us, I am sure, have learned to love and esteem her very highly for her brilliant qualities, political acumen, and logical reasoning, and also for her own sake?—I remain, yours sincerely,

JESSIE CAMERON  
(A Freedom Leaguer).

Cassioberry, 63, Constantine-road,  
Hampstead, N.W.

\* \* \* Other letters have had to be held over.—ED. THE VOTE.

#### CAXTON HALL "AT HOME."

There was a large gathering at the Caxton Hall "At Home" to hear Sir John Cockburn and Mrs. H. W. Nevinson, the speakers of the afternoon. Mrs. Villiamy was in the chair.

#### The New Parliament.

Mrs. Nevinson took "The New Parliament and Women's Vote" as her subject. She pointed out that in the new Parliament they had only 176 avowed enemies, which would be very good if they hadn't the same old Cabinet. She alluded to the fact that the Labour Members had a resolution on the agenda of their Conference that the power of the Cabinet be reduced.

Having dealt with some phases of the elections, Mrs.

Nevinson pointed out that a new disability for married women has been introduced in connection with the old age pensions. No married woman could receive outdoor relief unless her husband gave up his pension, and this notwithstanding the paeans of praise legislators poured on the married women when it suited them. She wondered that any women had the pluck to get married at all.

#### Women Under the Southern Cross.

Sir John Cockburn, who took as his text, "Women under the Southern Cross," said that it was like a reincarnation to find himself facing precisely the same problems here which they had in Australia sixteen or seventeen years ago. He spoke of the many excellent laws which had been due to the women's vote in Australia. The age of consent had been raised and the action of the Children's Courts expanded.

To those who thought it would take a long time for a woman to exercise her vote he had found by calculation that it did not take the thousandth part of the time spent by women in the ball-room.

#### THE AMERICAN MAN ON SUFFRAGE.

If we are to judge by the frightened and deprecating tone of an article in *Harper's* written by an American man, women in America are going ahead.

#### Man's Business.

"Man's business, as it concerns woman, is to provide, in so far as lies in him, that she shall not regret being born into this world a woman and not a man. His concern is to see that she has, in so far as he can manage it, as full and satisfying a life as he has himself, a life unlike his, but not less richly endowed than his, with the opportunity for full development. That responsibility man in ordinary circumstances takes with a good deal of philosophy, being much disposed to get all he can, and let woman help herself to such a share of it as she is inclined to convert to her use.

#### Making Man Uneasy.

"This method seems to work pretty well. I think the great majority of American women are still as nearly satisfied with it as they hope to be with things in this world. But a very considerable fraction of them in England and a very active, if not a considerable, fraction of them here (America) insist nowadays that their life is not so full nor their opportunities as ample as they should be, and that they won't be until woman gets the right to vote. This disposition, when it has gone on long enough and been expounded with sufficient vigour on enough platforms and in enough newspapers, tends after a while to make man a bit uneasy, and brings him into the condition of continually taking stock of himself and his belongings to see what he has got that woman wants, and whether he has got enough—whether there is enough in life—to satisfy her.

#### The Price of Women's Co-operation.

"For every wise man knows that one of the things most worth while is to command the active, willing, and intelligent co-operation of women in the management of human affairs. He must have it. There is no price, consistent with human progress, and the persistence of humanity, that is too great for him to pay for it. If woman ought to have an immediate, instead of an indirect, share of political power, of course it is only a matter of time when American women will have it. In the long run, nothing that they want is going to be denied them that is in the gift of American men."

#### LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

##### "The Awakening."

In last week's issue it was erroneously stated that the Suffrage National Anthem is written in the key of G Major; it is written in D Major. As this song is to be sung at all large meetings, members are advised to learn it, in order to be able to join in.

Some Calendars for 1911 still remain.

## DR. ETHEL SMYTH ON WOMEN IN ORCHESTRAS.

To Dr. Ethel Smyth, the first woman Mus. Doc., and the first also to produce an opera (*The Wreckers*) in England, is due the credit of discovering and introducing women in first-class orchestra. Always a feminist, Dr. Smyth recently became a strong Suffragist, and at the Women-Writers' Suffrage matinee at the Little Theatre, which takes place as we go to press (Tuesday, 24th), she agreed to conduct her well-known "Four Songs with Orchestra." It occurred to her, she told a representative of THE VOTE, that she would have a woman flautist and percussionist for the occasion, though in first-class orchestras a woman performing on either of these instruments was hitherto unheard of. Accordingly she applied to her agent—a very well-known man who, like all first-class agents, only had first-class instrumentalists on his lists.

"I gave him four days to find me a first-class woman flautist and percussionist," said Dr. Smyth, "and at the end of the time he told me in perfect good faith that there was no such thing. I myself had never come across a woman playing anything but the harp—which is regarded as an eminently lady-like instrument—in first-class orchestras, and I would have accepted his verdict as final had I not meanwhile mentioned what I was looking for to a Suffragist who was also a musician, and she put me into communication with two women flautists and two or three women percussionists."

"Have women never before played anything but the harp in orchestra?"

"Yes, but not in first-class orchestra. You have never seen a woman, for example, playing in the Symphony Orchestra?"

"No. One's idea of a woman playing a wind instrument is that she would be a very ugly sight with puffing cheeks."

Dr. Smyth laughed. "That's all nonsense," she said; "come and see my flautist to-morrow at the Little Theatre or at the Queen's Hall in April, and see how pretty she looks playing her flute. There is absolutely no reason why women should not play every instrument in the orchestra."

"But is it possible that a woman could be as good as a man on a wind instrument?"

"I have proved that. My flautist is as good as the best man I have yet heard, and when she can play my music she can play anything."

"Is it very difficult?"

"Very difficult and very modern. The male flautists who played these songs have always grumbled at me, but my girl flautist didn't grumble or growl; she just plunged into her score and conquered it without any complaints. And a woman who could play it could play anything."

(The amateurs who have rashly attempted Dr. Smyth's music will echo her frankly-expressed opinion of it.)

"You think, then, that women have a big future before them in first-class orchestra?"

"I'm absolutely certain of it, and I'm prepared

to stand by my beliefs in the concert I am giving at the Queen's Hall in the spring."

"But won't the effect be thinner—feebler—"

Dr. Smyth stopped the doubter summarily. "To make a big noise you don't need muscle," she said. "You need nervous intensity. A woman singing can make quite as much noise as a man, and there is absolutely no reason why she shouldn't do the same when playing a wind instrument. She might find some difficulty with a large bass tuba; it would take a big woman to play it, as it does a big man at present, but it is quite possible of accomplishment. A 'contralto' physique like Clara Butt would find it quite easy."

"And you think, then, that there is here hitherto undiscovered ground for the woman musician?"

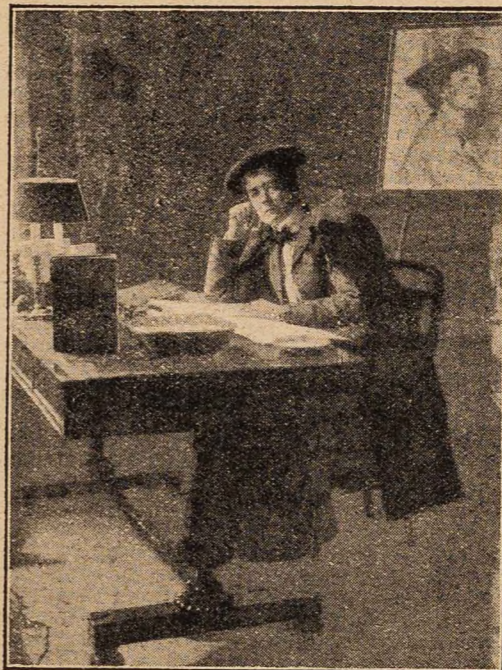
"I do. In a year or two you will find the woman instrumentalist a recognised feature in first-class orchestra. No doubt an agency will be started for first-class women instrumentalists, and when they have

got over the doubts and prejudices that prevail when anything new is tried, they will be found quite as good in first-class music as men. Hitherto they have not been given their opportunity."

Before departing, her questioner asked Dr. Smyth when and why she became a Suffragist.

"The militants converted me," she said. "I was always a believer in women, but somewhat diffident in my belief in the Suffragists. When I saw 400 women who were ready to pay personally for their convictions by going to prison I became a strong believer in the demand for women's enfranchisement. I don't think you would easily find 400 men who would go to prison for an idea—no matter how sound their belief in it."

M. O. KENNEDY.



Killett and Fry, Ba'er street.

DR. ETHEL SMYTH.

(Sargent's drawing of Dr. Smyth is shown in the background.)

#### DEFEAT OF MME. CURIE.

Madame Curie was defeated for the vacant *fauteuil* in the Academy of Sciences at the election held last Monday, 23rd inst. Her competitor was M. Branly, of wireless telegraphy fame. Madame Curie's record is a remarkable one, and her claims to a seat in the Institute were recognised as very strong. After taking the Licence-es-Sciences Physiques and the Licence-es-Sciences Mathématiques in 1893 and 1894, she became a Doctor of Physical Science in 1903 and Lecturer on General Physics at the Paris Faculty of Sciences in 1906. In 1909 she was appointed Professor of General Physics to that Faculty. She is a member of the Royal Institution of Great Britain and of many foreign scientific societies. For her researches on the magnetic properties of the industrial varieties of iron and steel and the emission of uranic rays, and for the discovery of polonium, she was awarded the Geger Prize in 1898, a prize which she won again in 1902. In 1903 she shared the Nobel Prize with her husband and M. Becquerel. In collaboration with her husband she discovered radium, and her original researches in radio-activity have attracted world-wide attention.

## THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., Ltd., 148, Holborn Bars.  
Secretary—Miss M. E. RIDLER.  
Directors—Mrs. C. DESPARD, Mrs. E. HOW MARTYN, B.Sc.,  
Miss MARIE LAWSON, Mrs. J. E. SNOW, Mrs. L. THOMSON-PRICE.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 1911.

### WOMAN ARTICULATE.

It took centuries to consolidate the idea of free speech; its evolution was slow and at times sanguinary. It has up to the present been more or less a male right, but only male by the principle of occupation. True, Queen Elizabeth told her Parliament that they only had the right to say "Yea" and "Nay," but recent historians have been at some pains to prove that the lady was a man, and that her articulation was the triumphant bellowing of the super-man. The right of free speech is gradually becoming discredited; as men misused their right of public utterance they have gradually found its power diminishing. To-day we see the politician no longer believed; we see his own constituents keeping their eye on him. Free speech has not grown to mean the triumph of truth; it has, owing to the fact that it was confined to one sex, come to be synonymous with the growth of subtlety, and the triumph of the party machine at the expense of the electorate. We find it stated in a leader in Monday's *Daily Telegraph*, apropos of the stream of mutual undervaluation that has taken place between Mr. Montagu and Mr. Balfour, that "the best that can be looked for in these days is an absence of studied unfairness in the shape of deliberate calculated misrepresentation of an opponent's case." It is a paradoxical tribute to free speech that this condition of political morality can be publicly voiced at a moment when Parliament is about to take over once more the business of the country; but it is a monstrous condemnation of the inadequacy of limited free speech when we find it further stated:

There has been far too much of that (*i.e.*, misrepresentation) in recent elections, the reason probably being due to the assumption that the electorate is easily gullible, that its ignorance even of the broad principles of the leading questions at issue is profound, and that elections are usually lost and won not so much on principles as on prejudices.

This is on the part of a journal which has been regarded, both by friend and foe, as the fairest reflector of public opinion in the country a frank acknowledgment that the electorate as at present constituted is easily gullible, is ignorant, and can be fooled to the top of its bent by playing to its prejudices. The acknowledgment, made more in sorrow than in anger, is not a charge against the Radicals—the usual militant objective of this organ—but a frank statement of the electoral conditions of the country, and of the misuse of freedom of utterance.

Beside these men, who are some of them foolishly articulate and others of them craftily so, is a large majority of women who have suffered for a long time from the suppression of their opinions. Those men who have had the power of speech have declared that they would represent them. But they have not done so, and the misrepresentation has been not so much on the part of the electorate as on that of their representatives. The duty of the electors is to elect—of the representatives to represent. The former, as at present constituted, have performed their function. The latter have shirked theirs; they have delegated their powers to a caucus, they have consented to a Cabinet control so autocratic, so personal, that it is a menace not alone to the right government of this country, but to that of every colonial parliament, and the parliament of every other country which desire to become the prototypes of Great Britain. The Government has become a vast advertising machine for certain individuals, and it is only by succumbing to their individualism that the ordinary citizen has any measure of sound granted to him.

To counteract this misuse of free speech, and to mitigate the wilful denial of representation to one sex in the community, and the gradual misrepresentation of various sections of the electorate, it is increasingly necessary that women be heard. Their enforced silence has caused them to be misunderstood in other ways than in actual legislation, and this misunderstanding has reacted in legislation by a misrepresentation that has now become deliberate. Much of the misrepresentation of women is due to the playwright and the novelist of the past, who have depicted women as concentrating on their emotions, and finding in erotic and domestic sensibilities the business of their lives; while the man is usually depicted as reserving the display of his emotions for his spare time. In reality there is little or no difference in the attitude of the sexes in this matter, which is a more or less unimportant incident in the struggle for daily bread. The principle of good government is to make for every unit in the State this struggle easier, and incidentally to protect the weak against the evilly strong; this specialisation in protection is represented by the police.

Labour has slowly won its right to be politically articulate; at first the frock-coated and tall-hatted men of the richer classes "barked" for the dumb dog without consulting the dog. Then Labour became more or less perfectly represented as the franchise qualification was broadened for men, and the well-dressed man had to consult the workman—and then arrived the day when the dumb dog claimed not only his right to bark, but to bite for himself, and came to represent himself at Westminster.

As yet we are only at the first stages of political articulation, but it looks as if with the late-comer—Labour—we shall presently be struggling for a portion of time in the first session. It is expected that the preamble to the Veto Bill, unsatisfactory as it is to many in the Liberal ranks, and affording as it does opportunities for Conservative sword-play, will be dropped, and as the Bill itself is the only Government measure for which the session has been ear-marked, there will undoubtedly be time to spare. On this time we have prior claims. The Labour party are clamouring for early time for the reversal of the Osborne decision, but our demands are older than theirs, and should be given the first free time of this session. It is with grave fears that we see measures involving such vast expenditure as Invalidity and Unemployment Insurance and Payment of Members destined for early Government attention; these measures involve the expenditure of large sums on men. The former should be carefully watched by working women, who, if it is taken before the question of female enfranchisement is settled, may be expected to find themselves treated with scant justice. The latter is a Bill of which few women can speak without great anger until a measure to include them is inserted in the Statute Book; if it passes it means that they will have to pay the men who are voting against them—a state of affairs Gilbertian and grotesque, and infinitely unjust.

We await the reading of the King's Speech with considerable doubts, fears and hopes.

Our hope is that Mr. Asquith may find it expedient to remove his veto. His Majesty the King paid our sex a signal honour when he named Queen Mary as Regent, though he had a near male relative with strong claims. The time for the Coronation is not far off, and it is the desire of the nation at large that the representatives from the colonies and distant countries coming over for this historic occasion shall see England at her best and at peace. For his own honour, and for the honour of the country which the Cabinet feigns to love and cherish, it is the duty of Mr. Asquith to keep the promise that he has made. Let him give the power of political speech to women of the country in this first session, so that when the great pageant of Empire unfolds, it will not appear that, while every man has a voice, the women will only have a cry.

MARY O. KENNEDY.

### BRANCH NOTES.

**NATIONAL OFFICES, LONDON.**—1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.

**Anerley and Crystal Palace District.**—149, Croydon-road. We shall be glad of volunteers for selling THE VOTE, as we want to start new pitches. Several casual buyers have become regular subscribers, and THE VOTE is now sold at most of the news-agents in the neighbourhood.

**Tottenham.**—Miss MARIE SIMS, 3, Elmhurst-road, Bruce-grove, N.

Branch meeting at 91, Mount Pleasant-road, February 2, at 7.30 p.m. Will members remember this is last date for sending in things for Jumble Sale?

**Stamford Hill.**—Mrs. A. CUNNINGHAM, 114, Holmleigh-road. A very large gathering listened with great interest to Miss Guttridge, B.Sc., at West Hackney Church, on Monday evening last. But owing to the very inclement weather the attendance on Wednesday evening at Miss Fenning's meeting at Oldhill-street was very small. Unfortunately, also, the extreme cold prevented Mrs. Wheatley from speaking at any great length at Amhurst-park on Friday evening, and for the same reason the audience could not adequately appreciate her very interesting address. Mr. Hammond kindly made a few remarks at the opening and close of the meeting.

The sale of THE VOTE at the Cazenove-road pitch is increasing. Notwithstanding fog and cold no unfriendly remarks were passed, and refusals to buy were characterised by much good humour.

We are in communication with the secretaries of the various neighbouring branches with regard to their joining up with us in the whist drive and dance on Wednesday evening, February 1.

**Central London.**—Mrs. TRITTON, 1, Northcote-avenue, Ealing.

Our meeting at the Bijou Theatre on Tuesday, January 17, was most successful.

Miss Olive Terry kindly welcomed our friends, and Mrs. Cope sang "The Awakening," the new Suffrage song, by Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

The audience seemed much interested in the speeches of our chairman (Miss Benett) and Miss Muriel Matters, the latter taking as her theme "The Child."

Miss Dorothy Spencer and her band of indefatigable stewards were most successful in selling literature, and the collection amounted to £1 6s. 1d.

At the Branch meeting prior to this Miss Ethel Fennings made an earnest appeal for more VOTE sellers.

Our next public meeting will be held at the Bijou Theatre, at 8 p.m. on the 31st, when Miss Seruya will be the hostess, with the Hon. Mrs. Haverfield in the chair, and the speaker will be Mr. G. E. O'Dell.

The Branch Committee will meet at 7 p.m. before the public are admitted.

As we cannot have the Bijou Theatre in February and March, the remainder of our series of public meetings will be held elsewhere, and will always be notified in THE VOTE. E. G. T.

**LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.**—Hon. Organiser: MISS MANNING, B.A., Harper-hill, Sale, Cheshire.

The Manchester, Chester and Waterloo Branches have held special committees this week, when the plans submitted by the N.E.C. were discussed and enthusiastically adopted. The organiser was present in each case, and Mrs. Hanlin (Manchester), Miss Woodall (Chester), and Mrs. Bates (Waterloo) very kindly lent their drawing-rooms for these meetings.

**Urmston.**—Miss M. HUDSON, "Oaklands," Flixton.

On Friday, January 20, Miss Manning lectured on Florence Nightingale in Hughenden Hall. The lecture, which was illustrated by lantern slides, was well attended, and the Branch may congratulate itself on the very thorough manner in which the advertising was carried out. Special thanks are due to the following members who undertook the work: Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Spafford Jones, Mrs. Beanland, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Griffiths, the Misses O'Brien, Miss M. Hudson, Miss Wright, and Miss Horsfall; to Mr. Allen and Mr. Webb, who managed the lantern; and to Miss Turner, whose house-to-house collection on Thursday night substantially augmented Friday's "takings."

The next meeting will be held in the room over Wills' shop, Flixton-road, on Friday, February 3, the speaker to be announced next week.

**Salisbury.**—Miss GILLER, "Thornlea," Wardle-road.

This Branch has been busy preparing for the Whist Drive on Monday next, and much visiting has been accomplished by the committee.

On Monday, January 30, we shall start a series of fortnightly lectures on women's questions with an address on "Childhood Suffrage, a plea for the free development of the child," by Miss Janet Hayes, which will be of special interest to teachers.

The following friends have also promised their services: P. T. Johnstone, Esq., on "Feeding of Necessitous School Children" (February 13); Miss Manning on "Shakespeare's Women," with dramatic illustrations by the Misses Bessie and Ruth Manning (March 13); Nurse Woodall on "Medical Inspection of School Children" (March 27). The meetings will take place in the Temperance Rooms, Cross-street, and members are asked not only to come themselves, but to bring friends. Discussion is invited.

**Eccles.**—Miss J. HEYES, "Newholme," Hazelhurst, Worsley.

A Jumble Sale was held in the King-street Mission, Eccles, on Saturday afternoon. The amount realised has not yet come to hand, but will be announced in next week's VOTE.—M. E. MANNING.

**EAST ANGLIA.**—Hon. Organiser: MISS ANDREWS, 160, Norwich-road, Ipswich.

**Ipswich.**—Miss ANDREWS, 160, Norwich-road.

This week we have welcomed Miss Munro to Ipswich. On Monday she addressed a Branch meeting, and everyone was very interested in hearing of work which is likely to be very effective in the near future. Miss Cooke presided; we have lately welcomed her to our Branch, and already she has been helpful to us.

The open-air meetings have been well attended and Miss Munro has gained the attention of many of the inhabitants of Ipswich who cannot be induced to attend an indoor meeting. Will friends kindly remember the Jumble sale. Thanks for goods received, but we still want more.

**Hadleigh.**—Miss MATTHEWS, 21, Fir-tree-terrace.

On Tuesday evening, January 17, a meeting was held at the Co-operative Hall, presided over by Mr. Bastian. Miss Matthew, the secretary of the Branch, assisted by Miss Wythe, had decorated the hall most effectively. Miss Munro delivered a stirring speech which gave much pleasure to the audience. Mrs. Bastian, the president of the Branch, and Mrs. Heard both contributed to the success of the meeting. Miss Marshall sent from South Africa a message of congratulation and encouragement, and also a substantial contribution.

At the close of the public meeting a members' meeting was held, presided over by Miss Andrews. Miss Munro told those present of the schemes that are in hand and received many promises of help. Three new members were recorded, making the number up to 27.

**Felixstowe.**

Mrs. Milano is carrying on the work in Felixstowe, and hopes soon to form a Branch there. Will friends who wish to join send in their names to her? Her address is, St. Michael's, Cornwall-road.—CONSTANCE E. ANDREWS, Hon. Organiser.

**Lowestoft Women's Suffrage Society.**—Hon. Sec., Mrs. PONDER, Waldo Cottage, Oulton Broad.

On Thursday afternoon, January 19, an invitation meeting was held at the Royal Hotel, Lowestoft, by the Lowestoft Women's Suffrage Society. It was in every way successful. Dr. Mary Bell, of Norwich, presided, and in her remarks mentioned the difficulties that women had to overcome before being allowed to enter the medical profession.

Mrs. How Martyn, who met with a hearty reception, spoke eloquently to a highly appreciative audience. Many of those present had not heard a speaker on the subject of Women's Suffrage before. Some dozens of THE VOTE met with a ready sale. A member of the local society, having kindly undertaken to meet all expenses, the entire collection was handed to the treasurer of the society to be used for further propaganda.

**Sittingbourne.**

A most successful debate was held in Trinity Hall on Friday last, when Miss Ethel Fennings gave the case for "Votes for Women."

The opener, Mr. De Winton, moved the following resolution, "That it is not in the interests of the country that the Parliamentary franchise be granted to women."

After an animated discussion, in which Miss Laura Ainsworth and several men took part, the resolution was put to the vote and lost by a very large majority. The Rev. Eyre Kidson made an efficient chairman.

Our hearty thanks are due to Mrs. Robinson for her kind hospitality, and to Mr. Frank Peters, who has proved himself in so many ways such a friend to the cause. On polling day last December he drove round in a cart with the W.F.L. colours flying, and this time generously had bills printed to advertise the debate, and also sent round a hand cart decorated in green, white and gold, which attracted much attention.

A good many copies of THE VOTE were sold, and every one expressed themselves very pleased with the evening and its results.

**The Church League for Women's Suffrage.**

On Monday, January 30, at 6 p.m., there will be evensong for members of the Church League at St. George's, Bloomsbury (Hart-street, W.C.), followed by an address at 6.30 by the Rev. H. E. Ollivier, Vicar of St. James', Croydon. The annual public reception takes place the same evening at 8 p.m., at the Caxton House Restaurant, Tothill-street, Westminster (Station, St. James's Park); tickets, 1s. each (including refreshments), should be applied for as soon as possible, and may be obtained from the offices or from any of the branch secretaries. Speeches will begin at 9.30; chairman, the Hon. Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G.; speakers, Miss A. Maude Royden, Miss Frances Sterling, and others. Tickets (prices 1s. 6d. and 1s., reserved seats) can now be obtained for the Steinway Hall meeting on February 17. Other meetings which will shortly be held are as follows:—Hampstead branch, 3, Belsize-avenue, February 3; public meeting at Hove, February 20; drawing-room meeting of Richmond and Kew branch, Clengarrif, Richmond, February 21; public meeting, Greenwich, March 6.

## SCOTTISH NOTES.

Glasgow: Suffrage Centre, 502, SAUCIEHALL STREET.  
Suffrage Centre Manageress: MISS K. McARTHUR.  
Hon. Secretary: MISS B. S. SEMPLE.  
Hon. Treasurer: MISS JANET L. BUNTEN.  
Telegrams: "Tactics," Glasgow. Nat. Telephone: 495 Douglas.  
Edinburgh.

Hon. Secretary, Miss A. B. JACK, 21, Buccleuch-place.  
Hon. Treasurer, Miss M. A. WOOD, 67, Great King-  
street. Hon. Shop Secretary, Mrs. THOMSON, 39,  
Rosslyn-crescent.

There was a good attendance at the branch meeting on Wednesday evening, when a most interesting paper on "The Party System of Government" was read by Miss J. M. Marshall. After tracing the development of the system, the speaker discussed some of the reasons for believing that its usefulness as a means of government is coming to an end, and some of the plans that have been suggested for getting over the difficulty. It was pointed out that the women, who have broken away from party on a question of principle, are not likely ever to make a fetish of party as do so many of the men at present.

Very good speakers have been secured for the forthcoming afternoon "At Homes," and it is hoped that the attendance will be good. On the 31st Miss Stinton has kindly promised to provide a "Hot Scone Tea." Come and bring your friends.  
HELEN McLACHLAN, Assistant Secretary.

## THE CENTRAL BRANCH MEETING.

At the public meeting held by the Central London Branch of the Women's Freedom League at the Bijou Theatre, on January 17, Miss Bennett, who was in the chair, took as the text of her opening remarks Tennyson's lines:—

The old order changeth, yielding place to new,  
And God reveals Himself in many ways.

"Our temptations," she said, "are great and manifold, but our opportunities are great, too. One thing we have to guard against, and that is—our Cause becoming a Cause which we expect to be always with us. There may be many in this room who belong to other Causes; they may know when those Causes began, but they certainly do not know when they will finish. The Suffrage Cause got into a rut before the militant movement began, and it is perhaps in some danger of getting into a rut again.

We might take as our models those cloistered nuns I have heard, who sing behind a veil, behind a grille, without any men's voices to help them. Those who hear the beautiful music hurry out afterwards to see the nuns as they pass, but they never know which of them it is who has the most beautiful voice of all."

Miss Muriel Matters dealt with some phases of the problem of the child:—

## "Fallen Children."

There is another problem which is making a stronger appeal to us than even the question of the feeding of the child. In last Monday week's *Times* a letter appeared, signed by Canon Newbolt of St. Paul's, in which he called upon Christian people to help to support a Home for Fallen Children. He went on to say that there were over 1,500 children every year in this Home. These were little girls between the ages of seven and sixteen. The very title "Fallen Children" is one which, as a woman, I resent very much indeed. Everyone presupposes that, if a person falls, they have been in a position to stand or fall. Canon Newbolt does not suggest any remedy; he simply calls upon people to keep this Home going. The next morning a letter appeared from a woman. She admitted that there was a need for this Home, but she went on to say that the State which makes it punishable to allow a child to fall into the fire should also make it impossible for people to offend against children in that way. That letter was signed by Mrs. Bramwell Booth. It is estimated that there are 30,000 children in Great Britain to-day who ought at once to be taken charge of by the State. We know by the Children's Charter and other Acts that there is a need for the State to father the child. As far as we can see they have not been at all inclined to take the responsibility from off the parents' shoulders of these 30,000 children. These 30,000 children are practically a crop of future criminals, loafers and outcasts, and some are already degraded—those 1,500 between the ages of

seven and sixteen. We have this army of 30,000, who are, in their turn, to father the future race.

## The Remedy.

We ask, as practical women, how are we to find a remedy? Would you relieve the parents of parental responsibility, and would you pauperise the children? Yes, my friends, we would relieve those parents of parental responsibility now, rather than allow this thing to go on, rather than let these children in their turn become parents when they ought not to be. We say that it would be better, and cheaper, to deal with the children now, than to deal with them later, when we shall have to, in the reformatory. By dealing with the child, we fit that child to take care of himself or herself. It is a remarkable thing that in this human race of ours there is not the feeling for the future that there is among the ants and the bees; they work as a community. And so we say that for these moral lepers you should have your colonies. In order to do this we have got to mould public opinion.

## 50,000 Child Tramps.

There are children on tramp with their parents in this country to the number of over 5,000, wandering from town to town, from city to city. There are also children who are known to be living in immoral surroundings. When we ask, Cannot something be done? we are told at once, The Acts of Parliament concerning children are failures; the matter is for the Education Authority, it does not come within the province of the police. Then again the public says, Will it cost us anything? Yes. Are we obliged to do it? No. They consider that the putting out of money now to save these children is going to make the parents paupers, and is going to make the rates rise. We maintain that it is better to provide for these children, and to take them from their parents now, than to have to maintain them later, to have them growing up to be thieves and prostitutes. Some of them are already "fallen children," and sometimes the offender is their own father. We maintain, therefore, that these individuals are lepers, just moral lepers. They are so tainted that it is the duty of the State to take and segregate them. One of the Chief Constables in a Welsh county says he wishes he could do something to rescue these children. The magistrates are dead set against relieving the parents of their responsibility, and the rates must not go up, they say.

## The Value of a Child.

A child at birth is worth £12 to the State, a skilled mechanic is worth £200. It is obvious that the country, if it is to be relieved of the burden of these children, must take an interest in them. We say that to rescue them is to make them an asset instead of a burden to the State. Of course, we women are not supposed to understand imperial questions, but it seems to us that this is the most imperial of questions. You would not be able to have war unless you had the rank and file of the army.

There is no hope for these 30,000 children if they are left to become failures in life; they will in their turn probably give birth to 60,000.

## Justice—Not Charity.

We have got every one of us to help to mould public opinion on that point, to deal adequately with the situation. We say, we are done with charity, we want justice; and we must see to it that we get it. It is, I believe, the biggest problem that we are faced with to-day, the future of the race, when you realise how these children are brought into the world, unwanted and unloved, and, having come, are subject, not only to being ill-fed and ill-housed, but to these horrors as well. Woman can open the way, or can bar it. She can decide individually whether she will bring children into the world under unfair conditions; and, mark you, that is coming—the time is coming when women will decide—when they will decide what children shall be born and in what conditions those children shall be born; and I believe that when women really awaken to the fact that they are the guardians and custodians of the future race, they will do their duty.

AMERICA'S PHILOSOPHER AND THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT.  
QUOTATIONS AND AN APPRECIATION.

To the women of the Progressive movement in their strenuous fight for political liberty, and in the midst of their endeavours after a fuller realisation of themselves, it may prove not only interesting, but inspiring, to read of a lecture, delivered fifty-five years ago, before the Women's Rights Convention, Boston, U.S.A.

The lecturer was that great and original thinker and poet, Ralph Waldo Emerson; and to those who have endured, what is perhaps hardest of all to endure, the taunts and gibes of the unreasonable and the arrogant, his words may prove a veritable benediction.

The lecture weighs the strength and weakness of our sex, and does not fail to point out the probable inconveniences and disadvantages which may result from the prominence of our new position. The weakness of Emerson's style lies in his incapacity for sequence—for symmetry. As a critic has it: "It is difficult to assay and appraise him by quotation." I mention this in the hope that any who are unfamiliar with his writings may overlook the defects of my interpretation, its apparent disjointedness, and want of continuity.

The opening of the lecture describes the nature of the movement, succinctly, as "sporadic," and conveys a powerful reproof to the scoffers and decriers of its fundamental principles in the words, "None (no subject) is more seriously interesting to every healthful and thoughtful mind." With consummate art the lecturer at once reveals his reverential attitude towards the sex, and his rare knowledge, his true comprehension of the innate divergencies between man and woman.

"They are more delicate than men, delicate as iodine to light, and thus more impressionable—"

"As more delicate mercuries of the imponderable and immaterial influences what they say and think is the shadow of coming events."

That which is so often the subject of jest and scorn among "reasonable men" is here delineated so truly, so incomparably, that ridicule must be transmuted into admiration. His acknowledgment of man's inherent faculty for reasoning casts no aspersion on, conveys no hint of inferiority in, "woman the intuitive." "They learn so fast, and convey the result to fast, as to outrun the logic of their slow brother and make his acquisition poor."

Sentiment in women has been accounted to them for weakness; not so by Emerson. He asserts that in the magnanimity of their affections, in their love and devotion, lies their strength:—

"The same mental height, which their husbands attain by toil, they attain by sympathy with their husbands."

In Emerson's opinion woman's organic office in the world is the part they play in education, in care of the young, and tuition of older children. By reason of their sympathy, taste, fine organisation, and love of details, they are the born imparters of knowledge: the inestimable "mediators between those who have knowledge and those who want it." And there is an art in which they can excel—the art of "wise, cultivated, genial conversation," which is the "last flower of civilisation and the best result which life has to offer us—a cup for gods which has no repentance." In conversation and in all the usages of social life, in the many ceremonies peculiar to our intercourse, and in the courtesies of our race, woman is the presiding genius. She gives beauty, form, and colour, he says, to the "ritual of manners."

Society, conversation, decorum, flowers, dances,  
Colours, forms, are their homes and attendants.

In such beautiful words Emerson has realised and expressed the power and influence of woman in this "department of taste and comeliness."

Their religious character, which is intensified by their "sequestration from affairs, and from the injury

to the moral sense which affairs often inflict" is commented on, and the fact that in every remarkable religious development in the world women have taken a leading part.

In this relation Emerson mentions, among other progressive steps in their history, the establishment of the equality of the sexes in the discipline of the Quakers, and in a later sect intervention of one elder and one elderess being made essential to the transaction of business.

It has been common to describe women as victims of temperament. Emerson agrees that "men are not to the same degree temperamentally," but argues that this has been made the subject of too much ridicule, and from "Aristophanes and Rabelais down to English comedy, Tennyson, and the American newspapers," it is cheap wit, in his opinion, that has been expended on this subject. "These were all," he adds, "drawings of morbid anatomy and such satire as might be written on the tenants of a hospital or an asylum for idiots."

In his summing up he meets the arguments, which are to-day the old and well-worn weapons of the "anti's," and combats them sensibly and effectually. He cannot understand anyone finding it "droll that women should vote." If in a cultivated society of both sexes there should be no difficulty or absurdity in deciding any question of taste or right, "There should be none," says he, "in a hundred companies if you educate them and accustom them to judge."

He boldly takes his stand on the side of the women, and is convinced that the points most vital to him would be sooner brought to a successful issue if women voted.

On laws regulating government, imprisonment, capital punishment, and the liquor question, &c., he credits them with as intelligent a use of electoral power as present voters. He considers "their not knowing the world, and aiming at abstract right without allowing for circumstances" a qualification; for "if the wants, the passions, the vices are allowed a full vote through the hands of a half-brutal, intemperate population, I think it but fair," he expresses himself, "that the virtues, the aspirations, should be allowed a full vote, as an off-set, through the purest part of the people." The objection that in political ways lies contamination carries in it, to Emerson's mind, the condemnation of our existing politics.

There was no great demand in those days amongst women for an equal share in public affairs; but he announced that when that demand came, the women, and not the men, were to determine it; and according to the Teutonic principle:—

"No representation, no tax"; if votes were refused them then must they be exempt from taxation.

"Let the laws be purged of every barbarous remainder, every barbarous impediment to women," and

"The aspirations of this century will be the code of the next," were his prophetic words.

Emerson paid homage to the "true woman, the adorer, the hospitable, the religious heart," and yet he believed it impossible to separate the interests and education of the sexes. He proclaimed that every fair mind would entertain and respect new opinions "according to their reasonableness and not according to their convenience or their fitness to shock our customs."

The closing words of Ralph Waldo Emerson's lecture are full of the gospel of hope:—"The new movement is only a tide shared by the spirits of man and woman; and you may proceed in the faith that whatever the woman's heart is prompted to desire the man's mind is simultaneously prompted to accomplish."

BRENDA MURRAY DRAPER.

### OF INTEREST TO SUFFRAGISTS.

At the meeting of the Cabinet Council last week special attention was paid to Mr. Winston Churchill by the Suffragists who assembled in the vicinity of Downing-street. The canard about Mr. Birrell's knee was repeated by *The Westminster Gazette*, which said: "Mr. Birrell has not yet entirely recovered from his encounter with the Suffragettes. It was apparent to-day that the knee trouble was still giving pain to the Secretary for Ireland."

\* \* \*

A suffrage plebiscite of women householders and ratepayers in York resulted in a majority signing in favour of Vote. The canvass was carried out by the York Branch of the N.U.W.S.S. in three wards.

\* \* \*

An interesting story of what might be described as indiscriminate male suffrage and how it can affect an election was recently told by a lady who had lived at Port Elizabeth, Cape Colony, some years ago. When she was living there, she said, about 300 blacks of the town had the vote, and they were so easily led that it was open talk that every man was going to follow the example of the Chief. There was some doubt in the minds of the general populace as to which candidate the Chief favoured, and so it was deemed advisable, in order to clinch matters, that Mr. Cecil Rhodes should be asked to visit the town, and deliver an address. The great pioneer travelled about 1,500 miles to accomplish this purpose, and it was a source of satisfaction to the bulk of the white people to hear that the Chief of the blacks had exclaimed, after hearing Mr. Rhodes' speech, something to the effect that as Cecil Rhodes had come all that way, the Chief would vote for the man he "spoke up for"—which shows how an election could be turned in the case of irresponsible male electors.

\* \* \*

Speaking at Lowestoft last week, Mrs. How-Martyn said: "Seventy years ago there was not a secondary school in the country for women, but to-day women had the Universities; yet they had no vote on the Board of Education. Women who were in favour of educating the girls must have an interest in women's suffrage."

\* \* \*

Great discrepancies have been found in the payments of different firms employed in the making of explosives, and judging by the agitation among the girls employed at Nobel's Explosives Factory, it is not unlikely that it will presently be included in the list of scheduled trades under the Trades Boards Act.

\* \* \*

"It is quite certain that the Royal Speech will make no mention of a Women's Suffrage Bill, and we may, therefore, expect a renewal of the disorder and disturbance which have marked the tactics of the Suffragettes."—*South Wales Daily News*.

\* \* \*

"Would the Town Council," questions *The Edinburgh Evening News*, "ever think of catering for women's recreations in the way it does for men's?"

A LECTURE on "A Municipal Programme for the Prevention of Destitution" will be given by Mrs. Sidney Webb, under the auspices of the Battersea and District Women's Local Government Association, at Battersea Town Hall, on January 30, at 8 p.m. Complimentary tickets may be obtained at the Women's Freedom League shop, 316, Battersea Park-road. Early application should be made for these, as the subject is naturally one of great interest to Suffragists, and it is expected that the demand will be great.

We remind our readers of our Receipts Competition. We shall be glad to file from time to time such receipts for goods bought from advertisers as may be sent to us previous to the announcement of the results, which will appear in issue dated March 25. Read our advertisements carefully, and give our advertisers preference when making your purchases. We constantly hear of the satisfaction they have given.



### OF SPECIAL :: :: INTEREST TO "THE VOTE" READERS.

Our Annual White Sale commences on Monday, January 30, and lasts for 14 days. We are issuing a Fully Illustrated Catalogue showing many of the special lines offered.

We should like to receive a visit from you, or would gladly send you one of the Catalogues.

*Perhaps it would be as well if you wrote for a copy to-day.*

WILLIAM  
**OWEN**  
WESTBOURNE GROVE, W.

### TO-DAY'S "MARSEILLAISE."

Daughters of toil, the world is waking  
From oppression's age-long night;  
Come forth to meet the dawn that's breaking!  
Ye must share true Freedom's light.  
And ye in noisome hovels spending  
Your life-force for the sweaters' pay,  
Scarcely knowing night from day,  
Look up, your bitter shame is ending.  
Dare to be free! The Future's yours.  
Hope and Faith are open doors.  
True hearts, arise, for Justice speaks:  
March on to Liberty!

Come forward, women of all nations,  
Under your own souls' command;  
Uproot the ancient wrong's foundations,  
Hail Freedom's morning hand in hand.  
Truth's golden banner stands unfurled;  
Rise up, for many a barrier still  
Shuts out the glory which must fill  
All darkened places of the world.

Dare to be free! The Future's yours.  
Faith and Hope are open doors.  
True hearts, unite, for Love leads on:  
March into Liberty!

Though darkest be the last dread hour,  
Ye who have faced and slain despair,  
Unite, and therein know your power.  
Brief will be the storm we share;  
For we are strong in heart and will  
To save our children, serve the State,  
The stream of Progress stimulate,  
And cleanse the springs of social ill.

Dare to be free! The Future's ours!  
Dawn-light pours forth life-bringing showers.  
True hearts, unite, for Love leads on:  
We march to Liberty!

L. M. WILLIAMS.

### IRISH SUFFRAGISTS AND THE IRISH PARTY.

In the course of a lengthy statement handed to Mr. Redmond last week by a deputation from the Irish Women's Franchise League, the following reasonable demands were made:—

Whatever the views of individual members as to the expediency of militancy, we confidently appeal to the party as a whole to see that fair play is accorded to Irish women engaged in the struggle for the political liberties of their sex.

#### Action by the Party as a Body.

But our chief demand from the Irish party is that they shall insist on full facilities being given by the Government, in accordance with Mr. Birrell's promise, for the discussion of the Conciliation Bill at all its stages during the coming Session of Parliament. We do not ask you, as a party, to pledge yourselves to the principle of woman's suffrage, or to the details of any particular Bill. We ask only that you will help us, to the utmost of your power, to secure facilities for free discussion, without a Cabinet veto. Several Irish Members have already petitioned the Prime Minister to afford these facilities; but what we want is action by the party as a body. There will be ample opportunity for such discussion in the coming Session during the various intervals necessitated by Parliamentary procedure—while the Parliament Bill is in the House of Lords, for example. In fact, this Session will be exceptionally free, seeing that the Government's attention is concentrated on the Parliament Bill, instead of the two or three first-class Government measures which are often run through in one Session.

#### Abundance of Time.

The Labour Party, recognising that there will be abundance of time, is pressing for a Bill on the Osborne Judgment, a measure of far less importance than woman's suffrage, and at the same time much more controversial. Payment of Members is also foreshadowed, a measure which would inflict a further hardship on women taxpayers, whose money will, without their consent, be devoted to paying salaries to Members representative only of the men of the country—an outrage paralleled only by the infliction of tithes upon Catholics.

#### The First Request from Irishwomen.

We ask the Irish party, therefore, to demand from the Premier full facilities for the Conciliation Bill this Session. Such a demand would not bind the party or its individual members to vote for the Bill when it came up; it only asks for a fair hearing for the Bill. We trust that this modest and reasonable request from Irishwomen (the first ever made to the Irish party) will not be refused. Should our request for full discussion be refused, Irishwomen will be forced to continue militant action as the last resort of an unfranchised portion of the community. Irishwomen are fully prepared to do so in increasing numbers should repeated constitutional representations to Irish Members be found of no avail. If no help is forthcoming from the Irish Party, that party must share with the British Government the responsibility for any militancy that may ensue.

Mr. Redmond promised to lay this memorial before his colleagues at an early moment.

### AN EPOCH-MAKING MEMORANDUM.

"A most interesting and epoch-making memorandum," says *The Nursing Times*, "on the teaching of 'Infant Care and Management in Public Elementary Schools,' has recently been issued by the Board of Education.

"It is epoch-making in a double sense. First, because in it the State asserts that education is concerned with the bodies as well as the minds of its scholars, and cannot be considered satisfactory unless it instills into them interest about and knowledge of domestic hygiene, of which the care of infants is an integral part. Secondly, because the Board have entrusted this most important circular to a woman—Dr. Janet Campbell. The subject, therefore, is dealt with throughout on most practical and common-sense lines from a woman's point of view.

"Nurses and all health workers will indeed welcome this fresh departure. As the memorandum states: 'The care and right management of infancy lies at the foundation of the somewhat kindred problems. There is, in the first place, the problem of infant mortality and its prevention; there is, in the second place, the still wider question of the physical health and equipment of the child. It cannot be doubted that, in directly preventing the death of infants, and in contributing to the healthy rearing and upbringing of young children, few factors are likely to be more important than the education and training of the elder girls in the public elementary schools in the science

and practice of infant care and management. Among these girls are to be found the mothers of the next generation.'

"These are weighty words—full of possibilities. If only children can be taught almost insensibly from the earliest years to assimilate and follow the laws that make for health, right habits of living will become as much a part of them as any other habit. This training should be given as part of the school curriculum, but its full value will only be obtained if it is also found in the atmosphere of the home. In many homes, it is, alas! lamentably lacking; but if the girls of this generation are grounded in this knowledge, it is reasonable to hope that the mothers of the next will themselves bring it into the lives of their children."

### NEW PRIZE COMPETITION.

Have you any ideas for increasing the circulation of THE VOTE? If so, send them on to us and you have an opportunity of having your copy posted to you for a year or a half-year free. We propose offering each month two prizes, the first of a year's (value 6s. 6d.), and the second of six months' (value 3s. 3d.) subscription to THE VOTE, to the person sending in the two best suggestions during the month for increasing sales. The suggestions will be judged by the directors, whose decision will be final. Suggestions for the first competition should reach the office not later than February 26.

In connection with the political corruption scandal in Ohio it has been proved that 3,500 voters have been guilty of corrupt practice.

*The Financial Review of Reviews*, speaking of women in business, says the "women are only 'dull as regards business' because they lack experience. Women form a natural, an increasing, and a most intelligent section of the financial public."

THE ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE are holding their members' meeting at the New Reform Club—by kind permission of the secretary—on Friday, January 27, at three o'clock. The subject for debate is "That Interest in Politics is Not Injurious to Dramatic Art." Opener, Mrs. Pertwee. Answered by J. Anthony Ellis, Esq. Chair, Madame Beatrice Langley Tozer. A general discussion will follow. These meetings are open to members of the Actresses' Franchise League and their friends. Tea, 3d. each, at the Office of the Actresses' Franchise League (opposite the New Reform Club).

THE CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST WOMEN'S FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION (Central Offices, 48, Dover-street, Piccadilly) are holding their first big meeting this year at the Curzon Hotel, Curzon-street, Mayfair, on Tuesday afternoon at 4 p.m., when Lady Rayleigh will be in the chair, and Lord Robert Cecil, K.C., will be the chief speaker. During the course of the afternoon Madame Teresa del Riego's song, "The Awakening," which has been written specially for the woman's movement, will be sung.

PERHAPS the most salient and the most promising characteristics of the woman of to-day are her solidarity and her chivalry towards her own sex. There is a kind of secret trade union among womenfolk nowadays, and even those who used to be called the "lost" and "fallen" are not ineligible. That woman, in the aggregate, is wise enough to see that her luckless sisters are not so much irredeemably "wicked" as victims of a social scheme, which will have to be mended or ended is a great advance. It is an attitude which would have been thought impossible in mid-Victorian times, when smug aphorisms and a virtuous self-complacency took the place of scientific inquiry and breadth of view!—  
ELLA HEPWORTH DIXON.

ACCORDING to the *Temps*, the Minister of Public Instruction proposes to confer the decoration of the Legion of Honour upon Mme. Judith Gautier, daughter of Théophile Gautier, in recognition of her services to French Literature. Mme. Gautier, who was born in 1850, and who at an early age married the late Catalulle Mendès, is well known as the author of a number of works like "Le Dragon Impérial," and of a series of plays and poems.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

## LONDON.



DARE TO BE FREE.

- Wed., Jan. 25.**—238, Navarino Mansions, Mrs. Mustard.
- Thurs., Jan. 26.**—"At Home," Caxton Hall, 3 p.m. Speeches, 3.30 p.m. Mrs. Despard, Miss Manning, B.A.
- Fri., Jan. 27.**—1, Robert-street. National Executive Committee, 11 a.m. Caxton Hall, 8 p.m. VOTE meeting, members only. Chair: Mrs. How Martyn. Meeting at corner of Amhurst Park.
- Sat., Jan. 28.**—Caxton Hall, 10 a.m. Annual Conference of Branches.
- Sun., Jan. 29.**—Caxton Hall, 3 p.m. Reception to delegates. Reserved seats, 1s. Admission free.
- Mon., Jan. 30.**—1, Robert-street, Adelphi, 11 a.m. National Executive Committee. Meeting at West Hackney Church.
- Tues., Jan. 31.**—Parliament re-assembles. 8 p.m., Bijou Theatre, Bedford-street, Strand. Public meeting organised by the Central London Branch, Mr. G. E. O'Dell. Chair: Hon. Mrs. Haverfield; Hostess: Miss Seruya.
- Wed., Feb. 1.**—7 p.m., Branch Committee Meeting. Gothic House, Stoke Newington. Whist Drive and Dance.
- Sat., Feb. 4.**—S.W. London Propaganda Centre, Jumble Sale. Please send contributions to Mrs. Sutcliffe, 58, Sisters - avenue, Clapham Common.
- Sun., Feb. 5.**—1, Robert-street, Members' Social Meeting, 4 to 7 p.m. Mrs. Despard.
- Mon., Feb. 6.**—King's Speech. CAXTON HALL, 8 P.M., KING'S SPEECH MEETING. Mrs. Despard.
- Tues., Feb. 7.**—Hackney Town Hall, 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard. 106, Cazenove-road, Stamford Hill.
- Fri., Feb. 10.**—Balham. Lecture Hall Assembly Rooms, 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard. 32, Wynne-road, Brixton, 3 p.m. Miss Tite.
- PROVINCES.**
- Wed., Jan. 8.**—Eastbourne. Mrs. Despard.
- Thurs., Feb. 9.**—Portsmouth. Miss Munro.
- Mon., Feb. 20.**—Wellingborough. Mrs. Despard.
- EDINBURGH.**
- SCOTLAND.**
- Tues., Jan. 31.**—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road. "At Home," 4 p.m. "Hot scene tea."
- Wed., Feb. 1.**—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road. "At Home," 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Joseph Dobbie.

## "THE VOTE" MEETING.

Attention is drawn to the meeting to-morrow (Friday) evening at Caxton Hall at 8 p.m., for members only, to discuss ideas for increasing the circulation of THE VOTE.

We hope to see a large number there, as this is a most important way of helping forward the movement. All suggestions will be welcome.

Again would I recommend canvassing for any who have a little time to spare. I spent a delightful day on Friday in Sittingbourne calling at several shops, and in most cases had a pleasant reception, and succeeded in selling a copy of THE VOTE. I also obtained six regular subscribers, and several others promised to consider the matter. I have just heard from Miss Clark, of Newtown, who has obtained twenty-four new subscribers for THE VOTE during the last three weeks. This is work which many could do, and I shall be glad to hear from others who have succeeded in getting even one new subscriber.

I hope to give some time to Balham soon, and would like to hear from any who can help in the smallest way.

ETHEL FENNINGS, "VOTE Sales" Organiser.

## Brave Woman and Cowardly Man.

Take, again, man's ability to bear pain. Look at the fuss there is if he has a toothache or cuts his finger, and the moans over a cold. I don't know any person more obnoxious than a man confined to the house with a bad cold. If he sneezes the roof shakes, if he coughs he lets the whole street know it; if he has to have a poultice on he fusses, and wriggles, and squirms lest it is too hot, long before it has touched his skin. And every day thousands of women go down with steady eyes and smiling lips into the black valley wherein lies the acme of human suffering: the bringing of another life into the world.—Mrs. DONALD SHAW, in Mrs. Bull.

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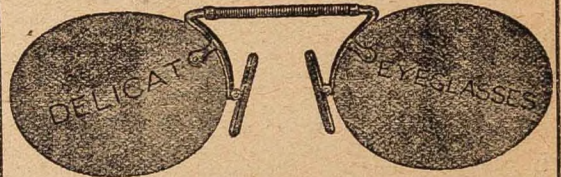
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