

THE VOTE,
December 12, 1913.
ONE PENNY.

THE ROSE & THE THORN. G. COLMORE

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1913.

SEVENTH 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.

THE PROTECTION OF CRIMINALS.

[SEE PAGE 102.]

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OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Protection of Criminals.

The memorial presented to the Home Office, asking for the removal and trial of P.C. Wetherall and his fellow-constables for the part played in connexion with poor young Violet Parrott, has been rejected. Mr. McKenna, whose long delay in dealing with this request has laid considerable strain on our patience, has finally declared that he sees no reason to interfere in the matter. But, if Mr. McKenna sees no reason to take action, the Women's Freedom League does. A protest of a definite nature is to be organised; and in this protest the mother of the injured girl is to be invited to take part. The case is to be written up and issued in pamphlet form, and if an action for perjury will lie against the constables, such an action will be inaugurated.

A Family Jar.

It does not always pay for Liberals to be illiberal. The chairman of Mr. Asquith's so splendid meeting at Oldham has struck a discordant note which will cause some feeling in his party circles. It is so rare for Liberals, these days, to want fair play or to resent exhibitions of privilege, or to be anything but smugly subservient, that the protest of Mr. Barton, M.P., which has taken the form of resigning from the Oldham Liberal Association, will be quite in the nature of a Christmas surprise. Mr. Barton, it appears, wanted to take some ladies to the meeting—fifteen of them, all "workers" in the holy cause of Liberalism that does not recognise women's claims and citizenship.

Mr. Barton was refused permission to include his ladies in the Liberal tea-party. It would appear that he was prepared to be Liberal to the extent of acquiescing in this decision, but in an evil moment for his party discovered that Lords Sheffield and Emmott had—alack, for Liberal snobbery!—obtained permission to bring ladies of their own. The very Tories could not do worse.

So Mr. Barton, M.P. for Oldham, has resigned membership of the Oldham Liberal Association.

The "Parent."

When is a parent not a parent? is a question that one asks in some bewilderment. The answer would naturally be, when it is a woman. The woman parent has all the responsibilities and none of the authority of parenthood; and the male parent has all the authority and none of the responsibility. At least, that is what the administration of the Law, which is entirely in the hands of the male parents, leads one to conclude.

Recently we alluded to the case of a man who had a drunken wife and a daughter who, at the early age of fifteen, was allowed to become the associate of women of ill-fame. In the manifest irresponsibility of the drunken mother, a bench of weak-kneed magistrates held the male parent responsible for the welfare of the child and sentenced him, with what to most women would seem extreme propriety, to three months' for criminal neglect of his parental duties. A higher Court, presided over by the Lord Chief Justice, quashed this sentence, and while emphasising the helplessness and hopelessness of the girl's mother, acquitted the father of all responsibility under the circumstances. He was bound neither to find a home nor to find a guardian for his unfortunate child. But he has by law sole control and authority over her and her movements.

In Glasgow, another case has just been disposed of. One Mrs. Fowler, wife of a lorryman, admitted having allowed her children to reside in a house of ill-fame, she being a drunkard and an associate of immoral persons. She is declared to have taken men and women "to her husband's house," this being, apparently, the house in question. She was found there on a Saturday night, hopelessly drunk, with a little girl in a state of hysterical terror. She was sentenced to two months' imprisonment. There is no word of the parent in all this; he does not appear to have been held in any way responsible for the use made of the home which was his and the child of which he is the legal parent—although we believe in Scotland his position is not so supreme. It would appear that the time has arrived for a prerogative which entails so little responsibility to be surrendered by these parents without parental instincts.

A Colossal Task for Women.

We have already given prominence to the crying need of Indian women for women doctors; Dr. Kathleen Vaughan's recent article in the *VOTE* gave a clear statement of the facts which was convincing to those unfamiliar with the question; those who know the conditions welcomed it as so much more evidence for long delayed justice to millions of women. As our readers are aware, the Indian Government has moved in the matter and a medical service for women is to come into existence. It is, however, in no sense "on the same terms" as the renowned Indian Medical Service of men. It is not a State service and the salaries offered, despite the allurements of quarters and the right of private practice, are far below those which men enjoy. "Men in the Indian Medical Service," says "An Indian Woman Doctor," commenting on the Woman's Service in the current issue of the "Indian Magazine and Review," "retire on pensions after having enjoyed salaries in their later years, double the final salaries of these women." Sir Pardey Lukis, who is at the head of the men's Indian Medical Service, laid stress, when propounding the scheme to the women of London School of Medicine, on the fact that the medical man is powerless in promoting domestic hygiene in India; it is medical woman who must do it. Yet twenty-five women doctors—five of whom are to constitute a leave reserve—are allotted to 150,000,000 women and children in India, in addition to those working under the Dufferin Fund—about forty-four—and the missionary societies. Not one medical woman has been appointed as sanitary inspector in any district or town. Says "An Indian Woman Doctor," continuing her comments:—

Perhaps it was meant as a compliment to the twenty-five women yet to be selected to imagine that they could compass the colossal task before them. India is a vast country; differences in language and customs present a real difficulty to the would-be reformer of domestic conditions. Are these twenty-five women doctors to tackle the whole problem of the sanitation of the country so far as it touches the homes of the country, in addition to their work as medical officers of hospitals, where they perform the duties of surgeon and physician, obstetrician, dentist, sometimes of lecturer as well? Women have before done wonderful things in the world's history, and we hope they will rise to the occasion now.

A beginning is being made, but if figures mean anything to the sex that is usually supposed to have a monopoly of understanding them, the colossal task now being imposed by men on a handful of medical women should convince them of the utter inadequacy of the much-vaunted scheme to touch even the fringe of a crying need.

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WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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ADDITIONAL ORGANISERS.

£500 WANTED.

Many thanks to all the kind friends whose contributions already received have given a good start to this special fund.

More organisers must be appointed at once. The League is growing and expanding so rapidly, so many new members are joining, so many new Branches are waiting to be formed, that we must not be hampered for want of workers.

A General Election may soon be upon us. The whole country—north, south, east and west—must echo and re-echo with the cry of "Votes for Women."

The Women's Freedom League is ready and able to take a full share in this work, and we confidently appeal to every one of our readers to do his or her own part, and send a donation at once towards the special £500 now being raised.

E. KNIGHT.
F. A. UNDERWOOD.

AT HEADQUARTERS.

During the past few months we have formed new Branches at Bowes Park, Bromley, East London, Streatham, Winchester, Lochgelly and Broxburn, and we hope later on to be successful in Birmingham, Reading and Yarmouth. Great activities are reported by our Scottish Branches, by Miss Munro in the North-eastern District, and by Miss Andrews in the Potteries. Public meetings early in the New Year are being arranged by our Bournemouth, Glasgow, Ipswich, Southampton, Southsea, and Winchester Branches.

London Meetings.—Our Wednesday afternoon public meetings at Caxton Hall are over for this session, but we hope to begin them again January 21, when the principal speaker will be Miss Cicely Hamilton. We have arranged the syllabus of these meetings until April 1, so we hope our friends will keep Wednesday afternoons to attend them.

Our Discussion Meetings will be resumed at 1, Robert-street, Monday evening, January 19, when Madame Malmberg will speak on the question "Is the Woman's Movement identical with the Eastern Revolutionary Movement?"

"Vote" Rally.—All members who sell *THE VOTE* in London streets, or are willing to do so, are invited to come to 1, Robert-street, Friday evening, December 12, at 7.30 to meet Mrs. Despard and Miss Leahy, who is organising *THE VOTE* Sales Department. Refreshments will be provided.

F. A. U.

"WOMEN OUTWITTED."

Sir Edward Carson and Mr. Larkin continue their uproarious career unchecked, in perfect ease and unconditional freedom. The horrors of the Dublin strike, if brought about by women for purposes, or in pursuit of a campaign of their own, would have caused a storm of obloquy to beat about the feminine head. The selfishness of those who could inflict such woe and suffering to gain something for the weaker sex would have resounded in shrieks of abuse. Women would have been held up to execration and denounced as unfit, morally and politically, to cast their decision in matters of national importance. Men may do these things, however, and still retain the "right" to rebuke those less privileged. So Mr. Larkin goes free; and his "happy release" has soothed the ruffled plumage of Liberalism.

Sir Edward is more privileged still. He has never

had to be released. He cannot have the supreme triumph of being let out because no one had yet had courage to put him in. He has not yet sampled the full flavour of rebellion, but is doing himself rather well notwithstanding. Without let or hindrance, he goes from place to place bragging of his 90,000 trained volunteers, and his war-chest, and his covenant, and his defiance, and his staff of General officers and Army men; and the Government which prosecuted suffragists for conspiracy, and Tom Mann for exciting to mutiny, and Mr. Lansbury as a person not of good fame, and was even so illiberal as to judge Mr. Larkin a criminal, allows the conspirators, mutineers, criminals, and persons not of good fame concerned in the Ulster imbroglio to "go on talking."

There is laughable evidence of the embarrassment in which the Government finds itself. In the speeches of Cabinet Ministers, halting between will and won't, it is easy to discern how nonplussed a modern Government is before a suggestion of armed rebellion. Having resolutely refused, during the Committee stages of the Home Rule Bill, to take off the Whips on any detail concerning which the opposition felt strongly, the Prime Minister, confronted with an angry, rebellious, and armed Sir Edward, professes to be more than anxious for that bellicose gentleman to explain what his misgivings are, what his objection to anything short of the principle of Home Rule! Now, all these misgivings and objections were thrashed out in the House and brushed aside by Mr. Asquith, Mr. Churchill, Mr. Hobbhouse, and others (now so anxious for "an interchange of views," "legislation by accord and not by discord," "some kind of legislative agreement" and so on) as utterly unreal and unimportant. They were not in the least desirous of hearing Sir Edward's misgivings in the House of Commons; but appear now, in the prospect of armed rebellion, to be a trifle upset in that they did not agree with their adversary quickly, while they were in the way with him. The adversary does not appear likely to do any agreeing now.

This is all very instructive to women. The time of the House of Commons was wasted, it appears, in pushing for an agreement which no one means or is able to keep. And the reason for present confusion is the threat of lawlessness. Yet there is one cry which never fails to draw these angry, belligerent men together, and that is a denunciation of militant women!

Mr. Asquith has beautifully and impressively said, no longer ago than last week at Oldham, that "Political institutions, Parliaments, Cabinets, and all the rest are created not for picturesque purposes, they are intended and made to do work, and that work is the spreading of justice, the enlargement of opportunity, the social uplifting of the masses of mankind." And Mr. George, on December 1, at the Holloway Empire, declared that "This is a democratic country. They (the Tories) have never realised that, and you cannot carry anything without votes. We must get a majority for our plans."

It is the majority that is in the balance. And that is why each section armed with votes can break the law defiantly, waste the time and money of the country, and play with questions which the whole machinery

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of the administration has been at work for several years to settle. So women still go to prison, while the men lark round and defy each other and each other's laws; and the Press of both sides works hard to "save the face" of the party leaders, and draw red herrings across the track of the public. A favourite and savoury herring is female militancy—so much more perverse because so much less bloodthirsty than male militancy.

Paeons of congratulations and mirth have heralded the superlatively clever capture of one slight woman by the united forces of the Army, Navy, Reserve, Police, and State. The arrival of this lady on Britain's shore—on a steamer from which there was no possible escape, and on a date that had been lavishly advertised—caused a thrill to run through the entire range of noble and many Services that Keep our Empire Safe. Even the Merchant Service was roped in to the assistance of the harassed State—many members of that Service belong to the Naval Reserve—and forbade "the women" to use the landing stages in the usual way. With the assistance of:—

Two gunboats of the Royal Navy;
Two police motor-tugs;
The Deputy Chief Constable of Plymouth and the local police staff;
The Criminal Investigation Department of Scotland Yard,
Five Criminal Investigation Agents;
One motor car;
The local heads of the White Star Line: Stewards, waterside officials, a purser, scouts, secret agents, harbour officials, and the Home Office;
The entire garrison of Plymouth, at Ready! Present!
One wardress.

in what one paper describes as "a masterly combination," a small and decidedly frail woman was borne in triumph over Dartmoor on a long and perishingly cold drive to goal. This striking success of male vigilance, cunning, and intrepidity has been hailed with a chorus of warm appreciation. The male person is always generous in acknowledging the prowess of his own sex. The arrest has been variously described as "a smart capture."

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"women outwitted," "neatly foiled," and many another such expression of recognition. We may now feel certain that Britons never never—that law must prevail, that miscreants will be punished, and, above and beyond all, that men can't be bullied.

We wonder why we look towards Ulster, and smile.

C. NINA BOYLE.

POLITICAL NEWS.

A Test of Liberalism.

Speaking at a meeting at Hebburn (Northumberland) of the National Political League, Mr. J. Wedgwood, M.P., said that the best argument in favour of Women's Suffrage was the attitude of the anti-suffragists, who stood for conservatism in the sense that they wanted things left as they are. Liberalism stood for freedom and justice, and when he appealed to men to support the women he asked them to test their Liberalism. Liberalism ought to be applied to the destroying of vested interests, and every decent man with an ounce of Liberal blood in his veins would be willing to sacrifice the little privilege it entailed and give justice to the women.

New Zealand's Prison Report: Decrease of Women Criminals.

In a statement issued by the National Union of Women Suffrage Societies, attention is drawn to the fact that the Prison Report recently issued in New Zealand covers several points of interest, and not the least is the extraordinary decrease of crime amongst women in recent years. In 1881 the daily average number of prisoners was: Males, 631.66; females, 94.37. In 1912, while the population has doubled, the daily average number of prisoners was: Males, 853.82; females, 64.07.

It is pointed out that while the number of male prisoners has decreased only in relation to the population, the number of female prisoners has decreased absolutely, and to a very remarkable extent. This circumstance is the more interesting, as it closely corresponds with the many social reforms for women brought about during the same period. These reforms, since women were enfranchised in 1893, have been largely concerned with the interests of the more handicapped class of women; and it is argued that it is impossible to avoid the conclusion that the better understanding of the needs of these women has been the main cause of the decrease of crime among them.

The following reforms are cited as showing the tendency of legislation in recent years to deal seriously and sympathetically with the lives of this class of women:

In 1894 Parliament created a Compulsory Committee of Arbitration, with power to make awards in trade disputes, including fixing of wages and hours of labour. This system is used for regulation of sweated industries as well as highly-organised trades. Where there is no regular trade union, any five workers can join together to form one, and can register.

Temperance reform, it is claimed, has been brought about by the women's vote in New Zealand. Local option is provided for in the Act of 1893. Any person three times convicted for drunkenness within nine months immediately preceding any conviction for drunkenness may be declared an habitual drunkard. In the whole of New Zealand only 841 arrests of women for drunkenness took place in 1911.

In 1904 the Summary Separation Act was passed, by which a legal separation can be obtained, quickly and with little expense the homes and earnings of working women being thus protected from idle and vicious husbands. In the same year was also passed the Destitute Persons Act, which enables a magistrate to make an order on an employer to pay part of a man's wages for his destitute wife or child.

The Family Homes Protection Act of 1895 secures homes, and prevents their sale for mortgage and debt. Shop Acts and Factory Acts have also been passed, dealing carefully with women wage-earners. The Factory Acts provide equal pay for equal work for men and women, and ensure healthy conditions of work and a minimum wage of £1 5s. per week for women. A factory is defined as any establishment where two or more persons work to produce articles intended for sale.

Edinburgh Town Council Votes for Woman Suffrage.

Edinburgh Town Council on December 2 resolved, by twenty-nine votes to fourteen, to petition Parliament in favour of Women's Suffrage. Councillor Crawford proposed, and Councillor Bruce Lindsey seconded the motion; other members of the Northern Men's Federation supported it. An impressive point in the discussion was the fact that no opposition whatever to the principle of granting Votes to Women was put forward by anyone. Those who opposed the motion did so on the ground that as it was a political question it ought not, in their opinion, to be dealt with by the Town Council.

Suffrage Convention at Washington, U.S.A.

After an important convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association in Washington, which lasted a week, was attended by leading Suffragists and sympathisers in large numbers, and dealt with many urgent phases of the woman's movement, President Wilson received a woman suffrage deputation headed by Dr. Anna Shaw, president of the Association. He preserved a non-committal attitude with regard

to the question declaring that Congress was busy fulfilling pledges already given to voters.

Release and Pardon for Women Suffragists.

The following resolution was passed by the Fabian Society at a meeting on Friday, December 5, at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon-street, E.C.—

That this meeting of the Fabian Society calls attention to the differentiation in the treatment of women suffragists convicted of conspiracy and incitement, and that given to men guilty of similar offences. It points out, that whereas Sir Edward Carson has not been even arrested for unlawful training and drilling of armed men, and open incitement to set the laws of the realm at defiance; that whereas Mr. Lansbury, sent to prison for incitement to crime, was released after two days' imprisonment under the Cat and Mouse Act, and has not been re-arrested, whereas Mr. Larkin, sentenced for sedition, was released after a few days; yet a vindictive policy of insisting on the full term of punishment is being pursued towards suffragist prisoners. It points out that Mrs. Pankhurst after serving four successive periods of imprisonment, amounting to twenty-one days, hunger-striking all the time, was re-arrested before she set foot on English soil; that Mrs. Sanders, for no worse offence than being book-keeper of the W. S. P. U., was sentenced to fifteen months' imprisonment, and has been released and re-arrested three times. The Fabian Society assures the Government that no clearer demonstration could be given of the dangers of differential treatment entailed on women by their present voteless condition, and suggests the desirability of pursuing in their case the policy adopted towards Sir Edward Carson, Mr. Larkin, and Mr. Lansbury, and calls on the Government to pardon Mrs. Pankhurst and the other Suffragist prisoners convicted of conspiracy or incitement.

Mrs. Pankhurst Rearrested on Reaching England.

Mrs. Pankhurst was rearrested on December 4 on board the White Star liner *Majestic* on reaching Plymouth, after her lecturing tour in the United States. A special tender, with the police officers on board, was waiting the arrival of the liner. No one was allowed to approach until Mrs. Pankhurst had been arrested and taken on board the police tender. The delay caused serious annoyance and inconvenience to many passengers. Mrs. Pankhurst was landed at a quiet spot and driven fifty miles to Exeter Prison, across Dartmoor in bitterly cold weather. She was released from Exeter Gaol at ten o'clock on Sunday night, and was removed to the Great Western Hotel. The hour was not too late to prevent the news reaching the meeting which was being held in the Empress Hall at Earl's Court, and there it was received with the greatest excitement and enthusiasm.

A deputation waited on the Dean of Exeter on Saturday, and asked for the prayers of the Church to be offered for Mrs. Pankhurst. The Dean acceded to the request and at Cathedral service on Sunday it was announced, "The prayers of the congregation are desired for Emmeline Pankhurst," and in the prayer for all conditions of men the words were added "especially her for whom our prayers are desired." Mrs. Pankhurst travelled to London on Dec. 8 and to Paris the following day.

Police and Suffragist's Subscription.

At Bow-street Police-court Mr. Graham Campbell granted a woman a summons against the Commissioner of Police to show cause why he should not give up to her a sum of 15s. in his possession. The applicant said that when the police raided the headquarters of the Women's Social and Political Union they took possession of all the money and documents they could find, including a postal order which she had just forwarded as a subscription.

No Vote, No Rent.

The East London Federation of the W.S.P.U. is working to bring about a "No Rent" strike for Votes for Women in the near future. On a certain day it will be announced that no more rent will be paid until the Government agrees to give votes to women. As no arrears of rent will be paid after the strike is over, landlords should at once demand Votes for Women before the strike begins.

BY-ELECTIONS. SOUTH LANARKSHIRE.

Organiser:—Miss ADA BROUGHTON, 23, Waterside-street, Strathaven.

Candidates:—

Mr. W. WATSON (U.).
Mr. GEO. MORTON (R.).
Mr. T. GIBB (Lab.).

Electorate, 11,120.

Liberal Majority at last Election, 1,197.

Polling Day, Friday, December 12.

During the past week our workers have had very trying experiences and they can testify that electioneering in a constituency like South Lanark is no child's play. The division itself is sixty miles in length, while Carlisle, the largest town within its boundaries, has less than 1,600 voters; the innumerable towns and villages are not only scattered but almost inaccessible as railway communication is practically nil. Some idea of the time spent in travelling may be gained by the fact that it took our organisers over seven hours to go to and

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return from New Lanark, where they had a meeting; also to travel twelve miles took them four hours with three changes.

The weather, too, has been very trying; continuous rain gave place to a snow blizzard and then to bitter hard frost. Despite the severe cold which prevailed on Saturday, the League held open-air meetings in Strathaven, Stonehouse and Lesmahagow, which were addressed by Miss Ada Broughton, Miss Johnston and Miss Shennan. Six indoor meetings were also held during the week. Miss Ada Broughton presided over a large audience on Monday at the Public Hall, Strathaven; and Miss M. Shennan spoke on the bad social and industrial conditions of women; Miss Semple dealt with infantile mortality, also objections urged against woman suffrage. Though an opportunity was given to the audience to heckle the speakers no questions were forthcoming. This unanimity has characterised nearly all our meetings. On Wednesday, in spite of the blizzard, an enthusiastic and well-attended meeting was held in the Public Hall, Glassford; Miss E. J. Read presided, and Miss Ada Broughton spoke on the political situation and the effects upon women workers of recent Liberal legislation. At Auchinheath, a small mining village, an excellent meeting was held in the Schools on Thursday; there was a good attendance. The organisers then walked two miles in the snow to the next village, where another successful meeting was held. On Friday, at the Public Hall, New Lanark, Miss Read presided, and Miss A. B. Jack and Miss Broughton addressed the audience, which gave all the speakers a very attentive hearing. On Saturday afternoon, Miss Read and Miss Jack visited Braidwood.

The women have come to the meetings in great numbers and have shown the keenest interest in woman suffrage. In previous elections it was not considered proper for women to attend political meetings, but in the present campaign one of the most remarkable and promising features is the ever-increasing attendance of the women at all the meetings held by the respective political parties and organizations. The Women's Freedom League green, white and gold badges, or the little white "Votes for Women" flag-brooches, are worn by many men and women in the districts we have visited. The organiser herewith gratefully acknowledges the following:—Miss Grant, Edinburgh, 2s. 6d.; Miss Isa White, 5s. (returned railway fare); Miss Steven, 1s. 8d. (returned railway fare).

New Branch at Broxburn.

It is a practical testimony to the good work done by Miss Ada Broughton, organiser for the Scottish Council, that one result of the West Lothian by-election campaign, of which she was in charge, is the formation of a new Branch of the Women's Freedom League at Broxburn. May it grow in numbers and vigour.

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SHOULD ALL BE SLAVEYS?

Last Easter at the Conference of the National Union of Teachers at Weston-super-Mare, a resolution was proposed which, if carried, would have committed that body to the principle of compulsory housewifery training for all girls in elementary schools. A brief *résumé* of the origin and history of that resolution may prove interesting to readers of THE VOTE, whether teachers or no.

It should first be understood that the majority of the members of the N.U.T. are women teachers. Superimpose upon that the fact that only about one-sixth of the Executive of the society are women. One obvious inference would be that those women, a minority of the Executive, and yet representing a majority of the membership, should make women's and girl scholars' interests their especial care—and such, no doubt, is their general desire and endeavour.

More than one way of ascertaining women's opinions is open to them; but the two most important are perhaps the resolutions sent in by local associations, and the speeches made at that meeting held in Conference week, which is open to women members only.

The resolution which would theoretically have equipped every girl in the land with sufficient knowledge to run a home efficiently was apparently (judging by the agenda) sponsored by the women members of the Executive. Whether it was a new-born babe, or an infant brought out for an annual airing, the writer could not tell; but its reception at the women's meeting was extremely interesting.

There it was treated as decidedly a matter for contention. One speaker after another from the floor opposed it warmly; two only spoke in its favour, and these, assuming that all was well with the principle of the resolution, gave details of the working of some scheme of their own. After such a welcome it might be assumed that the resolution would have been withdrawn until a much fuller consideration of the whole matter had taken place. Not so. At the last session of Conference, at a time when *no discussion was possible* by the general body of the members, men and women, the resolution was brought forward as if non-contentious; and was only defeated by the same set of women as had opposed it on a previous evening standing in their places in opposition. Fifty such rising in their places, gave it the *coup de grace* at least for one year. But were they right, this fractious fifty odd? It is important to consider this little question of ancient history, because the same resolution will almost inevitably be submitted next year, possibly pass unfrustrated and undiscussed, and go forth to the Board of Education and the country as the considered opinion of English men and women teachers, mainly of the women.

All girls must learn housewifery.

Let it be granted first of all that it is highly desirable that a woman who manages a house should be skilled in housecraft. Few will dispute this. The next link in this chain of reasoning is, in the sapient minds of the representatives referred to before, that every girl in the elementary school should be trained as if her lot in life was to manage a home, and to become a mother, or else presumably to become a domestic servant of some kind. Two causes perhaps weighed with the women originating the resolution. The first is the alleged inefficient housekeeping of the British housewife; the second, the scarcity of that rapidly-diminishing natural genus, the maid-of-all-work. If the good ladies will study more the facts relevant to the first, and the legend attached to her less, they will see that the great feature connected with her inefficiency, often as a cause, is the smallness of the family income. Mrs. Pember Reeves, in her tract, "Family Life on £1 a Week," gives facts carefully collected and compared which might well give pause to the supporters of the Inefficient British Housewife myth. For example: "Mrs. D—fed her family—her husband, herself, and five children—on 11½d. a head per week. All her children were living."

A further extract may be quoted. "The question of food values is much discussed in connection with ignorance and extravagance on the part of the poor. It is possible, of course, that a shilling or elevenpence-farthing might be laid out to better advantage on a week's food than is done in the foregoing budgets. But superior food generally means longer cooking—more utensils, more wholesome air and storage conveniences than can be commanded by these women. To take porridge as an instance. When well cooked for an hour and eaten with milk and sugar, most children would find it delicious and wholesome. But when the remainder of last night's pennyworth of gas is all that can be allowed for its cooking, when the pot is the same as that in which fish or potatoes or meat are cooked, when it has to be eaten half raw without milk and with but a hint of sugar, the children loathe it. They eat bread and dripping with relish. No cooking is required there, for which the weary, harassed mother is only too thankful—so they almost live on bread and dripping."

"This (having the chief meal on return of father) may mean that the children's chief meal takes place, then, in order to economise coal or gas and make one cooking do. This is not because the mother is lazy and indifferent to her children's well-being. It is because she has but one pair of hands and but one overburdened brain. She can just get through her day if she does everything she has to do inefficiently. Give her six children, and between the bearing of them and the rearing of them she has little extra vitality left for scientific cooking, even if she could afford the necessary time and appliances."

"The children of the poor suffer from want of light, want of air, want of warmth, want of sufficient and proper food, and want of clothes, because the wage of their fathers is not enough to pay for these necessities. They also suffer from want of cleanliness, want of attention to health, want of peace and quiet, because the strength of their mothers is not enough to provide these necessary conditions. It is easy to say that the mothers manage badly. If they economise in rent the children die. If they economise in food the children may live, but in a weakened state. There is nothing else that they can economise in."

The dearth of general servants is so great a problem that it is suggested as a solution that all girls should be trained to domestic life. One hears also of a dearth of curates, but of no suggestion that all boys should be trained for the clergy. The right thing to do, of course, is to ascertain why girls fight shy of such a life, and then seek to remove the causes. It is surely evident that, if out of fifty girls the proportion desiring to be domestic treasures is nil, the same percentage will be obtained out of 50,000. Possibly this struggle for the supply of a sort of enforced domestic labour is the last desperate effort of the isolated and would-be insulated small homes. More and more the work of the home is being undertaken by services outside it. The jam and pickle-makers, the laundries, the vacuum cleaners, the restaurants and suppliers of cooked meals, the upholsterers, the window-cleaners, and a hundred others are altering its status day by day, and probably, no *corvée* of the Maudes and Dorothies of the elementary schools will repulse the tide.

The last argument to be urged is the most vital. If from the meagre education of the girl destined to leave school at fourteen, we subtract, ruthlessly, the last six months for that course of household training desiderated by the thoughtful ladies of the N.U.T. Executive, how mercilessly we stunt her mental development! It is the most fructifying of all the time the elementary girl spends in school, and in it, said one of the opposers at Weston-super-Mare, "we want to fill the girls' minds with sweet and beautiful thoughts." Not only that, but the girl's intelligence should be stimulated, because all sensible women teachers know

that the fate of the majority is to be pushed out upon the labour market. The nice conduct of a home is usually not for them. That may arrive after a few years in factory, office or mill; places where quickness and intelligence will benefit a girl far more than a knowledge of the relative merits of steak and cheese as foodstuffs or the most fastidious ways of dusting. In fact, to crib from her last year at school her last six months or so, is to place the girl beginner at a relatively much greater disadvantage than she is already, when compared with the boy beginner. She is already discriminated against, because the presumption runs that the boy of fourteen has a family to keep. Shall she be further depressed because her arithmetic, spelling and general knowledge have begun to get rusty ere she leaves?

Setting aside the domestic service aspect of the question, it is unfortunately true that to prepare girls for the marriage market is to prepare them for the one field where labour is sweated to the extent of being underpaid, and where there are already, to put the matter bluntly, too many Richmonds in the field. The proposal ignores the surplus of women, for whom marriage is a mathematical impossibility. Perhaps in teaching mothercraft at an immature age, and thus awakening instincts of which the present construction of society forbids the fulfilment in many cases, it is also needlessly cruel.

Of course, there are many valid arguments for the teaching of housewifery to a selected section of the girls. If only we knew which ones were going to be the managers and controllers of homes, the problem would be infinitely simplified. If parents could be induced to state which of their girls they could willingly spare for early emigration (carefully supervised, of course) and these could be trained for the career of marriage and then given a good start in the Colonies it might be well for them and also for those who remained.

The whole question is a vast one and should not be settled in any sense until it has been thoroughly discussed. It remains for members of the National Union of Teachers, men as well as women, to see that the question is not dealt with in the hurried, hole-and-corner way in which a certain section tried to rush it through last year. The Associations soon begin considering resolutions for next year's Conference. Possibly some teachers might be able to ensure discussion of the matter locally by proposing resolutions deprecating the compulsory training in housewifery in view of the economic status of the domesticated woman of to-day, or for any other reason which makes its appeal to them personally.

H. NORMANTON (B.A. Lond.).

WOMEN'S HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN.

The Bishop of Kensington dedicated a ward for in-patients, at the Women's Hospital for Children in the Harrow-road, on December 5. The hospital is staffed by medical women and managed by a woman's committee. None of the children's hospitals in London admit women doctors to the residential or staff appointments, so in 1912 this hospital was started as an out-patient department, its object being to provide medical treatment for children in the neighbourhood, and also to give medical women the chance of studying children's diseases. The work has been most successful, the attendance of patients varying from 50 to 100 per day. The ward opened last Friday provides beds for seven children, but the committee hope that this small beginning will soon be extended. Each bed already contained a tiny occupant, and the ward was as bright and cheerful as fresh paint and loving care could make it.

Mrs. Osear Warburgh, who presided at the opening ceremony, told of the rapid increase of the work. Since the start was made in 1912 the original room had been added to three times, and the work was still cramped for space. Mrs. Streatfield spoke of her

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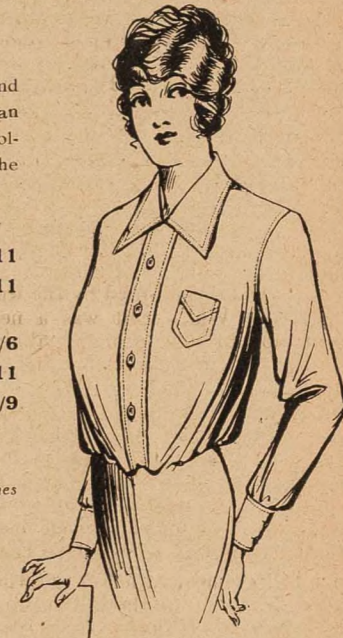
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work as a Government official in the neighbourhood, and emphasised the need for such a hospital. She said how greatly the parents had appreciated the fact that the hospital was run and staffed by women. Even the Society for the Study of Children's Diseases excluded women doctors. This hospital represented a new step in the women's movement—a step about which there could be no two views, nor could it arouse any contentious feelings. While in other London hospitals nurses worked fourteen or fifteen hours a day, in the Women's Hospital for Children they would only work nine hours. The funds were coming in satisfactorily, the working men by their unions alone had organised a collection which brought in £45. Dr. Roberts appealed for help for the hospital and books and toys for the children.

The Bishop of Kensington said it seemed impossible to conceive that prejudice had ever stood in the way of women training as doctors, but he was glad that this prejudice, like many others, had given way to reason. He declared that the part of the woman's movement which appealed most strongly to him was that which fitted women to take their place in the work of the world. He looked forward to the day when all over the country hospitals, staffed and directed by women, would exist.

The hospital was formally declared open by Mrs. Ayrton, who expressed the hope of all that the one ward would speedily be followed by others. They wished all success to this new development of women's work, and heartily congratulated the committee and staff on the excellent results they had already accomplished.

E. G. M.

THE VOTE: AN APPEAL.

Dear Readers.—Again I wish to thank all who are responding to my appeal for £100 for the enlargement of **THE VOTE**, and to say how deeply I appreciate their help. We have not yet attained our goal, and I want to be sure of success by the end of the year. Every gift—large or small—brings it nearer, and I appeal again to all readers to do what they can so that we may go forward with confidence in the New Year.

I need only repeat briefly the reasons for the appeal: the importance of our paper in the work of the League and the demand of advertisers for space in it. During the coming holiday weeks more space, in the ordinary course of business, will be available for reading matter. This will enable us to husband our resources in readiness for subsequent demands.

I renew my appeal for **VOTE** sellers in all parts of the country. I hear with great pleasure of the success attained by sellers in various places, and am convinced that their good example will encourage others. A definite promise of a stated time each week is what we desire, so that the work may be well organised. Our circulation must go up; it is you who can help.—

Yours sincerely, C. DESPARD.

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ORGANISED WHITE SLAVERY.

An interesting address on "The Truth about the White Slave Traffic" was given at the offices of the Women's Freedom League on December 2, by Mr. E. B. Lloyd, who has made a special study of the subject. Miss Eunice Murray, who presided, said the matter was forced on the attention of women in every part of the world, and their conviction of its urgency was one reason why women were so determined to win the vote.

Mr. Lloyd, quoting Bebel's definition of prostitution as "the sphinx riddle of civilisation," said the problem was old as history. The traffic in unwilling enforced victims had existed in the Middle Ages, but it was infinitely more complex and difficult now as it had become organised. We had to deal with a commercialised prostitution, where the guiltiest, most responsible men were not those few degraded creatures who rendered themselves liable to imprisonment and flogging, but the capitalists, the men who lived comfortably apart from the horrible business, and drew the profits; and with those others directly responsible, the liquor traders, whose business was inextricably bound up with the social evil, and the employers of sweated workers.

The proportion of girls who were dragged by force, or drugged, or kidnapped by motor-cars into a life of prostitution was comparatively small. There was no need for such crude methods. The supply was very nearly equal to the demand. In New York he believed it was equal to the demand. Many well-intentioned people denied that girls were starved into prostitution. Nevertheless, it was practically true, for human nature demanded a certain amount of pleasure and relaxation, and very often it was only by selling herself that a girl could find any relief from the greyest, dreariest life of incessant toil. It was the callous selfishness of our social system that was to blame, and all who lived contentedly without an effort to improve such conditions shared the responsibility of the ruined lives. It was impossible for women to tolerate such conditions; all women were degraded by the degradation of their sisters the world had tolerated the degradation for 6,000 years, but a world in whose government women had a share would not tolerate it for sixty years.

There was a very large attendance, and many of the audience took part in the interesting discussion which followed.

E. ISITT.

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THE "PROTECTED" SEX.**Painful Contrasts.**

Elizabeth Filbee (21), waitress, charged at Westminster Police-court with the murder of her newly-born infant. No mention of the father.

Helen Grubb, of Aberdeen, a young girl, charged with "concealment of pregnancy" (a charge peculiar to Scotland). Child born, which only lived a few minutes, the body having then been dropped into the river. **Four months.**

Contrast: William Downie, Scots Guards, indecent assault on girl of eight, at Croydon. The offence took place at a wedding where Downie was a guest. The child was seriously injured. **Three months.**—(*Croydon Advertiser*, Nov. 22.)

Criminal Courts.

Before Mr. Justice Lawrence, at the Old Bailey, Clara Fordham, charged with throwing corrosive fluid on Emily Rattallack, the motive being jealousy. Rattallack not very seriously injured. The judge "could not give less" than **Three years' penal servitude.**

Contrast: John Jamieson, same court, throwing corrosive fluid over his wife, apparently with little provocation. **Eighteen months.**

William Cron, same court, criminal offence on his own daughter. **Twelve months.**

Before Sheriff Craigie and a jury, Judiciary-buildings, Glasgow, Powell Stone, an alien, indecent assault on girl of eleven, August 2, 1912. **Twelve months and deportation.**

Immoral Earnings.

Helen Sherry, charged before Baillies Mason and Cairns at the Southern Police-court, Glasgow, with having managed a house for immoral purposes. **Two months.**

Same court, same magistrates: Bernard and Ann Kennedy, charged with keeping and managing a house of ill-fame. **Two months each.**

J. N. Stidson and his wife, charged at Marylebone with assisting in the management of a house of ill-fame. Mr. Paul Taylor sentenced the woman to **Fine of £10 or Two months**, and the man to **£3 3s. costs.**

At Bow-street, Midge West, Jean Petros, and Marcel Sejourney, were charged with keeping and assisting in a disorderly house in Craven-street. Man and chambermaid discharged. Mrs. West sentenced to **Fine of £10 and 3 guineas costs.**

(It is almost impossible to enter into the frame of mind which, having found man or woman guilty on such a charge, should think a fine a proper penalty.)

Disgraceful Conduct.

William Northote, of Muswell-hill, charged at Clerkenwell with insulting behaviour to girls at Islington-green. P.C. Johnson, having had a complaint, watched and saw him go up to two girls and lead one away by the arm. The girl, aged 17, said he made suggestions to her to come with him to a music-hall, and offered her rings and money if she would come to an empty house in Finsbury-park. **Finéd £2.** (Women get six months for soliciting.)

"A man with staring eyes" is said to have caused terror to the women living near Nuncaton by jumping out on them from dark places and assaulting them. One woman was found in a semi-conscious condition with three wounds in her head, and a young girl has been recently found stabbed. The man has not been captured.—*Reynolds's*, November 16.

John Smith, dock labourer, sentenced by Mr. Clarke Hall, at Thames Police-court for assaulting his wife. Smith: "Women are like donkeys; they want a good ash stick." Mr. Clarke Hall (making a surprising discovery): "Your wife is not your slave." **Fourteen days.**

CAXTON HALL "WEDNESDAYS."

Mrs. Ackroyd, well known for her long service in local government at Croydon, brought a very practical subject before our Wednesday gathering on December 3. The aim of her interesting address was to insist on the need for more women in local government, for it has been well demonstrated that there is much work to be done which only women can do satisfactorily. Men are recognising this fact, and the women on Councils know that their presence helps women inspectors and others who have to report to the Councils. Mrs. Ackroyd entered a strong protest against men inspectors in private houses. Dealing with such important questions as schools and the feeding of school children, public health, factory inspection, housing, the adulteration of food, places of recreation, all of which come before Councils, she showed how necessary it was to have woman's direct influence by her presence and work. To the difficulty of finding women possessing the required qualifications must be added, said Mrs. Ackroyd, the still greater difficulty of getting such women elected owing to many vested interests which men control. An appeal was made, however, for women to prepare for this important service to the State, undaunted by the difficulties which exist. Miss Murray spoke on the work of the South Lanarkshire by-election, and on various historical interests concerned with Scotland. Miss Boyle presided and said she would like to have "a heart to heart talk" with Lord Robert Cecil about his advice to women suffragists which he declared could not be offered to men.

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FRIDAY, December 12, 1913.

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

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EDITORIAL.

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

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THE DEADLOCK—AND AFTER.

In all the great controversies the world has ever known there have been moments of apparent deadlock. That does not mean that the resources on either side are exhausted, for they may even be greater than at any previous moment in the history of the struggle. Nor does it signify any failure of energy or determination on the part of the combatants. It means simply that, on this side and on that, the natural limit of resistance has been reached, and that to go further would be to outrage what, in spite of anything that may seem to deny it, is really deep-seated in the heart of humanity.

Face to face the combatants stand. There is no lack of power, no falling back in resolution. The blow struck on one side will be returned with interest by the other. More blows will follow, and the battle will wax hotter and hotter. But what, after all, is the issue to be? The complete exhaustion and consequent submission of one side, we may be told. "Yes," we answer, "that has been heard of in the world's history." But the sequel of such miserable victory has been worse than defeat, for the defeated, smarting from a sense of wrong—and all conquest by mere physical force implies a wrong—lie low until they can again gather themselves together, and then, with greater virulence than ever, the combat will be resumed.

In contests between classes, between industry and capital, between rival religious and rival political faiths, such moments have been. To the minds of the wise on both sides these considerations have come. They see as in a dark dream the awful results of continuous conflict. Like one of old time they pause and say: "Shall I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"

It is well for a nation when, at such moments of crisis, the voice of the wise is heard, and the counsels of the wise are followed. Especially now.

No one can look out upon our national history without feeling that, socially and industrially, we are in the throes of a crisis, long worked up to, but precipitated by the folly and blindness of those who assume to be able to lead us—a crisis which, if not promptly and wisely dealt with, will plunge the nation into disaster. Ulster, Dublin, Trade Unionism, the rank and file of the great industrial army in workshops and factories, on railways, in mines, and on ships, in the Post Office and Civil Service—men and women—are all in a state of seething unrest, and the Government, fearing Trade Unionism on the one hand and a rival political party on the other, possibly foreseeing dimly what the dire result of indifference will be, are seeking some common ground of understanding. Conferences are the order of the day. Mr. Asquith, while forbidding the importation of arms to Ulster, speaks Sir Edward Carson fair. Let representatives of both sides confer together. They may perhaps find that the difficulties are not so great, the divergences are not so wide as they imagine. In

Dublin a conference was held between British Trade Unionists and the Dublin employers, even though it ended in apparent failure; a conference with the railway workers ended in success. Before the Parliament Act was passed the two political parties conferred, and extreme measures were not taken until it became evident that no agreement could be reached.

There is another and still more deadly battle raging. Men and women stand face to face in opposite camps. The combat is not of to-day. It has been going on for many years. If it is allowed to continue, if it grows into a sex-war, the results for the nation will be disastrous. Of this many are becoming keenly aware. Some of the results are already being felt. We referred in our last issue to the contempt of the law which is engendered by its unjust administration. That is bad for the nation. But still worse results will follow if the Government and those who are responsible for the administration of justice continue to pursue their present policy.

What is to be done? Surely a brain so clever as that of the Prime Minister might be able to devise an answer. To some of us it would seem that the answer is easy to find.

Mr. Asquith has met the leaders of the Women's Suffrage movement on deputation. Let him arrange such a Conference as, it appears, he and his colleagues are planning for Ulster. Let both sides in the controversy be fully and fairly represented; let them come to some common ground of understanding, and let the Government undertake such direct action as will at least prove that they are straightforward in their desire to bring about peace between the combatants. In the meantime, and pending the decision of the Conference, let all hostilities cease; let there be what the Bishop of Winchester has called "A truce of God."

Surely the moment for such an opportunity has come! The authorities are at a deadlock. Do what they will, they cannot keep their prisoners. The barbarity of forcible feeding has been condemned by all the civilised world. The practical working out of the Cat and Mouse Bill has been that while some unlicensed prisoners are moving about the country, speaking in public, and generally defying the law that has sentenced them, others are forcibly seized and held. A writer in *The Nation* asks what explanation can be offered of the treatment meted out to Mrs. Pankhurst, who, her licence having expired, was allowed to go about undisturbed, and even to speak at public meetings; who, without licence from the Government, left these shores, as George Lansbury did the other day, and who has now once more been committed to prison. Sir Walter Runciman, speaking of the unconditional release of Mr. Larkin, said that he was more dangerous inside the prison than outside. That is always the case where caprice and hysteria govern in place of justice and equality; and it may be that the present Government will find imprisoned women and workers the most dangerous of their foes.

Mr. Lloyd George has said that there is no other way, "unless we are to abandon the law altogether."

We maintain that the law has already been abandoned, and that the only way to reinstate it in the eyes of the people of the country is to atone, so far as is possible now for the injustice that has been done, by releasing all political prisoners—men as well as women—and starting out on another method.

We demand a general amnesty, a cessation of hostilities on both sides. This, as the Bishop of Winchester has said, could easily be arranged, if, recognising the purity of the women's motives and the reality of their age-long suffering, the men who are responsible for the deplorable form the agitation has taken would, even at the eleventh hour, give us fair play.

Do they desire peace? Would they have the deadlock brought to an end? It can be done. An amnesty first, a truce of God, and with it the coming together in conference of those fully qualified by experience and judgment to deal with the question.

We believe that, whether immediately successful or

not, the very effort would do good. The men, who are our opponents, would be brought to see the depth and enduring quality of the Woman's Movement toward release and liberty; those who have merely been sympathetic would be stimulated to action, and if it were necessary again to resort to militancy, the Government would not repeat its initial and most deplorable mistake; it would not confound political offenders with criminals.

C. DESPARD.

THE ROSE AND THE THORN.

Mrs. Alexis Locke was reputedly intelligent and politically docile. She wrote articles for the newspapers and stories for the magazines; she was a member of the Women's Liberal Association, the friend of Ministers, and the wife of an M.P. Men talked to her—so she said—as if she were a man, and what greater compliment could be paid to a woman whose supreme desire was to be womanly? And people, when discussing the vote in connection with the status of woman, would say: "Look at Mrs. Alexis Locke! What better position would the vote give her than the position she already holds?" Men liked her because she was logical, because she saw so clearly that women should take no part in politics, and was always ready to speak at election time; and the women of her set admired her because she stood up, clever woman as she was, for the home. She had quite an army of servants to keep it in order, including several men, one with a powdered head; and as for her children, though they rarely saw their mother, owing to the time and attention she was obliged to give to literary duties and social duties and the non-political duties which are the work of the Women's Liberal Federation, they were most carefully brought up by people hired to attend to them.

Now all of a sudden one of the children grew up, and it was a daughter who did this, emerging, almost without warning, from short frocks and the school-room into tight frocks and the drawing-room. It was very inconvenient, because, of course, she would expect to be taken about, and Mrs. Alexis Locke, who talked much of the dependence of women, and liked nothing so much as to be on her own, felt that if only Pomona had been a boy, like the next eldest, she would have been more considerate and remained longer in the state typified by Eton jackets. Nevertheless, having braced herself to the task of taking Pomona out and marrying her off, Mrs. Alexis Locke, logical as always, was extremely annoyed when Pomona announced that she desired neither to be taken out nor to be married off. She was more than annoyed when Pomona stated that what she wished to work for was not a husband, but a vote. A vote? How unmaidenly! Whereas the pursuit of a husband was virginal. But Pomona stuck to the vote; and, at the stage which Mrs. Alexis Locke described as budding womanhood, showed little of the softness of a bud, but revealed herself rather as a thorn in the side of the mature cabbage rose, her mother. In the end Pomona had to be allowed to go her own way, and for some few years she went it. Then Mrs. Alexis Locke made an appeal to her. Her younger daughter—who was a real bud—had been duly presented as a buttonhole to an unimpeachable *parti*, and Mrs. Alexis Locke, having grown accustomed to a companion, found it dull to be daughterless.

"You might come with me sometimes, Pomona."

"I will, if you will come with me once."

So Mrs. Alexis Locke said she would, and rose and thorn set out together.

There were gaunt women in room after room. One was making blouses at tenpence a dozen; another was making match-boxes at 2d. for twelve dozen; a third earned but a few shillings a week, working all day and every day, at Bible-folding.

"How do they manage to live?" asked Mrs. Alexis Locke.

"They don't live; they hang on to life," said Pomona.

There was a workhouse with miserable unmothered babies.

"Shameful!" said Mrs. Alexis Locke. "But now—the recommendations of the Minority Report—"

"Thirty years before this last Poor Law Report, there was a recommendation to have the arrangements altered," remarked Pomona.

There was a house in a dingy street, with close-drawn curtains. "In that house," said Pomona, "girls like me, only much younger, girls like Phyllis and Dorothy, are provided for the men who choose to pay for them." "Disgusting! But the law—raids—And is it quite—quite nice, Pomona, to—"

"The laws are made by the sex that buys, not by the sex that is sold. No, it's not nice to know of it; it's hideous—especially when the knowledge is gained in there."

There was a hospital with wards for diseased women, and wards for mangled children.

"Oh!" cried Mrs. Alexis Locke, "terrible, terrible! But there was a dinner given the other night to provide funds for this very thing. You cannot say—"

"I say only that to persist in evil, and then to ask women to pay to stop the consequences of the evil, is amongst the most cynical of the insults to which the Voters have subjected the Voteless."

"Now," said Pomona, as they turned homewards, "I will keep my part of the bargain, if you hold me to it; I will go with you to the Minister's party, where none of these things that we have seen will be mentioned, instead of to the Caxton Hall, where they will all be mentioned. I will go with you and listen to Liberalism instead of taking part in discussing how most surely to acquire the power to put an end to licence."

Mrs. Alexis Locke did not answer. She had not, of course, changed her views, because she was logical; but just for the moment her eyes were misty; just for the moment her throat was lumpy; just for a moment the Thorn had pierced to the heart of the Rose.

G. COLMORE.

A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD. THE CLERGY PROTEST AGAINST FORCIBLE FEEDING.

Very deeply significant was the great meeting held at the Queen's Hall on Friday evening last.

Crowded gatherings at the Queen's Hall are not new to us. We have known them well in the past, when leaders of one or the other suffrage societies and their immediate friends and followers have thronged the platform and occupied the orchestral seats; also we know them when Sir Henry Wood is leading his followers with his magic wand. But this was something very different—one by one in solemn single file, headed by the intrepid Bishop of Kensington, came in somewhere near 150 clergy and took the place of the orchestra, all of them there to protest in deliberate open fashion against the torture of suffragists in prisons by forcible feeding.

The vast audience rose and cheered, long and lustily, this black-coated procession, but a deep hush fell as the Bishop, very briefly, prayed for that "right judgment in all things" that surely was never more needed than in the present crisis.

That these clergy, and the 650 who support the Bishop of Kensington in his protest, have thus come forward is profoundly significant for our movement.

We have had friends, staunch and true, among the ministers of all denominations for some time, but that a large body of any Church, and the Anglican Church in particular, should now take the lead and call together a fresh meeting of protest against an action of the Government, is indeed a step forward.

A step forward for us, and, in all earnestness, I would add, a step forward for the Church.

Not too soon. By many a long year of waiting,

PLEASE MENTION "THE VOTE" WHEN ORDERING GOODS.

and many a long year of service, not too soon has the Church of England now stretched out an arm to relieve this suffering, to help, maybe, to right, a great wrong.

It is none too easy for a great organisation like the Church, long established, and more or less tied and bound by conventions, to break away from tradition, to clear her vision and recognise in the uprising of the submissive sex—as truly the Church has always found women to be—the dawning of a spiritual day for which she has herself prayed.

Letters of sympathy with the meeting were read from the Bishops of Winchester, Glasgow, Guildford, from Canon Scott Holland and the Dean of Lincoln; and one from the Bishop of London evoked an outburst of disapproval. He wrote that he "could not be present because he could not isolate one feature of the lamentable state of things now existing from all the facts which have to be taken into consideration."

Perhaps had he attended that meeting he would have been enabled to do so, and to have advanced to the conclusion that torturing prisoners should not be a practice of the Government in a so-called Christian country.

All honour to such men as the Bishop of Kensington, who dare to take the initiative and stand up for justice when the law will have none of it.

He has done his Church—the Church *Militant*—a great service.

The meeting was not a suffrage meeting—ostensibly. It would be quite possible for an anti-suffragist to protest against forcible feeding, but it is doubtful if they do, and if we may judge by the feeling of the meeting and the enthusiasm of the work of the clerical gentlemen on the platform, it would appear that they held very sound views on the main question, besides regarding this method of torture with detestation. If any present held the Government view that this was a safe and humane manner of prolonging a person's life in prison it would certainly have been dispelled by Sir Victor Horsley and Dr. Mansell Moullin—our two very good friends—who explained the diabolical process and its disastrous consequences.

The Bishop, in a speech of great earnestness, drew an interesting parallel between the strong man with a stick and his patient beast (Balaam and his ass) and the Government and the suffragists. To the patient beast of burden—truly has the woman in the past deserved this description—was granted the vision of the Angel with the drawn sword, the sword that would have killed her master. She crushed his foot and saved his life, and he, with blinded eyes, would have killed her for the service.

Finally he too, saw the vision, the Angel with the sword right in his path! Can we, dare we, hope for such a miracle in the case of our Balaams—McKenna and Asquith?

Canon Simpson, of St. Paul's, reconciled us again to

Special Offer to Suffragettes. TORIC LENSES.

MR. McCLEAN earnestly desires readers of this paper to avail themselves of a very special offer he is making. To those already wearing glasses, or otherwise, he will supply the Beautiful Toric Lenses at the following prices—viz., 7s. 6d. per pair spherical or 10s. 6d. per pair compound.

The great advantages of the Toric Lense are that it has a DEEP CURVE which conforms to the curvature of the eye, thus giving the Maximum Field of Vision with a Minimum of Distortion, the sight being uniform over the whole surface of the lense instead of being confined to the centre as in the case of ordinary lenses.

The increased amount of comfort derived from the foregoing will be obvious to all. To those not fully acquainted with all the advantages of Toric Lenses we shall be pleased to further explain if they will call upon us.

You cannot get the full benefit of your prescription unless it is carried out in Toric form.

The above offer is made, firstly, to introduce ourselves, and, secondly, to introduce the advantages of Toric Lenses.

A. E. McCLEAN, Ophthalmic Optician,
37, ALDWYCH, W.C. (Under the Waldorf Hotel).

the name of "St. Paul's"—the gloomy Dean has been getting on our nerves!—but this witty Canon, who would fain talk temperately, even though he thought fanatically, showed full appreciation of the social transformation that is being ushered in by the Woman's Movement.

So also did the other speakers—men to whom the vision has been granted.

There is another significant thing attendant on this great protest meeting, and that is the silence of the Press. With but very few exceptions—and those mostly of a misleading character—the Press has boycotted this meeting in the same way that it has for long boycotted our great women's meetings.

That a dignitary of the Church and a great number of the clergy can call together so important a meeting on so important a subject, and be almost ignored by the daily papers, is a fact that may well cause us to pause and consider its significance. We—the public—are only to be told what the men who hold the purse-strings—and the Press—consider it is good for us to know!

Liberty—Truth—Justice! Where on earth are they? Not in this land that for so long has boasted an almost exclusive claim to their presence!

In truth they never have been here for the great mass of the people.

Now we know it! That is one step in the right direction.

MARY MAUD.

WHERE WOMEN VOTE.

We are glad to receive excellent news from our good friend Mrs. Snow, who has already crossed America on her journey round the world. It goes without saying that, as an ardent suffragist, she is travelling with "seeing eyes," and the news she sends is of special interest. In New York she found a picturesque selection of adjectives being applied to women. It was recognised that the British militant women, in their revolt, had aroused the world, and as a result, the frail, feeble, and fragile woman was becoming fiery, flamboyant, and flagellant. We need not quarrel with the adjectives; they are used by a man who recognises that the British Government has goaded the women to militancy, and that in their struggle for justice the clinging, craven, cowardly women are being transformed out of existence. Another item of interesting news is that, in crossing the Continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans, Mrs. Snow found that in the State of Kansas, where women vote, no alcohol was allowed to be served on the train. The enfranchisement of the Kansas women has led to drastic legislation with regard to drinking saloons. We shall welcome Mrs. Snow on her return in the spring, and appeal to all our readers to prepare for her a special gratification which she will deeply appreciate: a flourishing merchandise department. Come and see how it can supply your needs.

Have you had a copy of Achille Serre's latest book, "Winter Toilettes"?



We have sent a copy of this handsome little book to all those ladies whom we know to be interested in faultless dress, because it gives many useful hints on keeping clothes fresh and dainty. It explains how we execute all cleaning orders in Four Days—returning them spotless and "relished" like new—and gives specimen prices of our charges for Cleaning and Dyeing. If you have not had a copy, please let us know, and we will see that one is sent to you by return of post.

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Branches and Agents Everywhere.

112

"VICE ITS OWN REWARD."

Some time ago, at a private conference connected with the "social evil," speaking as a Poor Law Guardian, I gave as one reason for the need of women on Boards of Guardians, that men were not so likely to see the difference between the ordinary prostitute and the unmarried mother. For this statement, which I then believed to be true, I was accused by a Liberal gentleman present of libelling men Guardians. My own Board was informed by him of my remark, and he was requested to attend a special committee called to consider the matter. In making his complaint he expressed himself prepared, like a new St. George, to travel through the country in order to protect all men Guardians against my attacks. A great deal of discussion ensued as to what I had said, and what I meant to say, which ended by a resolution being passed to the effect that it did not appear I had intended to attack the honour of male Guardians, and at the same time thanking the gentleman for the trouble he had taken to defend them; to which I added my own personal thanks to him for helping to clear the ground, and showing more clearly the difference there is between the common prostitute and the mother of illegitimate children.

I confess I was a little startled when in last week's number of THE VOTE I read, under the heading "Vice its Own Reward," that the only benefit paid to insured women in the workhouses is the "maternity benefit" paid to mothers of illegitimate children—"in one case to mark the State's approval of a third bastard. The workhouse infirmaries throughout the country are full of insured maidservants suffering from various ills the flesh is heir to, but nothing has been paid to them; they are the ninety and nine just persons. The sinner, whether repentant or not, receives the blessing of Mr. Lloyd George and the thirty pieces of silver."

This statement is quite inaccurate, as I show in the subjoined statement. The Insurance Act has nothing to do with the morals of the insured person. If an insured woman, married or single, has a child born in a workhouse infirmary, she will receive the 30s. maternity benefit. If an insured servant is ill in an infirmary, she will receive her benefit either in the way of payment to dependents whilst she is there, or to herself when she goes out. Insurance benefits are also paid to women whose illnesses have been caused by the necessity of increasing their ordinary wages, in order to live, by prostitution. As the secretary of a workhouse Girls' Aid Committee, I know how impossible it is for a girl ever to live an honest life and support two or three illegitimate children. No home will take the children, and there only remains the choice for her between the streets or years of imprisonment with hard labour in a workhouse! The Suffragists give much sympathy to the prostitute, and I ask them to extend this sympathy to every unmarried mother and her children. A rescue worker tells me that it is difficult to make a girl who has been on the streets feel she has fallen from the paths of virtue, unless she has had a child. So it is the child that is the sin.

National Insurance Act, 1911. National Insurance Act, 1913.

If an insured person is an inmate of an institution supported by a charity or voluntary contributions, and has no dependents, the benefit shall (if an agreement has been made between the Approved Society or the Insurance Committee and the institution authorities) be paid in whole or in part, as agreed, to the institution authorities towards the maintenance of such person. If, however, the insured person is chargeable to the Guardians in any institution, the money remains in the hands of the society so long as he or she remains chargeable.

Where there are any dependents, the whole of the benefit goes to the dependents, in whatever institution the insured person may be.

Where there are no dependents.—Whilst in a sanatorium the whole of the benefit is paid to Insurance Committee. When discharged, insured person receives nothing in respect of time in institution. Whilst in a voluntarily supported institution,

ACCEPTABLE XMAS GIFTS

Gloves are always acceptable presents. This week we are making a special offer to Readers of "The Vote," enabling them to purchase reliable gloves at bargain prices.

Our Special Nappa Glove made from the best selected skins and finished with two horn buttons & titched points.

Per 1/11³/₄ Pair.

Tan and Grey only.

3 Pairs in dainty box for 5/11.

WE PAY CARRIAGE.

F. MEDHURST, LTD. BROMLEY, KENT.

the benefit, in whole or in part, as agreed, is paid to the institution authorities. When discharged, the insured person receives the balance not so paid. Whilst in an institution chargeable to Guardians nothing is paid. When discharged, insured person receives the whole of the benefit in respect of time spent in the institution.

Maternity Benefit.—The Guardians cannot claim the maternity benefit of an insured person who is an inmate of their infirmary. On being discharged from the infirmary, maternity benefit must be paid to women entitled to it who have been confined in the infirmary; it is, however, within the province of the Guardians on admitting the case to declare the relief "on loan," but it must be distinctly understood, as stated above, that the Guardians cannot directly attach the maternity benefit.

Sickness and Disablement Benefit.—The position with regard to the sickness and disablement benefit is now the same as that of the maternity benefit, so far as its payment on the discharge of the insured person and recovery by the Guardians are concerned.

Relief granted on loan may be recovered by the Guardians in the county court or other court for the recovery of small debts (Poor Law Amendment Act, 1848, Sec. 8).

It would be interesting to have a test case tried. If the case was given in favour of the Guardians, it would show the fact that the much-vaunted Insurance Act, with its compulsory payments, is after all only a part of the Poor Law of 1848.

ANNE COBDEN-SANDERSON.

"Under My Own Notice."

The note appearing in THE VOTE of December 5, under the heading "Vice its own Reward," was a record of facts that came under my own notice. The first actual money paid to an insured person (except those with dependents outside), according to the officials, was given to the mother of three illegitimate children, all of them with her in the workhouse, depending on the rates and on struggling young men outside, who frequently cannot afford to marry or have legitimate families of their own.

The approved society paying the money was communicated with by the authorities, as it was held the maternity benefit should not have been paid to a person in the workhouse infirmary with no dependents outside. The following extracts were quoted from the Insurance

Act, page 33 of Smith's "Everybody's Guide to the Insurance Act," the handbook of workhouse officials:—

This Act provides that no sickness, disablement or maternity benefit shall be paid to or in respect of any inmate of a workhouse, hospital, asylum, convalescent home, or infirmary (whether supported by the rates, or charity, or voluntary subscriptions).

A workhouse, or infirmary, or asylum, supported out of the rates, recovers nothing in respect of the maintenance of insured persons.

The amendments of the Act (1913) are apparently not yet in force. I should be glad if Mrs. Cobden Sanderson would investigate facts for herself before declaring them inaccurate. MARGARET WYNNE NEVINSON.

OUR TREASURY.
NATIONAL FUND.

(Branch and District Funds Not Included)

Amount previously acknowledged: October, 1907, to December, 1912, £17,272 4s. 11d.

Amount previously acknowledged		£	s.	d.
President's Birthday Fund—				
Nine Elms Branch	10 0 0			
Mr. and Mrs. Allan, per Glasgow Branch	10 10 0			
Additional Organisers' Fund—				
E. G. M.	2 2 0			
Special By-Election Fund—				
Sale Group	0 10 0			
Mrs. Saul Solomon	1 1 0			
"A Man Friend," per Miss Boyle	1 0 0			
Miss A. Udny	1 0 0			
Mrs. Mustard	0 10 0			
Madame Nadine Brouard	0 5 0			
Miss Eric Hellberg	0 5 0			
Miss C. Duckett	0 2 6			
Miss Mary McIlquhan	0 2 0			
Mrs. Nicholls	0 1 0			
Miss Prendergast	0 1 0			
Miss E. M. Shaw	0 1 0			
Mrs. Alice F. Shorter	0 1 0			
Miss Kerby	0 0 6			
Miss A. K. Sykes	0 0 6			
Sale of Tickets	0 1 0			
Collections	15 4 3			
Office Sales	0 2 8			
Branches—Capitation Fees—				
Aintree	1 0 0			
Manchester (Central)	1 0 0			
		£1,890	0 10	

Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League, and crossed "London and South Western Bank, Ltd."

SAVE YOUR EYESIGHT.—Avert trouble by acting in time and paying a visit to Messrs. A. E. McClean, 37, Aldwych, Strand, E.C., who are experts in their business and carry out most careful sight tests, and subsequent fitting with glasses. They make a speciality also of opera glasses from 7s. 6d., including cases, and lognettes at 15s. A visit in time will save nine!

Chapter 2

Washing Wears Away Clothes

faster than ordinary use.

That is washing in the old way—rubbing and scrubbing.

Try this plan—rub the clothes with Fels-Naptha and then let them soak for half an hour in cold or lukewarm water. In that half-hour the Fels-Naptha will loosen the dirt more than all your scrubbing. Then rinse in cold water with just a little rub to get out the loosened dirt.

That doesn't wear away the clothes, does it?

But it makes them whiter and sweeter than the old way.

Fels-Naptha 39 Wilson street London E.C

MRS. HARVEY'S TAX RESISTANCE.

Mrs. Harvey sends through THE VOTE the following message of thanks to all who were present at her sale. Our readers will be interested in the sequel:—

Brackenhill, Highland-road, Bromley, Kent.

December 5, 1913.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

Dear Madam,—As it was impossible for me personally to speak to everyone who came to my sale on Saturday, November 29, will you allow me to express my heartfelt thanks to them through the medium of your paper?

I have, after due consideration, sent the following letter to the Surveyor of Taxes. This time I have allowed the authorities to score "partial success"; their next attempt will be "dead failure."—Yours faithfully, K. HARVEY.

Brackenhill, Highland-road, Bromley, Kent.
December 4, 1913.

To the Surveyor of Taxes, Bromley.

Sir,—With reference to the sale of my goods here on Saturday last, November 29, in consequence of distraint for non-payment of Inhabited House Duty: there is a question as to the legality of the sale, but I have to-day told the tax-collector that the buyer shall be allowed to remove his purchase. I wish you clearly to understand that, although I can give no definite reason at the moment, I still feel grave doubts concerning the sale and shall make it my business to obtain clear knowledge upon this point and also to learn why my house was broken into and my property destroyed with such unnecessary violence.

I believe the tax-collector has to bear all losses, and I think he has suffered enough for this time.—I am, yours truly, K. HARVEY.

A Message with a Meaning.

Mrs. Harvey writes further on December 6:—"I have just received the first demand note for this year's taxes. I have torn it up, put it in the envelope in which it came, and re-posted it to the Tax Collector. I suppose it is now reposing in his rubbish basket."

Protest by London Graduates.

We publish with pleasure the following letter of protest against Mrs. Harvey's treatment in prison, and warmly thank the seventy signatories for the practical step they have taken:—

4, Brandon House, Mortimer-street, W.
December 4, 1913.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

Madam,—I beg to forward for publication the following extracts from a letter addressed to the Home Secretary, relating to the imprisonment in Holloway, in September last, of Mrs. Katherine Harvey, the well-known suffragist of Brackenhill, Bromley, Kent, who was sentenced to two months' imprisonment by the Bromley magistrates for resistance of the license and insurance of her manservant, David Asquith. The cell in which Mrs. Harvey was confined was maintained in so damp a condition that her health was seriously affected.

The letter is signed by more than seventy graduates of the University of London, and is accompanied by an affidavit made by Mrs. Harvey and a certificate from her medical man.

Among the signatories are the following:—Dr. L. Garrett Anderson, Professor W. M. Bayliss, F.R.S., Dr. F. F. Blackman, F.R.S., Sir Edward Busk, Lady Busk, Dr. R. W. Chambers, Dr. Alice M. Corthorn, Mr. Gerald Gould, Professor W. D. Halliburton, F.R.S., Mr. P. J. Hartog, Sir Victor Horsley, F.R.S., Mrs. Scharlieb, M.D., Rev. J. H. Shakespeare, Dr. Barbara Tchaykovsky, Dr. Florence Willey.—I am, yours faithfully, FRANCES WOOD.

Extracts from the Letter to the Right Hon. Reginald McKenna, M.P.

"We submit to you that to maintain a cell in so permanently wet a condition that the prisoner contracts rheumatism and gastric catarrh is to inflict additional suffering not contemplated by law. The case is one for prompt and impartial inquiry, and we trust that you will order such inquiry to be made and the results of that inquiry to be made public.

"Our plea is made not only on behalf of Mrs. Harvey but of all prisoners alike, in the name of common humanity and justice."

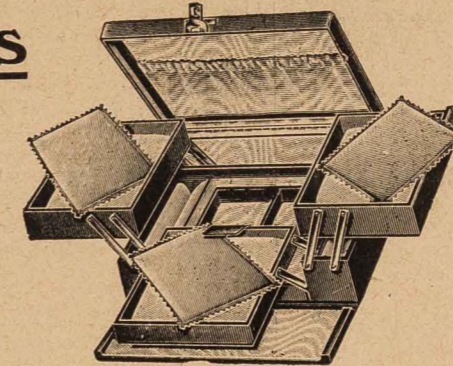
"HIAWATHA."

Additions up to date to the profits of the performances of "Hiawatha" bring the amount up to £44.13s. 1d., which has been handed over to THE VOTE. Again we express our warmest thanks to Mrs. Harvey and all who co-operated in the noteworthy success of the performances which resulted in such substantial help to THE VOTE.

John Pound & Co.
CHRISTMAS PRESENTS



Nickel Perfume Lamp.
A little water and a few drops of scent will perfume a room in a few minutes.
5/- each.



New and exceedingly useful Jewel Case, extending trays, green or violet leather.

7in. 8in. 9in.
30/- 35/6 42/-



The "Connaught."
Very pretty Bag, made of Black striped MOIRE SILK.
Special value, 21/-

268-270, OXFORD ST., W.

211, REGENT STREET, W.

67, PICCADILLY, W.

177-178, TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD, W.

81, 82, 83, 84, LEADENHALL ST., LONDON, E.C.

THE WOMAN'S THEATRE.

Our sincere congratulations to the Actresses' Franchise League on the success of their great enterprise: The Woman's Theatre Week. The crowds who enjoyed the admirable performances at the Coronet Theatre had probably little idea of the immense amount of work which the preparation for the Week entailed. The actresses of the League have shown themselves capable financiers as well as artistes, and their self-sacrificing devotion in carrying an idea into a splendid reality cannot fail in its wide appeal. They have shown what women can do, and we trust that they and the public will have the gratification of seeing the larger fulfilment of "The Week"—the permanent establishment of The Woman's Theatre.

Judging by the large and enthusiastic audience which gathered at the Coronet Theatre, Notting-hill-gate, last Monday evening, the Woman's Theatre Week has evoked a gratifying response from the public as well as from suffragists, and those who went simply to be amused could hardly fail to be impressed. The play given at each performance until last night was Brieux's "La Femme Seule," translated by Mrs. Bernard Shaw under the title of "Woman on Her Own." It sets forth the efforts of a young Frenchwoman, suddenly deprived of her money, to earn her living, and shows how she is baffled in the end in her desire to help herself and working-women by the violence of working-men. Beginning with a scene in which the conventions of custom and wealth are outraged by the refusal of "a well brought up young girl" to wait for a husband and accept the old and decrepit because she has no money, the play shows the heroine, Thérèse, installed in the office of a newspaper entitled *La Femme Libre*. Here the author has the chance of continuing not only his tilting against the conventions which fetter women but of showing the dangers with which they are beset when they boldly defy them. Thérèse is obliged to leave the newspaper—the rest of the staff has refused to submit to "sweating" payment—because of the hateful intentions of the villain, who happens also to be the Editor. Finally she achieves some success in organising the women workers at a bindery in the country, but the organised men regard the women as their enemies, underselling their work, and after a consultation which ends in violence and destruction, Thérèse is sacrificed to save the proprietor and his works.

The part of Thérèse was played with great power and insight

by Miss Lena Ashwell, and she well deserved the ovation which greeted her on the fall of the curtain. She was ably supported by the rest of the excellent company, which included Miss Nancy Price as the Editress of the woman's newspaper, Miss Suzanne Sheldon as one of the staff who, on being told there is good news for her asks, "Are all the men dead?" Miss Cicely Hamilton, as the old woman who, from the age of eight, had worked in the bindery, Miss Blanche Stanley and others; Mr. Charles Kenyon, Mr. A. S. Homewood, Mr. Norman, V. Norman, Mr. Tewless Llewellyn, Mr. Cyril Ashford did well in the men's parts, and the workmen in the final scene were as violent and brutal as Brieux could have wished. Björnson's play, "The Gauntlet," which shows the need for an equal standard of morality for men and women, was given during the latter part of the week.

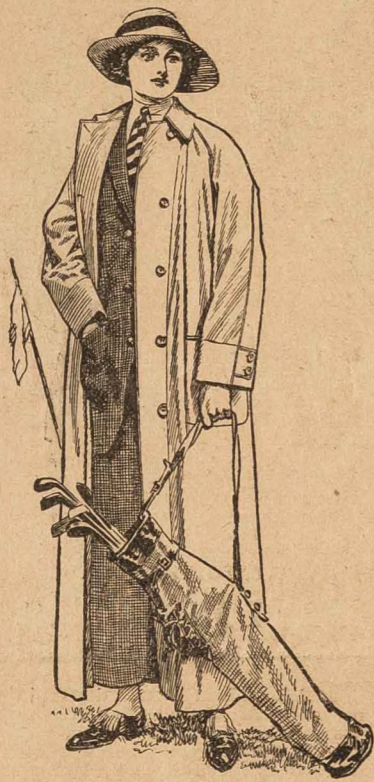
A notable souvenir of the Week was on sale, to which Mr Bernard Shaw, Miss Cicely Hamilton, Mr. William Archer, and Mrs. Flora Annie Steel contribute interesting articles on the plays, their authors, the woman's movement, and the valiant work of the Actresses' Franchise League. The souvenir is lavishly illustrated and is probably destined to become historie with the enterprise which it supports. Mr. Bernard Shaw discusses the question of the work and payment of women and their competition with men, and Brieux's presentation of the subject; Miss Hamilton gives the meaning of the Woman's Theatre; Mr. Archer deals with Björnson and the significance of "A Gauntlet," and Mrs. Steel with the power of the actresses to set forth the underlying truths of the woman's movement.

WORK AND ITS REWARD.

It is a pleasure to chronicle the continuous growth of the Women's Freedom League and the establishment of new Branches in various parts of the country. We congratulate Miss Ada Broughton, the energetic organiser working under the Scottish Council of our League, on the reward of her excellent work during the West Lothian by-election campaign—the formation of a new Branch at Broxburn. We wish the Branch long and vigorous life, and hope that the South Lanark campaign, carried on under most uncomfortable conditions of weather and communications, will result in the enthusiasm of the women of the constituency materialising as a stronghold of the Freedom League.

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BRANCH NOTES.

Will Branch Secretaries kindly write their reports very distinctly and briefly on ONE SIDE of a sheet of paper, leaving a margin on the left, and address them to the Editor, THE VOTE Office, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, W.C. A halfpenny stamp is sufficient; the flap of the envelope should be tucked inside. All reports must reach the office on or before the first post on Monday mornings.

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

LONDON AND SUBURBS.—Clapham.

A public meeting was held on December 3 at the Balham Assembly Rooms. Miss Underwood presided and most interesting speeches were made by Mrs. Mustard and Miss Murray. Mrs. Mustard spoke on the unsatisfactory Party system, and showing that it almost entirely ignored or gave inadequate time for domestic legislation. When working as Guardians women found how small was their power without the vote to alter the laws. Miss Murray gave an amusing account of the visits of Insurance officers to the Scotch Branches, and spoke of the more serious side of the work in Scotland, of helping the women strikers and the protests against the unjust treatment of women in the Courts. Miss Underwood's address was on the work and aims of the League, and she ended with an urgent appeal for fresh members.

Croydon.

Many thanks are due to Miss Jessett, who kindly lent her school for our social and whist drive on December 6; also to all other members and friends who helped to make the evening a success. Will members please remember that the annual Branch meeting will be held on Friday, December 19, at 8 p.m., at the office?

East London.

On December 4 a Branch meeting was held at 37, Wellington-buildings, Bow, E. Miss Adams read a paper on "Equal Pay for Equal Work," and a discussion followed. On Sunday, December 7, members and friends met at Loughton, and after a delightful walk through the forest enjoyed tea and talk at the home of Misses Gunner and Nixon. After tea Miss Nixon read an extremely interesting paper on "The Future of the Women's Movement," a very able review of Mrs. Swanwick's latest book. This was followed by interesting questions and a lively discussion. The whole day was thoroughly enjoyable and the heartiest thanks of the Branch are due to our hostesses for their hospitality. The Hon. Sec. wishes to announce that she has a new stock of literature and merchandise, and will be pleased to receive orders.

Streatham and Thornton Heath.

Many thanks to all who poster-paraded at Thornton Heath and Streatham. Our meeting last Tuesday was very successful and enthusiastic. It was rumoured we were to have trouble, but no interrupter risked an encounter with Mr. Todd and his many stewards, to all of whom we render our hearty thanks. Three and a half dozen copies of THE VOTE were sold at our meeting, and Mrs. Pyart has now eighteen sympathisers and friends who take THE VOTE from her each week. Will other members, who are unable to sell in the streets, do likewise? One only wants to make a start, and in this way many copies of our paper could be sold.

Miss Eunice Murray has kindly promised to speak at Clock Tower on Thursday, December 11, at 8.0 p.m. Chair, Miss Trotter.

Whist drive at 67, Greyhound-lane, Streatham (by kind invitation of Mrs. Macgregor), on December 31, at 7.30 p.m.; tickets, 1s. each, to be had from Mrs. Macgregor, also from Mrs. Gatild, 32, Buckleigh-road, and Mrs. Pyart, 7, Osborne-road, Thornton Heath. Please keep January 16 free. Miss Nina Boyle is coming to Thornton Heath Parliament for a debate. Tickets, 6d. each, will be on sale shortly.

PROVINCES.—Aintree.

There was a good attendance at our Branch meeting, held at the Aintree Institute on December 4. In the unavoidable absence of Mrs. Evans, Miss L. Rainford kindly presided and made a very promising début as chairman. Miss Appleton spoke on "Equal Pay for Equal Work," and made out so strong a case in favour that, although a good discussion followed, there was practically no opposition, one of our men supporters who has hitherto opposed this reform on the ground of expediency declaring himself a convert. The last event in our autumn programme takes place next Thursday, December 11, when the Branch is invited to take part in a mock Parliamentary election, arranged by the Literary Guild of the Walton Congregational Church. Miss Janet Heyes will stand as Independent woman candidate, and we hope to secure her election by a large majority.

Brighton and Hove.

On December 6 a delightful evening was spent in the Lecture Hall, Norfolk-terrace, when Miss Grace Nightingale charmed the audience with her lecture-recital on "The Painter-Poets." William Blake, William Morris, and Dante Gabriel Rossetti were chosen. Miss Nightingale sketched their lives and characteristics, and then recited many selections from their poems. Miss Hare voiced the hearty thanks of the meeting.

The working woman's meeting is postponed as the room cannot be engaged. Instead there has been arranged a meeting on December 15, at 8.0 p.m., to be held in the lecture room, 19, Norfolk-terrace, when a speaker from Headquarters will address members and friends.

Ipswich.

We had a good working party on December 4, and Mrs. Hossack's reading was much enjoyed. We hope to have our shop looking very bright for the Show Week, which begins on December 15. The last working party to finish everything for the Show Week was held on December 11. Some of our goods are already bespoken.

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

The annual meeting of the Manchester Branch was held on December 3, when following honorary officers were elected:—Miss Hines, treasurer; Miss Platt, literature secretary; Mrs. Watson, "Vote" secretary; Miss A. E. Hordern, secretary. The committee members elected were:—Miss Fildes, Miss Neal, Mrs. Dean, Miss Kipps, Miss J. Heyes, and Miss Hudson.

On December 17, at 7.30, a social will be held in the office, for

which our members from Sale have kindly undertaken all arrangements. There will be competitions, games, music, &c. The goods left over from the sale of work will be on view at reduced prices. Gifts of cakes, sweets, &c., would be gratefully accepted.

Middlesbrough.

A business meeting was held last Monday night in Hinton's Café. Miss Hayton reported on the sale of THE VOTE and literature, which showed a record amount of work for the past year. The result of the election of officers and committee was as follows:—President, Mrs. Schofield Coates; vice-president, Miss Foster; secretary, Miss A. Mahony; treasurer, Mrs. Barrett; literature secretary, Miss Hayton; press secretary, Miss L. Mahony. Committee, Miss W. M. Jones, Miss Hawkins, Miss Hotham, Miss Dewhurst, Mrs. Cattermole, and Mrs. Walker (the new officer and committee members italicised). A sub-committee, the members of which are Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Barrett, Miss Hawkins and Mrs. Cattermole, was formed to take in hand arrangements for the whist drive.

On Friday, December 5, we had our Christmas party, and it was indeed a festive night. About fifty members met at the house of Mrs. Schofield Coates, who revealed a wonderful capacity for organising games and keeping things going with a full swing. The spirit of mirth and gaiety was infectious; everyone caught it. Soon lovely little green, white and gold crackers were exploding on every side. Then there were guessing games at which Miss Hayton distinguished herself by winning a prize. Madame Belle Richardson sang "The Awakening," and Mrs. Walker gave a pianoforte solo. After supper there were "Progressive Games," quite wonderful in their variety, which kept everyone busy and happy. The evening passed all too quickly, and before leaving all joined in singing "The Women's Marseillaise" and "Auld Lang Syne." A vote of thanks to our host and hostess was greeted with warm applause, and the singing of "For she's a jolly good fellow" and then "He's a jolly good fellow," and finally "They are jolly good fellows."

Will members and friends remember the whist drive on December 15, and also that we are asking them to provide presents for the Christmas-tree on December 23?

Portsmouth and Gosport.

Our whist drives are even more popular this year than they were last. A crowded room was the result of Miss Mottershall's invitation to whist on Wednesday, December 3, and a substantial sum was handed to the treasurer as the result. Many thanks to the members who gave the prizes and refreshments. Will members please save articles for a Jumble Sale which we propose to hold early in February? Miss Boyle is to speak in Portsmouth on January 27, 1914. Particulars later.

Burnage.

The Branch held a most successful concert last Monday in the Village Hall, kindly arranged by Mrs. G. Pearce and Mr. D. Tompson. Both financially and in numbers attending it was a gratifying success. The best thanks of the Branch are due to all those who so willingly helped, particularly the artistes who gave their services free and who provided such a high-class concert for our delight.

SCOTLAND.—Dundee.

A meeting of the Branch was held in the Art Society's Rooms on December 4. Miss Husband presided, and there was a full turn-out of members. The speaker for the evening was Mr. R. Sturton, J.P., who took as his subject, "Helena," in *All's Well That Ends Well*. The audience quickly saw that in Mr. Sturton's eyes, Helena is one of Shakespeare's finest creations; that she was a woman of healthy instincts, sweet and loving, purposeful and patient. Far-sighted in the wisdom of her love for Bertram, she casts convention to the winds and boldly maps out her plan of procedure to bring about what she desires most on earth. In which she is successful, and all's well that ends well. Mr. Sturton claimed that Helena has her modern type, and finished with a glowing eulogium on the women who have a clear comprehension of what they want and steer straight for it. Appreciation of the paper was voiced by many of the members. It was decided to have a Whist Party on January 8, the first meeting of the Branch in the New Year.

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

Last week and this we have been busy with our stall at the Women's Work Exhibition in the Zoo Buildings. We have sold a fair amount of literature and enrolled several new members. Unfortunately the weather has been the worst possible, and has probably interfered with the attendance. We hope to have Mrs. Despard speaking at the Exhibition on Saturday. On Thursday, December 4, the Council and Branch meetings were held as usual on the first Thursday of each month. At the Branch meeting Miss G. H. Jacob, B.Sc., gave a most interesting and instructive address on the question, "Is Woman Human?" Last month Miss Mary Findlay gave a very successful and enjoyable Whist Party in her house in aid of the funds. Besides making the sum of £5, several new members were enrolled. We warmly thank Miss Findlay for the valuable help she has given to the Cause on this and many other occasions.

NOTE.—For addresses of Branch Secretaries apply to Headquarters, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, W.C.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Women Writers' Suffrage League.

The Woman's Theatre was the interesting subject brought forward at a meeting on December 2, at 16, John-street, Adelphi. Mrs. Marion Holmes presided, and in an able and amusing speech explained that the Woman's Movement attracted to it as active workers artists of all kinds in a remarkable degree—painters, writers, and especially actresses, to whose initiative energy the scheme of the Woman's Theatre was due. Miss Inez Bensusan explained the scheme, which was to materialise the following week at the Coronet Theatre, Nottingham, W., when five performances of Brieux' play, "La Femme Seule" (translated into English by Mrs. Bernard Shaw under the title of "Woman on her Own"), and three of Björnson's "The Gamlet," were to be given, the cast including most of the best-known players in London. Not only the carefully planned financial side of the scheme, but the fine ideal behind it of woman's capability and enthusiasm were put forward. The speaker delighted her audience by announcing

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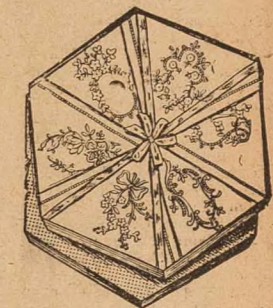
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS. Fri., Dec. 12.—W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, VOTE Sellers' Rally, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Despard. Tues., Dec. 16.—TOTTENHAM MUNICIPAL HALL, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. Speakers: Miss Nina Boyle, Miss Alison Neilans and Mr. John Scott. Chair: Mrs. Mustard. Wed., Dec. 17.—BROMLEY, The Lecture Room, Library Institute, Widmore-road, 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle. Chair: Miss Harvey. Fri., Dec. 19.—CROYDON OFFICE, 32A, The Arcade, High-street, Annual Branch Meeting, 8 p.m. Wed., Dec. 31.—STREATHAM, 67, Greyhound-Tickets, 1s.

1914. Thurs., Jan. 8.—W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Mid-London Branch Quarterly Meeting, 7.30 p.m. Sat., Jan. 17.—CAXTON HALL, W.F.L. Carnival, 3 p.m. till 10 p.m. Mon., Jan. 19.—W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Discussion Meeting, 8 p.m., to be opened by Madame Malmberg. Subject: "Is the Woman's Movement Identical with the Eastern Revolutionary Movement?" PROVINCES. Fri., Dec. 12.—Bolton, Lecture Hall, Public Meeting. Miss Anna Munro. Mon., Dec. 15.—Gravesend, The Labour Hall, 8 p.m., Public Meeting. Speaker: Miss Eunice Murray. Burnage, Garden Village, Branch Meeting. Middlesbrough, Whist Drive, Unitarian School-room. Tickets 1s. Hove, Branch Meeting, to be addressed by a speaker from Headquarters. Mon., Dec. 22.—Middlesbrough, Hinton's Café, 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Janet Hayes. Tues., Dec. 23.—Middlesbrough, Victoria Hall, Christmas Tree Party, 7.30 to 12 p.m. Short speeches by Miss Janet Hayes, Mrs. Schofield Coates and Miss W. M. Jones. Music, dancing, games, &c. Tickets, 1s. each.

1914. Tues., Jan. 27.—Southsea, Miss Boyle. Wed., Jan. 28.—Southsea, Dinner-hour Meeting. Speaker: Miss Boyle. Southampton, Morris Hall, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. Speakers: Miss Nina Boyle and Mr. Laurence Housman. Chair: Mrs. Rothwell. SCOTLAND. Dec. 13 to 19.—Kilbirnie. Organiser-in-Charge: Miss Ada Broughton. Sat., Dec. 13.—Edinburgh, Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, Christmas Sale, 3 p.m. Admission free. Tea 6d. Mon., Dec. 15.—Glasgow, Waverton Hall, Giffnock Literary Society, Debate, 8 p.m. Miss Bessie Semple (W.F.L.) v. Mrs. Harold Norris (N.L.O.W.S.). Wed., Dec. 17.—Edinburgh, Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, 7.30 p.m., "At Home."

1914. Thurs., Jan. 8.—Dundee, Whist Party. OTHER SOCIETIES. Fri., Jan. 9.—Wallington, WOMEN'S ADULT SCHOOL. Speaker: Miss Munro. Fri., Jan. 16.—THORNTON HEATH PARLIAMENT. Debate, "That this Parliament Provide for the Representation of the People by Granting Votes to Women Without Delay." Affirmative: Miss Nina Boyle. Negative: Miss Mabel Smith.

OTHER SOCIETIES (Continued from page 117). that the expenses had already been covered, and the venture was in an extremely healthy condition. Miss Cicely Hamilton spoke of the difficulty people of average intelligence experienced in realising an entirely new idea presented to them, and said she hoped those not already in sympathy with the Woman's Movement could be got into the Woman's Theatre even by false pretences, so that they might be convinced by the plays.

Women's Tax Resistance League. Drawing-room meetings were held on December 2 and 3, the hostesses being Mrs. Webb, of West-hill, Sydenham, and Miss K. Balfour, Victoria-road, Kensington, and Mrs. Kineton Parkes spoke at both occasions. On Thursday Mrs. Kineton Parkes spoke at Southampton, under the auspices of the National Union of Women Suffrage Societies. On that day also the monthly meeting was held at the League's Offices, Miss Winifred Holiday presided, and members gave their experiences of tax evasion.

ITEMS OF INTEREST. TO VEGETARIANS—AND OTHERS.—We strongly recommend our readers to patronise Arthur's Stores, 114, Westbourne grove, W., when ordering Christmas supplies. They undertake rapid delivery in all parts of London and its suburbs, and our members are finding that dealings with this firm bring satisfaction both as to the price and quality of the goods purchased. Christmas hampers will be made up to suit customers and practically everything required for every meal can be obtained—meat, vegetables, poultry, confectionery, &c.; price-lists will be sent on application. There is a good restaurant where tired and hungry shoppers will find good food, well served, at reasonable prices. Try once and you will want to continue.

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, Grafton-street, W. Subscription 1 guinea. Wednesday, December 17, 3.30 p.m., Club Tea. "Three Indian Women," Mrs. FLORA ANNIE STEEL.

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