

# The Common Cause

## The Organ of the National Union of WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Societies.

Registered as a Newspaper.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1913.

Price One Penny.

### CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
Notes and Comments .....	813	Houghton-le-Spring By-Election	821
The New Campaign .....	815	Notes from Headquarters:—	
A Year's Work .....	816	Treasurer's Notes .....	823
The National Union: Annual		Contributions to the General	
Council Meeting .....	817	Fund .....	823
Some New Books .....	819	News from the Societies .....	824
Correspondence .....	820	Forthcoming Meetings .....	827

He knows as well as we do that the machinery of the law is not in our hands. He knows that women have no means of dealing with members of their own sex who break the law, and whom he mysteriously designates as "their own criminals." We protest emphatically that the militants, in as far as they are criminals at all, are not "our criminals," but "men's criminals." It is men whose "shuffling and delay" have irritated these women to violence; it is men who, by refusing to treat them at first as the political offenders that they undoubtedly were, have provoked hunger-striking. It is men who, being now, by that hunger-striking, rendered unable to enforce the law which they alone have made, would like to shift the burden upon women, who are responsible neither for the law nor for the mistakes. We women, on our part, must decline the invitation to exercise lynch law offered us by the leader-writer of the *Daily News and Leader*; and would suggest that he, no less than Mrs. Pankhurst, is liable to prosecution for inciting to violence.

## Notes and Comments.

### Delegates in Council.

Observers who have been present on previous occasions at National Union Councils can hardly have failed to remark the increased grasp of politics acquired by delegates. There was a time when some delegates from smaller and remote Societies seemed to follow with difficulty—and even with that tinge of suspicion which comes of non-comprehension—the speeches of their own representatives on the platform. Arguments were occasionally brought forward which had no relevance to the matter under discussion. Now all such traces of misunderstanding are at an end. The delegates are not all agreed. There are—naturally and properly—differences of opinion upon all sorts of details, from the wording of resolutions upward; but no single speaker failed to comprehend an opposer's point, and there was no lapse into personalities. Indeed, the whole discussion presented an agreeable contrast, in the matters of brevity, clear thinking, recognition of facts, directness and sincerity, to those recorded in the pages of "Hansard."

### An Incitement to Violence.

In *The Daily News and Leader* of March 4th appeared a short leading article of a highly discreditable character. Its nominal text was the outbreak of hooliganism on the part of young men who call themselves students, and who have been making it their sport to assault militant suffragists. The true object, if any, was apparently to throw upon the constitutional suffragists the responsibility for the violence of the militants, over whom they have, of course, no more authority than the writer of the article himself. He remarks: "We wonder that there has been no more determined action taken by the general body of suffragist women to suppress this folly, which is not only destroying a cause but degrading a sex. It is in the power of women as a whole to put down this violence. It is not enough for them to express disapproval and wash their hands of the business. If they do that, then they must expect to be confounded with the insurgents. Let them take their own criminal class into their own hands and organise their own scheme of suppression." What "more determined action" would our mentor suggest? Will it suffice if we parade the streets carrying sandwich boards with the legend: "The National Union of Suffrage Societies condemns militancy"?

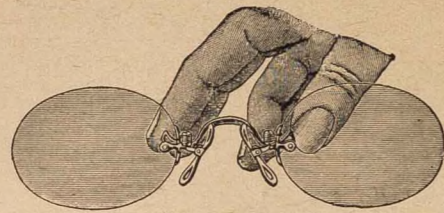
### Mr. Massingham's Short Cut.

In the current number of *The Nation* appears an article which may be safely attributed to the editor of that periodical. The earlier half constitutes the best statement of the case for the Suffragists which has yet been made by any English journalist. The second half sets forth a scheme for obtaining the enfranchisement of women; and when it comes to constructive policy organised Suffragists will be found on a different path from Mr. Massingham. He suggests a process of emancipation, constituency by constituency, on requisition by a number of women, followed by a reference to the vote of the male electors. As a preliminary "a simple and intelligible Bill, either on Dickinson or Conciliation lines," would have to be passed—not as a law but as "a general formula of settlement" which would enable women to vote in any constituency "when and if the majority of the electors within it consent to place them on the register."

### A Long Way Round.

Mr. Massingham is led to adopt this *via media* by his perception that, on the one hand, the private Member's Bill has no chance of passing; and that, on the other, the referendum is a remote and difficult expedient disliked by nearly all responsible politicians. But his own scheme is hardly more feasible. We can scarcely imagine the present Government turning a friendly ear to the suggestion of that "permissive" Bill; and the prospect of a United Kingdom enfranchised in patches seems to us rife with unnecessary complications. To get the scheme in working order would, in all probability, require as long a time as might suffice to secure a Cabinet united in favour of Women's Suffrage and a Government measure. The example of Catholic Emancipation stands to show that Prime Ministers can perceive it their duty to bow to the will of the people as expressed at the polling booth. A succession of defeats at by-elections is a tried and powerful weapon of conversion; and the substitute which Mr. Massingham would offer in its place has not as yet proved itself either sharper or swifter. Suffragists are somewhat distrustful of *ad hoc* devices in regard to Women's Suffrage, and think it wiser to walk in constitutional ways, which if they are not good, are at least familiar—even in their pitfalls.





Hours: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
 Telephone 7600 Gerrard.  
 Gold Medals. Milan (1906) London (1908).

### I HAVE MADE

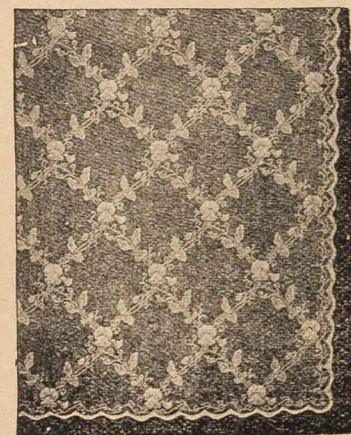
A study of the cosmetic effects of Eyeglasses, and the result is that I can assure those who are particular for their Eyeglasses to become them that my new ideas along this line are in advance of anything heretofore given to the public.

I can assure any who require to wear glasses that to leave it to me is to be perfectly suited in every way.

I devote my time exclusively to the examination of Eye Sight, and fully believe that I can suit you, and I know that a personal visit to my offices will pay you.

**R. S. NEUMANN,**

Optical Specialist, 72, New Oxford Street, London, W.C.



The new style of house demands short Curtains known as **SILL CURTAINS.**

We have these in various widths and designs; and Curtain Net and Madras Muslin.

"Sweet Pea Trellis," by Geo. Wilson. One of 6 exclusive designs; Fleur de Lys, Anemone, Fuchsia, Hop, Cherry.

52 ins. by 3 yds. - 9/9 pair.

We offer a great range of makes and designs in Curtains and will send Catalogue and Samples on application.

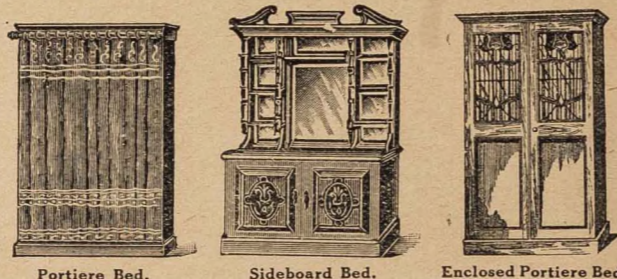
**Wilson's**

"Heirloom" Linen Manufacturers, 68, New Bond Street (Late 188, Regent St.).

## FOLDING BEDS

A SPARE BED always handy—READY WHEN WANTED. The bed can be made in the morning READY FOR USE and folded right away, perfectly concealed. Made in 30 different styles from £1 19 0 upwards.

Catalogue No. 200 post free.



**THE STANDARD FOLDING BED CO.,**

28 and 29, HART STREET, BLOOMSBURY, LONDON, W.C.

**MISS L. B. EVETTS, R.H.S. and MISS F. H. GARLICK, R.H.S.**  
 (Trained Swanley Horticultural College.)  
 Care of Gardens from 5/- per day. Gardens designed & laid out. ADVISORY WORK.  
 SPECIALITY made of Pruning: the laying out of herbaceous borders; rock and wall gardens, etc., etc.  
 Further particulars apply:—  
 28, WATERLOW COURT, HAMPSTEAD WAY, HENDON, N.W.

### Typewriting and Shorthand.

(Miss Mildred Ransom.)

Educated Women trained as Private Secretaries. Careful attention given to each pupil.

Second-hand Typewriters bought and sold.

Meetings reported; MSS accurately copied. First-class work.

195-197, EDWARE ROAD, LONDON, W.  
 Telephone - - 6302 Paddington.

### USE OUR COAL, PLEASE!

Silkstone .....	27/-	Roaster Nuts .....	23/-
Best Household .....	25/6	Large Kitchen .....	22/6
Special House .....	25/-	Stove Coal .....	21/6
Best Nuts .....	24/6	Anthracite Nuts .....	40/-

Coke, per Chaldron, 15/-

Order your supplies early from

**WILLIAM CLARKE & SON,**

341, GRAY'S INN ROAD, KING'S CROSS, W.C.  
 95, QUEEN'S ROAD, BAYSWATER, W.  
 3, GREAT CENTRAL OFFICES, NEASDEN, N.W.

Telephones: 3656, 1592 and 2718 North, 565 Paddington, &c.

DELIVERIES ANYWHERE—ALMOST.

## THE COMMON CAUSE.

Telephone: 1910 Gerrard.

Price One Penny.

2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

### POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

BRITISH ISLES, 6s. 6d. ABROAD, 8s. 8d. PER ANNUM.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

## The New Campaign.

After prolonged debate, the decisions of the Council have launched the National Union into a new campaign fully armed to carry on the fight. In each case the decision was arrived at after full discussion, and, in each case, by a very large majority. It is evident that the Union has behind it the full force of its united will, and the driving power generated by enthusiasm, loyalty, and determination.

The weapons of the Union being political, three questions were specially considered:—

(1) The attitude to be adopted towards Mr. Asquith's Government in view of the recent *débâcle*.

(2) The relations to be maintained in the immediate future between the National Union and the political parties.

(3) The question of working for or not working for the proposed Private Members' Bill.

The policy of the Union was once more "stiffened" to meet the position of affairs brought about by the events of the last few weeks. The report of the work done in support of the Amendments to the Reform Bill showed that the chances of a "free vote" had lessened as time went on, and that the attitude of Mr. Asquith and certain other Ministers had gone far to make such a vote impossible, while the Cabinet, acting as a whole, had taken no effective steps to enable this one of the Prime Minister's pledges to be fulfilled.

The opinion expressed by the outgoing Executive was confirmed by a unanimous vote, the Council deciding that the new offer of the Government gave no sort of equivalent for those pledges which could not now be redeemed. A Government measure was demanded as the only satisfactory solution possible, in the light of recent events. In view of the difficulties in the way of this solution, so long as an Anti-Suffragist remained at the head of the Cabinet, which was in itself not united on the question, the Council declared in favour of such a policy as was most likely to bring an undivided Suffragist Cabinet into power. This broad principle having been laid down, decisions were come to regarding the action to be taken in the constituencies. The new policy decided upon may be summarised in the following manner:—

Instead of supporting all candidates who express themselves as personally in favour of Women's Suffrage, and opposing those who are against it, the National Union have now decided to give paramount weight to the views of the party to which a candidate belongs, rather than merely to his personal views. At the last Council the first step in this direction was taken, when it was declared that in three-cornered contests the Labour Candidate might be preferred to the Liberal (where both were Suffragists) because the Labour Party had adopted Women's Suffrage, whereas the Liberal Party had not. Now the principle is to be carried farther; no Government candidate is to be supported.

The view was clearly expressed in the resolutions that while the National Union, as a non-party Society, had no quarrel with Liberalism or with the Liberal Party as such, yet so long as that party was represented by a Cabinet so illiberal as to bar the way of freedom to half the citizens in this kingdom, so long must support be withheld from Liberal candidates. It had become impossible to support the men of that party without, in fact, supporting the Cabinet, which, as now constituted, was the chief obstacle to the passage of a Women's Suffrage measure.

Nevertheless, loyalty and gratitude to Liberal tried friends were safeguarded by a resolution declaring that, although under present circumstances they could no longer be supported actively, neither should they be opposed.

The work in preparation for the General Election was then discussed. In addition to defending the seats of such Labour Members as had been ardent in the support of our cause, attention is to be devoted to attacking the seats of Liberal Anti-Suffragist M.P.s., particularly Ministers. This will probably

### The Labour Party and the Government.

We publish a letter from Miss K. Raleigh criticising a statement in our Election Fighting Fund page in the issue of February 21st. She says that prior to the provision for payment of members by the State, Labour members were paid out of Labour Party funds, and were therefore more directly responsible to the Labour Conference and more closely bound by its resolutions than they can now be. Even so, she says, they were left free to decide individually on details of policy; and she infers that they will now be still more free to act independently. But this is not so. This year, for the first time, a resolution passed at the Labour Conference makes its decisions absolutely binding on all Labour Members on pain of eviction from the Party. The implication that the Labour vote is controlled by financial considerations is an unworthy one, and could not be made by anyone who had any personal knowledge of the Labour Party.

As instances of the way in which the Labour Members have shown independence of their Party's decisions, our correspondent says:—(1) That they have in several cases publicly refused to reject a Bill not including women. (2) That they have collectively, with their leaders, voted with the Government on all Government measures. We do not know what Miss Raleigh had in mind when she made the first statement. The Labour Conference that passed the two resolutions which, taken together, make it binding on all Labour Members to oppose any Franchise Bill which does not include women, took place less than a month ago. Since then Mr. Stephen Walsh has made speeches in his constituency protesting against the Conference decisions. But he knows quite well that when he returns to the House of Commons he will have to act in accordance with them or be turned out of the Party. And his action has aroused a good deal of indignation in the Party which prides itself on its tradition of loyalty to the decisions of the majority. We know of no other case of "public refusal to reject a Bill not including women" since the Labour Conference. As to the statement that the Labour Members have voted with the Government on all Government measures, we need only refer Miss Raleigh to the Division lists on the Miners' Bill, the Women's Suffrage Amendment to the Home Rule Bill, the Railways Bill, and the Amendment to the King's speech on February 15th, 1912 (moved by Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, Chairman of the Labour Party), which was in effect a direct vote of censure on the Government.

### Three Cornered Contests.

Miss Raleigh further says that "astute Liberals" have realised that "their cue is to avoid three-cornered contests and allow the Labour candidate to get in." Evidently the counsels of the astute Liberals have not so far prevailed within the Party, or we should not have had the three-cornered contests of Holmfirth, Hanley, Crewe, Midlothian, and Houghton-le-Spring within the last nine months—in fact, a Liberal candidate in the field in every case where a Labour man was standing. It does not look as if "it makes no difference to the Government whether a Liberal or a Labour candidate is elected," since the Liberals will risk handing over the seat to the Conservatives, as at Crewe and Midlothian, rather than let their Labour "supporters" in.

### Mrs. Humphry Ward on the L.C.C. Election.

Mrs. Humphry Ward has written to the *Times* bewailing the manner in which both parties are refusing to give adequate official recognition to the candidatures of women. Women, as she justly says, have indeed deserved well of London in the last few years. "Is their natural reward," she asks, "to be denied them merely for calculations of party advantage?" Unfortunately, so long as municipal elections are contested on party lines, party advantage will be the point of chief consideration; and a body consisting of electors who can support the party in Parliament will retain the power of choosing the official municipal candidates. All this is, of course, quite wrong. Municipal elections ought not to be run on party lines at all. But while they continue to be so run, persons who are not Parliamentary electors will have but a poor chance of becoming official candidates. And this—as has long ago been said in these columns—is the true reason for that lack of women candidates with which Mrs. Ward has been accustomed, unjustly, to reproach women suffragists.



have to be done by supporting in some cases a Labour Candidate, and in others a Conservative. Probably many of those whose opinions are not "advanced," and who are not yet sufficiently non-party to be willing to support a Labour candidate, however sound on Women's Suffrage, will be eager to help us with the Conservatives, whereas Liberals who remain too Liberal to be able to support a Tory, and yet are disgusted with a Cabinet which will not act up to the fundamental principles of its party, may be anxious to put on the only possible pressure by helping to prepare the way for a Labour man.

With regard to the Private Member's Bill, there being no more chance of a "free vote" now than in the case of the Conciliation Bill and the amendments to the Reform Bill (possibly even less chance) the Council decided to waste neither time nor money upon it. They agreed, however, to place no obstacle in its way, and to put their records and statistics freely at the disposal of its supporters in the House.

Whether by the time the General Election comes upon us any modification or even a reversal of the new policy may be possible, only time can show. History records that, on more than one occasion, the force of circumstances has obliged ministries to make far greater changes in their declared intentions than that of *introducing* rather than only *adopting* a Bill. We may well hope that the action of the National Union will considerably help towards producing the necessary "force of circumstances." In that case, a subsequent Council meeting will be free to drop a weapon no longer needed.

## A Year's Work.

The annual report presented to and passed by the Council of the National Union last week records a year of increasing activities and of political turmoil. At the beginning of that year the supporters of Women's Suffrage were looking forward to two possible occasions on which their cause might come before the House of Commons. At its close no hopeful measure occupies the horizon. A Private Member's Bill, of which no man or woman even pretends to expect the passage, is the only proposal before the country; and the National Union, seeing plainly that at this stage only a Government Bill for Women's Suffrage can hope to succeed, has settled down to steady work, not in the House, but in the constituencies. It is in the constituencies that the anti-suffragism of Mr. Asquith must be fought. Already a great added strength has been afforded by the Labour Party's resolution to oppose any further extension of the franchise to men which does not include women, and this seasonable reinforcement, coming at the very moment when the Speaker's ruling had destroyed all chance of immediate victory, brings the account of the political situation to a hopeful close. All through the stages of that account there are but two parties whose credit remains unshaken—the National Union and the Labour Party. The Cabinet, the Liberal Party, the Irish Party, the Members of the House of Commons, and the Speaker, one and all present but a sorry appearance. Only the Labour men showed, in the House of Commons, a true appreciation of the situation, and, outside that House, the members of the National Union, wasting no moment in reproaches or repinings, turned quietly and steadily to the change of work that was made necessary.

In the course of the year 1912 the Union added to its membership at the rate of 1,000 recruits every month. At the beginning of that period there were 30,408 members; at the close there were 42,438. The number of Societies composing the Union has risen from 311 to 411—nearly two Societies having joined it every week. The increase in numbers has not been accompanied, as is too often the case, by unwieldiness. On the contrary, never has its internal organisation been so thorough. The Federations of Societies in different parts of the country have been consolidated; there are now no less than seventeen, covering among them every county of England, Scotland and Wales. Six of these employ organisers of their own. The Union's own staff of organisers has been increased, and included, at the date of the Report, seventeen head organisers, nine assistants and three persons in training.

Over one thousand meetings have been held by the Union during the year, without counting two in the Albert Hall and innumerable outdoor meetings. The collections at the Albert Hall meetings—one in February and one in November—amounted to over £12,700.

The funds handled by the Union last year have been larger than ever—but not yet large enough for the work that needs to be done in 1913. Last February an appeal was made for £40,000, and by the middle of November this sum had been given. Thanks to the ruling of the Speaker, there is every

prospect that an equal or even an increased sum will have to be raised—chiefly from the pockets of women—during every year for an uncertain period of time. When we reflect that the National Union, although by far the largest, is by no means the only body of Suffragists in the kingdom, we may begin to form some idea of the total amount of money diverted from constructive uses by the mere struggle for citizenship. It is certain that for, at least, the last four years, fifty thousand pounds has been spent annually (of which two-thirds, at the very lowest computation, has come from women) in the endeavour to obtain the Parliamentary vote for women. In the face of this incontrovertible fact, the anti-suffragists go on declaring—on the boards of sandwichmen and on hoardings—that women do not want the vote!

At the Council meeting in May, after the defeat of the Conciliation Bill by means of the Irish vote, the Union adopted a new election policy of co-operation with the Labour Party and established an Election Fighting Fund Committee to carry out this policy, the objects of which were: (1) To make the Government realise that it stood in danger of losing seats if no measure of Women's Suffrage was passed; (2) to strengthen in the House of Commons the party that had made Women's Suffrage one of the first objects on its programme.

A by-election at Holmfirth, in which a Labour candidate was standing against a Liberal and a Conservative, was in progress at the time of the policy's adoption, and the new Committee immediately began to work for the Labour man. The seat was retained by the Liberal, but the Labour poll was nearly doubled while the Liberal poll was reduced by more than half. At Hanley, a month or so later, the Election Fighting Fund Committee was less successful; the Liberal majority was not shaken. At Crewe, also in July, a Liberal majority of 1,704 was changed into a Unionist majority of 966 and the Labour poll nearly doubled. At Midlothian—a seat regarded as immovably Liberal—the result was even more striking; the Liberal majority of 3,157 was replaced by a Unionist one of 32. Events such as these last two elections are disquieting to any Government, and if there had chanced to be another two or three of the same kind in the course of the year, the position of affairs in Parliament might at this moment have been more favourable to the Suffrage cause than is the case. It is at the polls that victories in the House of Commons are won, and they are to be won, not by the cry of "Keep the Liberal out!" but by that of "Put the Suffragist Party's candidate in!" It is along this line that the work of the Union during the coming year is likely to be most politically fruitful.

Within the Union offices there has been a marked development in all departments, as the mere sight of its telephone switchboard would be enough to inform any beholders. The report of the Press Department, written by Miss Leaf, the Hon. Press Secretary, is full of details which do not lend themselves to condensation and deserves to be carefully studied.

The Literature Department has issued during the year nine pamphlets and many leaflets; the monthly sales have averaged from £100 to £150, and there has been much free distribution of leaflets.

A new development in the propaganda of the Union is the enrolment and organisation throughout the country of persons of both sexes who are in favour of the enfranchisement of women, but for various reasons are not able to become active members of Suffrage Societies. The name of "Friends of Women's Suffrage" has been given to this outer ring of sympathisers, and many of the National Union Societies are enrolling additional members of it. Of course, it is desirable to keep up communication with "Friends," and the work thus opened out calls sometimes for more time than the active members of Suffrage Societies—already fully occupied—can devote to it. In visiting "Friends," in arranging regular meetings for them, and keeping in touch with a certain number of them, members who do not feel equal to speaking in public or to writing in newspapers may find a congenial field of service.

Looking back upon a year of hitherto unexampled activity, members of the National Union can but feel that their year's work does them honour, and that if Women's Suffrage stands—as it does—in the forefront of politics to-day, it owes that position largely to the zeal and the labours of women whose names the general public never hears and who devote long hours to the necessary drudgery of office work and organisation. In such toil, and in the comradeship with other women of all ranks that comes of loyally working together for one cause, the members of the National Union have learned and are learning a spirit of self-subordination to large issues and of cheerful co-operation that will stand them in good stead when they come to exercise the vote for which they have asked so long.

# The National Union.

## Annual Council Meeting.

### Mrs. Fawcett's Address.

Speaking three years ago on the subject of Women's Suffrage, a member of the present Cabinet, Mr. Birrell, said there had been enough of "shuffling and delay." We cordially agreed with him; but it appears that shuffling and delay are all we are likely to get from the present Government. Let me not be misunderstood. I do not think there is any evidence that Mr. Asquith was privy to, or in any way connived at, the Speaker's ruling on January 27th, which finally shattered our hope of having a Woman's Suffrage amendment added to the Government Franchise and Registration Bill.

That ruling was a greater blow to the Government, and to the absurd and antiquated rules by which Parliament is governed, than it was to Women's Suffrage. It showed up Mr. Asquith as a bad Parliamentarian, for having given promise after promise to his own followers and to us which he was absolutely unable to perform. The magnificently intrepid excuse was given for him by a member of his Government, Mr. Ure, the Lord Advocate, that the Government had "no access to the Speaker." Because the Government had no access to the Speaker, the promises of the Prime Minister came to nought. The assurances we had received from Mr. Lloyd George, Sir Edward Grey, Lord Haldane, Sir John Simon, and other eminent men, that the opportunity offered to us of moving Women's Suffrage amendments to the Government Bill was the best chance Suffragists had ever had, came to nought, and can only be regarded as a rhapsody of words. Just for the fun of the thing, the Speaker allowed these promises and assurances to be made. Keeping his own little plan for destroying them a dead secret, he allowed days of precious Parliamentary time in July, and again in January, to be given to a measure which was destined according to his ruling only to be withdrawn.

If the fiasco of the Government in January is attributable to the Speaker, why, it may be asked, should we blame the Government for it? We blame the Government for this reason: they had given us definite and absolute promises; they had "torpedoed" our other opportunity of success; they had spoken of our prospects, not only as a good chance, but as a practical certainty; they suddenly found themselves in the position of not being able to redeem their pledges. What did they do? They did not consult us as to what we should consider the best available equivalent to what we had been promised. They declined to see us when we sought an interview with them, and then, instead of trying to give us any reasonable equivalent, they offered us the discredited expedient of a private Member's Bill. They owed us a thousand sovereigns; finding themselves bankrupt and unable to pay, they offer us a thousand gilded cardboard counters, and affect to regard us as highly unreasonable because we are not overwhelmed with satisfaction and gratitude.

Every one knows that there is not the slightest chance of a private Member's Bill on a big subject like this becoming law. Even if it pass all its stages in the House of Commons, it would be thrown out in the Lords, and we cannot expect Conservative Suffragists to use the Parliament Act, which they detest; in order to pass a Suffrage Bill in a second or a third session. But apart from this, is it not obvious that, at the stage which our question has now reached, it is idle to expect that such a great and important measure as the enfranchisement of women will ever be carried by means of a private Member's Bill.

Under the changed conditions which now exist, what is to be the policy adopted by the National Union? The reply to this question is by far the most important thing to be discussed at this Council. The Executive Committee cannot recommend the Union to throw its strength into work for this will-o'-the-wisp measure. It is making several recommendations which will be discussed in due course; but its main object will be a united Cabinet and a Government Bill. There are those who will tell us this is crying for the moon. But I would respectfully submit that it is better business to cry for the moon than to spend our time looking in a dark room for a black hat which isn't there, and that, in my opinion, is what we should be doing if we worked for this private Member's Bill. Of course, "crying for the moon" is a contemptuous phrase, which means seeking the impossible. Well, I have lived long enough to see many more unlikely things happen.

Mr. Asquith promised, if a Women's Suffrage amendment to

his Reform Bill were passed by the House of Commons, he would accept it as an integral part of the Bill, and defend it in all its stages. There is not an immeasurable distance between this attitude and the introduction of a Government Bill. Sir Robert Peel and the Duke of Wellington introduced a Bill for Catholic Emancipation when they themselves were not converted to it. Besides, there are always chances of Cabinet reconstructions, and a Cabinet reconstruction might be favourable to a settlement of the Women's Suffrage question.

We have made one marked advance towards Parliamentary success. I refer, of course, to the attitude of the Labour Party towards our question. Last year at their Annual Conference they passed a resolution asserting that no Bill dealing with the Franchise would be acceptable unless it included women. This year they greatly improved on that. Immediately after the miserable fiasco in the House of Commons, they passed by almost two to one a resolution "calling upon the Parliamentary Labour Party to oppose any Franchise Bill which did not include women." The importance of this vote is tremendous. It proceeded from the very class which had most to gain by the proposals in the Government Bill, and if they stand to it, and I believe they will stand to it, it alters the whole centre of gravity upon the Franchise question in the House of Commons. Forty votes which are usually given with the Government, cast upon the other side, makes it a practical impossibility for the Government to give more votes to men without also including women.

We owe this vote, I am sure, very largely to Mr. Philip Snowden, our constant and trusted friend. It is one of the most generous things that has ever been done in politics. It recalled to my mind a speech which Ibsen made many years ago to a working man's club in Norway. "Mere democracy," he said, "will never solve the social question. An element of aristocracy must be introduced into our life. Of course, I do not mean the aristocracy of birth, or of the purse, or even the aristocracy of intellect. I mean the aristocracy of character, of mind. That only can free us. From two groups will this aristocracy I hoped for come to our people—from our women and from our workmen. The revolution in social conditions now preparing in Europe is chiefly concerned with the future of the workers and the women. In this I place all my hopes and expectations; for this I will work all my life, and with all my strength."

### Proceedings.

The Annual Council Meeting was held on Thursday and Friday, February 27th and 28th, at the Holborn Hall.

There was a record attendance of 596 delegates, 288 Societies were represented, and 16 Federation Secretaries attended, and all the National Union organisers had been summoned except those who could not be spared from the by-election in Houghton-le-Spring.

Every year as the Council increases in size it also increases in efficiency; on this occasion, when the resolutions to be considered, involving as they did the whole policy of the Union, were of a controversial nature, the discussion was maintained at a very high level, and the speeches putting the various points of view were remarkable for their clearness and cogency.

The chief interest centred, of course, in the discussion on the political situation and on the new developments in the policy of the Union which had been placed on the agenda by the Executive Committee. Mrs. Fawcett's presidential address (reported in full above) was devoted chiefly to these two questions.

The opinion of the National Union with regard to the Government's offer of facilities for a private Member's Bill in exchange for the promised opportunity for the inclusion of Women's Suffrage in a Government Bill was expressed in the following resolutions:—

That the N.U.W.S.S. does not regard the offer of facilities for a private Member's Bill as an equivalent of the Prime Minister's pledges with respect to an amendment to the Franchise Bill, and calls upon the Government to redeem those pledges in the only way now possible by introducing next session a Government measure giving votes to women.

That the N.U.W.S.S., believing that a private Member's Bill can have little chance of becoming law in the lifetime of this Parliament, resolves, while placing no obstacle in the way of such a Bill, to concentrate on work for a Government measure for women suffrage, and to adopt such a policy as will be most likely to bring into power an undivided Cabinet in favour of Women's Suffrage.



The Council expressed very warm appreciation of the attitude adopted by the Labour Party throughout the campaign for the Franchise Bill Amendments, and especially since the withdrawal of the Bill and the announcement of the Government's wholly inadequate proposal for fulfilling its obligations, and the following resolution was passed:—

That the N.U.W.S.S. welcomes the resolutions of the Labour Party passed at their Conference in London in January, 1913, calling upon the Party in Parliament to oppose any Franchise Bill in which women are not included.

Discussions of the future election policy of the Union gave rise to keen debate and some very able speeches. The following resolutions were carried by a large and enthusiastic majority:—

The general objects of the N.U.W.S.S. in all by-elections shall be:—(a) To shorten the term of office of the Cabinet as at present constituted especially by opposing anti-Suffragist Ministers. (b) To strengthen any party in the House of Commons which adopts Women's Suffrage as part of its official programme.

At by-elections the N.U.W.S.S. shall support the candidate whose return will best promote the Labour objects, provided that:—(a) No Government candidate shall be supported. (b) No candidate shall be supported who does not answer all the National Union's questions in the affirmative whether in their original form or as modified by the Executive in accordance with the note of Resolution II. (c) No one who is a "tried friend" and who answers all the National Union's questions in the affirmative shall be opposed except that where a Labour candidate is first in the field, the National Union shall not necessarily cease to support him if a "tried friend" is subsequently put forward to contest the seat. (d) In cases where no candidate can be supported the Executive may decide to do propaganda only.

Work in preparation for the next General Election shall be concentrated on:—(a) The attack of seats held by anti-Suffragist Liberal members, particularly Ministers. (b) The defence of seats held by Labour members who have taken a strong line in support of Women's Suffrage. (c) The support of candidates standing in the interests of Labour in any constituency where such action is thought advisable by the Executive Committee provided that such candidates are personally satisfactory on the women's question.

The questions to be asked of candidates at elections were revised, and the sphere of action of the Election Fighting Fund Committee was considerably extended.

The discussion of the resolutions defining the policy of the Union naturally occupied the greater part of the time of the Council, but the agenda included a considerable amount of other business. The Annual Report and Financial Statement (of which a summary is given on page 816) were adopted, and the Vice-Presidents, Officers and Executive Committee were elected.

First amongst the resolutions passed was the following reaffirming the position the National Union has always adopted towards "militancy." It was moved from the chair and passed without discussion:—

That the Council of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies reiterates the protest against militant methods which was made by the National Union in 1908, 1909, 1911, and 1912. The Union remains convinced that the use of violence in political propaganda is wrong in itself and injurious to the cause of Women's Suffrage.

The most important of the other resolutions embodied a scheme by which the National Union would acquire control of THE COMMON CAUSE, the organ of the Union, hitherto the property of a limited company. The scheme provided for the leasing of the paper to the National Union for a term of years and was accepted by the Council with certain modifications which are to be laid before the shareholders. If these are agreed to, THE COMMON CAUSE will pass under the direct control of the National Union Executive, and the Union will be financially responsible for it unless, upon further consideration, the Executive should be advised of any insuperable disadvantages in the proposal.

The "Friends of Women Suffrage Scheme" was discussed and amended and the following resolution was passed unanimously:—

That in view of the sympathy with Women's Suffrage aroused throughout the whole country by the treatment of the question in the House of Commons, this Council strongly urges every Society in the Union to adopt and develop the scheme of the Friends of Women's Suffrage in order that this sympathy may be converted into a practical instrument of propaganda and political pressure.

Several alterations were made in the rules, the most important being an extension of the notice required for resolutions to be included in the Council agenda. It is hoped that this may result in simplifying the work both for headquarters and for the Secretaries of Societies.

The business to be transacted by the Council proved too much for the two days which had been allotted to it, in spite of the fact that on the second day there was an extra session in the evening. A number of resolutions were not moved owing to the absence from the Council of the

delegates representing the Societies responsible for them, and others were withdrawn after discussion, as the attendance towards the end of the second day was considered too small for a vote to be taken. These resolutions can, of course, be brought forward at a subsequent Council meeting.

The proceedings ended with a vote of thanks to the London Society for the entertainment provided for the delegates and to Mrs. Fawcett for taking the chair during many hours of complicated business. A complete list of the resolutions passed has already been forwarded to Secretaries of Societies, and can be obtained by members, price 2d., post free.

#### National Union Executive.

As the result of the ballot for the Executive Committee of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies the following members have been returned:—Miss Evelyn Atkinson, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Miss Margaret Ashton, Mrs. Auerbach, The Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Clementina Black, Miss K. D. Courtney, Miss Dimock, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, Miss I. O. Ford, Mrs. Harley, Miss Mabel Howell, Miss E. M. Leaf, Miss C. Mac-Millan, Miss C. E. Marshall, Miss O'Malley, Mrs. Osler, Mrs. Edith Palliser, Mrs. Rackham, Miss Eleanor Rathbone, Miss A. Maude Royden, Mrs. Stanbury, Miss Sterling, Mrs. Swanwick, and Miss Tanner. The retiring members are Mrs. Abbott, Mrs. Franklin, and Mrs. Heitland. Miss C. Marshall has been elected as Hon. Parliamentary Secretary on the retirement of Miss Edith Palliser.

#### London Society's Reception.

After the long and strenuous day of debate and strained attention and anxious expectation of the National Union's Council, on February 27th, came the evening of pleasure and relaxed tension—smiles and happy greetings and gay snatches of conversation. It was the bright and social side of the great organisation of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and as impressive in its testimony of harmony and goodwill and enjoyment as the morning's proceedings had been of purpose and ability.

The Grafton Galleries, a suite of fine rooms richly carpeted, profusely lighted, and hung with interesting modern pictures, afforded a fitting background to the crowd of beautiful dresses. It was a splendid and a brilliant scene. But not much time was given for friends to find one another and converse. As the delegates arrived, they were swept quickly through to the furthest room, where each was furnished with a white wand, tipped with a bunch of evergreens, and bearing the name of her district in red letters, and with her Society's letter to the President neatly mounted on brown paper. The long procession was drawn up into line, the hundreds of Societies from all over the British Isles arranged in alphabetical order, and all were hardly in their places when a burst of clapping and cheering that drowned the music told that Mrs. Fawcett had arrived.

The chair was taken by the Lady Frances Balfour. Everyone was delighted by the message from the Inverness Society to Mrs. Fawcett, which Lady Frances translated thus from its original Gaelic:

"Greeting from the land of the Bens, the Glens and the heroes. As long as the heather grows on the Highland hills and the grass springs green in the meadows, so long shall the fame of thy name endure, most gracious lady. Lead on to victory; we follow."

Speeches were also made by Miss Margaret Ashton and Mrs. Oliver Strachey, whom we all remember as Miss Ray Costelloe. Miss Edith Palliser presented to Mrs. Fawcett a beautiful badge of the colours of the National Union in enamel, set with pearls. Then the long procession of delegates, bearing high their leaf-tipped standards in red, white and green, filed past their President, each one handing to her as she passed the address of loyalty and courage which every Society had contributed.

Mrs. Fawcett, in reply, said she was almost overcome with the tribute; that of all leaders she was the most spoilt. A reception showing such proofs of love and affection was overpowering. The very music which had been played was what she best loved, and might have been chosen on purpose to give her pleasure. To her, her work for the National Union was the great joy and glory of her life. She should regard the beautiful jewel just given her as a most precious treasure, and would hand it down to her daughter after her, who in days to come would prize it equally. As soon as she had finished, everyone cheered and shouted, and joined in the time-honoured strains of "For she's a jolly good fellow."

Then the crowd in the reception rooms thinned away, and was encountered again in full strength downstairs in the supper room. Mrs. Fawcett was to be seen afterwards with a little crowd clustering about her like bees round their queen, showing the badge round her neck with a face beaming with happiness. But beaming faces were everywhere to be seen. Happiness and hope and confidence seemed the mark of the evening. It will be long remembered by many a delegate from far-off lonely districts where the workers feel themselves few and far away; and, thinking of it, they will feel again the great pulse of the life that beats so strongly here.

#### Message from Mrs. Fawcett to the Societies forming the National Union.

Pray express to all your Officers and Members my deep gratitude for their reply to my message of January 31st, and for the wonderful surprise and pleasure which they gave me on the evening of Feb. 27. I shall never forget the beautiful scene in the Grafton Galleries when representatives of over 400 Societies filed past me, each bearing the living emblems of growth and hope and bringing beautiful messages of confidence and affection. The beautiful jewel which was presented to me by Miss Palliser on your behalf will be treasured by me to the end of my life.

Our cause is now the dominant issue in home politics: our Union shows during the past twelve months unprecedented growth; one of the political parties in the State has definitely espoused our cause. We are therefore facing the future with confidence and with inextinguishable determination.

#### An interesting "At Home."

On Saturday afternoon, after the Council Meeting, Miss Courtney and Miss Marshall gave an "At Home" to the Executive Committee, the Organisers, and Hon. Secretaries of Federations. This gathering proved very pleasant and successful. Many who had hitherto been merely names to each other were enabled to meet, and a useful interchange of views was carried on all over the room. The size of the National Union and the scale on which it carries on its propaganda necessarily scatters the workers, and it is only when they are brought together on such an occasion as a Council Meeting that it is possible for those who are mainly responsible for the activities of the Union to meet and compare their experiences.

It is to be hoped that similar gatherings may be organised at other Council Meetings.

#### Some New Books.

OF SIX MEDIÆVAL WOMEN: WITH A NOTE ON MEDIÆVAL GARDENS. By Alice Kemp-Welch. (Macmillan, 8s. 6d. net.)

This record of the lives of some typical women of mediæval times is specially valuable by reason of the illumination it throws on the every-day activities of the sex known to the poet and historian of those days mainly during one period of life, the courting and mating phase. Miss Kemp-Welch's careful selection extends over a long stretch of years, so that women's doings in England, Germany and France from the tenth to the sixteenth centuries are illustrated. The personalities chosen may be little known to the general reader, but this in no way detracts from the charm of the record. There is Roswitha the Nun, a tenth-century dramatist of Germany, and Marie de France, the twelfth-century romance writer, who lived at the Court of Henry II. of England; Mechthild of Magdeburg, Mystic and Beguine, is the representative of the thirteenth century, and Mahaut, Countess of Artois, is the product of the following age. The list is completed by Christine de Pisan, a fifteenth-century feminist, and Agnes Sorel, the famous contemporary of Joan of Arc, and mistress and inspirer of Charles VII.

The remarkable achievement in these life-histories is that they run as smoothly as if transcribed from the record of some ancient chronicler, while they are avowedly pieced together from extra-ordinary sources. Sometimes the story is gleaned from self-revelations in the literary work of the person under review,

sometimes side-lights are flashed upon the biography from an intimate knowledge of contemporary history, and in the case of Mahaut, Countess of Artois, the narrative is a mosaic composed "from such common-place material as the household accounts of her stewards." The result of these various methods of rebuilding the past is, of course, by no means "common-place" when handled by an expert of Miss Kemp-Welch's calibre, and the volume has the charm and fascination of an old-time romance.

There is, moreover, a final chapter on Mediæval Gardens, and a store of illustrations, gathered mainly from old MSS. in many libraries, which give a unique sense of delight to the reader of this excellent volume.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE SUFFRAGE ANNUAL AND WOMEN'S WHO'S WHO. (Stanley Paul.) 6s. net.

The main value of this volume lies in the useful enumeration of the various Suffrage societies, the explanation of their respective policies and methods, and the lists of their representatives in different parts of the country. The general directory is far from being complete and has serious errors. A casual inspection reveals the omission of the following names:—Mrs. Ayrton, Mr. and Mrs. Brailsford, Miss Helen Fraser, Miss Elizabeth Robins and Miss Evelyn Sharp. Mrs. Fisher White appears (on p. 239) as Mrs. White Fisher. The address of Miss Maude Royden is not Frankly but Frankly Hall. Some distinction should be made between the manner of giving such names as Lady Smith (Christian name Mary) and Lady Mary Smith. From these pages correspondents would be led to address the wife of Sir John Smith as Lady Mary Smith. For these and similar reasons the book would have been more useful and probably more saleable if it had consisted solely of its first 166 pages.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE ENGLISHWOMAN. March, 1913. (Sidgwick and Jackson. 1s. net.)

The *Englishwoman* opens with a fine, but not perfectly well-arranged, article by M. W. W.—a set of initials which will be easily interpreted by many suffragist readers. Its analysis of the true anti-suffrage position is both just and witty. Indeed, a refreshing sanity is the note of the whole article. Next comes an imaginary conversation in which Miss Lowndes presents, through the mouths of Lady Britannia and of various Members of Parliament, the essence of the recent suffrage debates. A wise newspaper editor, if such a man existed, would ask Miss Lowndes to write Parliamentary summaries for him. Hers would be not only far more readable, but far more illuminating than those now printed. The other contents are, as usual, interesting and such as are not to be found in other magazines.

#### A Masque of Learning.

The "Masque of Learning," devised by Professor Patrick Geddes, and recently produced with such marked success in Edinburgh, is to be brought to London, and will be presented from March 11 to 15 inclusive, at 8 p.m., at the Great Hall of the University of London, S.W.

All women who are interested in the education of the rising generation will do well to use the opportunity thus afforded of learning by pictured scene what true education means. Professor Geddes has produced two masques in the North, one of ancient and one of modern learning, but has determined to commence in the Metropolis by the production of the modern masque, which shows memorable moments in the great periods of thought and action, from the time of the fall of Rome to our own days. It concludes with a scene expressive of the present and the opening future—a time which has without doubt its especial interest for women. Tickets may be had on application from Messrs. Chappell and Co. (Limited), 50, New Bond Street, W., and from the Masque Secretary, Crosby Hall, Chelsea, S.W.

TEMPLAR PRINTING WORKS, Birmingham.

R. CROMBLEHOLME, General Manager.



## Correspondence.

## THE LABOUR PARTY AND THE GOVERNMENT.

In THE COMMON CAUSE of February 14th, under the article entitled "Election Fighting Fund," we read:—"In former years the Parliamentary Labour Party have taken their guidance as to general policy from the Labour Conferences, but have been left free to decide, as occasion demanded, how they should give effect to that policy with regard to any specific measure. This year a resolution was passed making all Conference decisions absolutely binding on the Labour Members, on pain of eviction from the Party." May I offer some criticism of this statement? "In former years" the Labour Members were paid by the Labour Party funds and were *directly responsible* to the Conference. Even so, they were (as you say) left "free to decide" on details of policy.

Now, the Labour Members are chosen by us (tax-payers) and are, therefore, independent of their own Party. They have used this independence (1) individually by publicly refusing in several cases to reject a Bill not including women, and (2) collectively (with their leaders) by voting with the Government on all Government measures.

It makes no difference to the Government whether a "Liberal" or a "Labour" candidate is elected. Either means a Liberal vote, and as many women are supporting "Labour," astute Liberals soon realised that their cue was to avoid three-cornered contests and allow the Labour Candidate to get in. True, there are some women supporting the Liberal Party, and as they are mostly economically dependent on their male relatives, their support is sure.

But the National Union's support of Party is more vigorous, as it is free from actual monetary slavery. It is, however, in my view, a mistake to hope that Labour M.P.'s will vote in any way to embarrass the Government, for that would mean embarrassing their own salaries. They have shown by deeds that they are determined to keep this Anti-Suffrage Cabinet in power and stave off the day of their "eviction."

K. RALEIGH.

[A note dealing with this letter will be found on page 815.]  
Ed. C.C.

## THE CARETAKER'S WIFE.

The following is an extract from the "Duties of the Caretakers" in the printed standing orders of a certain non-County Borough Education Committee:—"In the case of married men the wife is expected to assist her husband in the above duties as far as possible." Recently such a caretaker asked for an increase of wages. The answer was that he was receiving so many shillings a week, and his house, so that evidently the wife is not paid by the Education Committee, but all the money paid to the man is considered to be earned by him.

I am afraid it is a very general arrangement that where a married man lives in a house provided by his employers, his wife is required to assist him in work for which he alone is paid.

I think the best way to attack such arrangements directly is to enquire whether the wife is insured, and who pays her insurance.

A MEMBER OF THE LONDON SOCIETY FOR  
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

## "A YOUNG PEOPLE'S CITIZEN LEAGUE."

It has troubled me for some years that so little was done for our girls in the way of recruiting them for our ranks, and further for fitting them to use the power we are striving so hard to gain. Those girls who were 17 or 18 three years ago are many of them married now, and have hardly heard of the suffrage movement except as something in the street to be laughed at. I am speaking for girls in smaller provincial towns generally, and my own in particular, where myself and another suffragist have tried to introduce something of the kind into a small club of poorer girls (there are others), where we are all workers and know their lives pretty intimately.

The suffrage question is too narrow and too dry to interest many of them, but the first step towards teaching the duties of citizenship seems plainly to be by teaching First Aid, and that in

such a way as to be attractive and really useful in every-day occurrences, and thus it becomes easy to render other and various good turns.

Then, to illustrate the value of the individual to the whole, there is nothing like brigade drill. Our girls have a uniform, and learn other methods for life-saving, and also have half-day march-outs.

The great drawback to any attempts of this kind among the poor girls is that the long hours at—not always laborious—work unfits them for any sustained attention or any sustained effort in any direction; the monotony of machine life seeming to create a desire for constant change, such as is found in the street; or they are too tired for anything but "Pictures."

I am glad the National Union of Girls' Clubs and Miss Cleghorn are looking into this matter. Meantime, if we suffragists could organise some of these clubs into a league such as your correspondent mentions (Feb 7th), and make them as much as possible outdoor organisations, I for one should have a glad heart.

F. J. ABERCROMBIE.

A communication from Miss E. Mary Dixon, the Secretary of the Coniston Society (N.U.W.S.S.), describes a Junior Corps in her district where work on lines similar to those suggested by Miss Bella Candler at the beginning of this correspondence (COMMON CAUSE, February 7th) is being carried out with success.

## Foreign News.

## Hungary.

Miss Schwimmer contributes to *Jus Suffragii* a long article dealing with the situation in Hungary, which, as already explained in this column, is in some respects as unsatisfactory as that in England. She states that the chief semi-official Government organ, the *Budapesti Hirlap*, has recently published two leading articles criticising the omission of women's suffrage from the Franchise Bill. One was written by Mr. Edvi Illes, a distinguished lawyer, and the other by Charles Kmetty, Professor of Economics at the University of Budapest. The latter, though formerly an opponent, now declares himself a convert to women's suffrage, on the grounds of its utility to the State as well as to the individual. Another convert is Joseph Kristoffy, who, in introducing the first Reform Bill in 1905, disposed of the women's claims in three lines. In common with a number of other leading men lately interviewed on the subject, he now holds the view that some measure of women's enfranchisement should have been included in the present Bill.

The press, indeed, generally seems to be coming round to the side of the women. Of particular importance is a contribution to the *Pester Lloyd* by Georg von Lukacs, former Minister of Instruction, who it is hoped will accept the presidency of the Hungarian Men's League.

The "Reform Bill" is now under discussion by a committee of forty members elected by the House. As the Opposition is boycotting Parliament, all these members belong to the Government Party. The Suffragists have been diligently canvassing them, with the result that they all declared themselves favourable to the reform. The majority, indeed, expressed their willingness to effect it at once in connection with the Bill now before the country. It is certain, therefore, that this will be proposed in Committee. What its prospects are, and what machinery the Hungarian Parliament can put in motion to hinder the carrying out of the will of the majority, we, in this country, cannot guess, any more than other countries could have anticipated the plan adopted in our own. Perhaps we may hope that more straightforward methods prevail in Hungary. If, however, women are to be definitely excluded, we can but hope that the whole Bill may suffer the fate allotted to a similar one in the British Parliament.

The International Congress at Buda-Pesth, of which notices have already appeared in THE COMMON CAUSE, will be held June 15th to 20th inclusive.

## LONDON SOCIETY OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

58, Victoria Street, S.W.

PUBLIC RECEPTION, WESTMINSTER PALACE HOTEL, VICTORIA STREET, S.W.,

To-day, FRIDAY, MARCH 7th, 3.30 to 6.15.

Chair: Miss H. D. COCKLE. Speakers: Councillor MARGARET ASHTON, M.A.; Miss EDITH PALLISER,

Mrs. GIMINGHAM, M.A. Discussion, Tea 6d.

Next Week (March 14th): Mrs. RACKHAM, Miss FORD, Miss ROYDEN, Miss STERLING.

## Houghton-le-Spring By-Election.

CANDIDATES.  
T. W. Richardson (Unionist).  
Tom Wing (Liberal).  
Alderman W. House (Labour).

OFFICE.  
31, The Avenue, Sunderland.

## COMMITTEE ROOMS.

Houghton—55, Sunderland Street; Mrs. Streeter in charge.  
Hetton Downs—35, Market Street; Mrs. Tozer in charge.  
Ryhope—86, Ryhope Street; Miss Beaver in charge.  
Seaham Colliery: Miners' Hall.

## ORGANISERS IN CHARGE.

Miss C. M. Gordon (North-Eastern Federation).  
Miss Margaret Robertson (E.F.F.)

We have to record a most successful week of meetings. Without exception, the Halls have been packed to overflowing, and the audiences enthusiastic. Miss Matters' open-air speech at Houghton, which opened the campaign, was "the talk of the pits" next day, and brought a grand audience to the Miners' Hall next night. On Thursday, February 27th, an old miner met us, holding out between finger and thumb, as if it were an unclean thing, an anti-suffrage leaflet: "You've got some opposition now, you see," he said with a chuckle—"but we aren't having any!" he added. "You've about converted Houghton." At Herrington, we were told afterwards, that the men had all been saying beforehand that we deserved to be burned or thrown into the sea—but, after our meeting, all had changed their tune, and were ready to champion us and our cause. At Hylton there had actually been large purchases of rotten eggs, and our workers were somewhat hustled by the children, but they got us a magnificent meeting, and the eggs remained unused. The police throughout the constituency are our staunch friends and helpers.

Since Wednesday afternoon (February 26th) we have been a much diminished party, on account of the Council Meeting, though Miss Matters, Miss Beaver, and Mrs. Oldham kindly stayed for the evening, and went by the midnight train, and Mrs. Tozer, Mrs. Streeter, and Mrs. Rothwell gave up the Council to stay and help. We were also much assisted by members of the Sunderland Society, and Mr. Fenner Brockway came over from Manchester, and gave rousing speeches at our Friday and Saturday meetings, whilst Mr. Tom Richardson, M.P., spoke eloquently for the "women-people" (in the charming Northumbrian phrase) at Hylton last Friday.

It is hard yet to prophesy at all how the election will go, but there is no doubt that our candidate is gaining ground daily. The gospel of Labour, as well as the gospel of Suffrage, is evidently new to many people here, but both are received with sympathy rising to enthusiasm.

We have not yet found it necessary to keep all our Committee rooms continuously open, and most of our workers have been occupied in the invaluable work of personally canvassing the evening meetings. Judging by results, it is infinitely the most effective way of collecting an audience, for none of the three parties can get meetings approaching ours in numbers.

By the time this goes to press, all our workers will have returned, and we shall be embarking on a strenuous week—seventeen or eighteen Hall meetings, and doubtless innumerable in the open-air. But the work done at the cottage doors is perhaps even more valuable than that done on the platform—though it does not earn the same applause.

A local poet, Mr. J. Storey, has written us sympathetic letters and several poems. His advocacy of our cause dates back nearly thirty years, when he upheld it amid sneers and laughter.

Next week we shall hope to give a more detailed account of our work.

APPEAL.—For the present we would once more appeal for special donations towards the expenses of Halls (the huge success of our meetings is encouraging us to take more and more) and for *motors for polling day* (which may be on March 18). Please secure us plenty of motors.

## THE CANDIDATES.

Alderman House has several times declared at his meetings that he would refuse to support any Franchise Bill which did not include women, and has expressed his adherence to our cause thus in his election address:—"I am a strong supporter of the principle of Adult Suffrage, and the removal of the sex disability must be brought about at the earliest possible moment. The decision of the recent Labour Party Conference with regard to the Extension of the Franchise to Women meets with my cordial approval." Mr. Richardson is in favour of the Concilia-

tion Bill solution, but advocates the referendum, and Mr. Wing would support a Bill on Dickinson lines. When asked at Silksworth why women who were neither householders nor wives of householders should not have votes he gave the illuminating reply:—"You can't give votes to people if you don't know their address." He also claims to merit our support because he voted against sending the Conciliation Bill upstairs!

PRESS.—The Press has, on the whole, treated us well; the *Newcastle Daily Journal* and the *Sunderland Daily Echo* have been especially generous in space given to accounts of our work, and they both published our manifesto *in extenso*.

All communications should be addressed to 31, The Avenue, Sunderland.

We have received the following communication from Mr. A. Fenner Brockway, the Editor of *The Labour Leader*:

I wish it were possible for all readers of THE COMMON CAUSE to attend the meetings which are being held by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies in connection with the Houghton-le-Spring by-election. They would then have no doubt about the wisdom of the new election policy. Although I knew that good work was being done, three meetings at which I was present last week came as a revelation to me. Never have I seen audiences respond more whole-heartedly to the message delivered.

When I reached Houghton, I heard complaints on every hand that very little interest was as yet being taken in the election. The Liberal and Conservative candidates, I was told, were having the humiliating experience of addressing audiences of seventy and eighty and the Labour meetings, even, were not, as is usually the case, crowded. I did not expect big audiences, therefore, and when we reached the mining village of Newbottle and were directed down an ill-lit path to the Wesleyan Hall, I feared that we should only have a handful of people. It was still a quarter of an hour before the meeting was timed to commence and I suggested that we should go to the houses to whip up an audience. But when we entered the Hall we found it was packed!

The audience was mostly composed of miners, though their wives had come in goodly numbers. They listened intently and, in the case of the women particularly, it was inspiring to note their responsiveness to what was being said. When it was time to go to the next meeting we had quite a hard struggle to get out of the Hall. The gangway was packed and the lobby beyond, and even in the passage and outside, the people were pressing to catch what was being said.

When we reached Hylton a police constable warned us we were "in for a hot time." The women who had been distributing bills had been pelted with stones, he said, and anger with the militants was so high that for a fortnight preparations had been made to give the speakers a lively time. Inside the Hall we were quickly reassured. Margaret Robertson was speaking and she had turned scoffers into converts. When interruptions were made it was not necessary for the chairman to intervene; the audience quickly made it clear that they would stand no disorderliness. Here, too, the Hall was packed to the doors. By the close of the meeting enthusiasm was high and many wanted to know when we were coming again.

The next evening at Chiltern Moor our experience was the same. Some doubt had been expressed as to the wisdom of taking so large a Hall, but once again it was packed, many having to stand. At first the spirit of curiosity prevailed, but very soon almost the only interruptions were expressions of approval. Immediately below the platform stood an old man with hands and face scarred by toil. With hand to ear he listened eagerly to every word, and his pleasure was so great that he could not restrain himself. "That's true," he exclaimed repeatedly during the speeches. "Thou'rt right there," and, at the end, "Well done! Well done! Well done!" until he could shout no longer.



Opponents of Woman Suffrage are becoming converts at every meeting. If we could do in all parts of the country what is being done at Houghton, no Government would long withstand the demand for woman's political liberty.

**TREASURER'S STATEMENT.**

As stated last week, the end of the year finds us with £944 in hand for Election Fighting Fund work in the country, in addition to the sums already lavished for special constituencies.

Our members have no doubt been waiting to see what policy the Council would adopt, before sending in their contributions for the new year's campaign. The resolutions passed by the Council will throw a great deal of additional work on to the Election Fighting Fund Committee. We are anxious to get this work started at once, and the Election Fighting Fund Committee will have extensive plans before it at its next meeting. The scale on which those plans can be carried out will depend on the donations and promises we receive before then. Last year we spent £2,349 in nine months, *i.e.*, we were spending at the rate of £3,000 per annum. This year we should like to spend three times that amount.

The first call on our Election Fighting Fund is for the Houghton-le-Spring By-Election, where work is already in full swing. We have so far £70 given and promised for Houghton, but the contest will be a long one, and the lowest estimate of the total cost is £300. We, therefore, earnestly appeal for sums, large or small, to make up the £230 still needed if this By-Election is to be fought as vigorously and efficiently as its special importance demands. Our cordial thanks to those who have already given so generously.

**Election Fighting Fund.**

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	4,356	18	7
Received since February 24th—			
The Misses Wilson and Miller (3rd donation)	2	0	0
Miss I. M. Hervey (3rd donation)	1	0	0
Madame Loppé (2nd donation)	3	0	0
Mrs. P. M. Whitworth	2	2	0
Two Haslemere Members	1	1	0
Dr. T. Georgina Prosser (2nd donation)	3	3	0
Mrs. Webb	1	1	0
Miss E. Palliser	100	0	0
Mrs. Henry Fawcett	0	1	0
Mrs. Minden	0	1	0

**Special Donations.**

**Houghton-le-Spring By-Election.**

Mrs. Randall Vickers (for motor cars)	5	0	0
Mrs. Heitland	10	0	0
Mrs. Vaux	0	10	0
	£4,486	6	7

**The Pioneer Players.**

The Pioneer Players, under the direction of Miss Edith Craig, have arranged in their forthcoming programme, on March 9th, for a production of "Hamlet," by Mr. Louis Calvert, on the lines laid down in his book, "An Actor's Hamlet." Mr. Calvert is to play the title rôle, and the following names will also appear in the cast:—The Queen, Mrs. Saba Raleigh; Ophelia, Miss Ellen O'Malley; Horatio, Mr. Godfrey Tearle; Grave-digger, Mr. Edmund Gwenn; Polonius, Mr. Fisher White; First Actor, Mr. Clarence Derwent; and the Ghost, Mr. Courtney Thorpe.

The unique material from which Southalls' Towels are made is interwoven with capillary threads which give even absorbency throughout.

This material is truly antiseptic, and wonderfully soft and light. These and other improvements are the result of thirty years experience, and are only to be found in

**SOUTHALLS' TOWELS**

and in addition, there is the perfect shape, extra thickness, improved ends for easy attachment, all of which make Southalls' distinctly the best.

Sold by all Drapers, Chemists, etc., in silver packets of one dozen, price 1s., 1s. 6d. and 2s. Southalls' Compressed Towels, full size, in tiny silver boxes—Size "A" 1d., Size "B" 1 1/2d., Size "C" 2d., Size "D" 2 1/2d.

Do not ask for Sanitary Towels—ask specially for SOUTHALLS'.



**TAILOR SPORTS SHIRTS**

TAILOR SPORT ING SHIRT in Silk and Wool Material in a large variety of striped guaranteed Tailor cut. Narrow yoke across back. Link cuffs.

Price **14/9**

Sizes, 12 1/2, 13, 13 1/2, 14, 14 1/2, 15.

Also in Zephyr

Price **10/6**

and in Striped Washing Silk.

Price **29/6**



**Debenham & Freebody**

Wigmore Street, (Covendish Square) London, W.

Famous for over a Century for Taste for Quality for Value

**Stewart Dawson & Compy. Ltd.**

73, 75, 77, 79, 81, Regent St., London, W.

Diamond and Gem Jewellery, Watches, Clocks Sterling Silver Dressing Bags and Art Leather Goods. Inspection and Comparison invited. Catalogues Free.

City Establishment: THE TREASURE HOUSE, HATTON GARDEN, E.C.

**THE LATE THOMAS WOOLNER, R.A.**

**EXHIBITION OF SCULPTURE.**

By Special Request the Studios at 29, Welbeck Street, W., will be kept open in March till further notice. Small models of the John Stuart Mill statue can be obtained on application to Miss CLARE WOOLNER. The date of the Auction will be duly announced.

**TUITION IN MODERN POLITICS.**

Lessons and Lectures on POLITICS and ECONOMICS. With special reference to

**WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE.**

Suitable for Public Speakers. Correspondence Coaching.

Apply, Dr. Wallis Chapman, 'Monksbury,' Etchingham Park Road, Finchley, N.

**THE SUFFRAGE CLUB, 3, YORK STREET, St. James's, S.W.**

The Board of Management have decided, in view of the very deep interest shown in the objects of the Club, to enrol a further 90 Founder Members at £1 Is. Cd. Subscription and no Entrance Fee.

**EARLY APPLICATION ADVISABLE.**

Members are notified that Table d'Hôte Lunch (1/6) and Dinner (a la Carte) are served daily. Application may now be made for bedroom accommodation.

The Club has been formed as a Social Club for

**MEN AND WOMEN**

interested in the Suffrage Movement.

**CONSTANT LECTURES ARRANGED.**

LECTURE.—Tuesday, March 11th, at 3.30 p.m. Speaker: J. Cameron Grant, Esq. Subject: "That the Evolution of Women during the last 50 years demands Political Recognition."

**Notes from Headquarters**

**The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.**

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries: MISS E. D. COURTNEY, MISS EDITH PALLISER, MISS CATHERINE MARSHALL (Parliamentary), MISS EMILY M. LEAY (Press).  
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. AUBREYBACH.  
Secretary: MISS GERALDINE COOKE.

Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The work in the office is growing so quickly that it is difficult to keep pace with the development. We have bought several new typewriters this year, and still have not enough. Would any one like to make a present of one to the Press Department?

**Literature Department.**

The Literature Committee proposes to issue a new edition of the poster, "Justice at the Door," which has met with such general favour. A suggestion has been made that it would be more effective if it were printed in a larger size. A request has also been made that the "Protest against Violence" should be issued in a larger size. The object of the Committee in having them printed in the present size was to reduce the difficulties and cost of posting for the Societies who use them. It would be a great help if any Secretaries of Societies, who are prepared to use more copies of these posters, would be kind enough to write and say whether they would prefer them in a large size, or as they are at present.

I. B. O'MALLEY.

**Treasurer's Notes.**

The New Campaign planned by the Council will strain our resources to their uttermost. Probably each by-election will cost more; the preparatory work for the General Election has been outlined, and must be begun at once, bringing with it further demands on the Treasury; meantime the Election Fighting Fund work, which is to form an important means of attack on the Government, has little money left beyond the sum already reserved for six constituencies of Cabinet Ministers. In order further to strengthen the Union and support its political work, organisation and propaganda must be undertaken on a larger scale than ever. The management of THE COMMON CAUSE is to be more intimately associated with the Union, and money will be required to "turn over" for its maintenance and development.

The Campaign Funds of 1913 open with something in hand from contributions received since the close of the financial year (October 31st), and recently given to the Emergency Fund and for Houghton by-election. Much of this money is, however, allotted, and is barely enough to keep us going at our present rate.

A first appeal is to be made at the Public Meeting on Friday (7th inst.), at Kensington Town Hall, but I must plead for constant help and co-operation during the next months if our Fund is to reach adequate proportions.

A resolution was passed making the Election Fighting Fund Committee responsible, financially and otherwise, for all work which involves co-operation with the Labour Party, or support of any candidate standing in the interests of Labour. The number of constituencies in which such work is undertaken will be greatly increased by the new developments of the National Union's policy.

This means that a considerable amount of work which has hitherto been paid for out of the ordinary funds of the National Union will now devolve upon the Election Fighting Fund.

The Council made one change in our financial arrangements; while still anxious to enable donors who do not wish to co-operate in "Fighting-Fund" work to secure their contributions against use in this way, the Council ordained that the National Union Executive should be free to make grants to the Election Fighting Fund as occasion might require, from all funds received from now onwards which are not otherwise ear-marked. That is to say, it will now be necessary to ear-mark any contributions which are not to go to the Election Fighting Fund, instead of ear-marking contributions for it. This arrangement will not apply retrospectively to any subscriptions or donations given before the Council Meeting, but only to those which come in future.

The affiliation fees of Societies will, of course, not be used for this purpose. I will make this clear in all appeals, but I hope that many supporters will be so far pleased with the results already achieved through the Fund that they will not think it necessary to ear-mark against it.

The chief objects for which money is needed in the 1913 Campaign Fund are:—

- (1) Organisation propaganda.
- (2) Election work:
  - (a) for support of Labour candidates.
  - (b) for support of Conservative candidates.
  - (c) THE COMMON CAUSE.

For the moment, too, there is Houghton-le-Spring by-election. F. M. STERLING. (Treasurer pro tem.).

**Contributions to the General Fund.**

Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1912 ... £ 1,286 2 5

Received February 25th to March 3rd:—

**Subscriptions.**

Mr. R. L. Reiss	0	2	0
Mrs. Pilsbury	0	10	0
Mrs. Gerard	0	5	0
Mrs. Sturdee	1	0	0
Mrs. Samuel	1	0	0
Miss I. M. Hervey	1	0	0
Madame Loppé	2	0	0
Miss S. Chapman	0	2	6
Miss P. G. Fawcett (4th instalment)	34	0	0
Miss E. H. Vaughan Williams	0	1	0

**Donations.**

Girton College W.S.S. (self-denial week)	5	0	0
Mrs Mackie	2	0	0
Nurse A. Taylor (collected, per Miss Ellen A. McArthur)	0	16	0

**Affiliation Fees.**

Letchworth W.S.S.	2	19	3
Carnforth W.S.S.	1	2	0
Morecambe W.S.S. (additional)	0	2	3
Hartlepool W.S.S.	0	5	0
Sutton Coldfield W.S.S.	1	5	0
Merionethshire W.S.S. (instalment)	0	4	0
W. Dorset W.S.S.	0	14	3
Kendal W.S.S.	1	11	0
Hereford W.S.S.	0	18	0
Walker and Wallsend W.S.S.	0	11	6
Central Sussex W.S.S.	3	15	3
Shotley Bridge W.S.S.	0	8	3
Dolgelly W.S.S.	0	5	0
Elgin and Lossiemouth W.S.S.	0	9	0
Cambridge University, Girton College, W.S.S.	1	3	9
Rugby W.S.S.	0	17	6
Hexham W.S.S.	0	16	3
Normanton W.S.S.	0	5	9
Glenfarg W.S.S.	0	12	0
Durham W.S.S.	0	19	0
Woburn Sands W.S.S. (additional)	0	3	9
Stroud W.S.S.	0	5	0
Rochester W.S.S. (additional)	0	8	3
Penzance W.S.S.	0	8	3
Barrow-in-Furness W.S.S.	0	7	6
Oban W.S.S. (1912 and 1913)	0	14	0
Aberystwyth W.S.S. (1912)	0	8	6
Preston W.S.S.	2	1	9
Egham and District W.S.S.	0	5	0

**Emergency Fund.**

Madame Loppé	1	0	0
Miss Macnaghten (2nd donation)	1	0	0

£1,360 4 11

**THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.**

(1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI.)

**PUBLIC MEETING at CAXTON HALL,**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12th, at 3.30 p.m.

Speakers—Mrs. DESPARD and J. MALCOLM MITCHELL, Esq. Admission Free.

**THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF LECTURES AT**

**CAXTON HALL**

will be given

MONDAY, MARCH 10th, 8 p.m.

Lecturer—Mrs. DESPARD. Subject—"Prometheus Unbound."

Further particulars and Tickets, 2s. 6d. and 1s. reserved, 6d. unreserved (course of 4 lectures 5s.), to be obtained from **WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE OFFICES, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.**



News from the Societies and Federations.

The Federations.

East Midland.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—On January 30th a successful performance of new Suffrage comedy, entitled "Recruiting," was given on behalf of the funds of the Burton W.S.S. The play was written by "Nina Serette," the nom de plume of the Burton Society's Press Secretary, Miss Street, who played a part in the performance, and also acted as stage manager. A large and influential audience witnessed the performance, which was received with much enthusiasm, as were also the propaganda speeches. A handsome sum resulted to the funds of the Burton Society.

CHESTERFIELD.—On February 14th the Chesterfield Society held a successful meeting in the Friends' Meeting House, the room being full. The speakers were Mrs. Cowmeadow (Non-Militant), Miss Middleton (militant), and as no Anti-Suffrage speaker could be obtained, Miss St. John read a paper putting forward Anti-Suffrage views. The meeting was then open for discussion, all three parties being freely criticised, but a large majority were in favour of the N.U.W.S.S.

CRICK.—On February 20th a meeting, organised by the Crick Society, took place at Long Buckley in the Co-operative Hall. The Rev. A. H. Lewis took the chair. Miss Muriel Matters gave an interesting address, which was listened to with attention by some of the audience; the rest, though not opposed to all they could do to make the meeting a failure. The Crick committee had hoped that the meeting might lead to the formation of a local society, but it appears that Buckley will need a good deal more education. A meeting was held at the schoolroom, Crick. The chair was taken by the Rev. W. C. Roberts, and the speaker was Miss Muriel Matters, who gave an extremely interesting address. A Resolution in favour of Votes for Women was carried by a majority of more than three to one, and would probably have been carried non con. but for the presence of some boys and rowdy young men.

DERBY.—A successful meeting was held in the Albert Hall on February 25th when the Rev. G. Holmes-Gore, M.A., presided, and Miss Norma Smith gave an able and instructive address on "Why Women want the Vote." There was not a vacant seat in the hall and hundreds were turned from the doors. That Miss Norma Smith's address on Women Suffrage was one of the best ever heard in Derby was proved by the enthusiastic applause at the close of her speech and the passing, with certainly less than 12 dissentients, of a Resolution calling upon the Government to give full facilities for a Government measure for Women Suffrage during the next session. The full significance of the passing of this Resolution is apparent when it is realised that this was a free public meeting and that Derby is a great Liberal stronghold with Mr. Raymond Asquith the Prime Minister's son and an avowed opponent of Women Suffrage, the adopted prospective Liberal candidate for the Borough of Derby. The happy note struck by the chairman in his opening address, the fine speech of Miss Norma-Smith, and the hard work undertaken by the sub-committee and their many helpers, appointed to work up the meeting, received ample testimony in the tangible results of the meeting, these being a collection amounting to between £2 and £3 and an addition to the Derby Branch of 35 new members, to which it is expected numbers will be added during the course of the next few weeks.

MANFIELD.—The Annual Meeting of this Society was held on February 5th, and was addressed by Miss M. Norma Smith. Monthly social evenings have also been held at Miss Barringer's, Edenwood, Mansfield.

MATLOCK.—Miss Norma Smith has spent several days in Matlock, and has visited a number of people and discussed the question of the Suffrage with them. She has done a great deal of good. A Public Meeting was held on February 20th, at which Mrs. W. E. Dowson (Nottingham) and Miss Norma Smith were the speakers; the chair being taken by Mrs. Broome. The following Resolution was carried at this meeting calls upon the Government to bring forward a woman's Suffrage Bill as a Government measure during the next session. The meeting was well attended and several new members joined the society.

MELTON MOWBRAY.—The Society has reason for congratulation in the recent adoption of the new Liberal candidate for the division. As soon as Mr. Richardson (who has already done the Cause good service both inside and outside the House of Commons) appeared upon the scene, the prominent Liberals were written to or personally approached, with the result that at the private adoption meeting of the party, held at Leicester, Mr. Richardson, while dealing with the Franchise question, made the following outspoken avowal of his desires: "Even with Sir Maurice Levy, M.P., in the saddle, I suggest that the Government, in some form or other, should do justice to the women of the country by also including an amendment giving Votes to Women?" Mr. Richardson is setting to work in carrying out an active campaign throughout the villages of the constituency, and we hope to have one or two of our members present at each meeting with a good supply of leaflets for distribution.

NORTHAMPTON.—A series of educational meetings had been arranged by which it is hoped that much propaganda work may be done. One of the members of this Society kindly arranged weekly meetings at her own house, at which different questions affecting women were spoken on and discussed. These included: "The Suffrage from the economic standpoint," "The legal disabilities of women," and "The Report of the Divorce Commission." Other friends are now arranging meetings in other parts of the town, at which these addresses are to be repeated; and meetings are also being arranged in connection with the Adult Schools.

NOTTINGHAM.—On February 7th Mrs. W. E. Dowson took part in a debate on Women's Suffrage at the Men's

Institute, Dane Street Chapel. The Resolution in favour of women's suffrage was carried by a large majority, only four youths voting against it. Several signed "Friends of Women's Suffrage" cards. Mrs. W. E. Dowson also addressed the Bilwell Women's adult school on February 9th, when between 200 and 300 were present. The subject was "Family life on 21 a week and the need for the vote." A whist drive was held in the Mechanics' Lecture Hall on February 19th. There were about 70 present. Mrs. Hickling and Mrs. Inglis, members of the Notis Branch Committee, undertook the arrangements, and Mr. W. F. Cox acted as M.C. Mrs. Dowson made a short appeal for Women's Suffrage after the refreshment interval, and the profits amounted to about £3. On February 20th Mrs. W. E. Dowson went over to Matlock, where a new Branch is just formed, to speak with Miss Norma Smith at a successful and encouraging meeting, when nine new members joined the Society.

REPORT.—The early part of the period under report was spent in continuing the campaign for resolutions in support of Reform Bill Amendments. In this we were uniformly successful at all meetings addressed; these included a Public Meeting held in Dronfield (N.E. Derbyshire), and a meeting of the Fabian Society in Chesterfield, a special meeting of the Boot and Shoe Operatives Union, and a meeting for women only at New Whittington, near Chesterfield.

After the Reform Bill fiasco, we held a Public Meeting at Dronfield Woodhouse, the hall being taken by Mr. W. Levick. The night was foggy and a good address was an agreeable surprise. Successful meetings have been held in the Co-operative Guilds, at Clay Cross and Edinboro, and at Adult Schools at Winstington Moor and Dronfield, and I have spoken, by invitation, to the Hasland Good Templars and at the District Meeting of the Derbyshire Good Templars. A very interesting discussion of all phases of Suffrage and Anti-Suffrage opinion was arranged on February 14th by the Chesterfield Society, with satisfactory results; and the time until Easter is crowded with engagements. C. E. COWMEADOW.

North-Western.

REPORT.—There are one or two matters to report in connection with our work of the past few months. First, as regards the Snowden Amendment. The Irish Roman Catholic vote in Carlisle is calculated at about 500, so last October we made a point of interviewing its most prominent representatives as to their attitude towards the Member to ask him to support the Snowden Amendment to the Home Rule Bill. The president of the local branch of the Trades and Labour Council was also seen, with the result that he called a meeting of their executive committee to discuss the matter, and urging Mr. Denman to vote for the Snowden Amendment. In response to the various post cards, etc., he had received from his constituents, Mr. Denman wrote to the local paper explaining why he had not voted for the Amendment.

Then there was the post-card campaign to get people to sign cards asking our Member to support the Women's Suffrage Amendments to the Reform Bill. As it was impossible to canvass the whole town, it was decided to take one ward as a specimen. Owing to the lack of helpers, only about half this ward was canvassed, but many who could not help in that way got friends and neighbours to sign post-cards to Mr. Denman, so that nearly 300 were posted to him, while Mrs. Reay got 50 from Brampton sent to Mr. Childs Lowther, besides many others from Stanwick. The post-card canvass seemed to offer a good opportunity for finding out how many of the town councillors were in favour of Women Suffrage, so 37 out of a possible 40 were asked to sign a post-card (the other three being hardened "ants"). Two refused because Mr. Denman was not asked to support adult suffrage, one or two said they had not a vote for Carlisle, but, to our surprise, 21 actually signed. This vote which include the gentleman who signed his name and then wrote on the other side "Sorry I cannot agree."

Our next effort was a Suffrage shop which we took for a week, just while the amendments to the Reform Bill should have been before the House of Commons. Free leaflets were distributed, literature sold and posters displayed. "Friends of Women's Suffrage" were made and in the evening, lantern slides were thrown on to a sheet in the window. We wanted to show prominent supporters of the suffrage cause, but at first we could only get slides of Liberal Suffragists. Feeling it was imperative to have an equal number of Conservatives, we wired to the headquarters of the Conservative Association in London to know if they could lend us lantern slides of militant suffragists, adding, "What charge?" The answer was disappointing, it was merely "Can let you have Bonar Law for tenpence."

Our last suffrage event was an "At Home" held in the Richmond Hall on February 1st. Mrs. and Miss Helen Fraser were the hostesses, and Miss Helen Fraser was the speaker. The meeting was a great success and eleven new members were made. M. CAMBBELL.

KESWICK.—In December, resolutions in favour of Women's Suffrage were passed unanimously by the Keswick Women's Liberal Association and the Keswick Branch of the British Women's Temperance Association. An Entertainment was held on January 15th in connection with the funds. Mrs. F. W. Chance (President of the Carlisle Society) came over to open it, and gave an interesting address on the (then) Parliamentary situation.

The Lady Beatrice Kemp kindly arranged theatricals, a white elephant stall, tea, and side-shows of different kinds, proved very attractive. The entertainment was concluded by a concert in the evening, and when expenses are paid it is hoped there may be a balance of £19.

MORCAMBE.—A business meeting was held at Tetley's Restaurant, on February 12th. The Secretary read an account of receipts and expenditure. It was

decided to pay Affiliation and Federation fees up-to-date, and this has accordingly been done on one hundred and four members. As the Society is so newly formed it was decided not to send delegates to Carlisle or London this time, but to apply for proxies.

In order to become better acquainted with the members, it was arranged to hold a Social evening, and Mrs. Downham placed a room at our disposal for the making of preliminary arrangements. On February 21st the London Agenda was discussed. On February 22nd, at Mrs. Walker's house, a programme for a concert at the forthcoming Social evening was drawn up, and on the 29th, the Executive and Social Committee will again meet to make further arrangements.

Surrey, Sussex and Hants.

ALDERSHOT.—A new Secretary, Mrs. Kemp, was elected at an Aldershot meeting on February 7th, also new Committee members. Mrs. Dempster explained the Parliamentary situation.

BISHOP'S WALTHAM.—Very successful meetings were held at Bishop's Waltham and Droxford on the 12th, in conjunction with the C.U.W.F.A. Mrs. Dempster presiding. Lady Betty Balfour and Mr. Sims spoke. Miss Gunner and Miss Bashford helped considerably.

CAMBERLEY.—The Camberley Annual Meeting took place on February 4th at Darroct's tea rooms, Mrs. Bassett presiding. Mrs. Dempster spoke on the present situation. The Report and Balance sheet showed a satisfactory increase in membership and subscriptions.

FARNHAM.—On Feb. 21st Mrs. Blount gave a lantern lecture on her travels in British East Africa for the Farnham Society's funds, Mr. Eggar presiding.

FLEET.—The Fleet Annual Meeting took place on the 19th, Miss Edwards in the Chair. There was a Balance of £11 6s. 8d. The Report described successful political work, including a deputation, the Organiser's Campaign, an entertainment and other help for Federation funds, meetings, distributions of literature, and outside work. In a good speech on political matters and militancy Mrs. Bassett proposed a Resolution demanding a Government measure, which was carried by acclamation.

HEATHFIELD.—Lady Betty Balfour and Dr. Drysdale addressed a large meeting at Heathfield on the 19th, the Rev. Prebendary Pennohore presiding. A Resolution demanding a Government measure was carried.

PORTS-MOUTH.—1,200 signatures have been obtained to electors' postcards in January by canvassing privately and at municipal polls. On the 25th a meeting was held there protesting against the Borough Member's intention of voting against the Grey Amendment. A very large majority passed the Resolution. On February 21st a meeting was held to demand a Government measure. Mrs. Timpany and Mr. Malcolm Mitchell spoke, and the Resolution was carried unanimously.

REIGATE.—Miss Crossfield's address to members at the Reigate School Club in January on "Will Votes Help Working Women?" stimulated an interesting discussion on methods of enfranchisement. She spoke encouragingly and urged the local branch to demand a Government measure early next session was carried.

RYDE.—The Misses Barry held a large drawing-room meeting at Ryde on the 17th. Mrs. Russell Cooke spoke on women's improved education and changed economic position, their political influence and anxiety for enfranchisement to assist their work. She herself was standing for the Isle of Wight County Council at the request of men. The Rev. G. L. Davey deprecated male domestic legislation, especially concerning divorce.

SALISBURY.—Miss Philippa Fawcett spoke at Salisbury on February 1st on Parliamentary difficulties and anti-suffrage arguments. The Chairman stated that he had in response to pressure, promised not to oppose our Amendments.

WINCHESTER.—On February 13th, Lady Betty Balfour and Mrs. Dempster addressed over 600 people at the Guildhall, Winchester, the Chairman, Mr. Rolleston Stables, speaking forcibly. The Resolution demanding a Government Bill was lost, because the rather rowdy anti-suffragists did not understand its meaning clearly.

WORKING.—The Working Informal Discussion Circle has discussed the Mental Deficiency Bill and Co-Education.

Scottish.

REPORT.—The Scottish Federation has had a most encouraging month. From all quarters accounts of success have come, the result of energies which seem to have been stimulated rather than discouraged by Parliamentary disappointments, are coming in, but all the reports have not yet reached us, the short month evidently taking some Societies by surprise. During the presence in Scotland, and a tour comprising 16 Societies and 22 Meetings was most successfully carried through. Inocuous work was done at Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, and Glasgow. These tours have added largely to the roll of our members.

CASTLE DOUGLAS.—A most successful meeting was held in the Town Hall on February 22nd. Miss Gordon, of Dalny, well-known as a local champion of the Suffrage cause, occupied the chair. Mrs. Abbott made a brilliant appeal and won a good many supporters. Mrs. Lees, ex-Mayor of Oldham, led the collection with £2 2s. and nearly £4 was taken. The resolution was carried by a huge majority. On February 28th a meeting for members was held by permission of Miss Payne in the Douglas Arms Hotel. Miss Coyne was chairman and the branch was inaugurated and the following officers, with a committee, were formally elected:—Hon. Secretary Mrs.

Gifford, The Cottage; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Lorraine. The Society decided to affiliate with the National Union and communicate with the Scottish Federation. Mrs. Lees is giving a public "At Home" to the members and friends on March 4th at the Douglas Arms.

DOLLAR.—Dollar Society held a most successful meeting on the 13th ult., when Dr. Elsie Inglis addressed a most sympathetic audience, and was received with assurance of Suffrage conviction and support. The local paper is now advertising an "At Home" to be held by the Anti-Suffrage League, which, we take it, seems to be a recognition of the successful advance of the Suffrage Cause in the place.

DUNBAR.—The Dunbar Society report two successful Whist Drives. The first on December 18th in the Albert Chambers Hotel included a dance. At this meeting Lady Betty Balfour gave a Suffrage Address, much appreciated by those present. On February 17th the Whist Drive was held in the Royal Hotel, on the evening of that date Miss Dunlop read a concise and interesting paper at the Dunbar Literary Club where several men joined in the discussion. Nearly all the members of the Society were present, and the meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to Miss Dunlop.

EDINBURGH.—Since last sending a Report to the COMMON CAUSE the principal events have been:—(1) Miss Ashton's two Meetings in Edinburgh; (2) Miss Margaret Robertson's week here. On February 13th Miss Ashton addressed a Public Meeting in Merchiston Rooms, organised by the Merchiston Ward Committee, under the direction of Miss A. H. Begbie, the Ward Committee consisting of Miss Janet Kemp, Miss Alice Low, Miss Catherine Kemp, Miss Beattie Barclay, Miss Florence Raeburn, and Miss Mary Gilchrist. The Committee are to be congratulated upon the result, as a number of women municipal voters formed part of the audience, and four new members joined the Society. The collection, etc., paid the expenses of the Meeting. On February 14th the Labour Hall, Smith's Place, Leith, was crowded with working women, who listened with appreciation to a speech from Mrs. Margaret Robertson. Miss Presley, who was present and who had the meeting urged those who were present and who had already become "Friends" to do so. Over 14 "Friends" and 4 members were enrolled. The Annual Meeting of the Edinburgh National Society took place in the same hall, King's Stables Rooms, on the same day. Miss Chrystal Macmillan occupied the Chair. The Annual Report was presented by Miss Alice Low on behalf of Miss K. M. Loudon, who was unable to be present, and the Annual Balance Sheet, by Miss Lisa Gordon on behalf of the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Wilson. Miss Margaret Ashton's address made all present resolve that they would go forward in 1913 with even more energy than they had done in the past. The Report was very satisfactory, the Membership at the end of 1912 was 994, an increase of 200 members. The income was £262 8s. 3d. increase of £117 14s. 9d. Public Meetings held: 80. Election Meetings held, indoor and outdoor (East Edinburgh) and (Midlothian): 172. Other public meetings: 30. In addition to every other kind of Jumble Sales, Entertainment, and every other kind of activity. At the Annual Meeting, the collection and literature amounted to £5 15s. 9d. Donations, 29.

Mrs. Jack Sheldahl, Hermitage Drive, gave a delightful Drawing-room talk on February 5th, at which Miss Margaret Robertson was the speaker and Miss Alice Low took the chair. The audience was much impressed by Miss Robertson's arguments. Five new members were obtained and three new "Friends." On February 16th the L.P. Hall, Ardmillan Terrace, was crowded with an attentive audience to hear Miss Margaret Robertson. It was interesting to note that in the audience were several Conservatives who had never before attended a Labour meeting. Miss Robertson's speech brought down the house, and out of the 60 or 70 present 53 "Friends" were enrolled, two of whom have since become Members. Our thanks are specially due to Mr. and Mrs. Johnston, who occupied the evening, L.P. who have done so much to help us this winter. A Public Meeting was held in the Town Hall, Musselburgh, on February 17th, at which Miss Margaret Robertson and Miss Alice Low were the speakers; Miss Lisa Gordon occupied the chair. About 100 people were collected and 16 "Friends" were enrolled. The engine driver of the train, which bore the speakers back to Edinburgh, was among those who joined. On February 18th a Public Meeting was held in the Kinnaird Hall, Leith. The chair was taken by Councillor Edgar, and the speakers were Miss Margaret Robertson and Mr. John Robertson, Vice-President of the Miners' Federation. The meeting was a good one, and we are particularly grateful to Mr. John Robertson, who although for long a Suffragist, made his first speech on a Suffrage platform on this occasion.

Miss Alice Low held the last of her speakers' classes for this session on February 20th. It is hoped that those who attended the classes: Miss Kinghorn and Miss Muttter Napier (Gifford) and Miss Gilchrist, of the Church League, will make good use of their opportunities in the future, as they are all promising speakers. On Friday, 21st, the usual meeting took place at the Office. Miss Frances Simson spoke on "How the admission of Women to the Scottish Universities was obtained," and Miss Alice Low, who occupied the chair, gave a short address on the "Scottish Leader of February 20th." The audience was a good one; a number of men being present.

GLASGOW.—During the month of February the Glasgow Society has worked with unflagging zeal and correspondingly good results. A large Public meeting was held on February 14th in the Tharing Cross Hall. The President, Col. Denny, was in the chair, and the chief speakers were Miss Abbott and Miss Margaret Robertson. Miss Kerr, organiser, spoke at the Women's Guild on February 18th, and obtained 18 "Friends." On February 19th, the St. Rollox W.M. Guild on February 24th, and the Whiteinch B.W.F.A. on February 24th. The Whiteinch Women's Co-operative Guild was addressed by Miss Kirby on February 19th. The usual weekly "At Home" were held in the office. On February 27th Miss Mary Kay read an interesting paper on "The ideal view of women." On February 14th, Settlement work was fully explained by Miss Lockhead, of the Queen Margaret Settlement. Dr. Everett McLaren's instructive paper, "Eugenics," was most appreciated by a large audience; and on February 28 Miss A. Younger read a

paper on "Labour Exchanges," a subject she is well qualified to speak on from her Government experiences. As the result of these and other activities, 48 members have joined during the month, 76 "Friends of Women's Suffrage" have been made, and the sum of £67 has been received in subscriptions and donations.

HAWICK.—Under the auspices of the Hawick Society a meeting was addressed in the Public Library Small Hall, on February the 4th, by Mrs. Abbott, Mr. W. Allan Wilson in the chair. The Chairman made a sympathetic address declaring it to be a great blow to the British reputation for justice that the claims of women for the franchise should have been so slightly passed over by the leaders of the country. Mrs. Abbott moved "that the meeting call upon the Government to introduce, immediately, a Government measure to enfranchise women." She proved how unjustly Parliament had dealt with this question, and criticised the Speaker's ruling, concluding by pointing out that the women's demand showed how wide was the love of human liberty and justice. The Resolution was seconded by Mrs. Grieve (Bransholme Park) and was carried almost unanimously. The addresses were fully reported in the local papers.

INNERLEITHEN.—The report of a social evening given by the President of this Society on the 16th of December was, unfortunately, omitted last month. The entertainment was presented by artistes from Edinburgh, followed by an address from Mr. G. M. Robertson, Innerleithen, who was followed by a dialogue by Mrs. Thornburn and Miss Hope was given, and a musical programme followed. The Society this month took advantage of Miss Margaret Robertson's presence in Scotland to arrange two meetings, both most successful. The first was held at Winton, where Innerleithen is gathering a very promising branch Society, and a good audience appreciated Miss Robertson's address. The second, an hour later in Innerleithen, gathered 15 new members for this rapidly increasing Society and was also financially successful.

KIRKCOUBRIGHT.—Much work has been done in Kirkcubright and several meetings have been held by Miss Coyne. On February 24th a well-attended meeting was held in the Town Hall. The chair was occupied by Mr. Robson, of Tynholm. An able address was given by Mrs. Abbott and the resolution demanding a Government measure was carried unanimously. On March 1st a meeting for members was held in the Royal Hotel and the Kirkcubright and District Society fully formed. The following officers were elected:—Chairman, Captain Paterson; Hon. Secretaries, Mrs. O'Connell and Mrs. Stewart; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Wm. Haugh. The Society carried unanimously the resolution to affiliate, and agreed to communicate with the Scottish Federation.

LENZIE.—The Annual Business and Social Meeting of this Society was held in the Upper Hall, Lenzie, on January 30th. Miss Welsh, President, occupied the chair. The Hon. Treasurer's and Hon. Secretary's reports were read and adopted. Both showed the Society to be in a very satisfactory position, with a good balance in hand, and a considerable increase in membership. Miss Stuart Paterson was introduced to the meeting and gave a practical address refuting the Physic Force argument, and stressing the care of child life and sweated industries. At the close, Miss Stuart Paterson was cordially thanked by Miss Miller. The remainder of the evening was devoted to music. Four new members joined which brings the membership up to 66.

ORCADIAN.—On February 12th, a meeting was held in the Town Hall, Kirkwall, Mrs. Baikie, of Tankerness, presiding. In the address "A Plea for the Equality of Opportunity" the Rev. J. K. Murison, of Perth, with most eloquently on the advantages of the more liberal education now given to women. Mr. Murison would have excluded women from no career whatever, and speaking of the unjust position of the Universities and of legal anomalies, he concluded with a powerful appeal for fair play for women.

PERTH.—Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A., addressed a large public meeting in the Synod Hall, on February the 11th, under the chairmanship of the Rev. P. B. Corbett Ashby. Miss Robertson moved a Resolution calling for a Government measure of Women's Suffrage, and this was seconded by Mrs. Scott-Murray, President of the Perth Branch. The Resolution was unanimously adopted. After Mrs. Corbett Ashby's address, a number of questions were accorded an enthusiastic vote of thanks on the motion of Ballie Wright. Over twenty new members were enrolled. The local press recognised the importance of Miss Robertson's visit to Perth by publishing preliminary notices of her career and excellent reports of her speech.

STRANRAER.—A series of open-air meetings have been held in Stranraer by Miss Coyne, and on February 25th a successful indoor meeting was held in the Temperance Institute. Ex-Ballie Dyer occupied the chair and a brilliant address was given by Mrs. Abbott. On February 21st an open-air meeting, addressed by Miss Coyne and Mrs. Abbott, was held. A large crowd listened with attention and interest to Mrs. Abbott for about twenty minutes, and then much disorder was caused by the rowdy interruptions of three men. The police intervened and took the side of the interruptors, but several local Justices of the Peace who were present, championed the suffragists and the crowd backed them up. A meeting was held in the George Hotel, at which the local branch was formally inaugurated. The following officers with a committee, were elected:—Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Montgomery, Yelpersay; Dalrymple Street; Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Munro, Lewis Street; Hon. Press Secretary, Rev. H. Debenham. The Society unanimously carried a resolution to affiliate with the National Union. The Society's Secretary offered £1 towards the expenses of work done in Stranraer.

ST. ANDREWS.—Miss Alice Crompton has organised in St. Andrews for a month, and started a capital Suffrage Shop in Market Street, where literature and fancy work are sold and afternoon lectures for "Women Students" at Home" was held. Mrs. Stout, Mrs. Scott, and Miss Menzies, hostesses, Miss Crompton, Speaker; and on the 12th a Dramatic Entertainment was given in the Town Hall, when a comedy, a short musical programme, and a Suffrage address by Mrs. Abbott, met with hearty appreciation. The Dramatic

Entertainment was repeated with the addition of an address from Miss Crompton, at Newburgh, in the Public Hall, on February the 6th, when a large audience gathered in the Lesser Victoria Hall, the Rev. G. Paterson Graham in the chair. Mrs. Abbott's address, which was much applauded, described the fifty years' work of the National Union, the unsatisfactory treatment received from Parliament, and the broken pledges of the Government. In moving a Resolution calling for a Government measure enfranchising women, Mrs. Abbott appealed to the conscience of the country. Mr. C. M. Robertson seconded the Resolution, which was carried unanimously.

West Midland.

REPORT.—During this month, our Organiser, Miss Watson, has been visiting the already existing Societies and rousing the members to fresh energy and suggesting schemes for propaganda, and for raising funds for their own needs as well as for the needs of the Federation. Miss Watson has visited Lichfield, Worcester, Kidderminster and Ross, besides working in Leominster, where it is hoped that a new Society may be formed later on. Miss Rogers has worked in Church Stretton and Whitchurch, and has gained several new members. Mrs. Streeter left our Federation early in February, having accomplished the difficult task of revising suffrage work in Leek. Owing, however, to the impossibility of finding officers for a local Society it has been arranged that the Leek members—numbering 23—should link up with Stoke, with Mrs. Hoatson, who has been co-opted on to the Executive Committee, to represent Leek on that Committee. We are hoping that every Society in our area will take their part in the Franchise Fête, which is to be held in Birmingham early in June, to raise funds both for the Birmingham Franchise Society and for the Franchise Fête. Each Society can do something to help make the Fête a success.

BIRMINGHAM.—This Society wishes to thank all those who helped to make the Town Hall meeting a success, including those Societies who lent their banners for decoration. Miss Royden's speech converted many anti-suffragists, and a large increase of membership has been the result of the meeting. The Society appeals to its members to help the forthcoming Birmingham Fête; money is sorely needed, as well as strenuous work, for the carrying out of the new policy of the Union.

KIDDERMINSTER.—A drawing-room meeting was held at Summer Bank on February 13th by invitation of Mrs. Ellis Talbot, when a debate on Women's Suffrage took place under the chairmanship of Canon Budge. Mrs. Corbett Ashby was the speaker for the Suffrage, and Mrs. Krause was the opponent. Weekly sewing meetings have been held at members' houses and have proved a great success. Addresses were given or articles read, and were followed by discussion.

LICHFIELD.—A successful "give and take" tea was held on February 26th to raise funds for a meeting which is to be held later on. This Society has revived, since Miss Watson's visit, and hopes to make good progress under the guidance of their Hon. Secretary, Miss Hudson.

ROGUE.—The Annual Meeting of the Society was held this month at the Church Street Coffee Tavern; Mrs. Steele presided and the speakers were Miss Size and Rev. G. D. Rosenthal, who said that the principles of Christianity demanded the removal of barriers between men and female, just as much as between Jew and Gentile, bound and free. The proceedings closed with the election of officers and committee.

BROMSGROVE AND DISTRICT.—A public debate took place at the Assembly Rooms on February 13th. Dr. Bellie presided; and the speakers were Mrs. Corbett Ashby and Mr. Murray Phelps. The former moved the Resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage. Mr. Phelps negatived it with the usual anti-suffrage arguments. Mr. Evans, who had lived in Australia for 25 years, spoke for the Resolution, also Lady Isobel Margesson and others. There were no speakers of the negative side to support Mr. Phelps. The Resolution was put to the vote and carried by a majority of 14.

SOLIHULL AND DISTRICT.—This Society has concentrated this month on money making. On February 4th and 19th, at the Forest Hotel, Dorridge, two lectures were given by Mr. Sidney Wilkinson and Mr. Reynolds. The Rev. A. R. Runnels-Moss gave a Dickens Recital at the Public Hall, Solihull, for the benefit of the local W.S.S., which was much appreciated by a good audience. A circular has gone round to the members asking their assistance for the joint Fête to be held in Birmingham in June; working parties are to be held during the next three months for the embroidery stall. All contributions of money will be thankfully received by Miss Wright, Hon. Secretary.

STAFFORD.—A suffrage debate was organised by this Society on February 4th at Siemen's Institute, Stafford. The chair was taken by Mr. C. W. Miller, and the speakers were Miss Matters (for Suffrage) and Mr. Lahan (against). After the two principals had debated, the discussion was thrown open and several people gave their views, all supporting the Resolution in favour of giving women the vote. The Resolution, when put to the meeting, was carried by a large majority.

SHROPSHIRE.—The annual meeting of this Society was held on February 17th at the Masonic Hall. The proceedings opened with the reading of the Hon. Secretary's report, followed by the Hon. Treasurer's report showing a small balance over from 1912 collected during the year. Mrs. Harley (President) spoke upon future work of the Society past and future, and Miss Watson gave some helpful suggestions for future work.

WEST BROMWICH.—The members' monthly meeting was held in the Library Lecture Room on February 6th, when interesting papers were read by Mrs. Pickles and Mrs. Cashmore; the former on "Lydia Becker," and







## Coming Events.

We shall be glad to announce Meetings of Societies, Lectures, etc., in this column, and a charge of 2s. per insertion of 24 words will be made. To ensure insertion in our next issue all advertisements must be received not later than Wednesday morning.

### The Women's Local Government Society.

The Annual Business Meeting is at 3 p.m. on March 12th at the Caxton Hall. Dr. Shipman will preside. There will be a limited number of Visitors' Tickets.—Apply, Office, 19, Tothill Street.

### Jewish League for Woman Suffrage.

Drawing-room meeting to be held at the residence of Mrs. Bradlaw, "Lucerne," 3, Shootup Hill, N.W., on Sunday, March 9th, at 3.15 p.m. Chairman, Miss Hannah Hyam. Speakers, Miss C. Elkin and Rabbi Mattuck.

### The Suffrage Club, 3, York Street, St. James.

Lecture, Tuesday, March 11th, 3.30 p.m. Speaker: J. Cameron Grant, Esq. Subject: "That the Evolution of Women during the past 50 years demands Political Recognition."

### PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS.

Not exceeding 10 words: 1 insertion, 9d. 2 insertions, 1s. 3d. 3 insertions, 1s. 6d. 6 insertions, 2s. 9d. 13 insertions, 5s. 6d. Every additional ten words, 6d. extra per insertion. All payments for Advertisements should be made to The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

GOD'S WORD TO WOMEN has never been a word of disapproval and suppression. The Bible encourages the development of woman and stands for her perfect equality with man, in spite of the teachings to the contrary. Do you wish to equip yourself for meeting the arguments of those who attempt, with sacrilegious hands, to throw the Bible in the way of woman's progress? Do you wish to know WHERE and HOW they misrepresent and misinterpret it? Send 7d. (15 cents in stamps from America), for "101 Questions Answered," a Woman's Catechism, prepared purposely to solve your perplexities.—Katharine Bushnell, 10a, Drayton Park, Highbury, London, N.

### EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL.

BRIDLINGTON.—High School for Girls. Modern Education. Extensive Grounds. Large Staff of University Women. Boarding-house on sea-front for a limited number of boarders, under the personal supervision of the head mistress and some of the staff. For illustrated prospectus apply, Head Mistress.

COUNTRY NURSING AND CONVALESCENT HOME. Penn's Lane, Erdington, near Birmingham. For Paying Patients. (Under the distinguished patronage of the Countess of Bradford.) Medical, Surgical, Massage. Permanent Patients received in Homes. (Care of one delicate child.) Fully certificated. Hospital-trained Nurses sent out on application.—Miss C. Fallows, Matron. Telephone, 117 Erdington. Telegrams: "Nursing, Erdington."

MARY McLACHLAN, Typist, 4, Chapel Walk, Manchester.

WEST KIRBY High School. Boarding-house for girls attending the school, under the management of Mrs. Herman, B.A., formerly second mistress of the Liverpool High School, G.P.D.S.T., and member of the Cheshire Education Committee, 1903-1912.—Sandiway, Hoscote Park, West Kirby.

### POSITIONS VACANT.

CHURCH LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—Organiser Wanted, Church woman and, suffragist. Full time. Good speaker. Salary £100. Temporary with view to permanency.—Apply immediately with copies of testimonials to Secretary, 6, York Buildings, Adelphi, W.C.

LITERATURE Department N.U.W.S.S. Wanted a Business Secretary for this Department. Must be trained Bookkeeper and Accountant and have had office experience. Apply in writing, marking letters "Personal," and stating qualifications, experience, salary required and what testimonials could be given, to Miss O'Malley, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, London, S.W.

WANTED, an Organiser for the Oxford Branch of the N.U.W.S.S. Apply, stating age, qualifications, and previous experience, and enclosing testimonials, or giving references, to Mrs. Haverfield, Headington Hill, Oxford.

### POSITIONS WANTED.

WINIFRED WOODCOCK, M.A., seeks Secretarial work in London; 2½ years' experience in an editorial office.—Box 1604, COMMON CAUSE Office.

YOUNG LADY, good family, understands horses, good rider, fluent French, Polish, Russian, English. Very fond of sport, animals, outdoor life, wants employment; ready to do anything from breaking in horses and teaching them tricks, to filling post as companion. Apply, Box 1591, COMMON CAUSE Office.

### FOR SALE AND WANTED.

APPROVED SUCCESS AS A MONEY RAISER. Federation or Society officers can have parcels of hand-made Indian lace, trinkets and embroideries on sale or return. Large profits easily made for your local work. A proved success in many branches.—Mrs. Rogers, 4, Cholmeley Park, Highgate, N.

BONELESS CORSETS, unbreakable. Illustrated List Free.—Knitted Corset Company, Nottingham.

"COMMON CAUSE" Fountain Pens price 3s. 6d. each. Non-leakable, can be carried in any position. Solid 14-carat gold nib. Apply, sending P.O. for 3s. 8d. (2d. being for postage) to the Manager, "Common Cause," 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

FOR SALE—Volumes I, II, and III of "THE COMMON CAUSE," price 8s. 6d. each, postage 8d. each. Bound in red, white, and green. Indispensable as a work of reference to every Suffrage and Anti-Suffragist speaker and writer. Apply, The Manager, "Common Cause," 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

HAIR FALLING OFF.—Lady who lost nearly all hers, and has now strong, heavy growth, sends particulars to anyone enclosing stamped addressed envelope.—Miss C. C. Field, Glendower, Shanklin.

OLD FALSE TEETH.—We give highest possible prices for above. Offers made; if unacceptable, teeth returned. Dealers in old Gold and Silver in any form. Bankers' references. Straightforward dealing.—Woolfall and Company, Southport.

SECOND-HAND CLOTHING wanted to buy for cash. Costumes, skirts, boots, underclothing, curtains, gents' suits, trousers and children's clothing of every description. Parcels sent will be valued and value sent by return.—Mrs. Russell, 100, Raby St., Byker, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

SMART BLOUSES.—Genuine Irish Linen fabric, "Flaxzella." Lainty and durable. 200 patterns and catalogue Free! Beautiful shades; latest designs; fast colours. Write to-day.—Hutton's, 159, Larne, Ireland.

TO BE SOLD for benefit of London Society for Women's Suffrage, Fine Engraving by Campbell after Burne-Jones, "The Goddess Fires," Pygmalion series, signed artist and engraver. What offers? Can be seen by appointment.—Miss Coxhead, 10, Riverview Gardens, Barnes, S.W. Other Engravings and Etchings.

TWO LADIES' BICYCLES WANTED. What offers?—Box 1601, COMMON CAUSE Office.

### ELECTROLYSIS, Etc.

ELECTROLYSIS, FACE MASSAGE.—Emelie Barnes, (certified), 43, George Street, Croydon.

### WHERE TO LIVE.

(Town.)

HOSTEL FOR LADIES.—Central. Highly recommended. —Miss Sullivan, 50, Osnaburgh Street, Portland Road Station, W. Terms moderate. Also Comfortably Furnished Rooms, for Ladies or Gentlemen. 3, Osnaburgh Terrace. Tel.: 820 North.

PRIVATE HOTEL FOR LADIES. Very quiet and refined. 13, St. George's Square, Westminster. Bedroom, breakfast, bath and attendance from 4s. 6d. —Write, or wire, Miss Davies.

### WHERE TO LIVE.

(Country and Abroad.)

APARTMENTS to Let. Miss Edwards, Whitethorn Pilmer Road, Crowborough, Sussex.

APARTMENTS.—Mrs. Crittall, 4, Surrey Prospect, Pilmer Road, Crowborough, Sussex.

BOARD-RESIDENCE, moderate terms; sunny, dry. Recommended by officials and members of Suffrage societies.—Miss Smith, Low Green House, Thoraby, Aysgarth S. O., Yorks.

HOSTEL for Professional Women.—Miss Broadbent, M.A., Elmhurst, Victoria Park, Manchester.

MRS. W. M. GELDART (Oxford) highly recommends small pension, Geneva: moderate terms.—Apply Mlles. Curchod, Ker Assas, Clos Belmont, Geneva.

# THE NATIONAL UNION

is the great Non-Party, Non-Militant Women's Suffrage Society. If you approve of our methods and objects, please fill in the accompanying Form and send it to the Secretary.

I approve of the objects and methods of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and desire to be enrolled as a member of the affiliated Society in my district.

I herewith enclose cheque postal order for £ s. d., the amount of my annual subscription.

Name

(Mrs., Miss, Esq., or other title.)

Address

(in full.)

To the Secretary

Society for Women's Suffrage

Or the Secretary National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

Printed by ODHAMS LIMITED, 93-94, Long Acre, London, W.C., for the Proprietors, THE COMMON CAUSE PUBLISHING CO., LTD., and Published at 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C. London: George Vickers. Manchester: John Heywood; Abel Heywood and Son; W. H. Smith and Son. Newcastle-on-Tyne: W. H. Smith and Son. Edinburgh and Glasgow: J. Menzies and Co. Dublin and Belfast: Eason and Son.