

THE VOTE.
October 31, 1913.
ONE PENNY.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN THE WORLD."

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

VOL. VIII. No. 210.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1913.

THIS WEEK

Edited by C. DESPARD.

FOUR EXTRA PAGES.

OBJECTS: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men ;
to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between
the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

KEEP THE LIBERALS OUT!

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BECAUSE

"They have made a mess of it.

"Men and women acting together would have made a better job of it."

—Mr. Lloyd George, at Swindon, October 22, 1913.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Once Bit, Twice Shy.

It is particularly refreshing to read the strong and dignified appeal for a better understanding between men and women made by the Bishop of Winchester in his letter to *The Times* of October 24. In the inevitable dust of battle he has refused to be blinded by prejudice and passion, and has pointed out clearly at whose door the blame for militancy lies. We are glad that he sees the impossibility of Woman Suffragists accepting anything less than a Government measure. On this point all Suffrage Societies stand together. With regard to the truce we would remind his lordship that it has already been tried. It was honourably kept by women, but was met by treachery and betrayal on the part of the Government. Mr. Lloyd George gloried in his shame by boasting that he had "torpedoed" the Conciliation Bill for which the truce was called. When the Government has wiped out its black record by proposing adequate amendments, it will be time to consider how to meet the new situation. Once bit makes us twice shy. For our own sakes, we must refuse to lay down our arms until we are assured of peace with honour.

The "Hidden Scourge" Commission.

We are glad to see that three women have been appointed to the Commission. They are Mrs. Creighton, President of the National Union of Women Workers; Mrs. Scharlieb, the well-known doctor; and Mrs. Burgwin, who has done valuable work in education in connection with Special Instruction Schools. Nothing could have been more dangerous and unsatisfactory than to have allowed such an inquiry to be made by men alone. We trust, however, that it will not be long before women, as citizens, are appointed in equal numbers with men, when inquiries vitally affecting the national life are to be undertaken. We welcome the fact that no return to the atrocious Contagious Diseases Act is to be considered by the Commission, but demand that the Report, when issued, is not pigeon-holed in official dust. The terms of reference are:—

To inquire into the prevalence of venereal diseases in the United Kingdom, their effects upon the health of the community, and the means by which those effects can be alleviated or prevented, it being understood that no return to the policy or provisions of the Contagious Diseases Acts of 1864, 1866, or 1869 is to be regarded as falling within the scope of the inquiry.

Who was Hysterical?

It is with pleasure that we publish the following letter from Mrs. How Martyn, and strongly support her protest against the unprovoked assault committed on her through male hysteria. Readers will not fail to note the insult of requiring her presence in court as a witness, under threat, and then forcibly ejecting her without hearing a word of evidence. To hear the truth from a woman seems the last thing the magistrate desired, and the assault was evidently no offence in his eyes. Writing from 38, Hogarth-hill, Hampstead Garden Suburb, on October 24, she says:—

"Will you kindly allow me through your paper to

protest against the treatment meted out to me this morning at the Wood Green Petty Sessions? I had been requested by an inspector of police to give evidence in a case of petty theft of which I was accidentally a witness, and told that if I did not appear I should be subpoenaed. Thinking that no opportunity should be missed of bringing before Government officials and the public the unjust and sometimes absurd results of the political subjection of women, I, after affirming, addressed the magistrates as follows:—

"Before giving evidence I want to say that I am surprised and rather amused that I should be required to give evidence and so help to administer the law when in the eyes of the law I am not considered a person, and the men of this country do not consider women fit to have a voice in the making of laws. I am now ready to give my evidence."

But before I could finish the last sentence the magistrate who acted as chairman became hysterical, and shouted: "I don't want to hear a speech!" and as I finished said, "Send the woman about her business."

"I repeated that having made my explanation I was ready to give evidence, but the magistrate's dignity had been too ruffled by a few quiet words from a woman for him to listen, and by his orders two constables committed an entirely unprovoked assault on me by dragging me out of the court. No request was made to me to leave, which I should have done gladly as I had gone at great inconvenience."

"I only hope that the scene stirred the imagination of some of those present and helped them to realise what great difficulties women have in bringing home to the authorities and the public the injustice under which we are suffering."

"It is rather humorous, too, that though I was expected to give several hours of my time to the case, the chairman of the magistrates would not allow me one minute in which to make a statement from conscientious motives. Probably other women have acted similarly, and I should like to hear how they were treated."

Where Honour is Due.

We note that at the Northamptonshire Assizes last week Mr. Justice Rowlatt administered a severe rebuke to the superintendent of police for excluding women from the court when a case of indecent assault was being heard. It is gratifying to find that he has learnt his lesson so well, but we did not hear these gracious pronouncements, on which Mr. Rowlatt evidently prides himself, before our special correspondent, Mrs. Watson, began her important work in the courts. At the Old Bailey she has found herself the only woman in the court when "indecent cases" were being tried before Mr. Rowlatt, and she was admitted as a reporter, not as one of the public. The fight for equal rights is not yet won, or our test case would not be necessary; but Mr. Rowlatt will, we suppose, lend his aid to ensure women being "righted" in this important matter.

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WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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WHY WE CRY:

"KEEP THE LIBERALS OUT!"

With Miss Sidley in charge at Reading, Miss Munro preparing to go to Keighley and the Scottish Branches undertaking the work North of the Tweed, the Women's Freedom League will give no bad account of itself in the present attempt to test the feeling of the country, on a small scale, in the present bye-election campaign. Throughout the anti-Government policy will be enforced. And to make the situation clear to those who may find that policy lacking in logic, coherence, or an appreciation of facts, it may be helpful to go over old ground and to restate our case for fighting Governments and not candidates.

Three years running, while a truce to all militancy was declared and solemnly kept, the House of Commons passed the second reading of Women's Suffrage Bills by majorities of 110, 167, and 179. In each case either the iron rule of the Prime Minister, or the procedure of the House of Commons, prevented the will of the House from taking practical effect. When, to avoid the refusal of the Prime Minister to give time for the further stages, the supporters of the Bill asked for it to be referred to a Grand Committee instead of taking the Committee stages in the whole House, it was found that this entangled the Bill in some obscure old controversy—in which such supporters as Lord Haldane, Mr. Balfour, and Mr. Ramsay Macdonald had often taken a prominent part—not to allow Bills concerning the "Representation of the People" to go "off the floor of the House." Later, the Prime Minister, with a reluctant submission to the feeling of three-quarters of his Cabinet, promised to allow time for the further stages of a Bill on the same lines as the three whose heavy second readings had so emphatically shown the state of feeling in the House (the Conciliation Bill) if it succeeded once more in securing a second reading. This delay gave room for deep-seated intrigue. On this promise, by some genial if secret understanding between the Adult Suffragists—who resent any measure of justice to women unless the odd remnant of unfranchised men is also attended to—the Chancellor of the Exchequer—whose crocodile sympathy with women's aspirations has never been put in any practical form—and the Prime Minister, the People's Suffrage Federation sent to the last-mentioned gentleman a deputation, favourably received, which provided what Mr. George gleefully hailed as an instrument for "torpedoing" the Conciliation Bill. Manhood suffrage for all over twenty-one was what the People's Suffrage Federation received with thanks as the result of their request for "adult" suffrage. No great agitation has been engineered for adult suffrage; no great organisations with unceasing activity exist for its promotion; not one man or woman has ever gone to prison for its principles. Its vitality and its genuineness may be gauged by the fact that it was content with the substitute of "manhood" for adult, and accepted the denial of women's citizenship. Yet the leader of this wonderful "democratic" Government gave to this piping request what he refused to the clamorous demand of women organised and working for fifty long years. And Mr. George chuckled.

The Franchise Bill—and its Women's Suffrage amendment—came and went. The "free vote," promised to the House (as a rare treat) because it was for a Cause the Government hoped to see wrecked, never came off. Once more some obscure ruling of the House intervened—this time the Speaker and the Opposition taking a bold hand in the game of tricking women. Meanwhile the

party Press on both sides, ignoring the past and present exhibitions of "militant" conduct by strikers and by Nationalists, and the threats of future violence by Orangemen—all of whom have both votes and representatives, and therefore have no smallest shadow of an excuse for violence—lashed their following into futile furies over militancy by women. Then came Mr. Dickinson's Bill. In spite of the Nationalist vote whipped against it, in spite of the underground attempt to work up Liberals to protect Mr. Asquith, in spite of the Press, in spite of militancy, the largest majority that could be secured against the second reading was 48. No real effort was made by Mr. George—who boasted that he was going to secure the enfranchisement of seven millions of women instead of the paltry million and a-half of the Conciliation Bill—or any of our supposed supporters in the Cabinet, to push this Bill forward. The shadow of the Prime Minister's wrath was over it; without party whipping it could not succeed. We realise, therefore, that the Bills of private Members will always be wrecked by some or one of the thousand pieces of trickery and combination that can always be worked off by a reluctant party or leader of a party. A Government measure is the only measure that can be counted on to pass. It is, therefore, waste of time and energy to support or oppose individual candidates. The only form of attack likely to be of any avail is attack on the Government itself. Those who profess sympathy with our Cause will best show it by laying aside for a brief space their party attitude; and their real adherence to the principle of Women's Suffrage will be gauged by their willingness to make this temporary sacrifice. "Those who are not with us are against us"; and defective friends are more dangerous than open foes.

A Prime Minister who will not allow the fundamental principles of democracy to apply to one-half of the race; whose party prefers its loyalty to him to the reality of those principles, is a grave danger to progress. Mr. McKenna said the other day that the only object of the Parliament Act was to give the representatives of the people the last word in legislation. Its effect has been to give the Prime Minister that last word; and he has refused to let the House of Commons have it, brushing aside their three-times-recorded decision, and promising them a "free vote" only when he thinks it can be negotiated to his will. Mr. Churchill spoke of "the bully's veto" of Ulster; the bully's veto is the Prime Minister's veto, more arbitrary than that of the House of Lords, which at all events represented one entire party. And because it is the Head of the Government that blocks the way to true democracy, we must fight the Government which appoints such a head.

Keep the Liberals out until they teach their own leaders to enforce their own principles.

C. NINA BOYLE.

POLITICAL AND MILITANT.

The Wetherall Case.

Mr. McKenna, while refusing to receive a deputation of the Women's Freedom League with the memorial of the Wetherall case, agrees nevertheless to go into the

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matter, and further statements are to be placed before him in support of the requests that:—

(a) The four police constables be dismissed the force, and brought to trial for not reporting a serious crime of which they swore they had knowledge.

(b) That the Common Sergeant be reprimanded for admitting altogether improper evidence which evidently influenced him in his decision.

(c) That Mr. Bodkin be relieved of his duties as Public Prosecutor.

AN APPEAL TO "THE VOTE."

Dear Readers,—As Editor of THE VOTE I make a special appeal to you at this juncture in the Suffrage Movement. We feel that victory is in sight, and we want the organ of the Women's Freedom League to play its part worthily in the approaching triumph. We are severely hampered by want of space; articles of special interest have to be refused and events of importance left unnoticed because our paper is too small to include them. We want a permanent enlargement of four pages, but for this we must have £5 a week guaranteed.

This week, through the generosity of some of our members, we have the advantage of the extra pages—twenty instead of sixteen.

Advertisers are finding our paper a very useful medium and are taking more and more space. This is a most healthy sign of our importance. We must, however, keep pace with the demands on us by providing extra pages for reading matter.

I ask for £100 now, so that we may be sure of a twenty-page VOTE for twenty weeks. I know I shall not appeal in vain. For the sake of our great Cause you will enable me to carry out this improvement.

THE VOTE is an integral and essential part of our League; it is being bought up eagerly at our meetings everywhere; and in view of the importance of the political situation we feel that an immediate enlargement is imperative.

Will you help?

Yours in the Cause,

C. DESPARD.

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AT HEADQUARTERS.

Political Meeting.—We hope to see Caxton Hall crowded this evening. The speakers will be Mrs. Despard, Miss Nina Boyle, and Mrs. Marion Holmes, and the chair will be taken by Miss Eunice Murray at 8 o'clock. Admission is free.

Discussion Meeting.—Readers are cordially invited to come to our Office at 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, on Monday evening, when Dr. Tudor will lecture on "Women's Work in the Bulgarian Medical Department during the Recent War in the Balkans." This lecture should be of unusual interest to men and women. There will be no charge for admission, and the chair will be taken by Miss A. A. Smith, at 8 o'clock.

Wednesday Afternoon Meetings at Caxton Hall.—Next Wednesday Mrs. Cobden Sanderson will speak on "The Child in Hungary." This subject should claim the special attention of our members and friends, and we look forward to seeing very many of them present. Miss Nina Boyle will also speak, and the chair will be taken at 3.30.

The following Wednesday afternoon Mr. George Lansbury has promised to speak for us. Will readers very kindly make this announcement widely known, so that we shall have a crowded audience to welcome him? The chair will be taken by Miss Eunice Murray at 3.30.
F. A. UNDERWOOD.

BYE-ELECTIONS. READING.

Committee Rooms: 31, King's-road.

Although polling day will probably not be until November 8, Reading is already crowded with election workers. Committee rooms are to be seen every few hundred yards throughout the main street of the town. Every shade of Liberal and Conservative opinion is represented. Four Women's Suffrage Societies have taken committee rooms, and opened vigorous campaigns—three of them in opposition to the Liberal candidate, and the fourth confining itself to propagandist work.

The Women's Freedom League has met with a very cordial reception so far. There has been none of the "booming" that usually comes from small boys; on the contrary, the people are exceedingly polite, and seem to view the Women's Cause with genuine friendliness.

On Saturday the W.F.L. made its first appearance amongst the orators. In the afternoon Miss Murray addressed a meeting at Queen's Statue, outside the Town Hall, and in the evening she and Miss Boyle spoke in the same place to a large and attentive audience, which listened with no small astonishment and admiration. Miss Boyle's outspoken indictment of the Government, the Anti-Suffragists, and the poor use men have made of their votes made a strong appeal, and won the approval of the crowd. Mrs. Tanner, Mrs. Rothwell, Miss Murray, and Miss Berkley Smith are taking part in the campaign. Mid-day meetings will be held daily outside the various factory gates, and evening meetings at The Buttes, the Market-place, Cork-street, Cemetery Gates, and by the Queen's Statue.

An election cannot be run without a certain amount of expense. There is a great demand for vehicles, and contractors are endeavouring to supply that demand from outlying parts. This means increased prices. A vehicle is essential to successful election meetings, and leaflets must be printed. Will our members send us donations towards these expenses? We must have £20 for the Reading election. Will you send something? With £20 we shall carry out a fine campaign—speaking, bill distributing, keeping our committee rooms open all day, and making our League thoroughly well-known throughout the constituency. Candidates and party organisations will each be spending hundreds of pounds. We shall do as much work on £20 because we know how to spend. You will help.

MARGUERITE A. SIDLEY.

WEST LOTHIAN.

Organiser: Miss ADA BROUGHTON.

Committee Rooms: Station-road, Broxburn.

The Women's Freedom League is already in the field at West Lothian; committee-rooms have been opened in Broxburn; everyday dinner-hour and evening meetings are being held in the villages and in the large towns in the constituency. The campaign began on Saturday evening with an open-air meeting at Broxburn, at which Miss A. Broughton presided and Miss A. B. Jack spoke. THE VOTE sold out and other Suffrage literature was in demand.

Both candidates have declared themselves in favour of Woman Suffrage, but the Women's Freedom League will pursue its anti-Government policy.

Edinburgh and Glasgow members are asked to help. Speakers paper-sellers, chalkers and bill-distributors are needed. Will they communicate at once with the organiser? Will those who cannot give personal help contribute to the expenses of the campaign?

THE TEST CASE.

The following statement has been prepared for the new Lord Chief Justice. Enclosed with it are various reports of cases in which powers of judges and magistrates have been improperly used towards women, and further matter which will be published later in THE VOTE.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE,
1, Robert-street, Adelphi, London.
23rd October, 1913.

To the Lord Chief Justice of England,
High Court of Justice.

My LORD,—My League has instructed me to approach you, on your accession to the highest judicial position which can be conferred by His Majesty's Government, with an earnest request that you will, in that position, use your great power and influence to put an end to the grave encroachments on the rights of women citizens as members of the public, which have so long been a stain on the record of the Courts of Justice.

We desire with all respect to point out that it is among the proudest traditions of the Bench in this land that it has on many occasions acted as the champion of the rights of the People—who, we venture to remind your Lordship, are men and women. The custom that has grown up in the Courts, of classing adult women citizens with boys, and calling upon them to retire from the Court during the hearing of cases of a certain class—cases which all too frequently involve painful consequences to women, girls and little children—is an insult to that section of the People which is unequipped with any constitutional weapon with which to protect its rights from attack.

We would point out to you that while not doubting that His Majesty's judges and magistrates adopt this procedure out of regard for the susceptibilities of women, their attitude is totally unnecessary. No woman need remain to hear these cases; those who do have every right to exercise their own judgment. Adult women are as well able to consult their own dignity and delicacy and to care for their own best interests and the interests of their sex as adult men; and there is another aspect of the case which is entirely overlooked. While displaying so much anxiety for the delicacy of women entirely unconnected in these painful cases, the feelings of those most intimately connected—the female complainants, defendants, witnesses, to whom the presence of others of their sex is frequently a matter of urgent import—are entirely disregarded. It would certainly appear as if the interests of decency would be far better served by the exclusion of men rather than women on these distressing occasions.

It is our contention that, as a recent decision of the House of Lords laid it down that every person is entitled to public trial, this decision automatically confers on the public the right to attend such trials. It is our further contention that to discriminate between the sexes to the exclusion of women is altogether to do away with public trial, women being as much "the public" as they are "the People." Admittance to Courts under such ruling becomes no longer a public right but a sex privilege, whereby grievous wrong is inflicted on the public itself in the arbitrary curtailment of its rights, and on vast numbers of wronged, unhappy, bewildered, and most unfortunate women and children whose sad fate it is to appear in Criminal and other Courts.

The danger to the public is apparent when we remind you that this practice, at first established in the supposed interests of decency, was extended to trials of militant Suffragists, who even now are never sure of being allowed the presence of their friends and comrades at trials.

We call your Lordship's attention to many conflicting statements, enclosed, from the Bench concerning this grievance. It would appear that a serious divergence of opinion prevails as to the actual power of exclusion by the Bench. You will note that Mr. Fordham, of the West London Police Court, and Mr. Paul Taylor, of the Marylebone Police Court, state they have no power to exclude women; Mr. Mead, of the Marlborough-street Police Court, and the Bench at Exeter, consider themselves to have such power. The Bench at Wood-bridge and at Ipswich held they had it not. Mr. Spokes, the Recorder of Reading, declares the "legal right" of women to be present in Court; the Recorder of the City of London appears to allow it as a favour; the Common Sergeant has declared it to be his "practice" to admit them, yet there is the same practice of exclusion when he is on the Bench as elsewhere, as has been proved by the Special Reporter to the Women's Freedom League. Mr. Justice Rowlatt says it is not "right" to refuse them admittance. Some make a point of exacting that the women admitted should have a "bona-fide interest" in the case—surely an impertinent exaction. In short, there is the utmost confusion prevailing, which even the pronouncement of so high an authority as Lord Halsbury seems unable to meet decisively.

Under these most irritating circumstances, which put women in the position of perpetually fighting for their rightful position and anticipating attacks upon it, a statement from your Lordship would clear the air and would be deeply appreciated by women as one of the first acts of your new dignity. So much of bitterness has been imported into the women's movement by the constant pin-pricks of these petty methods of reminding them

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of their helplessness in being unenfranchised, that it would indeed be a graceful, kindly, and courteous action on your part to give your earliest attention to that section of the public whose needs can never be forced on the Administration by direct constitutional action, and who thus in their helplessness have been driven back on methods contrary to their instincts and distressing to all concerned.

We await your Lordship's reply with an earnest conviction that you will impartially and justly deal with this grave matter, with neither sex nor legal bias blinding you to the reasonableness and moderation of our request.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

C. NINA BOYLE.

Head of the Political and Militant Department.

LITERATURE DEPARTMENT

"The Traffic in Women," by C. Nina Boyle. Price 1d., post free 1½d.

"Prejudices Old and New," by Eunice Murray. Price 1d., post free 1½d.

"W.F.L." Christmas Cards, in three patterns, price 2d. each. Members can have their names and addresses added in gold lettering (to match the other printing) for 1s. extra for the first dozen and 3d. per dozen afterwards.

"W.F.L." Purse Calendars, with the badge on the cover in green, white and gold, price 2d.

A stock of various calendars may be seen at the offices any time after next week; prices from 4d. each.

W.F.L.—Chain.

A necklace has been designed specially for the W.F.L. in tiny metal beads in the shape of a small daisy in the three alternate colours. It is very effective and makes a novel present; price 2s. each net, postage 1d.

The Christmas Bookstall will be ready at the beginning of November, and members are invited to inspect it any time from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Merry-making at Oriel Hall, Heath-street, Hampstead.

Under the auspices of the West Hampstead Branch of the W.F.L., a dance and social will be held on Thursday, October 30, from 7.0 p.m. to midnight. Members and friends are promised a jolly evening.

While the milder fates consent

Let's enjoy our merriment.—Herrick.

SUPERSTITIONS.

In a village in Hertfordshire last week the village schoolmaster was charged before a judge and jury with indecent assault upon two little girls. The garden of his house adjoined the garden of the house of his victims; the children, in their own garden, were, in fact, within the precincts of "the home," and within that sanctity by which it is popularly believed to be pervaded. This belief is sheer superstition. The home is not pervaded by sanctity; on the contrary it is constantly invaded by the force of impulses over which—again popularly—men are supposed to have no control. Another superstition this, as degrading to male human nature, as to its victims, nay, more degrading, since no victim can ever touch the depths plunged into by the victimiser.

But see the way in which this superstition works. The schoolmaster, taxed by the children's father, admitted his offence; brought into the presence of the curate of the parish, admitted it again. At his trial, though no attempt was made to contravene his admissions to the father and the curate, he pleaded "not guilty," and was acquitted. Why? Because evidence was called to prove that his conduct in all other respects was good. The point in which it was bad was in respect of the offence for which he was on trial, and of which, on his own admission, he was guilty. Nevertheless, this being precisely the point at issue, he was acquitted. I ask, when a woman is tried for what is classed as an immoral offence, is any regard paid to her conduct in other respects? If she is found soliciting in the streets, is the fact that she has been sent there by want, by the necessity of providing for sick husband, helpless parent or hungry child considered to have any bearing upon her act? If a woman commits a breach of the law when engaged in political struggle for the emancipation of women, is it taken into account that she is of pure and noble life, refined, cultured, philanthropic, actuated by the highest motives? No; the one—unless her moral offence is connected with houses frequented by highly-placed men—is severely punished, the other has inflicted upon her all that male ingenuity can devise to torture her body, wreck her mind, and break her spirit.

Why the difference? What is the meaning of it? The old, deep-rooted superstition is the explanation, the superstition that man is not master of his lust; embodied in tradition, fostered by training, supported by a double standard of morality. In the minds of the vast majority of men is planted the idea that sexual offences committed against women, against young girls, even against children, are hardly offences except technically, are natural, necessary; nay, are a proof of full manhood. And so, while men alone make and administer laws, cases of criminal assault continue to be punished lightly, if punished at all, since constantly the judge, constantly the jurymen, feel that any one of them might chance one day to be in the prisoner's place.

The Woman's Movement has a message for men as well as for women. To women it speaks of political, social and spiritual freedom; to men of freedom from the domination of their own bodies. It has always been recognised that women can and should be chaste; the Woman's Movement is bringing to men the gospel that they can and may stand on the same level as a woman. Women have brought the double standard of morality into the open, and brought definite proof to bear upon the fact that chastity means sound brains and healthy bodies, the lack of it degeneracy, broken nerves, early old age, disease. The superstition that purity is unhealthy is doomed to destruction; even the doctors who upheld it so long are forced now by its appalling consequences to denounce it. It must be dethroned, and inevitably will be, since women refuse any longer to bow down to it, and since it cannot exist without the consent of women. Then will men look with shame upon that which they have been used to view with complacency; then will they recognise that they are stronger and nobler than they have been trained

to believe themselves to be; then will they realise what is the true meaning of sex equality.

G. COLMORE.

POLITICAL NEWS.

The Bishop of Winchester's Appeal.

In a long letter to *The Times* on October 24, the Bishop of Winchester made a strong appeal "to men and women of goodwill in the present position of the 'Woman's Question.'" He expressed gratification for the "admirable harmony and temper" with which the recent Church Congress at Southampton discussed "what women should be and do in the life of the community." This is not a peculiarity of the religious world, but "the matter is before the nation, a first-rate political question, for solution outside controversies of political party. . . . Ought not this to be enough to set us free from our unhappy and ignominious position, and to open a better chapter," he asks. After a generous tribute to the militant women who have "not lightly or without purpose" adopted violent methods, but have done so "to compel attention, to force the matter forward, to break through what they deemed barriers of stubborn indifference or prejudice," the Bishop appeals to them for "a truce of God" for the blessing and benefit alike of men and women, and for the relief of an inflamed and most unwholesome condition of our common life.

"But what have I," he adds "to say to their opponents and to the community at large? What contributions have others to make to that which is my aim?"

"It is not, I think, hard to see. Plainly the promise of a fair and full consideration; that goes without saying. But, more particularly:

"(1) A recognition, such as the Church Congress gave, of the reality, depth, and strength of a movement among women asking for a 'fuller life, greater honour, and worthier treatment by men.'

"(2) A strenuous consideration of the question whether or not, for the purpose of that movement, the franchise is indispensable or material.

"(3) A readiness, upon the abandonment or suspension of militancy, to turn our backs upon its faults, and to acknowledge the self-devotion, courage, and endurance of many of its women, things of which, if only rightly directed and controlled, we can never have enough.

"(4) But I go further. We shall not (I speak for the men) come to a just judgment, nor, therefore, win back the attention and respect of those whom this matter kindles to passion, unless we recognise the bitter crop of a long and cruel sowing. What is put in as poison comes out as fever. The fever in the blood of our body politic, and particularly in those who should be its gentler part, comes from all the long and bad record, not merely of what men have done in passion or weakness, but of what they have defended as natural or condoned as inevitable. But it is not all fever. There is fervour, too, not morbid, but righteous and generous; a desire to lift and to serve even through self-sacrifice those whom the 'social evils,' moral and economical, oppress. Without recognition of this, our best-intended denunciations of folly and crime, however fully justified, will be ineffective.

"If the note which I have tried to strike wakes any echoes, it will be for others to develop the matter. An amnesty would not, I imagine, be too difficult to arrange. But I suppose that one thing indispensable would be a definite prospect of the introduction of a Suffrage Bill, as a 'first-class measure,' in some such way that, by Referendum or otherwise, the real opinion of the country may be ascertained upon it.

"But my part is done. What I have asked for seems almost beyond hope. But spiritual forces are strong; and with God's blessing even 'this thing' may be."

Mr. Lloyd George's Words—Not Deeds!

Addressing the deputation of the local Branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies at Swindon on October 23, Mr. Lloyd George, with reference to the Land programme, observed that he could not think of any item in which women were not as much interested as men, but he could think of many items in which they were more interested than men. "Take, for instance," said he, "the housing part of the programme. It is much more a problem for women than it is for men.

"Take the minimum wage. It is paid to the man, but it is dispensed by the woman. . . . I think the time is coming when she ought to be called in to express, not inarticulately, not in groans and murmurs, but officially and effectively through the medium of the ballot-box what her views are as to what should be done in the solution of these problems." Men had been governing this country for thousands of years, and still they found wretchedness, poverty, and slums everywhere. They seemed, somehow, to have made a mess of it. He did not say that women could have done any better if they had been left to govern, but he did say that men and women acting together would have made a better job of it. At all events, no harm could come from the experiment. He repeated that he was a convinced supporter of the Suffrage, despite suspicions to the contrary, and declared that he was, in fact, more a Suffragist than ever.

He blamed militancy for creating "a situation which is the

worst I have ever seen for Woman Suffrage in Parliament. . . . Still," he added, "I don't despair of something—not an instalment. I think it is one of those cases where an instalment is worse than nothing. I do not despair of a real measure of Woman Suffrage being carried in this country within a short time—not in this Parliament, however. I think this Parliament has been ruined as far as Suffrage is concerned. . . . If, at the next election the women are well organised, and will present their case rationally and in a way that shows they are capable of self-restraint—which is the first test of their fitness for self-government—I am sure they will be able to make such an impression at the polls that men who are opposed to the Suffrage will find, on the whole, that it will be better for them to reconsider their views, and to pledge themselves to support an advanced measure of Woman Suffrage, which will include, not merely a sort of picked selected women, but all women of Great Britain, who have got responsibility in this country."

"The Voice of Reason" for Militant Men: Why Not for Women?

Mr. Hobhouse, speaking at Eastville, Bristol, on October 21, said that the subjects of Home Rule and the Land policy had one satisfactory feature in common. There had been an admission on all sides that something must be done. What was called the voice of reason had been again heard, and it was assumed that there was no valid reason why legislation should not be legislation of accord rather than of discord, and that some common agreement might be arrived at by which measures should be passed acceptable to all parties.

"Why should agreement in the case of Ireland be impossible?" he asked. "We must receive some definite assurance that there will be no aftermath of bitterness when the Home Rule Bill passes. We must be satisfied that any modification of the Bill is to the advantage of the people of Ireland as a whole. It is essential that in any agreement the position of the Unionist party should be considered and understood. . . . Both sides are hampered by past language of a sometimes too careless kind. They are 'cribbed and cabled' by those who support them, yet if we are to escape temporary disorder and riot of a more or less organised or sporadic character, if there is to be none of the aftermath of bitterness, if the Protestant and Catholic communities in Ireland are really to work together for the good of the nation in future, it is almost essential, it is certainly more than desirable, that the legislation which has to be passed, and which will be passed, should be arrived at by agreement. . . . We desire, we hope, and we expect a peaceful solution. It would be disastrous and criminal if we were to neglect any opening which made for peace, but it would be equally disastrous to all government in future in this country, and equally criminal on our part if we were to yield to violence, actual or anticipated. The proper government of the country, our own personal honour and credit, are at stake in this matter, and we cannot afford to play with either one or the other. Weakness might procure us some additional weeks or months of office, but it would certainly strip us, and properly strip us, of all power, or authority, or reputation. If disorder arises we shall repress it."

Sir Edward Grey and Woman Suffrage.

Sir Edward Grey received a deputation on October 27 at Berwick-on-Tweed from the Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage, introduced by Sir Francis Blake, chairman of the Liberal Association.

Sir Edward Grey said he thought the deputation had underrated the progress that had been made with Women's Suffrage in the House of Commons, though he had not the least doubt that militancy had had a most unfavourable influence on opinion in the House. It was quite true that Women's Suffrage had not been carried, but it had blocked the way—he believed permanently—to any further reform in the franchise to men until Women's Suffrage went along with it. That had given the whole question an actuality it had not had before.

The Government could not bring in a Women's Suffrage Bill next Session, because about half the Cabinet was genuinely opposed to Women's Suffrage. The deputation, therefore, was really asking that the Government should immediately break up. There could not be progress made in what remained of the present Parliament with regard to Women's Suffrage. Everything really depended upon the next election, and how candidates who were elected pledged themselves. If in the next House of Commons there was a majority which was really in earnest about Women's Suffrage he regarded it as absolutely certain that the thing would be carried into effect.

Mrs. Fawcett's Statement.

Writing to the Press to express the determination of the National Union of Woman Suffrage Societies "to promote the well-considered effort for peace which the Bishop of Winchester has inaugurated," observes—

"More denunciations of militancy are useless, unless accompanied by a statesmanlike grasp of its causes, and a resolve to remove them. . . . The recent field of the Suffrage controversy is strewn thick with unredeemed pledges given by the Prime Minister on behalf of the Government to the non-militant Suffrage societies. If this undoubted fact is properly faced, it should induce the Prime Minister and his colleagues as a body to recognise, in this unpaid debt, an obligation which should induce them on their part to go far in the direction the Bishop advises. The Government have given promises, but have not fulfilled them; but there are ways in which those unfulfilled pledges can still be redeemed.

"If, on the other hand, these unredeemed pledges are repudiated or ignored, the militant societies might legitimately say, 'Why place any confidence in Government promises, when those given in November, 1911, to the Suffrage societies and Women's Liberal Federation still remain unfulfilled?'

"There are two ways of producing a 'first-class measure.' First by an agreed bill, arrived at on non-party lines, by mutual concessions from all parties, conciliating opposition and winning support from Suffragists belonging to all parties in the House. This plan was tried by means of the Conciliation Bill, which obtained enormous majorities in support of its second reading in 1910 and 1911, but was ultimately wrecked mainly through the opposition of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who openly boasted that he had 'torpedoed' it."

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"HIAWATHA."

We are sure that our readers need no reminder that the performances of *Hiawatha*—in aid of THE VOTE—will take place next Tuesday, November 4, at 3 and 8 p.m., at the Cripplegate Institute, Golden-lane, Barbican, E.C., and will do their utmost to rejoice Mrs. Harvey's heart by ensuring a full Hall both afternoon and evening. It is an opportunity not to be missed. That the performances will be good is assured by the fact that they are to be given by the friends who helped us in the dramatic entertainments at the International Suffrage Fair in November, 1912. The dresses are very beautiful; these and all etceteras have been made as accurate as possible to ensure the correct atmosphere. The scenes will be most effective, also the moving tableaux, which will illustrate the connecting recitations. The music, by a member of the cast, is unique, being hummed; there will be no instrumental accompaniment except drums to accentuate the time.

Application for tickets, 4s., 2s. and 1s., must be made to Headquarters, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi. Cripplegate Institute is within a few minutes' walk of Aldersgate-street Station (Metropolitan Railway). There is a frequent service of Inner Circle and other trains. Passengers by the Central London Tube alight at Post Office Station, and at the corner of Aldersgate-street they will find Motor 'Bus No 4, from Finsbury Park to Bermondsey, which passes Barbican; it may be joined also at Ludgate-circus.

WHAT THEY DIDN'T SAY.

The following extracts are not to be found in the works of the authors quoted below:—

I.

SHAKESPEARE—*As You Like It.*

CELIA: I pray thee, Rosalind, sweet my coz, be merry.
ROS.: Dear Celia, I show more mirth than I am mistress of; and would you yet I were merrier? Unless you could teach me how to forget the miseries that hem us all about, if we but step from our accustomed round, you must not learn me how to remember any extraordinary pleasure.

CELIA: Herein I see how much of late thou'rt altered. Since that gaunt woman with her face of dough, with three starved children tugging at her gown, begged alms of us, thou hast not taken joy in anything.

ROS.: Can I forget the condition of her estate to rejoice in ours?

CELIA: Well, let us sit and mock the good housewife Fortune, from her wheel, that her gifts may henceforth be bestowed equally.

ROS.: I would we could do so; for her benefits are mightily misplaced, and the bountiful blind woman doth most mistake in her gifts to women.

CELIA: 'Tis true: and yet, methinks, not so much Fortune as the law.

ROS.: Nay, now thou goest from Fortune's office to Nature. Woman is weak, and so goes to the wall by Nature.

CELIA: That seems Fortune, too. When Nature hath made a fair creature may she not by Fortune fall into the fire?

[Enter TOUCHSTONE.]

Though Nature hath given us wit to flout at Fortune, hath not Fortune sent in this fool to cut off the argument? How, now, wit! Whither wander you?

TOUCH.: Mistress, you must come away in haste.

CELIA: Were you made the messenger?

TOUCH.: No, by my good sense. But I was bid to come for you.

ROS.: Where learned you that oath, fool?

TOUCH.: Of a certain politician who swore by his good sense that militancy was anathema, and armed resistance patriotism; now I'll stand to it that militancy was patriotism and armed resistance anathema; and yet was not the knight forsworn.

CELIA: How prove you that, in the great heap of your knowledge?

ROS.: Ay, marry; now unuzzle your wisdom.

TOUCH.: Stand you both forth now; stroke your chins, and swear by your votes that I am a knave.

CELIA: By our votes, then, if we had them, thou art.

TOUCH.: By my knavery, then, if I had it, I were; but if you swear by that that is not, you are not forsworn: no more was this knight swearing by his good sense, for he never had any, or if he had, it had flown away before ever he ate pancakes or mustard.

H. S.

WE RECOMMEND TO OUR READERS Mrs. Flora Ames's reply to Mrs. Billington Greig's article on "The Truth About White Slavery." It is published in pamphlet form by Messrs. Rist and Co., 56, Ludgate-hill, (1s. 6d. per dozen), and gives facts, vouched for by personal knowledge.

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.

Women in the Queen's Hall Orchestra: Equal Pay.

On Saturday, Oct. 28, at the Queen's Hall Concert, six women, other than harpists, appeared in the famous orchestra conducted by Sir Henry Wood. As harpists women have long rendered good service in orchestras, but their advent among the violinists or 'cellists was an innovation due to Sir Henry Wood himself. Doubtless he has noted the fact that the famous Lamoureux and Colonne orchestras of Paris have for some time had women members, and, after making a number of tests, he is impressed by the high standard among women instrumentalists. According to "A. K.," writing in *The Daily News*: "There was, not unnaturally, a little opposition at first among male players—it is even said that a suggestion to include ladies in one of our other orchestras not long ago nearly led to a batch of resignations. One of the grounds of objection was that the women players were underselling the men. That there may be some danger of this at other times and at other places is not to be denied, but Sir Henry Wood emphatically states that there is no question of anything of the kind here. The women are receiving the same remuneration as the men. The Queen's Hall Orchestra remains just as much a happy family as it ever was."

The Troubles of the Lace Outworker.

Miss Mary Macarthur, general secretary of the National Federation of Women Workers, who is shortly to inaugurate another campaign to help Nottingham lace outworkers in their Trade Boards Act and insurance difficulties, states that many complaints as to the evasion of the minimum rates are still being made, and that in the case of many middlewomen there is complete disregard of the provisions of the Insurance Act. In many cases the requirements of the Particulars Order are not carried out. The result, Miss Macarthur says, is a condition of "muddle and injustice to home workers" which must be remedied at all costs. The National Federation of Women Workers are therefore to inaugurate a new campaign to help home workers.

Hotel for Poor Women.

Although the Mary Curzon Hostel for Women in King's Cross-road will not be formally opened till next month, and is not yet free from workmen, it has already opened its doors to customers. It can be best described as a Rowton House for Women—the first of its kind in London.

It has been built partly as a memorial to the late Lady Curzon, to whom a marble tablet is inscribed in the entrance hall. The cost has been privately contributed by a group of workers among women, the Duchess of Marlborough being a prominent and eminently practical figure in the undertaking. There is accommodation for more than fifty women. The Hostel, which is registered as a common lodging-house, is intended for poor women, entirely irrespective of what their character may be. So long as they pay the 5d. per night, which is the minimum charge, and conduct themselves properly within the Hostel, the doors are open to them without demur.

Each bright little bedroom is strictly private, electrically lighted, and absolutely clean. There are six or eight larger bedrooms, each containing a cot for a child or children, and these are 8d. A woman stranded in London with a baby, or a couple of little ones, need be at no loss for a good night's lodging. The Hostel provides a long row of wash-basins in the larger lavatory, but there are four curtained-off "cabinets" where those women who insist on it can wash in privacy. In addition, there is a common room for the lodgers to cook their food at the large common gas range; a laundry; a number of baths at 1d. each; and a common sitting-room, well stocked with books.—*Star*.

Woman of Ninety Works in a Bolton Mill.

Mrs. Betsy Ratcliffe, a sturdy nonagenarian of Bolton, is probably the oldest mill operative in Lancashire. She celebrated her ninetieth birthday on October 10. She lives with a daughter at 105, Kestor-street, Haugh. Mother and daughter work in the same mill, and Mrs. Ratcliffe works eight to ten hours daily.

THE BELIEF OF A BISHOP.

Speaking at the enthusiastic and successful meeting of the Votes for Women Fellowship, presided over by Mrs. Pethick Lawrence at the Kingsway Hall, on October 16, the Bishop of Kensington declared himself a convinced and ardent supporter of votes for women, because of the great moral and spiritual ideas for which the movement stands. Personally, he said, he did not wish to see so grand a cause besmirched by the methods of politicians, but he asked why the Government is only convinced of the determination of those who differ when Ulster is arming, and why the Conservatives condemned the militancy of women while applauding the tactics of Ulster. Whatever may be said about the methods of Suffragettes, he added, it has nothing to do with the inherent righteousness of the Cause. The Bishop concluded an inspiring speech by stern criticism of the administration of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, and declared it would not be effective until women, by means of the vote, were in a position to ask why.



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FRIDAY, October 31, 1913.

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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.

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THE UNDER DOG.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has spoken. He has attacked what he asserts to be one of the great monopolies; he has even put forward a scheme whereby it may be dealt with. His proposed instruments are a Land Ministry, and through it a Commission whose duty it shall be to deal drastically with every sort of land question. The objects which he hopes to achieve are better housing for the rural population—150,000 houses are to be built, and surplus Insurance funds are to be used for this purpose—fixity of tenure for farmers, the establishment of land courts, afforestation and reclaiming of waste lands by the State, and a substantial rise in the wages of the agricultural labourers. It sounds pretty but, as we listen, we cannot help thinking of Mr. George's last joy-day. Apparently he is planning another; indeed, if all the women in the country were as good and manageable as those who went on pilgrimage a few weeks ago, he might even persuade Parliament to let them have a share in the general rejoicing. Some of us, unfortunately, have long memories. Again and again the trumpet-sound of magniloquent words has rung in our ears, and we are fain to ask uncomfortable questions.

"Your scheme, Mr. George, has a certain boldness that is attractive. But what sort of a scheme is it going to be when it has been trimmed and docked and pruned, so as not to offend the susceptibilities of those to whom you owe your power? We do not mean the body of the electors. They are simple souls. Many of them will believe any one of you, if you speak boldly enough; but those who hold your party together—the Whig element, the wealthy Liberal land-owners—those, in fine, who "pay the piper"; and the under-dog—the person who does not pay, who cannot even vote—for, apparently he is to be included in the general benediction, will your scheme really affect him?"

It is not, however, our intention to criticise Mr. George's scheme. We leave that to the political parties whose chief business it is to show up one another's weaknesses. We do not believe, judging from his past record, that the present Chancellor of the Exchequer has the statesmanlike qualities, the wisdom, foresight and aloofness from personal considerations necessary to deal, beneficially to the community at large, with the mass of thorny problems that surround what is called the Land Question. Moreover, there is always something of the penny trumpet and general advertisement business about Mr. George which makes us pause before we accept him too literally. The significant part of the business is that he should have been allowed by his Whig colleagues to open his mouth so wide. What is the reason? Can it be that the Government, like the person committed to an opinion which he cannot support by argument, wishes to change the subject. "Good electors," we can imagine the Cabinet saying, "there have been some unpleasant topics of conversation

between us—rumours of impossible wars, increased expenditure on Army and Navy; an Insurance Act which does not seem to move quite smoothly yet; Home Rule for Ireland; Welsh Disestablishment; rebellious Labour, rebellious woman, and the defiant criminal—all these let us gently set aside. They are not dead topics: you will hear of them again; but in the meantime turn your attention to the new light of dawn that is breaking in the East! Surely the earth, your common mother, is of more importance to you than are any of these. Think of what we, the Liberal Party, can do to release her, and give us your votes at the impending bye-elections."

It is always, let us notice, the elector who is addressed; the farmer, the small landowner, the cramped cottager, the agricultural labourer. The under-dog—the voteless woman and the not-yet-enfranchised man—cannot expect to be considered by political party leaders.

We wonder how Mr. George would have spoken had he known that women voters all over the country were taking silent note of his words—women, politically educated with definite aims and aspirations; women, who having smarted from the shilly-shally, giving and withholding, the tricks and the compromises of the past, were out in their multitudes to demand better lives and fuller opportunities for their children, a fair reward for their own work and the possibility of coming into vital touch with the Earth-Mother. He is master of many instruments, and it may be that he would rise to the occasion. All we venture to say here is—his point of view and his method of stating it would be different. Let anyone who doubts this assertion compare his timorous, half-hearted answer to the recent deputation of women, with the thunders and lightnings of his political speeches. To the women: "he would an' if he could"; to the men: "The time has come for action. The great Liberal Party, under honoured chiefs, is ready. "Up and at them!"

But that, of course, is for the ears of the groundlings. Those who are in the secret know full well that within the Liberal Party itself there is a profound cleavage as regards the so-called land campaign. For some time past Mr. Asquith has been forcibly fed with a policy that is distasteful to him. Possibly he is being spoon-fed now, for at Ladybank last Saturday, addressing his constituents, he approved of "the broad outlines of a scheme of reform." People forcibly fed do not always assimilate their food. Mr. Outhwaite, less reticent, has derided Mr. George's scheme, which he calls a vote-catching campaign.

How pitiful, nay, how tragic it all is! Here, on the one hand, are the great movements—woman, industry, race-building, in all their passionate pity, in all their stormy unrest, calling out for such changes in the law and its administration, such lightening of intolerable burdens, such setting free of imprisoned forces as may give Humanity a chance to grow in happiness and beauty; and, on the other, wily politicians busy at their old game, making things go as safely as possible for themselves.

It cannot continue. Sooner or later the party system will break to pieces against an educated public opinion. Of this there are many unmistakable signs. No one—to take a recent example—can read without emotion the concluding passages in the Bishop of Winchester's remarkable letter on the present situation in *The Times* of Friday, October 24.

He asks for a truce of God—"for the relief of an inflamed and most unwholesome condition of our common life."

"But," he goes on, "what have I to say to their [the women's] opponents and to the community at large?"

"We shall not come to a just judgment, nor therefore win back the respect of those whom this matter kindles to passion, unless we recognise the bitter crop of a long and cruel sowing. What is put in as poison comes out as fever. The fever in the blood of the body politic

comes from all the long and bad record, not entirely of what men have done in passion or weakness, but of what they have defended as natural or condoned as inevitable. But it is not all fever. There is fervour, too, not morbid, but righteous and generous; a desire to lift and to serve even through self-sacrifice those whom the 'social evils,' moral and intellectual, oppress."

In those fine words a true note is sounded. *The Times'* leader writer, totally ignorant as he is of the double force, economic and spiritual, that is urging women on, may sneer at "concentration" on the vote; may condone the atrocious oppression of sweating wages and the hideously bad conditions; may repeat the old lie, woman is paid a lower wage than man "partly because his wage is based on his having to support a wife and family." Who supplies the basis? Who works it out? Good heavens! Do we not know perfectly well that the average employer buys labour in the cheapest market? Woman, the voteless, the Under-Dog, is cheap because she is unprotected. Reason as he may, this leader writer knows that he is fighting the wind.

From out of the depths the voice has spoken. If there is to be social harmony, if there is to be such peace between men and women as will enable them to deal together with the awful problems that press us in on every side, the recommendation of the Bishop must be followed. To bring about peace, "the one thing indispensable would be a definite prospect of the introduction of a Suffrage Bill as a first-class measure." It is precisely that which we have so long demanded.

C. DESPARD.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN THE WORLD."

From the pen of Mr. Harold Begbie, in the September number of *The Woman at Home*, we get an article entitled "The Worst Woman in the World." On perusal of the article we learn that the author claims this unenviable position for the "Englishwoman," by which I presume he means the "British Woman." The women of the middle-class he designates as "snobs," the women of the working-class as "incompetent fools." No one claims that Englishwomen are perfect, but on reading the article one is forced to the conclusion that Mr. Begbie has been singularly unfortunate in the women he knows and associates with, for he tells us: "The modern Englishwoman is a failure. She has failed to make her home dear to her husband and sacred to her children. . . . There is nothing in England so infinitely depressing as the mind of the average Englishwoman. She is neither well-read nor efficient; she is neither aesthetic nor capable; she is so stupid that she does not know how stupid she is. . . . She is vulgar, she is shallow, she is pretentious, she is dull, and she is so completely the untidiest woman on the earth that she cannot even do her hair with neatness and grace." When one reads remarks such as these one remembers Mrs. Poyser's saying: "However, I'm not denyin' the women are foolish. God Almighty made 'em to match the men."

Listen to Mr. Begbie as he continues his tirade. He blames her for what he calls "her disastrous parody of motherhood." It is she who is answerable and to blame for the physical degeneracy of the race which is growing up. "Children of to-day are mal-fed, mal-handed, mal-clothed, and mal-mothered from the very hour of their birth. The mal-treatment by women of their children means a diseased, an enfeebled, an epileptic, and a lunatic race; it means a pale, anæmic, wearied, joyless, and dyspeptic population. And the responsibility is woman's and only woman's." Has Mr. Begbie read the report of the Medical Congress? Had he done so, I think he would have realised that the men of the country must bear their proportion of the blame (and no slight proportion) for these pale, anæmic, sickly babies. Has Mr. Begbie ever considered the

alternative before many mothers; either inadequate wages coming in, if the mother stays within the home, or neglected children if she goes out to supplement her husband's earnings. To talk of infant mortality or of the unhealthiness of the growing children as being due to woman, and to her alone, is an unpardonable statement, especially when made by a person who passes as an authority upon social questions. I am a member of the Local Committee of the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and in the cases which come before us, and I choose these as dealing with the lowest type of person (the person capable of neglecting and ill-using children), we find that far more fathers neglect their families than do the mothers. Often we find the father will not work; he is lazy and drunken, and then the mother sets to, to char or work in the factory to keep the home together. Last month we had before us the case of a man who was capable of earning £2 per week, but as he preferred to drink half the week he never brought his wife more than 15s. a week. Upon this sum how could she pay the rent, and clothe and feed herself, husband, and six children? If woman had any say in the affairs of the nation, I daresay healthier and better children would be born, and when born, they would live in proper, sanitary, well-ventilated houses. But women are ignored by men; they are not consulted in any of the affairs of the nation; the laws are passed without reference to them, and yet they are to be held responsible for all the muddles of to-day. Mr. Begbie kindly informs us "that woman could improve and change our national education and make it character-forming." Yet Education Bills are passed in the House of Commons, and not a woman in the land is allowed to express her views upon these matters, and they are held responsible. Men dictate to women, and legislate for them, and blame them when their bad, one-sided, unrepresentative legislation fails to work. When women stand for the School Board and Parish Councils, and thus try to serve their day and generation, difficulties are put in their way. Are we not all familiar with the taunt that "woman's place is the home"? Again in Mr. Begbie's sweeping generalisations I would remind him that the bad homes, bad mothers, and even bad fathers, are in the minority. The average British woman is a capable, hard-working, self-respecting being; if she is a mother she adds self-denial to her other qualities. She is long-suffering and patient (much too patient). How many a mother have we known who cheerfully sacrifices her day's outing so that her men and children could get a better holiday! If there is insufficient money to buy new clothes for all, it is the mother who does without new clothes, hat or boots, not the father, in the majority of cases. How many women do we know with small incomes, earning their own living who yet cheerfully devote their spare time to charitable or Church work, or to some work which has the good of the community as its object. Is it women of this type who "produce the legions of degeneration, the multiplying hordes of the unfit"? Mr. Begbie is an inaccurate, shallow observer; he must be well aware that what produces sickly, degenerate, unfit children, is bad conditions and degenerate parents, and, as I have already said, if he reads what the medical men say he will know once for all that it is by allowing a double standard of morality to continue, that so many weakly children are born. As Mr. Lloyd George has said: "This double standard will continue as long as women are voteless," so let Mr. Begbie work for the enfranchisement of women if he wants better conditions, and in the meantime let him give due honour to the women of Britain who, in spite of difficulties and hardships, have made the British home the envy of all nations. E. G. M.

SUFFRAGE CLUB, 3, York-street, St. James', November 4, 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss M. M. Farquharson, M.A., "That Woman is Morally, Mentally and Physically Equal to Man." November 6, 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Spencer, "That Woman's Place is the Home." November 7, 7.30 p.m., Anniversary Club Dinner. Miss Leah Bateman-Hunter and Mr. Wilfrid Rendall in entertainment, 8.30 p.m.

DISTINCTIONS AND DIFFERENCES.

Mr. Churchill says "Conference."
Mr. Hobhouse says "Legislative agreement."
Mr. Asquith says "Interchange of views."
Sir Edward Grey says "Some sort of compromise."

It would be difficult for the most enthusiastic Liberal, we should imagine, to give a straightforward and enlightening answer to the question: What is the Government going to do? Leaders have spoken—more or less at hazard—and their statements of policy have only one thing in common, which thing may perhaps best be described as a certain "Wait and see" effect. What they are waiting to see, apparently, is the net result of the little batch of bye-elections.

Mr. McKenna and Mr. Redmond are in this complete accord, that they don't want to talk any more about anything. "Full steam ahead" is their plan of dealing with waverers and shirkers, as well as with opponents. Mr. Asquith had promised them six months' holiday (on full pay), and they have no desire to spend any or all of that holiday conferring with the Ulster irreconcilables. Mr. Asquith and Mr. Churchill, on the other hand, show a cautious and canny disposition. They are waiting to see what manner of game Lord Loreburn may have bagged with his bow drawn at a venture. They hold out possibilities that if, and suppose, and on certain conditions, conferences might assuage feeling, then conferences might be contemplated. They are very assertive that no one means to be intimidated, and that it would be far, far from their thoughts or their dignity to yield to threats of force; yet what in the name of all that is sensible is this talk of conference? It is no new thing to Mr. Asquith and Mr. Churchill that certain Irishmen detest the very thought of Home Rule. They have shown no scruple in forcing it on them in spite of that well-known detestation. Is it conceivable that if there had been no threat of force there would have been any question of "conferring" over a Government measure well on the way to completion? If Mr. Asquith was so anxious to conciliate Ulster in every possible way, save only the broad principle of a Parliament in Ireland, why did he preserve so stubborn a front in all the details in the House, refusing to withdraw or modify one single important point, no matter how contentious or irritating, in deference to the feelings of the Opposition? It is useless, now, for him and for his henchman to swank about their superiority to threats of violence; out of their own mouths and by their own actions we condemn them, these paltry political tinkers who boast to voteless women that men "cannot be bullied."

Mr. Lloyd George has not turned his great mind to the problem of conference or no conference. He disdains such side issues.

He brushes Ulster aside as of no consequence. Too busily engaged in forcibly-feeding the Cabinet with his Land Policy, he is swaggering and showing off to please Mr. Outhwaite. We note with some pleasure that Mr. Outhwaite won't be pleased, and retains his dark and mystic melodrama attitude as of one who says: Ha, ha! We shall see! Mr. Wedgwood is not pleased either. We could, however, wish him honester company in his disappointment than Mr. Outhwaite. Mr. George indulged in a brief aside, during his Land rhapsody, to the National Union, whose representatives must have been almost as pleased as Mr. Wedgwood at finding themselves sharply lectured for militancy, and advised to work at the General Election in a way to show that they could "use self-restraint" and be "fit for self-government." We cannot sympathise with people who go out of their way to invite this kind of impertinence from this kind of person; but we do not love Mr. George any the better for taking the opportunity. We note that Mr. George, the Suffragist, gave the same advice as Mr. Asquith the Anti-Suffragist, to persevere with pilgrimages. "Go on as you are doing," quoth Mr. Asquith, after that fine display of endurance and orderliness. The question is, would he have advised it if he had thought it would be effective?

Mr. George also committed himself to the statement that instalments of justice, in our case, were "worse than nothing." We wonder why that Great Thought never struck anyone in 1832, or in 1867, or in 1884? Why, indeed, did it not strike Mr. George himself in 1912, when a further "instalment" of adult Suffrage was to be given by adding some more men to the present lot? But we can leave Mr. George's pleasant "aside" to speak for itself; we must return to the political situation.

Mr. Hobhouse favoured us with a particularly illuminating contribution to the Conference debate. In pursuance of the fleeting idea of "legislation by accord not by discord," which for one brief moment, under stress of circumstances, has flashed across the minds of hard-beset politicians, he discusses the possibility of "some common agreement," which "would be infinitely creditable to political parties" and would be "evidence of the well-working of the machinery of Parliamentary Government." It is a step in the right direction that some suspicion of the crankiness of that machinery, and the necessity for some evidence of its "well-working" should have dimly dawned at long last on those who have allowed it to rust. "It would be disastrous and criminal if we were to neglect any opening which made for peace," he says, with due solemnity, for he is dealing with voters. But in the final note, that "weakness might procure us some few additional weeks or months of office," we read a hint that the Government's tenure of office—even with strength, not weakness—is none too secure; and we venture further to hint that the Cabinet changes which have brought about with apparent rashness this little crop of elections, are the result of a carefully planned scheme, in the nature of a *ballon d'essai*, to find which way the wayward wind of public fancy is blowing.

Mr. Lulu Harcourt has not condescended to express his views; it is, perhaps, his scorn of his colleagues that keeps him silent. And Mr. Birrell, the person who surely should be most interested, has not allowed his genial wit to play about the subject at all.

In the summing up of all the Ministerial pronouncements and in studying the various Ministerial attitudes, we come to the conclusion that it is a game of "Wait and see." The Government is waiting to see how the elections will go, and the Opposition is waiting, too. Militant Suffragists may take heart of grace; no such situation would have arisen had it not been for resistance to law threatened or actual; and the country, we believe, is now alive to the position. It is useless for Mr. George to declare that the present House of Commons reflects the feeling of the country; we know better, and we believe the Government will be made to know it too, before long.

C. NINA BOYLE.

THE MOVEMENT IN SCOTLAND.

My pleasant and memorable visit to Scotland came to an end at Glasgow. In the evening we had a very fine meeting of members, friends and strangers. Miss Bunten took the chair. Miss Jack, of Edinburgh, joined us and gave a vigorous and delightful speech, which was listened to with keen attention, and I followed. A few questions were asked; literature and THE VOTE sold well, and there was a very good response to the appeal for money.

I must mention here that, owing to the miscarriage of letters, I was unable to visit the Kilmarnock Branch. I did not know I was expected, and I had made other arrangements. Miss Bunten and Miss Semple were in despair, when Miss Jack heroically threw herself into the breach. Braving fatigue, after her teaching work in the day at Edinburgh, she travelled to Kilmarnock at night, and I have been delighted to hear from her that the meeting there was extremely successful. I hope to visit Kilmarnock in December; meantime I cherish most kindly memories of my few days in Scotland.

C. DESPARD.

THE "PROTECTED" SEX. IN THE CRIMINAL COURTS.

Clerkenwell.

Before Mr. Lawrie, Dolly McMahon was brought up for soliciting. The judge said he would give her a much longer sentence if she came before him again. **Seven months' hard labour.**

Edith Patrick, charged with soliciting and being a common prostitute. P.C. 649A. said he saw prisoner and a man behaving indecently in Hyde Park. The man was fined 20s. by the magistrate; the woman was sent for trial, and Mr. Lawrie gave her **six months' hard labour.**

Mary Green, soliciting, **three months' hard labour.**

John Board (45), a well-to-do man, was charged with indecently assaulting Bessie Brown, aged six. The prisoner was said to have met the child and her sister on their way to school, taken them to his flat, and outraged Bessie, giving her an old pair of boots for her father. Prisoner pleaded not guilty, and in the absence of "corroborative" evidence was **acquitted.**

John Hailes (69), charged with indecently assaulting Gladys Hartwell, aged twelve.

The child's story was corroborated by a young girl named Leary, who said she saw the indecency complained of, and immediately ran for a policeman, who arrested the prisoner. Counsel for the defence: "When Miss Leary saw this alleged assault, surely her womanly instinct would have led her to do something else than run for a policeman. She might have gone to the old man and slapped his face." Mr. Lawrie, who commended the girl's action, said: "We should then have had two trials instead of one." Jury found prisoner guilty, and his counsel said: "I hope your lordship will take into consideration his old age and his hitherto respectable character. I wonder whether a fine would meet the case!" Mr. Lawrie: "The very smallest sentence I can possibly pass upon him is **four months Second Division.**"

Peter Macodory (23), found guilty of living on his wife's immoral earnings, was sentenced by Mr. Lawrie to **twelve months' hard labour and twenty strokes with the birch.** "If you come again you will get the cat," he was told.

Louisa O'Carroll, soliciting, **three months.**

Joseph Cohen (50), charged with persistently soliciting male persons for immoral earnings. He was **acquitted.**

Francis Beatrice Dutton (26) was charged with the neglect and ill-treatment of her three children. Her husband had left her several days before the summons was served on her, and she said he was cruel and left her without money. The prosecution said the woman was an habitual drunkard and unfit to care for her children. **Five days' imprisonment and three years' detention in an Inebriates' Home.**

At the Old Bailey.

Richard Stevens (33) pleaded guilty to committing two indecent assaults on a girl of fourteen. **Nine months' hard labour.**

Before Mr. Justice Lush, John Thomas Barriball (57) and Annie Barriball (56) were charged with the wilful murder of Harry Farrow (34), a lodger in their house, and the wife's lover. Mr. Justice Lush said he would take the responsibility of telling the jury that there was no evidence beyond slight circumstantial evidence to point to prisoners having murdered the young man. They were therefore **acquitted.**

The classification of offences will give room for thought, Criminal and indecent assault, living on immoral earnings causing bodily harm, &c., are misdemeanours. Stealing, or assault with intent to steal, even a pair of boots, &c., are felonies, involving heavier sentences than misdemeanours, thus showing the difference of value placed upon property and life.

E. M. WATSON.

IN THE POLICE COURTS

Killed.

Elizabeth Prendergast, old-age pensioner, of Killery, King's County, murdered on the night of September 26. Head beaten in with wooden implement known as a "pounder." Brother charged.

Miss Gunn, shot through the window at night when sitting with her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. McLaren, at Portencross, Ayrshire. Mrs. McLaren also seriously wounded, Mr. McLaren slightly.

Murderous Assault.

Mrs. Margaret Bain, Edinburgh, manageress, attacked by her brother, John Ross, with whom she had for some time had dispute as to ownership of certain property. The dispute had been renewed the previous evening, and Ross, who apparently had refrained from any exhibition of temper, fired at his sister as she followed him to the door. The bullet passed through her chest, and her condition is critical. Ross then committed suicide.

Jeanie Robertson, Glasgow, shot by her sweetheart, John Livingstone, a tram conductor, as he was saying good-bye to her at her door. Bullet entered the neck, but she is expected to recover. Had refused to continue to go out with the man, who took to drink. Asked her to return to him, but she had refused. Livingstone then committed suicide.

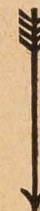
Brutality.

Mrs. Walker, of Stockton, accused by her husband of stealing a sovereign he had lost; he took her by the throat and kicked her. Was defiant in court, but ended by pleading for mercy. Telling him he "deserved six months," the Bench **finned him £3 and costs.** October 21.

Father and son called Tobin, found guilty of theft at the

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Middlesex Sessions before Mr. Montagu Sharpe. Associates in crime, father living on his wife's immoral earnings. Had been convicted fifteen times, but was still drawing his pension as an ex-soldier. Son convicted twenty-one times, chiefly for drunkenness and assaults on his wife, whom he treated most brutally, tracking her down when he came out of gaol and terrorising her into living with him. **Father, eighteen months; son, twenty-one months.**

Archibald Gillinson, charged at Somerset Assizes with persecuting a young lady, "making her life a perfect hell," by threatening to murder her, publishing defamatory libels in letters about her, following her, &c., in ten counts. She had refused his advances. **Five years.**

Mary Thompson, South Hackney, who fainted in court from starvation, sought to recover maintenance from her husband, who had been ordered to make her an allowance. Husband said: "If the penalty were death, he would not pay." Ordered to pay **£2 a month, or ten days in default.** At Shoreditch, before Judge Smyly.

Walter Tyler, formerly inspector for the Middlesex County Council, pleaded guilty at Brentford to exposing wilfully obscene and indecent writings, having been observed on several occasions to take such writings from his pockets and place them in the roadway where certain well-dressed young women could see them. When arrested, the papers were found on him. Trial proceeding.

Criminal Assault.

Thomas Simms, canal boatman, criminally assaulted child of thirteen on the canal bank near Appleby Bridge, Chorley, September 26, tying her hands behind her back and threatening to kill her if she screamed. At Lancaster Assizes, before Mr. Justice Avory, sentenced to **five years.**

No Act of Parliament.

Mr. Clarke Hall informed two poor women who applied to him last week at the Thames Police-court that notices served upon them by their landlords to vacate their rooms in forty-eight hours were utterly illegal. The notices pretended to quote from an Act of Parliament. Mr. Hall stated that there was no such Act!

AUSTRALIA AND THE BRITISH SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT.

The following resolution was passed on September 8, 1913, by the Women's Political Association of Victoria, Australia:—

"Believing that the women of Australia, who won the franchise, owe a duty to their English sisters who are being tortured by the British Government because they fight against government without consent, and demand the vote to enable them to deal with the White Slave Traffic and all evils that oppress women, this association resolves to conduct a campaign of education on the Suffragette movement, and calls upon the free women of all countries to rouse their people to protest against the barbarity of the British Government in substituting torture for self-government, and to show that the Suffragettes are freeing women everywhere from the trammels of centuries."

The October number of the Monthly Paper of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage, publishes an interesting letter from our good friend, Mr. John Simpson, in which he gives the welcome tidings that, as a result of a Suffrage speech he made at a meeting at Sydney through the courtesy of Miss Hodge and Miss Newcombe, of the Australian and New Zealand Women Voters' Association, a Men's League for the Dominions will be formed to carry on educative work.

"Its members," writes Mr. Simpson, "will bombard those at home with information as to the working of Suffrage out here, and when in England deputations will wait on Parliamentarians with a view to impressing on them the urgent need of the reform."

"A DAUGHTER OF FRANCE."

I have had the treat on Saturday afternoon of attending the first matinee of *A Daughter of France*, a delightful little play dramatised from her own novel, I believe, by Miss Constance Maud and Pierre Breton, and given in the Ambassadors' Theatre, West-street, Shaftesbury-avenue. The principal character, Jeanne de Clairvaux, is taken by Lydia Yavorska. It is a part which, in its grace, passion and variety suits her well. She is "The Daughter of France," who having married Sir Archie McGregor, is taken by him to his castle in the Highlands, whose mistress is his mother, admirably rendered by Miss Elspeth Dudgeon. She is a very Scotch dowager of the old type, living the life of the righteous and regulated matron with her two unmarried daughters. Upon these Jeanne descends like a bomb-shell. Her life, her vivacity, her high spirits, and her general unconventionality render her an object, not only of hatred, but of suspicion to her mother-in-law. In the first act there are some amusing episodes. In the second the plot thickens. Jeanne, who is perfectly good and pure, and who loves her husband with whole-hearted devotion, is discovered by her mother-in-law in what appeared to be a compromising situation. How the story works itself out the readers of our VOTE must discover for themselves. They cannot fail to enjoy a visit to one of the matinees, which take place on Saturdays at 2 p.m. The playing, the scenery, the dialogue, the passion of Mlle. Yavorska, and the uncompromising severity of Miss Dudgeon, as Lady McGregor, are all charming. We congratulate Miss Maud on the success of her play. C. DESPARD.

THE NATIONAL WEEK OF PRAYER.

We again call the attention of our readers to the National Week of Prayer, from November 1 to 8, arranged by the United Religious Leagues for Woman Suffrage. A joint committee, representing the Church League, the Free Church, the Roman Catholic League, the Friends' League, the Jewish League, and the Scottish Churches' League, has organised the scheme, but complete freedom of action is given to each League to carry it out in their own way and according to local conditions in London and the Provinces. In welcoming the Call to Prayer the Women's Freedom League has always recognised that, as the committee says, "the claim for the enfranchisement of women is not merely an assertion of political rights but the expression of a great moral and religious movement among women." The strength of the movement is its underlying spirituality—a spirituality which must be translated into practical service by the co-operation of women with men in the national life. A special event of the Week of Prayer in London is the United Public Meeting at the Caxton Hall, on Thursday, November 6, at 8 p.m., when representatives of all the Religious Leagues will speak. They will include Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Abadam, Mrs. Ford Smith, the Rev. Claude Hinscliff, the Rev. C. Fleming Williams, and the Rev. Joseph Hochman. A Social Reception will be given from 7 to 8 p.m., with hostesses representing the different Leagues, among them Mrs. Alice Meynell. We have had many signs lately, the Bishop of Winchester's appeal for an amnesty being a notable one, of the awakening of the Churches to the meaning of the woman's movement. It is an awakening too long delayed, but now it has come we welcome it as a notable sign of the times.

SOLVING A DIFFICULTY.—Every woman who motors knows the difficulty of finding suitable headgear which will stand wind and weather and yet be becoming. Formerly this seemed a hopeless quest, but Messrs. Dunhill, 2, Conduit-street, London, have solved the difficulty, and offer an extraordinary variety of bonnets, hoods and hats which give the lie to the assertion that women make themselves hideous when motoring. Nothing could be more artistic or comfortable for this time of the year than the fur bonnets in moleskin, coney, seal, squirrel, dyed musquash, finished with a frill of nimon, beaded flowers, or silk choux, and ribbon strings, and varying in price from 29s. 6d. to 70s. There are also plush, velvet, felt and straw hats in charming colours which are as pretty as they are useful. To those in doubt we say, "Go to Messrs. Dunhill in London, Manchester, or Glasgow, and you will find your difficulty solved."

Chapter 11

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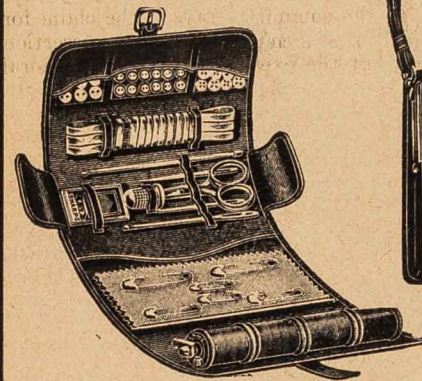
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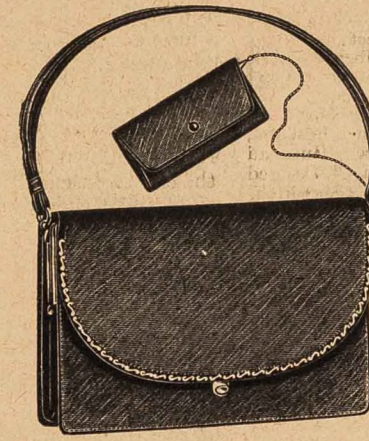
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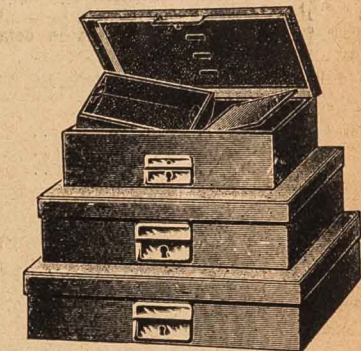


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LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL.

The annual general meeting of the Council was held on October 14. The secretary's report showed that though the list of separate achievements was shorter than that of last year, very useful work had been done, work more in accordance with the aims and objects of the Council. We were very fortunate in securing Mrs. Huntsman as honorary organiser; her energy and enthusiasm are untiring; her services to the Council and through it to the Branches have been invaluable.

During the year much assistance—in finance and in organisation—has been given to several London Branches, enabling them to hold most successful public meetings, and we have now embarked on an autumn campaign to increase the number of Freedom League Branches in London.

The treasurer's report for this year showed an expenditure considerably greater than our income, but the excellent "treasuring" of Mrs. Fisher has made it possible to disregard a financial loss for this year. We cannot, however, constantly exceed our income, and at present we are much concerned how to fill our treasury again. A jumble sale, always a good source of profit if large enough, will be held in December. We hope all members will note this, and send as well as get their friends to promise, parcels of clothing, &c. As the sale will take place just before Christmas old toys will be very acceptable. Parcels may be sent now to Mrs. Fisher at the Office, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.

ETHEL CLAYTON.

The Hon. Organiser's Appeal.

Will all London Branches affiliate to the Council? Last year the Council gave financial assistance to many of the smaller Branches, and in addition to help in working up meetings, advertising, &c., we now have the valuable help of Miss Trott, who is indefatigable in her efforts to make meetings a success. Fixtures have been made with the East London, Ealing, Harrow, and Streatham districts. Will other London Branches send in schemes of work so that we can fit in one with another. The affiliation fee is 5s. per year, and the meetings are held at 1, Robert-street, the first Monday in every month. Will all London Branch secretaries try to attend the next meeting?

MARGARET HUNTSMAN.

"THE VOTE" COUPON.

One of our members writes:—"I have lately induced the proprietor of the bookstall at the local railway station to stock 'THE VOTE.' No better advertisement than this can be devised. If other members will follow this example we shall be glad, if any difficulty arises, to send posters direct from THE VOTE Office and also include a free copy of the paper for the first three months.

CAXTON HALL "WEDNESDAYS."

It was a Freedom League gathering in more senses than one on October 23. The chairman and the speakers were well known Freedom Leaguers. Mrs. Tanner, who presided, criticised severely the supineness of the Home Office in putting its own regulations into practice for the safety of miners, and urged the importance of the weapon of the vote being in the hands of women to ensure a better attention to duty. The speeches of Miss Eunice Murray and Miss Nina Boyle on the political situation and the need for a Fighting Fund for the crop of by-elections now imminent, aroused such keen interest that an excellent response was made to the appeal of Mrs. Julia Wood for £100, and has since been generously supplemented. By-elections are the dominant interest of the moment.

NORTH-EASTERN CAMPAIGN.

In the North-East of England the interest is as keen as ever on the subject of Votes for Women. We have held successful meetings with interested audiences in York, Darlington, Northallerton, Thirsk, Selby, Newcastle, and other places; an extensive campaign is arranged embracing South Shields, Middlesbrough, West Hartlepool, and Sunderland. In Gateshead we hope to form a Branch in the near future and shall be glad if members can forward names of sympathisers to Miss Anna Munro, at 1, Robert-street, Adelphi.

REGENT'S PARK PLATFORM.

In addition to the response already published in THE VOTE, our appeal for money to buy a portable platform has resulted in the very kind gift of £1 from "A Middlesbrough High School Old Girl," to whom we wish to express our best thanks. It is most gratifying to the officials of the Mid-London Branch, which "runs" the Park meetings, to know that their efforts to keep them going on behalf of the League are appreciated.

The Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage.

A remarkably successful meeting was held on October 26 in the East Meadows, Edinburgh, at which two new members spoke—Councillor Archbold, of Edinburgh, and Mr. Colbron, Ex-Councillor of Hawick. The Town Council of Edinburgh will be strongly represented at the Mass Meeting in the Synod Hall, November 14. Councillor John Murray (Father of the Council), Councillors Crawford, Cameron and Barrie will speak, and Councillor Bruce Lyndsey will take the chair. Bailie Alston, J.P., of Glasgow, will speak, and the Glasgow Council is invited to the platform. Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G., will represent an English-speaking country where women are enfranchised, and Mrs. Arneliffe Sennett will speak for the outlawed women of the Mother Country. The London Convention of the Northern Men will take place in the Kingsway Hall on Saturday, December 6, at 8 p.m., and it is hoped that London will give them a rousing welcome. All inquiries to Mrs. Lilian Hicks, the Hon. Organiser for Convention, 6, Hampden House, 3, Kingsway.

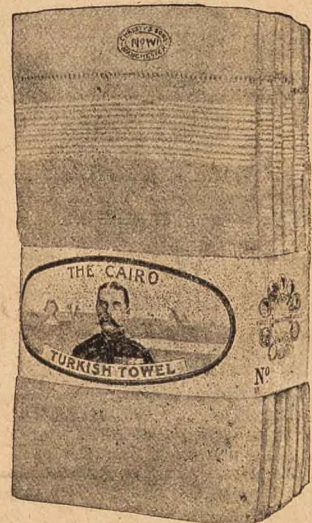
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24 by 48	1s. 3½d.	1s. 0½d. each
26 by 50	1s. 6½d.	1s. 3½d. "
27 by 52	1s. 9½d.	1s. 6½d. "



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No. T6. As illustration.

Size.	Usual price.	Sale price.
27 by 52	1s. 11½d.	1s. 8½d. "
28 by 56	2s. 3½d.	1s. 11½d. "
32 by 54	2s. 11½d.	2s. 6½d. "
33 by 56	3s. 6½d.	2s. 11½d. "
36 by 61	4s. 6½d.	3s. 11½d. "

FRINGED BROWN LINEN TURKISH TOWELS.

Size.	Usual price.	Sale price.
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27 by 56	2s. 6½d.	1s. 11½d. "

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2½ by 2½ yds.	13s. 11d.		

Dinner Napkins 13s. 11d. doz.

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2 by 3 yds.	6s. 11d.	2 by 3 yds.	8s. 11d.
2½ by 3½ yds.	8s. 11d.	2½ by 3½ yds.	11s. 9d.
2½ by 3½ yds.	10s. 11d.	2½ by 3½ yds.	15s. 11d.

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

LONDON AND SUBURBS.—Croydon.—Office, 32A, The Arcade, High-street.

The weekly "At Home" held on October 23 was well attended to hear the Rev. W. M. Weston, D.D., speak on "A Practical Method of Dealing with Public Immorality." A very interesting address was followed by a good discussion.

East London.

We were very busy last week preparing for our public meeting at Stratford Town Hall on October 27, when Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Mustard spoke, and Miss Adams, our hon. secretary, took the chair. An account of the meeting will appear next week. We poster-paraded the main streets from Bow-road to Wanstead Flats and distributed handbills. We also delivered back numbers of THE VOTE and handbills at a thousand houses round and about Stratford Town Hall. All members living near are warmly invited to attend Branch meetings and send subscriptions to the secretary.

Harrow.

A very successful meeting was held on Friday last at "Fairholme," Greenhill, Harrow, by kind permission of Mrs. Higgins. Mrs. Huntsman took the chair and explained the aims and methods of our League, and Mrs. Mustard made an excellent speech on "Why We Need the Vote," which resulted in making several converts to the Cause. THE VOTE sold well, and a good collection in coming so far, and to Mrs. Higgins for her kindly hospitality. On November 13 we are arranging a public debate, at which Miss Boyle will propose: "That women be eligible for Parliament."

Herne-hill and Norwood.

Members are earnestly requested to attend the public meeting on Saturday, November 1, at 7.30 p.m., at All Saints' Parish Rooms, Crooked-road, Dulwich (near to Dulwich Station, L.C. & S.E. Ry.), to welcome Mrs. Despard and Miss Nina Boyle. Mrs. Tanner will preside. As Mrs. Despard will speak from 7.45 to 8.15, when she has to leave for a meeting at the Albert Hall, the meeting must begin promptly. Please make it known among your friends.

Kensington.

A whist drive in aid of the Birthday Fund will be given at 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, on Thursday, November 6, at 8 p.m. Tickets, 1s. 6d. each, from the hon. treasurer.

Streatham and Thornton Heath.

Who will volunteer for some work at our whist drive on November 19? We are getting plenty of promises for players, and Miss Phillips has kindly undertaken charge of literature. Will anyone willing to help with refreshments kindly send their names to Mrs. Pyart or Mrs. Gault, 32, Buckleigh-road, Streatham-common?

West Hampstead.

A Branch meeting will be held at 23, Pandora-road, on Tuesday, November 11, to settle affairs connected with our "Merrymaking." Members are urged to make an effort to attend.

PROVINCES.—Burnage.

Our members met on October 20 at the house of Mrs. Pearce. The special attraction of the evening was an inspiring address from Miss Andrews. We are looking forward to a return visit in November, when she speaks to a Mothers' Union at a local chapel. Miss Boyle's visit, and the keen interest excited, will be reported next week.

Ipswich.

Last Thursday we held our first working party in preparation for Christmas. We hope all members will attend and bring some piece of work which can be sold at the shop. Both plain and fancy articles are wanted, and we rely on every member to make herself responsible for at least one article. An interesting book or play will be read and discussed at the working parties. Last week we had Mrs. Nevinson's play, *In the Workhouse*.

Manchester (Central Branch).—Office, 46A, Market-street.

The results of our Jumble Sale were wrongly recorded in the last issue of THE VOTE. They amounted to £9 17s., and have now reached the sum of £10. A Branch meeting was held on Wednesday evening, October 22; business was transacted and meetings arranged for Miss Andrews at Blakeley and Walkden in addition to those already fixed. Members are now looking forward to Mrs. Despard's visit on November 14.

Middlesbrough.

A business meeting was held on October 20 in Hinton's Café. Delegates were appointed to attend a Conference on the Middlesbrough Housing Problem and the Women's Conference of the Workers' Education Association. The secretary was instructed to write to all the candidates for the municipal elections, asking whether they were in favour of Woman Suffrage, and also to write to Mr. Lloyd George, who is to speak at the Town Hall on November 8, asking him to receive a deputation from the local Branch of the W.F.L. The secretary reported that her attempts to arrange a debate during the week of Miss Munro's visit had been futile, no anti-suffragist speaker being discovered.

Mrs. Schofield Coates expressed very deep regret, which is shared by all our members, that Mrs. Spencer—one of our best workers—has been obliged to resign her position as treasurer, owing to leaving the town. In her absence a financial statement was given by Miss L. Mahony, which was satisfactory from the point of view that we have practically covered the very heavy expenses of our recent meetings.

Portsmouth and Gosport.

Our first whist drive, on October 22, was most successful and enjoyable. The satisfactory financial result will go to the Birthday Fund. Many thanks to Mrs. White, who kindly placed her room at our disposal and to the members who gave the prizes and refreshments.

Winchester.

A very attentive audience listened to Miss Eunice Murray's eloquent address on October 23 at our out-door meeting, in spite of cold weather. There was a good sale of THE VOTE and literature.

SCOTLAND.—Dundee.—Organiser, Miss Ada Broughton.

Successful meetings have been held during the past week, and

splendid dinner-hour meetings held at five mills; the increasing interest of women workers is most marked. The W.F.L. also took part in a demonstration in the Albert-square, arranged by the local W.S.P.U. against Forcible Feeding. Miss Broughton thanks Mrs. Allan, Miss Chumas, and all who helped to make the meetings a success.

Edinburgh.—Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road.

Though the answer to the question, "Is Woman Human?" might appear to be very obvious, Miss Jacob's lecture on the subject was one of exceptional interest. The two fundamental necessities of all living creatures, including human beings, are those of nutrition and reproduction. To attempt to confine woman to the latter, and to assert that man should provide entirely for the former (and this, Miss Jacob showed, is really the anti-feminist position) is essentially to deny the humanness of woman. These points and many others were illustrated by a series of slides specially prepared by Miss Jacob, which greatly added to the interest of the lecture. A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded the lecturer.

Glasgow.—Suffrage Shop, 70, St. George's-road.

On October 21, Mrs. Despard paid one of her flying visits to Glasgow. We took the Philosophical Society's Hall, holding about 400; it was well filled, and the excellent speeches by Miss Jack, of Edinburgh, and Mrs. Despard were received with great enthusiasm by the audience. The chair was taken by Miss J. L. Bunten. A Cake and Gandy Sale will be held in the shop on November 15. Members are asked to make it a success by bringing their friends. The sale will be opened at 3.30 by ex-Provost White, of Partick.

We are glad to notice that one of our members, Miss Dot Allan, is to have her first play produced by the Glasgow Repertory Company at the Alhambra, on November 17. Miss Allan's articles in the local Press appear under the pen-name of Constance Ray, by which name she is known to many readers. The play now to be produced is entitled *Snowdrifts*. Miss Allan has been a member of the Glasgow Branch for many years, and takes a deep interest in the Cause, although she cannot spare much time to work with us. We look forward with great interest to the production of her first play, and wish her all success.

INCOME, JUNE—SEPTEMBER.		£	s.	d.
<i>Donations and Annual Subscriptions—</i>				
Mrs. Murray	1 10 0			
Mrs. McCall	0 8 6			
Miss Isa White	2 0 0			
Miss Bunten	5 0 0			
Miss Pirrit	0 10 6			
Mrs. Wilson	1 1 0			
Winnie Wilson	0 1 0			
Mrs. Allan, Hillhead	0 1 6			
<i>Transferred Subscriptions—</i>				
Mr. W. W. White and the Misses White	3 0 0			
<i>Literature profit, per Miss Dickie</i>	8 0 0			
<i>Share surplus, Athenaeum meeting</i>	15 13 9½			
<i>Sales</i>	0 9 6			
<i>Income, Tea Room</i>	1 14 9			
<i>Membership fees</i>	3 19 0			
<i>Coll., Branch meeting</i>	0 12 9			
Total	£44	2	3½	
<i>Previously acknowledged</i>	109	11	5½	
	£153	13	9	

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Women's Tax Resistance League.

The following resolution was carried unanimously at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Women's Tax Resistance League held recently:—"This Committee protests against the reintroduction of forcible feeding under the conditions of the Cat-and-Mouse Act. Though that Act was passed for the purpose of superseding a revolting practice, it is now plain that at the will of the Home Secretary the torture of political offenders can be inflicted, not once, but again and again. That such powers should be entrusted to a minister who is avowedly opposed to the Cause for which the prisoners are fighting, is a flagrant breach of all the canons of justice and fair dealing."

At drawing-room meetings, Mrs. Wallis, of Woodcote, Grove-road, Coulsdon, and Mrs. Edwards, Hainault-avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea, of the Southend Branch, kindly lent their drawing-rooms last week for meetings, at which Mrs. Kington Parkes spoke and new members joined the League. Special attention is called to Miss Katherine Raleigh's lecture, "The Worship of Athene," at the Caxton Hall, on November 10, at 5 p.m. Miss Raleigh is a lecturer on Greek Art and Mythology, and has resisted her taxes six times. She is kindly giving the whole proceeds of the lecture to the funds of the League.

Women Writers' Suffrage League.

A most successful and well-attended meeting was held on Wednesday, October 15, at 16, John-street, over which Mrs. Nevinson, always a witty and delightful speaker, presided, and Dr. Marie Stopes spoke on "The Taxation of Married Women." She gave a clear and definite explanation of the curious and anomalous position of the married woman *vis-a-vis* the tax-collector. Money paid indirectly or otherwise to the Government helped its tyrannical treatment of women, and Dr. Stopes suggested that women should transfer their invested property to other countries, informing Mr. Lloyd George of this step. Mrs. Kington Parkes gave much useful information on the methods to be followed by those who refuse to pay their taxes. The President of the W.W.S.L., Mrs. Flora Annie Steel, is a tax resister, and is, at this very time, going through all the annoyance and inconvenience inseparable from such resistance.

Irish League for Women's Suffrage.

At the next meeting on Tuesday, November 4, at 8 p.m., at the Emerson Club, 19, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C., members are invited to take part in a discussion on the subject of "The Election Policy of the Irish League."

The Forward Cymric Suffrage Union.

A meeting to protest against forcible feeding will be held on November 3, at the Caxton Hall. Speakers: Mrs. Mansell-Moullin, Mrs. Hylton Dale, and Miss Margarita Jones (in Welsh). Chair, Mrs. M. E. Davies.

Church League for Women's Suffrage.

Service at St. Paul's, Harrow-road, on All Saints' Day, November 1, at 3 p.m. Preacher, the Rev. Egerton Swann. On Wednesday, November 5, 3.30 p.m., at St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, E.C. Preacher, the Rev. Canon J. H. B. Masterman.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, Oct. 31.—Caxton Hall, Special Political Meeting, 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Holmes, Miss Eunice Murray, Miss Nina Boyle. Admission free. POSTER PARADE, leave West Dulwich Station 2.45 p.m.

Sat. Nov. 1.—ALL SAINTS' PARISH ROOM, CROXTED-ROAD, DULWICH, Public Meeting, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Despard, Miss Nina Boyle and Mr. Allan Allport. Chair: Mrs. Tanner.

Sun. Nov. 2.—Regent's-park, noon. Miss Andrews and Mrs. Hyde. Mon. Nov. 3.—W.F.L. Office, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C., 8 p.m. Lecture by Dr. Dorothea Tudor on "Women's Work in the Bulgarian Medical Department during the Recent War in the Balkans." Chair, Miss A. A. Smith. Admission free. Discussion invited.

Tues. Nov. 4.—Dramatic Version of "Hiawatha," by K. Harvey (in aid of "The Vote"), Cripplegate Institute, two minutes' walk from Aldersgate-street Station (Metropolitan Railway), 8 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets, 4s., 2s., and 1s. from W.F.L. Office.

Wed. Nov. 5.—CAXTON HALL PUBLIC MEETING, 3.30 p.m. Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, "The Child in Hungary," and Miss Nina Boyle. Admission free. W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C., London Branches Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Thurs. Nov. 6.—W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, Whist Drive, 8 p.m., arranged by Kensington Branch. CROYDON OFFICE, 32A, The Arcade, 3.30 p.m., "At Home." Speaker: Miss Miller.

Mon. Nov. 10.—SHAFFTSBURY HALL, BOWES PARK, N., Public Meeting, 7.30. Speakers: Miss Eunice Murray and Miss Nina Boyle. Chair: R. Morrison, Esq. Admission free.

Tues. Nov. 11.—W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C., Mid-London Branch Meeting, 7.45 p.m. SPENCER HALL, Spencer-road, Dartmouth Park Hill, N.W. (by kind permission of St. Pancras Branch I.L.P.), 8 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Subject: "Freedom for Women." Chair: Mr. J. F. N. Green. Admission free.

Wed. Nov. 12.—CAXTON HALL PUBLIC MEETING, 3.30 p.m. Mr. G. Lansbury and Miss Eunice Murray. Admission free. 113, WEST SIDE, Clapham-common, Drawing-room Meeting (by kind permission of Mrs. Sutcliffe), 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle.

Thurs. Nov. 13.—CROYDON OFFICE, 32A, The Arcade, 3.30 p.m., "At Home." Mrs. Baillie, B.Sc. Sun. Nov. 16.—CAXTON HALL, "At Home," 3.30—5 p.m. Members and friends cordially invited. Tea, music. Speaker: The Rev. Hatty Baker, on "Henrik Ibsen's Influence on the Woman's Movement." Chair: Mrs. Despard.

Mon. Nov. 17.—DRILL HALL, W. EALING, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard, Miss Boyle, Mrs. Huntsman and J. Y. Kennedy, Esq. Chair: G. A. Chambers, Esq. Admission free.

Wed. Nov. 19.—CAXTON HALL PUBLIC MEETING, 3.30. Mrs. de Fonblanque on "Nature and the Soul of Woman's Suffrage" and Mrs. Despard. Admission free. STREATHAM TOWN HALL, Whist Drive, 7.30 p.m. Tickets, 1s. each.

Thurs. Nov. 20.—CROYDON W.F.L. OFFICE, 32A, The Arcade, "At Home," 3.30 p.m. Mrs. E. M. N. Clark.

PROVINCES. Reading By-Election Campaign, Committee Rooms, 31, King's-road. Meetings daily at St. Mary's Butts, Queen's Statue, Cork-road, Bedford-road, Cemetery Gates, and Dinner-hour Meetings at factory and works gates.

Keighley By-Election Campaign. Open-air Meetings in district daily. Sat. Nov. 1.—Middlesbrough. Jumble Sale. Goods to Miss Hawkins, 104, Grange-road, E.

Mon. Nov. 3.—Middlesbrough. Hinton's Café. Annual Meeting. Tues. Nov. 4.—Birmingham. Bull Ring. OPEN-AIR MEETING, noon. Miss Nina Boyle. Temperance Hall, PUBLIC MEETING, 8 p.m. Miss Nina Boyle and others.

Fri. Nov. 7.—Manchester. 46A, Market-street, 8 p.m. Miss Constance Andrews on "The Evolution of Woman."

Mon. Nov. 10.—Middlesbrough. Hinton's Café. Business Meeting. Wed. Nov. 12.—Walkden. 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Miss Andrews. Liverpool. Aintree Institute, 8 p.m., Public Meeting. Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Cousins. Chair: Mr. John Edwards.

Thurs. Nov. 13.—Chester. 45, St. Werburg's-street, 3 p.m. Suffrage Shop, opening by Mrs. Despard. Fri. Nov. 14.—Manchester. Clarion Café. Combined Meeting of Branches. Speaker: Mrs. Despard.

Nov. 17—22.—Middlesbrough. Miss Anna Munro. Mon. Nov. 17.—Middlesbrough. Hinton's Café. "At Home." Speaker: Miss Munro.

Mon. Nov. 24.—Middlesbrough. Hinton's Café. Public Meeting, 8 p.m. Rev. A. Scruton, "Women's Fight for Freedom."

Nov. 24-29.—West Hartlepool. Miss Anna Munro. Thurs. Nov. 27.—Chester. Brown's Sale Room, John-street. Monthly Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Shaw.

SCOTLAND. West Lothian By-Election Campaign.—Committee Rooms, Broxburn.

Fri. Oct. 31.—Bo'nass. Dinner-hour Meetings. Open-air Meeting, 7 p.m. Miss Ada Broughton.

Sat. Nov. 1.—Broxburn. Open-air Meetings, 3.30 and 7 p.m. Speakers: Miss McLachlan and Miss Shennan. Bathgate. Open-air Meetings, 3.30 and 7 p.m. Glasgow, Cranstonhill Hall, Jumble Sale, 2.30.

Mon. Nov. 3.—Paisley. Central Halls. Branch Meeting, 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Shennan.

Wed. Nov. 5.—Edinburgh. Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road. "At Home." Speaker: Mrs. Murray.

Thurs. Nov. 6.—Danfermline, Y.M.C.A. Rooms. Branch Meeting, 8 p.m. Glasgow, 70, St. George's-road. Council Meeting, 6.30. Branch Meeting, 8 p.m.

Sat. Nov. 15.—Glasgow, 70, St. George's-road. Cake and Candy Sale, to be opened at 3.30 by Ex-Provost White, of Partick. Edinburgh. Jumble Sale.



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AN APPEAL.

"THE VOTE" ADVERTISEMENT DEPARTMENT (Extract from the Report of the Directors.)

AN examination of the details of the Trading Account has shown that a fairly creditable average has been maintained in the Advertisement Department, but in order that the accounts may be held and increased, it is necessary that the Advertisers shall be well patronised, and the Directors appeal to all members to support those firms who support the paper, to regard the Advertiser not merely as an ordinary trader knocking at the door of the consumer, but as one of the most important factors in building up "THE VOTE."

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We accept Announcements of Suffrage and kindred Meetings for this Column at the rate per single insertion of 2s. for 24 words, 1d. every additional word; four insertions at the price of three. All Announcements must be Prepaid, and, to ensure insertion, should reach the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER, VOTE Office, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, by the First Post on Tuesday Morning.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, Grafton-street, Piccadilly, W. Telephone: 3932 Mayfair. *President:* The Rt. Hon. THE EARL OF LYTON. *Vice-President:* MRS. CHAPMAN CATT (President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance).—WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, at 8.30 p.m., DISCUSSION, "The Cure of Poverty." *Speakers:* Miss MABEL ATKINSON, Dr. C. V. DRYSDALE, D.Sc., M.I.E.E. *Chairman:* The Rev. Dr. JOSEPH HOCHMAN.

NATIONAL WEEK OF PRAYER: CHURCH LEAGUE SERVICE, Wed., Nov. 5, 3.30 p.m., St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, E.C. *Preacher,* the RECTOR, Rev. Canon J. H. B. MATHERMAN.

IRISH LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—WHIST DRIVE, Saturday, November 29, 7.30 p.m., at the Emerson Club, 19, Buckingham-street, Strand. Tickets 1s. 6d., including refreshments, from Mrs. CASEY, 29B, Lincoln's Inn Fields, and Miss CARSON, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.

OF URGENT IMPORTANCE.

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