

# The Common Cause

The Organ of the National Union of  
**WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE**  
Societies.

Registered as a Newspaper.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1912.

Price One Penny.

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Florence Kelley, have been planning the establishment of a Federal Children's Bureau. As long ago as 1906, President Roosevelt expressed approval; and in April of this year, a Bill passed creating the institution. The Bureau was to investigate and report upon all matters pertaining to the welfare of children and child life, and especially to investigate the questions of infant mortality, the birth rate, physical degeneracy, orphanage, juvenile courts, desertion, dangerous occupations, accidents and diseases of children, employment, legislation affecting children. Miss Julia C. Lathrop, who has been appointed Chief of the Bureau, at a salary of £1,000 per annum, is the first woman who has been made head of a Federal Commission in America; her salary is the highest paid to any woman in the employ of the United States Government, and her position, as *The New York Times* says, "unquestionably the most important" held by any woman in that country. Considering that the future of any country depends upon its children, it might almost be said that Miss Lathrop's is, patriotically considered, the most important held by any person in the United States. We, in Great Britain, shall look anxiously for the early reports of a Department which it might be wise to imitate here.

**Notes and Comments.**

**Suffrage and Home Rule.**

The position taken up by Mr. Hugh Law, M.P., in his letter to Miss Courtney (printed in the *Manchester Guardian* of December 13th) is a very clear one. The business of Irish Nationalists is primarily to obtain Home Rule. If to support Women's Suffrage will endanger the Home Rule Bill, Nationalists will, and should, vote against it.

Now I cannot forget that for many months past there have been rumours, renewed again and again, that if a suffrage amendment to the Franchise Bill were carried certain members of the Government, including the Prime Minister himself, would feel obliged to resign—an event which must almost inevitably lead to the break-up of the Ministry and the loss of the Home Rule Bill. These rumours are so persistent that one cannot help being to some extent affected by them, though I must add that, so far as the Prime Minister is concerned, I myself find it very difficult to credit them, having regard to his statements in reply to Mrs. Fawcett's deputation. . . . It is, however, manifest that there can be no really free vote on the merits of the question so long as such fear is in the minds of supporters of the Government, as undoubtedly is the case at the present time. And that is why the existing uncertainty is so injurious.

To whom are these false rumours to be traced? Who first set them going and who busied themselves in spreading them? The answers are well enough known to many people; and the historian of women's suffrage will have no difficulty in recording their names. Mr. Asquith's answer last Tuesday should be enough to silence them.

**Mr. Asquith in 1908.**

As another correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* reminds us, Mr. Asquith's present position is no new one. He told a deputation of women, as long ago as May, 1908, that:

"it would be within the competence of those present to seek to introduce by amendment or by extension the objects they desire. . . . If it were approved by the House it could not be any part of the duty of the Government to oppose such an amendment, and, therefore, the matter must be left to the decision of the House."

From that position he has never swerved. He repeated his words in 1911; he reaffirmed his adherence to them on Tuesday. Two Cabinet Ministers have publicly declared that there will be no resignation of the Prime Minister if a suffrage amendment passes. Surely, after all this, any Irish member who votes against such amendments will deceive nobody by his transparent excuses.

**The American Children's Bureau.**

For some years past in the United States, a little group of enlightened people, including Miss Jane Addams and Mrs.

**Spying on the Speaker.**

The House of Commons is extremely tender about its dignity. On Thursday, December 12th, Captain Murray asked of the Speaker: "Is it permissible for strangers in the gallery to look at you, Sir, through field glasses?" The Speaker with that admirable detachment which is so refreshing, remarked that "a cat may look at a king"—an answer that was hardly satisfying to the honourable and gallant member, perhaps because there is no precedent of a cat with field glasses. He submitted "with very great respect" that possibly "what may appear to be a field glass, is in reality a camera." Were strangers in the gallery to snap-shot members unawares, and "in any ungainly attitude they may be in at the time?" The Speaker (who, of course, never appears in any but a dignified attitude) refused to be alarmed, and while admitting that the House would probably not wish to admit photographers, doubted whether any advantageous pictures could be obtained—as without a flash-light they certainly could not. But why does not Captain Murray reflect that it would be easy to conceal a camera behind the grille, and that the House can never be quite safe until the removal of that obstruction permits him to see what the ladies are doing? If he only knew how grotesque the honourable members appear in their foreshortened aspect from that altitude, he would indeed be uneasy.

**The Word "Male" in the Franchise Bill.**

Mrs. Swanwick, in an excellent letter to *The Manchester Guardian*, contends that the insertion of the word "male" in the first line of the first clause of the Franchise Bill is of particular advantage to suffragists, who ought to be grateful to the Government for drafting the Bill "in a form most favourable to fair discussion of the women's claim." The word is, as she points out, really superfluous, the House of Lords having decided (on the appeal of the Scottish women graduates) that women are under a legal incapacity in respect of the Parliamentary franchise, and the word "person" in a Franchise Bill, therefore, not including women unless there is a special provision to say so. But the omission of "male" from the Bill



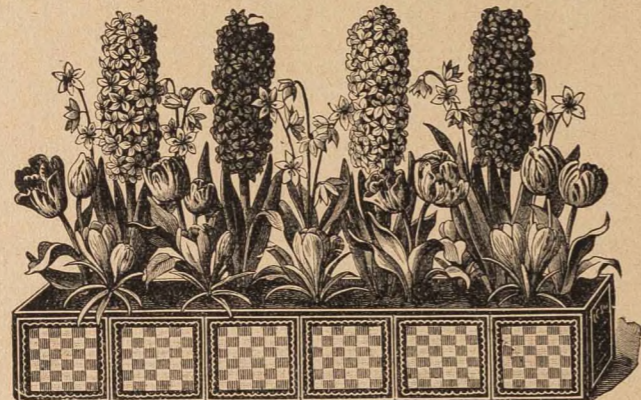
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offers a platform upon which suffragist members of every shade of opinion can vote in unity. The resolution to omit it

is like a declaration that in the opinion of the House sex alone should not be a bar. This will not actually confer the vote on a single woman, but it will be taken as a clear assertion that the political monopoly of the male person shall, as far as the House of Commons is concerned, be abolished, and as far as the Government is concerned the Bill, as amended, shall be returned to the House of Lords as often as may be necessary to secure its enactment. Once the House has deliberately deleted the word "male" it would, by refusing to pass any subsequent amendment, put itself in a position so farcical that it is impossible to believe it could survive the mockery of which it would, and justly, be the butt. It would have publicly declared its own impotence to legislate on a grievance which it had definitely acknowledged, and the Government might well be called upon to save the House from such ignominious futility.

### Bedford College.

Questions recently asked in Parliament might lead readers of newspapers to suppose that all Regent's Park was in danger of being built over, and that Bedford College was being allowed to devour great stretches of land that ought to be open to the public. The sympathies of intelligent people who, on the one hand, desired to see the playgrounds of London as extensive as possible, and, on the other, wished to Bedford College, with its long and valued record of services to women's higher education, the greatest possible advantages of site and extent. But now all doubt is laid at rest. Miss Tuke, the principal of the college, has written a letter (printed in the *Daily News* of December 17th) which explains that Bedford College is not taking away land previously open, but will replace South Villa, a large house used for many years as a residence. The college will occupy one and a-half acres, very little more space than did the house with its various outbuildings, while two and a-half acres of the garden will now be added to the park. Miss Tuke adds that the buildings of the Zoological Gardens occupy a much larger area, and hopes that

the frequenters of Regent's Park will not grudge to a College which has for sixty years done good work for London girls a piece of land one-fifth the size of that gladly accorded to the chimpanzee, the hippopotamus, and many beasts of prey.

Indeed, we hope so, especially as the park will be larger by two acres and a-half.

### Ceylon and its Governor.

Almost at the moment when the article head "Reclamation Road" was being printed for the COMMON CAUSE, Sir Henry MacCallum, the Governor of Ceylon, was sending in his resignation, the ground assigned being ill-health. The Home Government has now an opportunity of remedying the scandals that are known to every inhabitant of Colombo, and to some hundreds of people in England, by appointing as the new Governor some man who will faithfully carry out the law under which the establishments in Reclamation Road, now under the protection of the Ceylon Government, are illegal. If a man is now chosen, whose sympathies are with Mr. John Cowan, instead of with Madame Sally Goldenberg, much may yet be done to make the Sinhalese dwellers in Ceylon believe that England really desires to treat them justly as fellow citizens, not to degrade and oppress them as inferiors.

## THE COMMON CAUSE.

Telephone: 2, Robert Street,  
1910 Gerrard. Price One Penny. Adelphi, W.C.

### POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

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

LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS should be addressed to the Editor, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C. The Editor, however, accepts no responsibility for unsolicited matter, and no manuscripts will be returned unless accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

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## The Irish Party and Women's Suffrage.

It is generally admitted that the fate of the Women's Suffrage amendments to the Reform Bill depends upon the attitude of the Irish Party. In this matter they hold the balance, and we are faced with the curious position that the question of whether or not British women are or are not to be enfranchised, will depend not upon the "considered judgments of the House of Commons," but upon whether in the view of one powerful section of the coalition the passage of the Women Suffrage amendments will retard or advance the cause of Home Rule.

Nationalists have been called many hard names for their deliberate subordination of every other interest to the one predominant claim of Home Rule, but it is a point of view which Suffragists, who are also accustomed to sacrifice everything to one demand which they regard as vital, should have no difficulty in understanding. The position has been frankly put by Mr. Hugh Law in a letter published in the *Manchester Guardian* on December 13th, and it is a point of view which we hold that Suffragists are bound both to recognise and to respect. "Everyone must realise," he writes, "that Irish Nationalist Members are sent here primarily to win Home Rule for Ireland, and that, if we had good reason to believe that the carrying of a Women's Suffrage amendment would prejudice that cause we should be bound as loyal representatives of our constituents, however painful such a course might be to us as individuals, to abstain from supporting, or even, if need be, to vote against such an amendment. This attitude has been described as selfish. For my part, I think it is the only one consistent with the duty we owe to those who sent us to represent them in this House."

It is clear enough, then, that if the Irish are persuaded that the inclusion of a W.S. amendment in the Franchise Bill would have an adverse effect on Home Rule they will vote against any such amendment, whatever may be their personal opinions, and notwithstanding a so-called "free" vote, for no vote can be free which is determined, however indirectly, by considerations other than the merits of the question to be voted upon. On the other hand, it is equally clear that if the party were convinced that the passage of Women's Suffrage would promote the cause of Home Rule they would vote solidly in its favour, again, altogether apart from the merits of the question—the Irish have more than once recently secured a Government majority on questions in which intrinsically they were not interested.

It is, therefore, important to consider the question of Women's Suffrage solely in the light of its effect upon Home Rule. What are the arguments which can be brought forward in support of the first view—namely, that the passage of a Women's Suffrage amendment would operate to the disadvantage of Home Rule?

First of all, of course, we have the rumour, sedulously fostered by Anti-Suffragists, that the inclusion of women in the Reform Bill would be followed by the resignation of Mr. Asquith and by the break-up of the Government. If this were a certainty, or even a probability, it is fair to admit that the Irish, acting always in the interests of Home Rule, would have no choice but to oppose the Women's Suffrage amendments. But is there the slightest reason for such an assumption? What are the actual facts of the case?

So long ago as November, 1911, Mr. Asquith, in reply to the following questions addressed to him by Mrs. Fawcett, gave a perfectly definite indication of the attitude of the Government.

1. Is it the intention of the Government that the (Reform) Bill shall go through all its stages in 1912?

Certainly it is our intention. We hope to carry it through that year.

2. Will the Bill be drafted in such a way as to admit of any amendments introducing women on other terms than men?

Certainly.

3. Will the Government undertake not to oppose such amendments?

Certainly.

4. Will the Government regard any amendment enfranchising women which is carried as an integral part of the Bill in all its stages?

Certainly.

These are perfectly definite promises given by the Prime Minister, than whom, to quote Mr. Lloyd George, "there is no man in England who has a more sensitive regard to his pledged word." But evidently the significance of his replies was not fully appreciated, for within a very few months the rumour of the break-up of the Cabinet in the event of the passage of Women's

Suffrage amendments was obtaining credence amongst those interested in the maintenance of the Government. These rumours, for some time too vague to demand a denial, have lately obtained currency in the Press as well as in the Lobby, and we have to thank Mr. Hugh Law for the very frank statement of the position which was published in the *Manchester Guardian* on December 13th, and to which allusion has already been made. Before this date the officers of the National Union had already been positively assured by an important member of the Cabinet that the rumour was unfounded, and Sir Edward Grey had given it an emphatic denial in the following letter addressed to Miss Haldane on December 10th:—

"Women's Suffrage will have its chance in the Government's Reform Bill. There is no truth in the report that if a Women's Suffrage amendment to the Reform Bill were carried it would be followed by a resignation which would break up the Government. The corollary to such a position would be that if Women's Suffrage were not put into the Reform Bill the members of the Government who are in favour of Women's Suffrage should resign, and withdraw their support from the Bill. This is not the position, but the contrary. If Women's Suffrage is put into the Bill by the House of Commons, the Government will continue their support as a whole and Women's Suffrage will become part of a Government measure. The members of the Government who are in favour of Women's Suffrage, and those who are adverse to it, will equally accept the decision of the House of Commons, whatever it may be. This is the one method which is fair to the House of Commons, and to the question of Women's Suffrage, and it is the only possible method of enabling the House of Commons to decide this question on its merits, and to make Women's Suffrage, if it chooses, part of a Government measure. In no other way can this be brought about, for the present Government are divided on the question, and if the Opposition succeeded us tomorrow, they would form a Government that would also be divided upon the question. Everything depends upon the feeling of the House of Commons. The greatest obstacle to the question is the exasperation which has been caused by militant acts of violence, and which will be increased to an overwhelming degree if they are continued. The greatest danger to Women's Suffrage consists in this exasperation, and those who attempt violence and intimidation are far more hurtful to Women's Suffrage than any of its declared opponents. It is by argument, sympathy, and conviction that the day will be won."

Equally emphatic were the denials of Sir John Simon and other influential speakers at the Opera House on December 4th, on which occasion Mr. Ramsay MacDonald used the following words:—"If there are to be any resignations in the event of the Women's Suffrage amendments being carried, those resignations will be so insignificant that they will have no influence upon the life of the Government. We shall stand by them until the time comes when that Bill is placed upon the Statute Book."

Lastly, we have Mr. Asquith's reply to the question asked by Mr. Leif Jones in the House of Commons on Monday last, December 16th:—

Mr. Leif Jones asked the Prime Minister whether he was aware that certain members of the House of Commons believed that the result of carrying an amendment to the Franchise and Registration Bill enfranchising women would be the resignation of the Prime Minister and the break up of the Ministry; whether this was contrary to his own declarations upon this subject; and whether he adhered to his statement that the Government as a whole would accept and carry out the decision of the House upon this question, so that members might cast a free and unfettered vote solely on the merits of Women's Suffrage.

Mr. Asquith: I am not aware that any such belief exists among members of the House of Commons or of any grounds upon which it is supposed to rest. My public declarations on the subject are on record, and are perfectly plain and explicit. (Cheers.)

It is surely sufficiently clear that the alleged danger to Home Rule of the break-up of the Government, should the Women's Suffrage amendments be carried, is absolutely without foundation.

A second danger has been put forward which was, indeed, the ostensible reason for the Nationalist opposition to the Conciliation Bill last March. It is pointed out that Government business is already congested, and every additional measure which overloads the programme is a source of danger to Home Rule. Let us admit, again, that the nervousness of the Irish Party is perfectly comprehensible; we believe that, if Suffragists found themselves in the present position of the Nationalists, they might be tempted to view with alarm the inclusion into the Government programme of other highly controversial questions.

But, once more, what is the actual position? One might, perhaps, remark that the coalition would save more time by preventing the occurrence of snap divisions than by endeavouring to defeat other reforms than those in which it is immediately interested. But, even if we concede that the defeat of the Conciliation Bill saved a week or more of Government time, it is difficult to see what would be gained in this respect by the defeat of the Women's Suffrage amendments to the Franchise Bill. Those with whom the wish is father to the thought appear to argue that, if the W.S. amendments were defeated, the Bill as a whole would be withdrawn, and thus all the time required for

subsequent clauses would be redeemed. This is very far from certain, but, even if it were so, it is clear that plural voting is at least one franchise anomaly that this Government is bound to deal with, and indeed those who support the defeat-of-the-women's-amendments-and-withdrawal-of-the-Franchise-Bill theory go on to argue that the Government would then either substitute for it Mr. Harold Baker's Bill to abolish plural voting, or so curtail the remainder of the Franchise Bill that very little time would be required for its further stages. This sounds simple on paper, but in point of fact more time would be taken up in arranging for the execution of either of these manoeuvres than would be required for the continuation of the Franchise Bill in its present form. In addition to which the abolition of plural voting is not the least contentious part of the Franchise Bill, and the opposition aroused by it is a factor which would have to be reckoned with both now and in subsequent reviews. This device would, therefore, lose rather than gain time, and the defeat of the Women's Suffrage amendments (even on the hypothesis that this would ensure the withdrawal of the Franchise Bill) would do nothing to relieve the congestion of Government business. If there is nothing to fear for Home Rule through the break-up of the Cabinet should the Women's Suffrage amendments be carried, and if Government time cannot be saved by their defeat, there is evidently no reason why the Irish Party should vote in the interests of Home Rule against any measure of Women's Suffrage.

This brings us to the second alternative—namely, that if it were clear that the passage of the Women's Suffrage amendments to the Reform Bill would promote the cause of Home Rule, the Irish Party would naturally vote as a Party in their favour. Are there any grounds for regarding this as a possible point of view? In our opinion there is more than one, and here we cannot do better than quote the views of well-known Suffragist Home Rulers on the subject.

The following is from an article in the *Manchester Guardian*, on October 11th, 1912:—

"The Nationalist members probably now also hold the balance in their hands, and the question is how do they intend to use their power. That they who stand for the liberties of Ireland should be seen to use their disciplined force in order to deny the liberties of Englishwomen and to set back an emancipatory movement as deeply founded as their own would be to strike a deadly blow at the moral basis of the Irish cause and to array against them forces of opinion in this country which they can ill afford to alienate. Among these, as Mr. Snowden last night indicated, may be found that of the Labour Movement."

Equally significant is the following passage from the *Daily News* of November 4th:—

"But there is a danger that the Nationalists may, from tactical considerations, think that the whole position is to be determined by the universal condemnation of the Pankhurst excesses. That would be a grave miscalculation. The idea that the defeat of the amendments to the Franchise Bill would settle the question cannot be seriously entertained. It would do nothing of the sort. Women's Suffrage is in the main stream of Liberal faith and energy. Its betrayal would undermine the Liberal cause and would throw the whole Labour movement into vital antagonism with it. There would be secessions and disruptions. In this confusion, the fate of the Home Rule Bill, faced with two years of travail, will be deeply involved. The triumph of that measure, in short, is bound up not with the defeat of the women's amendments in the supposed interests of Home Rule, but with the free exercise of the opinion of the members of the coalition—Liberal, Nationalist and Labour—in regard to them. That freedom has been guaranteed to Liberals by Mr. Asquith. The amendments are not a menace to the Government. If they are accepted, Mr. Asquith will press them as an integral part of the Government Bill against the House of Lords. It is for Mr. Redmond to give the same liberty to his own followers. The free vote is the only way out of this complexity. It will liberate the cause of Home Rule from a fatal entanglement, it will secure the cordial co-operation of Labour, it will remove a peril from the path of the Government, and it will prevent the women's movement being divorced from its traditional association with the main current of Liberalism."

And from the *Labour Leader* of December 12th:—

"So far as the Labour Party is concerned, it must be made clear that it is as determined to obtain Women's Suffrage as the reversal of the Osborne Judgment. The Government's Trade Union Bill is very unsatisfactory; even though it constituted a complete reversal of the decision of the Law Lords against the political activities of Trade Unions, the Labour movement would be eternally dishonoured were the Parliamentary Party to accept it at the cost of women's freedom. There is no reason why the Reform Bill, plus the women's clauses, should not be carried this Session. If, however, we prove to be too optimistic in estimating the prospects of the women's amendments, there will be every reason why the Reform Bill should be defeated."

And the following from an article by the well-known political writer who signs himself "P. W.":—

"But let us suppose that they (i.e., the Irish) are moved by the plea of 'Home Rule first, and the rest nowhere.' Do they seriously imagine that the perplexities which admittedly surround Women's Suffrage will be dispelled by keeping the issue open? One sees ahead a long vista of three-cornered bye-elections, with Labour financed by

## A Peaceful Revolution. White Work in North Ireland.

The Committee appointed to inquire into the conditions of employment in the linen and other making-up trades of the north of Ireland has just issued its report, together with the evidence taken. The inquiry arose out of the report of Dr. Baillie, medical officer of health in Belfast, for the year 1909, in which it was stated that numbers of outworkers suffered in health in consequence of long hours of work, necessitated by small rates of pay. The Committee consisted of Sir Ernest Hatch (chairman); Mr. W. S. Cohen, formerly an officer of the Board of Trade; and Mrs. L. Deane Steatfield, formerly a factory inspector. Mr. G. C. L. Maunder was secretary.

Evidence was taken from ninety-one witnesses, four of whom, exclusive of Dr. Baillie, had made separate investigations; of the others seventeen were employers and thirty-two workers. Much of the inquiry was held in Belfast, where some factories and the homes of some outworkers were visited, and some part of it at Lurgan and Londonderry, where also visits were made. In addition, the chairman attended thirty-one informal conferences on the business of the inquiry. The work inquired into covered the making or decorating of household linen, handkerchiefs, and other white embroidered or thread-drawn goods, and the manufacture of shirts, collars, and ladies' under-clothing. Plenty of evidence appeared that many outworkers received extremely small sums weekly; but this fact alone proved little, as the Committee justly say:—

It is essential to ascertain also the number of hours of constant work taken by the worker to accomplish any given piece of work or earn any given weekly pay; and in the case of women with children and household duties to which to attend, it is difficult and often impracticable to obtain the information.

The Committee had before them, however, the figures supplied (from independent personal inquiry) by Miss Agnew, late sanitary officer of the Belfast Corporation; Mr. Sefton, factory inspector; and Miss Galway, secretary of the Textile Operatives' Association of Ireland. The proportions of workers at each rate are so similar in the three sets of tables as to confirm each other. Taken together, they show that of 531 outworkers engaged in the processes of thread-drawing, thread-clipping, drawn-thread fancy sewing, embroidering of flowers and sprigs, machine stitching, vice-folding, and top-sewing, the rate of pay per hour was twopence for 99 of them and below twopence for 383, of whom 168 received less than a penny per hour. Except thread-clipping, all these are more or less skilled processes; the embroidering and fancy sewing demand a high degree of skill, yet of 118 embroiderers only 12 earned twopence an hour, and no less than 97, below twopence; while among 39 fancy sewers none earned more than twopence an hour, and 37 fell below that rate.

Several employers disputed the hourly rates named by workers and declared that these must be inexpert or incompetent. The Committee therefore

determined to satisfy ourselves independently as to the rates per hour which average out-workers would earn at the several processes, and we accordingly arranged with some of the Belfast employers for workers chosen by them to carry out, in our presence, work identical with some of the work referred to in our evidence.

In some instances employers admitted the payment of very low rates; in some others they maintained that their rates were equivalent to double, or more than double, the payment per hour named by the witness. Thus a representative of Firm I. declared that the clippers employed at home by his house earned "about 2½d. an hour". A girl, evidently quick and expert, was set to clip a tray-cloth in his factory while the Committee looked on. She took 33 minutes to clip a cloth, at the rate of 4d. per dozen cloths. She said she had done similar work at 3d. per cloth. Evidently this rate did not exceed a penny per hour. A woman drew threads from a sideboard cloth for the same employer in the presence of the Committee. According to him she should have been earning 4d. an hour; the cloth occupied her 23 minutes, giving a rate of 1½d. an hour, and this although she drew but 10 threads instead of 12.

Another employer said that his out-workers, if expert, should earn at thread-drawing from 2½d. to 5d. an hour; experiments with an out-worker said to be particularly quick, resulted in the drawing of six threads from each side of 14 d'oyleys in 14 minutes. Three-farthings per dozen d'oyleys was the rate of pay, which amounted to about 1½d. per hour.

Similar tests in thread-drawing and embroidering yielded results of the same kind. In two instances, indeed, the workers were found, on actual experiment, to be earning more than the

the Suffragists, of disorder which will prevent a proper presentation of the Ministerial case, of splitting Liberal Organisations in the constituencies and of a growing disgust on the part of the public, which will say, within a very few weeks of the adverse Division, "Parliament may not have been to blame in the past over this matter, but Parliament is now responsible, because the House of Commons deliberately threw away a perfectly reasonable opportunity of meeting the women's grievances." And nothing is more certain than that if the Irish vote, cast insincerely, has entered into the blunder, English opinion, fanned by Conservative controversialists, will be only too ready to draw a moral most unfavourable to the popularity of Home Rule during the coming two years."

These are the dangers foreseen by supporters of Home Rule should the Women's Suffrage amendments be defeated by the Irish vote. We submit that in the light of these arguments there is good reason for the support of the enfranchisement of women by a solid vote of the Irish Party, simply on the grounds of its effect upon the cause of Home Rule. For what would be the result of the success of Women's Suffrage? Mr. Asquith has undertaken that if a Women's Suffrage amendment should be passed the Government will regard it as an integral part of the Bill and will defend it in all its stages. If this were the position it would clearly become the object of suffragists to maintain the present Government in power, and a strong body of support would thus be enlisted on the same side as the Irish Party instead of being invoked against it. If the Government have made the enfranchisement of women part of a Government measure, and have so secured the support of suffragists; if the demands of the Labour Party have been met both as regards Women's Suffrage and as regards the Trades Union Bill, then the Irish will have secured the support of two powerful allies, and Home Rule will have little to fear during the two years that must elapse before it can become law. If, on the other hand, as Mr. P. W. Wilson puts it, "the Nationalists complicate their whole position by plunging into a gratuitous quarrel with the non-militant suffragists, drive a wedge into the whole fabric of Women's Liberal Associations, and compel every Labour Member to choose between his fidelity to the Irish cause and his belief in adult suffrage," then, indeed, it would be safe to predict a perilous two years for the Home Rule Bill.

Such is, broadly speaking, the case for the support by the Irish of Women's Suffrage, but there is yet a third alternative. It is conceivable that the Party may take the view that the interests of Home Rule are in no way involved by the Women's Suffrage amendments to the Franchise Bill—that neither their success or their failure can affect for good or ill the prospects of the Home Rule Bill. In this case, of course, numbers of the Party would feel themselves free to vote on the merits of the question, as they have done on all previous occasions, with the exception of the Second Reading of the Conciliation Bill last March; and in the light of these previous occasions, we may form a very clear idea of what we have to expect. It is an important fact that *only 13 members of the party have ever voted against the enfranchisement of women*, 33 have always voted in favour, and four more have supported it when they have voted at all. It is clear therefore that a free vote of the Party, unconditioned by any consideration of the effect upon Home Rule (and this indeed is what has been promised), will provide a large majority for Women's Suffrage.

The Women's Suffrage amendments, therefore, are safe as far as the Irish vote is concerned, *unless in the opinion of the party a danger to Home Rule is involved in their success*. If the Party is convinced that the passage of the amendments would operate to the advantage of Home Rule, they will, as a Party, support the amendments; if it is believed that the interests of Home Rule are in no way affected, and the Party is not nominally but really free to vote on the merits of the question, then we have reason to expect a substantial majority for Women's Suffrage. A majority against Women's Suffrage is only possible should the party either directly or indirectly be persuaded that the success of the Women's Suffrage amendments would be inimical to Home Rule; in this event it would be the business of Suffragists, both inside and outside the House of Commons, to ascertain on whom the responsibility rests.

### The Stead Hostels.

We are glad to hear that the Committee of the Stead International Memorial Fund is actively at work and that the erection of hostels for women-workers in memory of "the Prince of Journalists" will in all probability be proceeded with in the immediate future. A meeting was held last Monday at the house of Mrs. Cobden Unwin, when it was announced that several substantial donations had been received and that a public appeal would be made through the Press early in the New Year.

figure they had named. The general conclusion, however, was that the rates per hour fell

conspicuously below those which the employers had mentioned to us as being, in their opinion, within the earning power of fair average workers, and in fact most of them come within the lower ranges of the rates given above in the tables of investigated cases.

Our inquiry has shown that among the rates paid to such out-workers—particularly in the manufacture of the cheaper goods—there are rates which fall below a reasonable level, and that the workers, from their total want of organisation and their general helplessness, are unable to secure the raising of these rates.

Yet the employers, in giving evidence, declared that 2½d. to 3d. an hour was a fair wage for an outworker; and that such rates as 2½d. or 1d. an hour were absolute sweating. One of them said:

If I were giving out work on which a woman could only make 1d. an hour, I would go out of the business.

It seemed to the Committee "in the highest degree improbable" that the wages could be maintained at the proper level, "by any system which it might be left to the employers to establish." In fact, the employers are obviously powerless to enforce any regulations upon their competitors in England and Scotland.

The Commissioners, therefore, express an opinion that,

If... a remedy is to be found for conditions of labour under which, on the one hand, some women have to work long hours for unduly low payment, and on the other, employers are continually subjected to competition brought about by undercutting wages, it can only be done, in our opinion, by the application of the provisions of the Trade Boards Act to some of the processes of the making-up trades.

The employers appear to have been, in several instances, really surprised at the revelation of the small sums earned by their chosen workers in the test experiments, and it is pretty clear that the Committee dealt gently and tactfully with these gentlemen. Instead of piling up an accumulation of evidence, the Committee determined to communicate informally to the employers the opinion, as to the need of a Trade Board, at which they had arrived; and a special meeting was held of the principal Belfast employers, at which Mr. A. McDowell, representing the Committee, explained the position, and a resolution was passed by those present that they would raise no objection to the establishment of "the trade board system" provided it was made to apply to all places in the United Kingdom in which competition with Belfast exists.

The conduct of the inquiry has evidently been admirable, and its report is a model. The statement of the workers who were witnesses are painfully interesting. Among them was a child of ten who had been left outside, in charge of the baby, by her mother, and whom the Committee expressed a wish to see. The little creature said that she had been at the clipping "some time now," and showed the mark of the scissors. Mrs. Streetfield asked whether her eyes got sore, and she replied: "At times my head gets sore if I sit constant." To a question whether she was ever out to play, the mother answered:

She is never out, and that is why I brought her out this evening—to get the air this cold night. On Sundays she may get a wee walk out.

This was in January of 1912. By January of 1914 there may be a Trade Board in Belfast which will allow the little maid, who appears in the list as "Daughter of Mrs. J.," to know what an hour's playtime feels like.

#### Organisation of Domestic Service.

Hampstead Garden Suburb is pioneering an attempt to solve the problem of the Domestic Servant. For many past years service for the home has been on an unsatisfactory basis both for employer and employed, and now, with the multiplication of flats and cottage homes, the matter is still further complicated by an increasing demand for competent daily helpers. Through the lack of organisation in each district the "daily" servant has perhaps been the worst sufferer in the domestic circle, for her engagements for a few hours at a time are apt to take her into widely separated areas. The Residents' Association of this Garden Suburb, made aware of these conditions, and also of the general lack of method in organisation for home needs, has formed an Employment Agency to regulate the work for the workers. A charge is made to the employer, but not to the employed, and a strict record is kept of the character and of the nature of the home in which she is set to work. The advantage which has already ensued to the "daily" servant by the skilful arrangement of her hours of labour in a given area, proves how much may be done by the intelligent enthusiasm of pioneers. We trust that other districts may follow suit.

## A Nursery Training School.

All good Suffragists, since they are after all only striving to obtain the vote as a means to an end, are also keen to know and help on other schemes having the same end in view; and it is for this reason that so many of them take an active share in the work of the Women's Industrial Council, which exists to promote the welfare of working women. The Council has, moreover, the additional advantage of appealing to public spirited 'Antis' also, and more especially does it do so since it started a scheme for keeping girls in the home by making them more efficient in other people's houses and in their own.

An opportunity was given last week to both sides to meet on the common ground of the Nursery Training School, when the Women's Industrial Council held its Annual Business Meeting there on Thursday, December 12th. Business over, the members of the Council were "at home" to their friends, who came in large numbers to see the working of this educational experiment, which was undertaken by the W.I.C. as a pioneer institution for training girls of the industrial classes as nurses for little children. The whole house was thrown open, and it was a pleasure to see the students in their pretty uniform, all eager and interested in their work.

The School has accommodation for 16 students from 16 years of age, each student has her own cubicle, in which she is allowed her own ornaments (within limits), and which she has to keep clean and tidy. There are three separate nurseries, with room for 10 babies, ranging in age from three weeks to four years. The resident staff consists of a matron and an assistant matron, both trained hospital nurses with special qualifications for the work. The School has been quite full since last May, and there is already a considerable waiting list, which shows a real demand for the training.

The practical side of the course is divided into three parts, the nursery, the house work and the kitchen work. Each girl spends a month at a time in the nurseries, having charge of one child, of course, under careful supervision; after some time, if she does well, she is promoted to a small nursery by herself, with two children of different ages; this gives her an opportunity of showing what she can do when left to herself, and is good practice in view of the more responsible work that will fall to her share when in a post. During her time in the nurseries the student learns to wash and dress the baby and to train it in good habits, she also keeps a daily record of its food, sleep and outings, etc., and a chart for marking its weight; she learns to prepare the baby's food, to make and mend its clothes, to wash and get them up, and to clean the nurseries.

At the end of each month a change is made, and the girl who has been in the nursery goes for a fortnight each into the house and kitchen, where she learns to do the whole work of the house, the plain cooking required for the students and the children's meals, the care of the storeroom and all that goes to the successful running of an ordinary house. In addition to all this training in practical work, for which the matron and her assistant are responsible, classes are held every evening at 6.30, when the children are in bed and it is possible for all the students to attend. This autumn the L.C.C. has sent teachers for classes in First Aid, laundry work and drill; other classes have also been held in infant care, needlework and cutting out, and in Kindergarten songs, games and occupations. Home nursing, hygiene and cookery also have their turn in the year's training.

At the end of the year an examination is held by qualified outside examiners, and a certificate is granted on the result of the examination as well as on the year's work. Posts are found for students who have successfully completed the course. Last year over 100 ladies applied for nurses, and only ten were ready to go out! Herein lies the success of the scheme. The salaries obtained by the nurses who have the certificate of the Nursery Training School are from £20, according to age and experience. There are not many openings at which a girl of 17 can obtain so high a wage.

As with all pioneer enterprises, finance is a standing difficulty. The fees for students are £36, inclusive, for a full year; the fees for children range from 10s. 6d. to one guinea a week, according to what the parents can afford. As will readily be seen these fees cannot cover the total cost of the institution, and yet £36 is a large sum for a working man to spend on his daughter's training. The remaining sum required has, therefore, to be made up by donations and subscriptions from those interested in schemes for the training of girls for life as well as for livelihood.

Any correspondence with regard to the school should be addressed to Miss Elsie Zimmern, at the W.I.C. Office, 7, John Street, Adelphi, W.C.

## Women and the War.

SPECIALLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE "COMMON CAUSE."

[The following observations are made by a woman correspondent who has just returned from Greece, where she has been an eye-witness of the vicissitudes arising during the war in the Balkans.]

One of the most remarkable features of Athens is its women. They have a *cachet* all their own: dainty as a Parisienne or Viennese, they pass to and fro, silhouetted against the white house fronts of the neatest of Southern homes, or on the boulevards, framed in a background of the tenderest green, the most beautiful foliage that adorns any capital of Europe, that of the weeping pepper tree.

Unlike the women of the rest of Northern Europe, in all classes their dress is of the neatest. There is no need for the severe coat and skirt of black which must be worn by French women who desire to pass on foot through the streets of their capital, yet marked as distinct from the less admirable pedestrian members of their sex; neither *outré* costumes nor touselled finery is ever to be seen on an Athenian, at least in public. They have no need of meretricious attraction on the one hand, nor the protection of the duenna on the other. No external sign is more indicative of the position of women than the way in which they walk through the streets of their own town, and the Greek lady and the Greek work girl alike pass through the streets of Athens, as daintily attractive specimens of womanhood as it is possible to find, with a freedom and naturalness, with quiet self confidence, self respecting and respected.

This is unique in Southern Europe. How comes it that Greece should present such a contrast to Portugal, Spain, Italy, Turkey? An acquaintance with the history of many Greek families yields the answer—which is being given again to-day. It is due undoubtedly to the part which Greek women have taken in war. To priests and women are accorded, as naturally as to brave men of soldier-age, their meed of respect as patriots for innumerable deeds of heroic self-sacrifice in the long struggle for liberty. Recruited though they be mainly from the peasantry, the Greek priests hold a unique position in the estimation of their fellow-countrymen, because, through the centuries, they have kept alive the very language and history of the race at the risk of martyrdom; a fate which a number have met, unhappily, even during these last few weeks.

So also with the Greek women. They consider themselves, and rightly, as integral a part of the "physical force" of the nation as their men folk. If you were to try to expound to a mother in what was "Unredeemed Greece" in Crete, for instance, the doctrine that she was not fit to have a vote because she was unable in the last resort to take her share in the defence of her country, if she deigned to answer you, it would be on the mental assumption that you were a being from a world where affairs were regulated on a totally different plan from that of hers. (In which, indeed, she would not be so far wrong, for as an Englishwoman long resident in Athens remarked—"Compared with the vital issues for which these nations are contending, what have we in England to go to war about?") The Cretan mother's reply would be: "Without me how would there be *palikaris* (heroes)? I have given two, three, four sons for liberty," and a Cretan son is not "given" till he has been killed. She would turn to her neighbour with a swift Greek sarcasm on such topsy-turvy views of her disability—as a patriot—that you might as well try to make bread without yeast, flour and water; and war without women's work would alike fall short of the real thing. Then, with the awakening of memories burnt into her brain in the risings when she was a girl, or later, she would flash out fiercely, "And were I left alone, at least I know how to kill my children and myself before worse should happen to us."

In these last weeks women have done their part splendidly. It was wonderful to be among Greek families during the short period of tension in October, the mobilisation, the departure of the troops and the reception of the war news. There was no outburst of excitement such as we associate with southern populations. It was too intensely serious a matter for flag-wagging and trumpets. The prevalent feeling, specially with the memory of the disastrous campaign of 1897, was deep anxiety as to whether the war had not come at least a few months too soon and whether the Greek army and navy—the latter suddenly expanded by the calling up of the reserves to the age of 34—could possibly be ready, considering the well-known state of disorganisation which prevailed before Venizelos began to reorganise the administration.

Then the men called up poured into the garrison towns; uniforms, arms, ammunition were served out without a hitch, food and quarters were ready and one could feel the wave of relief and quiet confidence that spread through the country. Everyone seemed to fall into place: the whole nation—men and women alike—seemed to form the army: the men, from twenty to thirty-four, stepped into the front rank, and the women who were trained nurses stepped into the front rank, too. Into their places—into offices and shops, into the work of town or country—stepped the nearest one who was fit, whether woman or man, over thirty-four (but not deprived of his vote because unable to fight). The absence of grumbles and of complaints at the necessarily very great dislocation and the sacrifices involved was wonderful, and personal grief at the departure of husbands, sons, and brothers was never shown in public.

One sentimental young wife made herself the "awful example" of a whole town by weeping in public after her adored husband—the mildest of bank clerks, misnamed Hector, returned from the Fortress rifle in hand. "They've given him a gun!" she wailed, until an old friend asked her whether she would rather he went to war with a broomstick, whereupon she dried her eyes, but too late to avoid the unenviable reputation of being the only woman in the town who behaved thus on that historic morning.

Since then we have heard how the women of Montenegro (who also walk with the free, self-confident carriage of women self-respecting and respected) have carried ammunition, food, and water into the firing line; and the women of Albania the same: how every member of the Greek royal family has been away from Athens on actual war duty, the Queen, in spite of her age, in the hospitals at Volo and Larissa for weeks; Princess Marie on her hospital ship at the operating table, holding the hand of a wounded man, who, in his suffering returning to childhood's days, told the doctor he did not feel much like living, but if the Princess would hold his hand, they could do what they liked to him. He lives to-day to bless her. Princess Alice, wife of Prince Andrea, was only one and a-half miles behind the actual firing line, rendering First Aid absolutely undaunted either by the awful scenes or by a diet of a lump of black bread in twenty-four hours.

This is what Greece expects of its women—born of the race or adopted: princess or peasant: it is what she has needed, and what they have been proud to give through centuries of oppression: courageous heart and vivid intelligence have been eye at the service of the race. And that is why, at the very centre of Greek life, you find the Athenian women with a *cachet* all their own.

M. L. F. B.

#### The Joy of Service.

A note published in the *British Journal of Nursing* records the heroic work of the Nursing Staff of the British Red Crescent Society of Scutari. A letter sent by one of the Nurses from the field of action contains the following passage:—

"Our patients are marvellously heroic. Men shot through the lungs, the eye, the jaw, with limbs hanging and every movement an agony, still smile when we dress them, and thank us most pathetically. They are most fine, well-built men, too, and most amusing in their ways. They all look so happy, and those who are able go round and chat on their friends' beds. Of course, our off-duty time is often nil. I cannot describe to you the joy of being of use and of making some of these poor fellows happy. I am glad every hour of the day that I came."



**A WOMAN'S INVENTION.**  
The "WAUKON"  
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## Foreign News.

## Denmark.

The first step towards the enfranchisement of Danish women has been taken, since the amendment to the Constitution has been carried in the Lower House by 95 votes to 12. As has been explained in this column, the Bill deals with other matters besides the Franchise, and naturally the more points of controversy it contains the greater the uncertainty as to its fate. It is, in fact, a Redistribution as well as a Franchise Bill. As regards the latter item, it proposes to confer the right to vote on every native man and woman of good reputation who has completed the 25th year. The exceptions are those persons who have received relief from the Institution for Relief of the Poor, unless this disability has been specially remitted, and those who have not authority over their own estate. It is, however, expressly stated that the right of a husband to administer the joint estate does not disfranchise the wife. All persons who have a vote for the Folkething are also eligible. The passing of the Bill through the Folkething thus marks the first of four stages through which it must pass to become law; the next is, of course, the passage through the Upper House. Then the Parliament must be dissolved and the Bill must pass through the same stages in a new one. If it survives all these ordeals Danish women become electors and eligible. The warmest wishes of their English sisters are with them for the further success of which the first omen is now recorded.

## France.

In France, too, matters have advanced a stage. Last year a "Universal Suffrage Commission" was appointed by the Chamber of Deputies to consider whether any measure of Women's Suffrage could be granted during the present session of Parliament. On December 4th it came to a decision to submit M. Buisson's Bill to the Chamber. This Bill would confer the municipal suffrage on all women without regard to property. Every elector is also eligible, and further, the Municipal Councils have a voice in the election of the Senate. The passing of this Bill would, therefore, mark an immense advance in the position of women in France. Great credit is due to the National Union of French Suffrage Societies which worked so hard to attain this result, even interviewing each of the 44 members of the Commission. May they reap the fruits of their labour!

Nor is this the only service for which French women have to thank that devoted friend, M. Buisson, whose graceful and eloquent speech at the dinner of the International Franchise Club in October still lingers in the memory of all who had the privilege of hearing it. Early in 1910, he presented to the Chamber a resolution endorsed by 163 of his colleagues, calling on the Government in the next budget to equalise the pay of teachers of both sexes of the same class. The resolution was unanimously adopted. In September of the same year, the Federation of University Women called on the deputies of the new Chamber who approved of M. Buisson's motion to add their signatures to those of their colleagues. They obtained 343 signatures, and as a result, the chamber now sitting adopted on February 22, 1911, a resolution backed by MM. Buisson and Marin, calling on the Government in the next budget to attempt the gradual extension to all classes of persons concerned in primary instruction of the principle already adopted for the lower classes, of equality of pay for masters and mistresses, as well as equality of title, class and duration of service. In November, during the budget discussion, it was decided to take steps to bring the matter to a speedy conclusion. The credit of this result may be divided between the Federation of University Women and their faithful champions, MM. Buisson and Marin.

## Appeal for Sweated Women.

## A Caution.

We are asked to call attention to the following influentially-signed letter:—

Our attention has been called to the appearance in many newspapers and magazines throughout the country of advertisements announcing the formation of the "British Federation for the Emancipation of Women," and appealing for a fund of one million shillings to enable the promoters of that organisation to "abolish Sweated Female Labour," to which they have added,

during the last few days, the further object of the "Suppression of the White Slave Traffic."

We notice in these advertisements much talk of a loose and sensational kind of the "horrors of Sweating," and figures of rates of earnings, all of which are admittedly taken from the publications of other persons, but no faintest indication of any real knowledge of the subject by the promoters of the "British Federation," or of their possession of any plan by which the "horrors of Sweating" may be reduced. On the contrary, the advertisements contain internal evidence that they are written by persons who have no such plan and no such knowledge, and we are informed that certain of the statements first made in them have had to be withdrawn or amended.

In view of these circumstances and of the fact that the advertisements of the Federation appear to be framed so as to induce contributions from poor men and women who will read them uncritically, we deem it our duty to the public to state that, in our opinion, there is no useful work in relation to Sweating which the new Federation could undertake which is not already being done by established organisations. The National Anti-Sweating League, which was formed in 1906 and has received the steady support of distinguished men and women of all parties and creeds, was instrumental in securing in 1909 the passing of the Trade Boards Act, under which already minimum wages have been fixed for several hundreds of thousands of workers.

The League is now labouring to extend that Act, and those who are genuinely eager to "abolish Sweated Female Labour," can, in our opinion, most effectively employ their energy and money in associating themselves with its efforts.

BEAUCHAMP.  
CLEMENTINA BLACK.  
GEORGE CADBURY.  
MARGARET LLEWELYN DAVIES.  
ARTHUR HENDERSON.  
LYTTON.  
MARY R. MACARTHUR.  
GERTRUDE TUCKWELL.  
MARY A. WARD.

## "Under the Surface."

This letter from Mr. Cholmeley expresses so precisely what hundreds of her readers think about Dr. Martindale's pamphlet that we are reprinting it from the *Manchester Guardian*. It is interesting to learn that a continual stream of male purchasers has flowed through the office of the National Union ever since Lord Tullibardine first called attention to the pamphlet:—

SIR,—If Lord Tullibardine will undertake to make every father and mother in England read Dr. Martindale's pamphlet and to make such use of its contents as will arm their sons and daughters against the evils which it describes, I feel sure that the whole edition will be at his disposal. It would no doubt be much more agreeable for all of us if no disgusting facts existed, or if, as Lord Tullibardine seems to believe, the best protection against disgusting facts were to be found in knowing nothing about them.

It is this belief which constitutes the fundamental difference between Lord Tullibardine and every suffragist, and justifies him in "enrolling himself on the roster" of those who are opposed to the enfranchisement of women. He believes that "the strongest armour that any woman can possess against the buffets and thumps of the 'seas of life'" is ignorance; we do not. He thinks that Dr. Martindale's pamphlet "would make any decent man feel uncomfortable if he knew that it was even in a locked drawer in his own house." I imagine that it was not intended to make any man, decent or otherwise, feel comfortable. The notion that the comfortableness of decent men is the supreme good is an old but not very respectable notion; if it were less prevalent it would be less necessary to choose between leaving women to find out horrible facts by horrible experience and warning them exactly what those facts mean. The notion that "all that is best and purest" in the minds of young girls can be destroyed by learning facts, however unpleasant, is based upon a singular misunderstanding of the nature of goodness and purity, which depend not upon ignorance of facts but upon a right consideration of them. The question at what stage in their lives such facts ought to be communicated to young people of both sexes cannot be decided by any general rule, but anyone who allows a son or a daughter to run the risk of helping to fill our hospitals through ignorance not merely of the beauty of virtue but of the hideous consequences of vice is taking a risk which no "decent" man ought to dare to take, however uncomfortable it may make him to look the facts in the face.

If Lord Tullibardine would institute a general inquiry into the literature of every kind that "gets into the hands of young girls" and boys, and into the influences other than literary to which their lives are exposed, I cannot help thinking that his view of this particular pamphlet might undergo a change.—Yours, etc.,  
ROBERT F. CHOLMELEY.

## In Parliament.

THE FRANCHISE BILL.—On Tuesday, December 10th, Lord Robert Cecil made vain efforts to extract from the Prime Minister some definite statement as to the date of the introduction of the Franchise Bill. Mr. Asquith would only say that it would not be taken until after Christmas, nor on the first day after the recess. He would not even express an opinion whether it would be taken before or after the conclusion of the Established Church (Wales) Bill.

DANGEROUS CROSSINGS.—Inquiries made of Mr. McKenna elicited the curious facts that no complaints have reached him of the dangerous character of crossings outside the House of Commons, nor has he observed any difficulty in crossing. Doubtless he seldom approaches the House on foot. Some older member of the Liberal Party might remind him that Mr. W. E. Gladstone once characterised the approach to the House of Commons as the most dangerous crossing in London.

POLICE EVIDENCE.—Mr. Wedgwood, whose distrust of the police often renders useful service, called attention to the evidence given by two constables at Old Street on December 2nd, when they charged a man named Chapman with assaulting them. Chapman, a respectable printer, working on a daily newspaper, said that he and his wife and child were waiting for a tramcar, and one of the policemen pushed against Mrs. Chapman and called her an offensive name, whereupon she struck him with her umbrella, and he, in return, knocked her down. The magistrate dismissed the case, declaring himself satisfied that the version given by Chapman and his wife was the true one. The conduct of the men is still under investigation, and people who are interested in freedom and justice should be on the watch to learn the result. Meantime a hint to police constables that no advantage to the community results from hustling and harrying persons who desire to enter tramcars or other public conveyances might be conducive to peace and order.

MASTER OR MISTRESS.—Mr. Pease very properly refused to interfere with the local education authority of Mendham, in Suffolk, where Mr. Pearson would have had him recommend the placing in charge of "a master instead of a mistress." The school seems to have been unfortunate, since in eleven months there have been, it was alleged, six head teachers. Perhaps an inspection of the salaries list might explain where the difficulty lies.

A "CREED BAR."—Mr. Barnes asked about an alleged refusal to employ a nurse-probationer in a Dumbarton hospital because she was not a Protestant. Mr. Mackinnon Wood admitted the fact, and its impropriety, agreeing "entirely with my hon. friend's view that there should be no creed-bar to appointments in public institutions supported by ratepayers of all creeds." As Roman Catholics have on previous occasions received appointments, the refusal rather looks as though some other motive had been the true one.

WASTING THE TIME OF WITNESSES.—On Wednesday, December 11th, Mr. Touche called the Home Secretary's attention to the fact that a chauffeur, who had assisted the police in arresting some thieves, was summoned to attend as a witness at the Central Criminal Court, on December 3rd, or to be heavily fined; that he was kept waiting at the Court throughout the whole of Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the case not coming on until Saturday; that his employer was deprived of his services and put to considerable expense in the hiring of taxi-cabs; and that "the present system" not only wastes time and causes money loss, but "is a discouragement to the public to assist the police in their work." He might have added, with truth, that many employers refuse to pay their workmen for days so lost, and that some have even been known to discharge them on account of their absence from work, in spite of its being enforced.

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ACT.—On Friday, December 13th, the Royal Assent was given to this measure.

MR. ASQUITH AND THE FRANCHISE BILL.—On Monday, December 16th, Mr. Leif Jones asked the Prime Minister whether he was aware that certain Members of the House of Commons believe that the result of carrying an amendment to the Franchise and Registration Bill enfranchising women would be the resignation of the Prime Minister, and the break-up of the Ministry; whether this was contrary to his own declarations upon this subject; and whether he adhered to his own statement that the Government as a whole would accept and carry out the decision of the House upon this question, so that Members may cast a free and unfettered vote solely on the merits of Woman Suffrage.

Mr. Asquith replied:

"I am not aware that any such belief exists among Members of the House of Commons or of any ground upon which it is supposed to rest. My public declarations on the subject are on record, and are perfectly plain and explicit."

Mr. Croft enquired whether the Right Hon. gentleman was prepared to assent to a policy which he had described as a "national disaster."

Mr. Asquith sedately replied: "If the Hon. Member misquotes me, he must put the question down."

Mr. Arnold Ward, enquiring when the Committee stage of the Franchise Bill would be taken, was told that it would be taken after Christmas. Then Mr. Leif Jones, pursuing his original point, asked whether Mr. Asquith had seen the letter in which Mr. Hugh Law referred to the rumour. Mr. Asquith replied that he had nothing to add to the answer which he had given.

The public declarations to which Mr. Asquith referred, are quoted in a Note on page 633, and (unless we are to suppose the Prime Minister a shamelessly mendacious person), entirely preclude the possibility of his resigning in consequence of any Women's Suffrage amendment being carried. The rumour of his entertaining such an intention has been publicly contradicted by Sir Edward Grey, and indignantly repudiated by Mr. Lloyd George. Other men of high political standing have given the same assurance in private. The Prime Minister himself, at least, has stated anew that he is bound by his repeated public declarations. Of course he is—and always has been; and the sedulously cultivated rumour has been absurd from the beginning.

## Crime and the Criminal.

The Penal Reform League, in its Fifth Annual Report (1912), which has just been issued, declares that forcible feeding is no part of the duties of prison officers, and that this trouble might have been avoided by a little common sense on the part of officials, who "tend to become invertebrate." Discontent amongst warders is said to be coming to a head, and the report pleads for better pay and the abolition of fines, vexatious punishments, and secret reports. The League is not enthusiastic over the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, doubts if flogging and imprisonment of a few of those implicated in the White Slave Traffic will diminish the sum of "White Slavery," and advocates effective, educative supervision of offenders for as long as the safety of society needs it.

A review of the year notes, amongst other matters, a movement among University women for women higher officials in women's prisons (Berlin being cited as an example); the work of the Central Association for Discharged Convicts' Aid; "Preventive Detention" at Camp Hill, in the Isle of Wight; the movement for better working of Juvenile Courts; the Bills on the Feeble-Minded; the "Crime and Inebriety" Section of the National Conference of Prevention of Destitution (Sir John Macdonell's noteworthy presidential address being specially referred to); and the Eugenics Congress. To illustrate the dangers of deficient investigation in the courts, a sensational example is cited from Scotland, in which a girl ran away for fear of being poisoned by her demented parents, and was packed off to a school. The girl went from one institution to another, and in the meantime two other children of the family were poisoned.

The report brings many "preventive" agencies under review, especially educational, amongst others the "Montessori Method" and the "Little Commonwealth," to be opened in Dorsetshire in the spring; and ends with an urgent appeal for funds. Copies may be obtained for 2½d., post free, from the office of the League, 1, Harrington Square, London, N.W.

## A Representative Memorial.

An excellent memorial has been presented to Mr. G. G. Greenwood, M.P. for Peterborough, by a number of representative constituents. The list of signatories includes magistrates, county councillors, town councillors, guardians, doctors, clergymen, solicitors, members of the Men's and Women's Liberal Associations (more Liberal men signed than Liberal women!), members of the Unionist Association, officers of the Women's Co-operative Guild, men and women of the Adult School; officers, committee, and some members of the Women's Total Abstinence Union; President and Secretary of the Trade and Labour Council; officers and committee of the Railway Women's Guild; and members of the I.L.P.

The memorial was organised by Miss Ballantine.

## Notes from Headquarters.

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

**President:** MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.  
**Hon. Secretaries:** MISS K. D. COURTNEY } (Parliamentary)  
 MISS EDITH PALLISER }  
 MISS CATHERINE MARSHALL }  
 MISS EMILY M. LEAF (Press).  
**Hon. Treasurer:** MISS I. B. O'MALLEY (Literature).  
**Hon. Secretary:** MRS. AUERBACH.  
**Secretary:** MISS GERALDINE COOKE.  
 Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, W.C.

### Literature Department.

Two new political leaflets will be ready this week. One is on Amendments to the Reform Bill, and is called; "How to get Women's Suffrage included in the Franchise Bill." The other, "Women Suffrage and the Labour Party," is addressed especially to those supporters of the Labour Party who are still inclined to think that in demanding that the Party should vote against the Third Reading of the Reform Bill, if women are not included, women suffragists are making too heavy a claim on the loyalty of their friends. It will be found useful for distribution in Labour constituencies. Both these leaflets cost 6d. per 100, or 4s. 6d. per 1,000.

The Joint Campaign Committee is publishing the speeches of Sir John Simon and others at the meeting on December 4th. Enquiries as to price, etc., should be addressed to:—The Secretary, Women's Suffrage Campaign, Queen Anne's Chambers, Tothill Street, Westminster, S.W.

I am asked to state that the postage of the Diary supplied by the Eastern Counties' Federation is 1d.

The London Society has published an attractive Calendar with quotations relating to Women's Suffrage. It is square in shape, is made to hang on the wall, and can be had either with a plain green cover and the date 1913 in red, or with a brown cover and the portrait of Mrs. Fawcett. I. B. O'MALLEY.

### Press Department.

Anti-suffragists have little cause to congratulate themselves on the result of their recent attack on Suffrage literature, and the *Manchester Guardian* has this week published some excellent letters, which have apparently been found unanswerable, and which, it is to be hoped, will end the controversy.

A valuable letter from Miss Chrystal Macmillan, explaining the position with regard to the legal interpretation of the word "male," was not inserted in the *Times*, for some reason hitherto unexplained. It was, however, careful to make it clear that on December 16th it had given no currency to rumours of resignation on the part of the Prime Minister should a Suffrage amendment to the Franchise Bill be carried, "as there was no reason to believe that they were well founded."

The *Manchester Guardian*, commenting on Mr. Hugh Law's letter on December 13th, points out with regard to Mr. Asquith's pledges that, "when he freely consented that if a Suffrage amendment were carried it should be incorporated in a Government Bill, and treated as an integral part of it, he could not possibly have regarded the occurrence of the event which he thus promised in advance to accept, as involving a slight to himself, or making his position in any way untenable." Mr. Neville Smith's letter dealing with the question, on December 16th, should also be noted, and that of Mrs. Swanwick in the same issue, in which she says that "the insertion of the word 'male' gives an opportunity for the concentration of the whole Suffrage forces on the question of principle. It is like a declaration that, in the opinion of the House, sex alone should not be a bar."

The *Daily Chronicle*, in an article on December 12th, entitled "The Way to Woman Suffrage," gives a favourable and optimistic view of the situation, and urges that "any member of Parliament, who has any kind of Suffragism in him, should look beyond the minor issues and the inconveniences of the moment, and recognise the vital importance of securing for the House of Commons upon this occasion a Suffragist vote. If he does not vote for Women's Suffrage now he can never claim from Suffragists the benefit of any further doubt."

All Liberals who are still unconverted to Women's Suffrage should read the article in the *Westminster Gazette* from a Norwegian correspondent, on December 10th, dealing with the good effects of the women's vote in Norway, which have been generally acknowledged, with the result that all parties have now on their programmes a measure of fuller enfranchisement. The Report says:—"Women voted on party lines, but they have influenced the party programme with their special interests like other sections within a party. The Liberals had maternity insurance and the better protection of unmarried mothers and their children on their programme this year."

EMILY M. LEAF.



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 D.S.F. Mustard

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### Parliamentary.

Reports of deputations and memorials to Members of Parliament are coming in fast. The estimates of probable support for the various amendments to the Franchise Bill, which these reports enable us to make, are of great use to our friends in the House. Leaders of deputations are reminded to ask Members whether they will, at least, *abstain from opposing* amendments which they cannot promise to support. In calculating the chances of this or that amendment, abstentions must be reckoned with as well as votes for and against.

A good many Members are saying that their votes will not on this occasion be influenced by the tactics of the militants. Sir Edward Grey's speech in the Conciliation Bill debate last March seems to have impressed many people, who had not perceived before that it is just as weak to let themselves be bullied out of doing what they think right as it is to let themselves be bullied into doing what they think wrong.

According to the latest information, it now seems probable that the Women's Suffrage Amendments to the Franchise Bill will not be taken in Committee till the middle of January. But we must be prepared for them to come on any time after Parliament reassembles. All deputations and memorials should, therefore, be finished by December 30th.

C. E. MARSHALL.  
 (Hon. Parliamentary Sec., pro tem.)

### Contributions to the General Fund.

Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1912 ... £ s. d. 205 12 3  
 Received December 7th to 14th:—

**Subscriptions.**  
 Mrs. Seyd ... .. 1 0 0  
 Mrs. Laurie ... .. 0 1 0

**Donations.**  
 Per Mrs. W. E. Dowson (for Bow and Bromley by-election):—  
 Mrs. Rackham ... .. 0 5 0  
 Miss Dalby ... .. 0 5 0  
 Newnham College ... .. 0 10 0  
 Miss Dowson ... .. 0 5 0  
 Mrs. Coysh ... .. 0 5 0  
 Mrs. W. E. Dowson ... .. 0 5 0

**Affiliation Fees.**  
 Ryde W.S.S. ... .. 0 7 0  
 Sunderland W.S.S. ... .. 2 15 0  
 Rawtenstall W.S.S. ... .. 0 5 0  
 Newnham College W.S.S. ... .. 1 13 3  
 Wokingham W.S.S. ... .. 0 5 3

£273 13 9

### Friends of Women's Suffrage.

The Oxford Society is now working the Friends of Women's Suffrage Scheme, with Miss A. M. Allen as F.W.S. Secretary. The Arlington and Frizington Society, the Whitby Society, the Sutton and Coldfield Society, and the Millom Society are also hoping to take up the scheme.

It would be a very great convenience if all members of National Union Societies who enrol Friends of Women's Suffrage would, as far as possible, send the cards direct to the Secretaries of the Societies in whose areas the addresses of the "Friends" fall. The Secretaries of Societies (or, in the case of "Friends" living where there is no Society, the Secretary of the Federation) are the only people who can make a profitable use of these names and addresses, and it is much better that the cards should, if possible, go direct to them than that they should go through the National Union office.

I. B. O'MALLEY,  
 (Hon. Sec. to F.W.S. Committee.)

### Election Fighting Fund.

**SUMS RECEIVED.**  
 Already acknowledged ... .. £ s. d. 4117 9 9  
 Newnham College W.S.S. ... .. 3 3 0  
 Miss Ellen Sparks ... .. 1 0 0  
 Whaley Bridge W.S.S. ... .. 2 1 3

£4,123 14 0

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## Memorial Tablet to Mazzini.

On the afternoon of Saturday December 14th, a bronze memorial tablet with a bas-relief portrait was affixed to the wall of the house, No. 5, Hatton Garden, at the corner of Holborn, where Giuseppe Mazzini held his conferences and classes during his many years' residence in London. The Italian Ambassador, assisted by the Consul-General for Italy unveiled and inaugurated the tablet. The movement arose from a service held in memory of Mazzini at a hall belonging to the Union of Ethical Societies. Dr. Costantino Stauder, who was Chairman of the Committee of men and women then formed, and his wife, offered to defray the necessary expenses of the organisation; the portrait was modelled by Signor Fabbrucci, the tablet was cast and presented by Signor Fiorini of Battersea.

Women of all countries owe a debt of gratitude to Mazzini who in 1858, at a time when what is called "the women's movement" was hardly dawning, wrote in "The Duties of Man":—

"Cancel from your minds every idea of superiority to woman. You have none whatever. Long prejudice, an inferior education, and a perennial legal inequality and injustice, have created that apparent intellectual inferiority which has been converted into an argument of continued oppression. But does not the history of every oppression teach us how the oppressor ever seeks his own justification and support by appealing to a fact of his own creation?"

### The Milk and Dairies Bill.

All women will rejoice to hear that the Government's Milk and Dairies Bill has been introduced, and is to be read a second time next week. The advent of some measure securing the purity of milk in poor districts has been far too long delayed; and, if this Bill proves really effective, passes, and is properly administered, it will do much towards making possible a diminution in infant mortality. Can any position be imagined more cruel than that of a mother who knows that her child's health—probably its life—depends upon its getting enough good milk, and who yet, because she is poor, knows herself unable to procure that nourishment?

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News from the Societies and Federations.

North-East Riding: Yorks.

MALTON.—A drawing-room meeting was kindly given by Miss Pumpfrey at 5, The Mount on December 10th. Mrs. Meyer gave the address, owing to the unavailability of an excellent concert the attendance was not large.

SCARBOROUGH.—Women's Suffrage has been kept well to the fore during November. To begin with, Mrs. W. R. Rea, wife of the borough member, in an address to the local W.L.A. on "Electoral Reform," moved a resolution welcoming the Reform Bill and its proposals, and "thanking the Prime Minister for his (sic) amendment to extend the franchise to women on a democratic basis, and urging on M.P.s that the withholding of votes from women would be a denial of justice and of Liberal principles." This was seconded by Mrs. Coultas and carried. Scarborough suffragists are proud that their member is acting as Hon. Secretary of the Joint Campaign Committee for Women Suffrage, which held the great demonstration on December 4th. Miss Hibbert-Ware, M.A., and Miss Oxyth Horne, B.A., were delegates, and Mrs. Wylid acted as proxy delegate. On November 29th Miss Florence Balgarnie spent an afternoon in Scarborough on her way to Whitby, and spoke at an "At Home" (arranged by Mrs. Tindale Harris). Many suffragists and a number of Miss Balgarnie's old friends were present, and the gathering was a great success. On Sunday, November 24th, by Miss M. Robertson, B.A., who had the unique experience of speaking from the pulpit of the Unitarian Church. This privilege was granted by the Rev. J. Wain, the minister in charge, who had heard Miss Robertson speak, and was so impressed with her earnestness that he invited her to address his congregation. The church was full, and the audience most attentive. She read the text "Am I my Brother's Keeper?" and pointed out how every pioneer among women, Josephine Butler, Elizabeth Fry, Florence Nightingale, had answered "Yes"; and how they found legislation to be effective work in solving the knotty problems with which they had to deal. Miss Robertson laid great stress on the spirit inspiring the Women's movement; many things alien to that spirit were done in the name of the Women's movement, just as many things alien to Christianity were done in its name. But the responsibility lay not with Christianity, but with those who transgressed its Spirit. On November 27th the Annual Meeting was held in St. Nicholas Boarding House. The Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Cate, read a report of work done, and the Hon. Treasurer's report was satisfactory, though the amount collected was 191.19, largely because of the special donations for the Provincial Council held in Scarborough accounted for some £30 in that year. Mrs. Cate tendered her resignation of the Hon. Secretaryship; the only mitigation in her loss is the fact that such an excellent successor has been found in Miss E. Stephens, who has consented to be Hon. Secretary on the understanding that she shall have a helper. The other officers were re-elected, and the Rev. J. Wain, and Mr. H. D. Rowntree were asked to be on the Committee. Afterward Mr. Rowntree gave a very interesting and thoughtful address on "The Effect of Woman Suffrage." Miss Dutton followed with an appeal for volunteers to work for the F.W.S. scheme. Miss Dutton spent the three days before the Annual Meeting in Scarborough calling on various "wobblers," and helping to collect signatures of Whitty division freetholders for the memorial to Mr. Gerrard Beckwith. Miss Wilks and Miss Stephens have also collected signatures and they have been sent to the Whitty Society. The local papers have given excellent reports of all these meetings.

YORK.—FEDERATION COMMITTEE.—A special committee met Miss Courtney at the York office on November 26th. Owing to the kind hospitality of Mrs. O. Rowntree, Mrs. Meyer spent a few days in Yorkshire during November and worked up a small group of members who will be attached to the York Branch. A Public Meeting will be held in the Basingwold Town Hall on January 25th, addressed by Mrs. Fraser. The Federation Annual Meeting will be held on January 9th at noon in the York office. It is with great regret that we have to announce Miss Bateson's resignation; her energy and self-sacrifice for the Society since the Federation was formed are beyond praise. The Federation hopes to retain Miss Dutton's services till Easter. She has been working in the Cleveland Division enrolling members in Yarm, Guisborough, Marske, Great Ayton, Loftus and Skelton. A public meeting will be held at Guisborough on January 24th, addressed by Miss Helen Fraser, and later on meetings will be held at Yarm and Marske. Hull reports having taken over the Beverley Branch. Mrs. Meyer will be away for her holiday from December 22nd to January 5th. During this time no letters will be forwarded to her. Miss Dutton takes charge of the office from December 30th until Mrs. Meyer returns.

A meeting was held at Stamford Street Club on November 27th. Mrs. Westrope took the chair and Mrs. Meyer gave the address. About 40 were present, seven new members joined, and 26 became "Friends of Women's Suffrage." Thanks are due to Mrs. Duke and Miss Pulley who provided tea and worked up the meeting. A cottage meeting was held at Bean Street on December 6th, addressed by Mrs. Meyer; the attendance was small. WHITBY.—This Society with the help of Miss Dutton, has been working up a memorial and postcard canvass to the member for the Division. It was only possible to attempt a few places in the constituency, which is very large and difficult of access. But on the whole a good response was made and the signatures of a fair number of influential people obtained. Thanks are due to the Scarborough Society for their help in looking up Whitty voters resident in Scarborough. The memorial was presented to Mr. Beckwith on December 14th at the House of Commons by a member of the National Union Executive. Miss Dutton spoke at a small meeting for teachers at Whitby, and also at the Liberal Club on November 14th. The Annual Meeting took place on November 12th. Mrs. Sewell was elected President. Mrs. Tattersfield was re-elected Hon. Treasurer, and Miss Thornton and Miss Steer elected Hon. Secretaries. Miss Dutton gave an interesting address on the political situation, but owing to unfavourable weather the audience was unfortunately very limited.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FRANCHISE.—At a meeting of the York City Council on December 2nd, the following resolution was moved by Councillor F. W. Pollard (a member of the N.U.W.S.S.): "That in regard to the Franchise Bill now before Parliament, this Council records its opinion that in the matters of the Local Government Franchise and the right to be members of local bodies, the position of women should be made the same as that of men, and that marriage should not be a disqualification, and that copies of this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister, the Minister in charge of the Bill and the City members." The resolution was seconded by Councillor Hartley (Labour), and carried by the vote of 14 voting for and 6 against. The chief opposition came from those who thought it a "political question," and as such out of order.

NOTE.—THE COMMON CAUSE correspondent, Mrs. A. M. Daniel, 14, Royal Crescent, Scarborough, would like to remind Societies in the Federation that news should be sent to her not later than first post on the Friday before the second Saturday in the month, and as much earlier as possible.

North Western. E. M. DANIEL.

CARLISLE. REPORT.—On November 8th Mrs. James Morton addressed by invitation the Brampton Women's Liberal Association on W.S. She emphasised especially the claim the Cause had on all whose hearts were big enough to take in the wrongs of the women who suffered. On November 12th Miss E. L. Matravers addressed the Women's Meeting at Charlotte Street Congregational Chapel on the subject of "Purity and the Suffrage." Much interest was shown and a number of signatures obtained for postcards. On November 19th Mrs. James Morton and Miss Evans addressed the Carlisle Women's Liberal Association, and our Society was specially gratified that its members should be invited to speak at this meeting. The resolution was carried with out opposition. Miss Evans gave a very clear account of the present situation, which aroused much interest and sympathy. A postcard campaign is being carried on, and Mrs. Reay and Mrs. Effe have paid three visits to Brampton, where they obtained 25 voters' and 35 women's signatures. E. L. MATRAVERS.

CARNFORTH.—Mrs. Paley, of Caton, gave a most successful drawing-room meeting to which she invited anti-suffragists and those ignorant of the movement, only three suffragists being present. Mrs. Norma Smith spoke, after which there was a lively discussion and seven of the ladies gave in their names as members. It was felt that good seed was sown. Mrs. Paley's enthusiastic and practical conduct is much appreciated by the North Western Federation.

CONISTON held its Inaugural Meeting at the Fairfield Hotel. It was well attended and quite successful. Mrs. Canliffe, Mrs. Benton, the Rev. F. T. Wilcox and the Rev. R. Ellwood took part.

MARVPORT.—On Monday, November 3rd, a meeting was held at the Co-operative Hall, at which Mr. E. Marshall presided, and was supported by Miss Norma Smith.

WORKINGTON.—On Wednesday, November 5th, a "White Elephant" tea was held. Over sixty were present and it was followed by a meeting addressed by Miss Norma Smith. On Friday, a very enthusiastic meeting was held at the Lyndal's Hall. There was a large attendance. Mrs. Marshall was in the Chair, and in the course of the excellent progress of Women's Suffrage, which was greatly appreciated.

Oxon, Berks and Bucks.

BANBURY.—The Society has, during the last eight weeks, carried on an educational campaign by the regular distribution of leaflets. The results of this form of propaganda, which was first suggested by Miss Dora Mason, the Federation's Organiser, have been most satisfactory. The work was done in a most efficient way, and look forward to the distribution. "At Homes" were given on November 11th and December 9th, when a discussion took place on "The Duties of a Citizen," and "Physical Force and Women's Suffrage." Interesting papers by Mrs. E. A. Gillett and Mrs. J. A. Gillett, and Miss A. L. Colegrove, both Poor Law Guardians; and on the second subject by Mr. Woodward and Dr. Penrose. On both occasions the discussion was keen. On December 9th a resolution was unanimously carried urging the Member for the division to abstain from voting against the deletion of the word "male" in the Government Reform Bill, if he cannot support it. The resolution was also sent to Mr. Fitzroy, Member for S. Northants, in whose division part of Banbury is included.

BERKHAMSTEAD.—On October 11th the first of a series of lectures was given in the Progress Hall. The speaker was Miss Fielden, who gave an address on "The Economic Position of Women." On November 8th Mrs. Nett Bower made her subject "Women's Local Government," deeply interesting to a large and representative audience of women. On December 4th Dr. Saleeby lectured in the Town Hall on "Women's Suffrage and Education." The workshop-men and women—quite interest shown and questions asked. Miss Masca and Miss Knight arrived on December 2nd, and canvassed the district. They held two indoor meetings at Hemel Hempstead and at the mill hands and the Women's Co-operative Guild, and two open-air meetings, one at Berkhamstead, which was well attended in spite of bad weather; and one in Hemel Hempstead, where the audience was less sympathetic. The F.W.S. scheme has been started, and Mrs. Mason succeeded in getting a number of cards signed.

BERKS, E.—Miss Clarkson worked at Crowthorne from November 2nd to the 6th, and did a good deal of canvassing and visiting. On the 5th a drawing-room meeting was given by Mrs. Reid. Miss Clarkson's address on her work in Barnes and Plaistow was much appreciated. On November 6th a public meeting was held in St. George's Hall, with Mr. Hardcastle in the chair. Mrs. Rackham spoke of the excellent work done by women on the Local Government Board and on the General Council. Cholmley followed with a witty and interesting speech.

The audience was large, and included many men. The resolution was carried without dissent.

BERKS, N.—Very successful work was done in Wallingford during November. Miss Dora Mason, M.A., arrived on the 4th, and much house to house canvassing and distribution of literature was done in preparation for the public meeting on the 19th. Two open-air meetings were held in the Market Place, at which Mrs. Cross presided, and Miss Mason aroused great interest by her speaking. Two well-attended drawing-room meetings were also held. On November 19th the General Annual Meeting of the Society took place at the Town Hall, Miss A. Maude Royden gave the address. The Public Meeting in the evening was crowded, many being unable to gain admission. The Chair was taken by Mrs. J. K. Cross, Esq., C.C. J.P. Mrs. Royden was the chief speaker. Her convincing arguments so successfully crowned the energetic work done previously that after the resolution had been seconded by Miss Mason nearly 100 people joined the Society, the total number of new members from the meeting being 109. The resolution was carried without dissent, and has been forwarded to Major Harold Henderson; and a large number of postcards addressed to him were also signed by members of the audience. The success of this meeting was also largely due to the work of Miss Nora Marshall, the new Hon. Secretary. The N. Berks Society sent three delegates to the meeting at the London Opera House on December 4th.

BUCKS, MID.—A well-attended debate took place on October 31st at "Buckingham Arms," Great Missenden. More than a hundred people were unable to gain admission. The Earl of Buckingham was in the Chair. The speakers for the Suffrage were Lady Frances Balfour, Muriel Mottershead and Miss Gladys Pott. The arguments were very attentively followed and several questions were asked at the close of the debate. Miss Matters spent a week at the end of October in Wendover and Missenden to organise work.

HERTS, W.—On November 13th Mr. A. Mackinlay of the Islington Trades Council and a member of the Men's League, held meetings in Rickmansworth and Watford. The first was with a view to starting a local branch of the N.U., and was very well attended by working-class women who showed much interest. After the meeting at Watford in the evening, seven new members joined the West Herts Society. On December 9th Miss Dora Mason held an impromptu open-air meeting in the Market Place, Watford. A large crowd good effect in East Berks, and many meetings of discussion have been started at the Office, 6, The Parade, Watford, to stimulate still further the co-operation of members and friends.

HIGH WYCOMBE.—Three weekly meetings have been held since the last report. On November 13th, when Mrs. Bradburn addressed the meeting, the subject was "The Vote." On November 20th when a discussion took place on J. S. Mill's "Subjection of Women," and November 27th when (Councillor) Miss Dove took the chair, and Miss Bevan, who is doing re-education in the district, was the speaker. The meetings for discussion of J. S. Mill's essay on the 20th must be given, as they are calculated to encourage other Societies to arrange discussions on these lines. Chapter III was taken, and the points raised were—(1) A vote is self-protection—ought it to be denied to those who need it? (introduced by Mr. Bailey); (2) Is the political capacity of women equal to that of men? What grounds have you for your belief? (introduced by Mrs. E. H. Gennep); (3) How far is the mental distinction between men and women artificial? Is it due to this, that women never have been leaders in any new era of thought? (introduced by Miss Reeves); (4) "Women are morally better than men. How far ought the sovereign power to be conditioned by morality and how far by sex?" (introduced by Mrs. Rusby Smith). The Society held a public meeting in the Guild Hall, Northampton, on November 20th. The room was packed and the audience very enthusiastic. Miss Dove, M.A., took the chair, and introduced Mr. Harben, the principal speaker, who moved the resolution in a delightful and convincing speech. The meeting was held at the residence of Mrs. J. Rusby Smith, and after questions had been answered, was carried with six dissentients.

KING'S SUTTON.—The Society held a third drawing-room meeting on December 3rd. Mrs. E. Browne took the chair, and Miss Hockwell gave an address on the effect of the franchise in countries where women have the vote. The attendance was good and six new members and one associate joined.

MAIDENHEAD.—The Society held a largely attended public meeting at the Drill Hall on November 14th, to mark the first anniversary of the Society. Mrs. Robbie Uniacke was in the Chair, and said during her speech that they did not want the audience to wish them many happy returns, as they hoped the object of their existence would be gained before long. Lady Frances Balfour moved the resolution in an interesting speech, and Mr. R. L. Cholmeley seconded it. After several minutes had been spent on the resolution, it was put, and carried by an overwhelming majority, only seventeen voting against it. In moving the vote of thanks, Mr. Hobbs, J.P., made an able speech in favour of a limited franchise for both men and women; Mr. Upson seconded.

OXFORD.—At the Annual General Meeting of the Society, held on November 15th in Somerville College, four new members were elected to the committee, and certain alterations were made in the rules. On November 29th a very successful entertainment was given in aid of the Society's funds. The performance was repeated twice during the afternoon, and was contributed to by Miss Marzials, Miss de Brisy and Miss Elspeth Keith. It is hoped that the concluding event, "How the Vote was Won," may have converted several members of the audience. The room was full on both occasions, and the sale of tickets realised £231. In addition to the postcard campaign, a memorial will be sent to Lord Valentia, signed by women engaged in educational, social and municipal work in Oxford. The F.W.S. scheme has been started on a small scale, it is hoped that many members will take it up after Christmas.

PANGBOURNE.—On November 12th Miss Dora Mason came from Wallingford to address the Pangbourne Women's Liberal Association. She was heard with great interest, and the resolution "That the passing of a

measure of Women's Suffrage would be in the true interests of Liberalism," seconded by Miss Margaret Jones, was carried unanimously, the majority of the audience voting. Public Meeting on November 23rd was less well attended than usual. Miss E. Sutton (Councilor), of Reading, took the Chair, the speakers were Mrs. Oliver Strachey and Miss Dora Mason, M.A. Miss Sutton remained from November 23rd to December 2nd helping to collect signatures to a memorial to Mr. W. A. Mont. On November 26th she addressed a small but interested meeting of the Men's Liberal Association. Her speech was followed by a short discussion during which it appeared that the majority of those present were in favour of Women's Suffrage.

READING.—On November 13th Miss Ruth Young and Miss Gladys Pott were asked by the Salisbury Club to state the case for and against Women's Suffrage before the members of the Club. There was neither discussion nor a resolution. On November 27th the Balfour Club invited Miss Dora Mason to address them on Women's Suffrage. Two drawing-room meetings were given in November by Mrs. Bower and Mrs. Keeble, at which the speakers were Miss V. Eustace, Miss Axford and Miss H. C. Jones. The Annual Meeting on November 28th was unfortunately not well attended. Miss Sutton (Chair) made an urgent appeal for funds and helpers. Notice was given of the new office opened at 7, Town Hall Chambers; delegates were elected for the meeting at the London Opera House, and the usual business was transacted. Mrs. Waite was warmly thanked for having acted as Hon. Secretary temporarily, when Miss Ashcroft was obliged to resign owing to pressure of other work. Miss Dora Mason spoke on the subject of the Government Reform Bill, and the need for strengthening the position of the member for Reading in every possible way in his support of Women's Suffrage. Committee meetings have now been fixed for the first Tuesday in each month, and an Executive Committee formed, under whose management it is hoped to carry out the full programme of work in the New Year.

WOKINGHAM.—From November 7th to 14th Miss Clark was busy preparing for a public meeting. Much canvassing was done by some members of the Wokingham Society. Miss Bradford came from Bracknell, and Miss Hamilton-Ramsay from Crowthorne, to help. Mrs. Clark and Miss V. Eustace held a meeting for working-men on the 8th, after which several short speeches were made, questions answered and literature distributed. As a result of all this work there was a crowded meeting in the Town Hall on the night of the 13th, many being unable to gain admission. Lady Frances Balfour and Mr. Miles were the speakers, and appealed to a friendly and enthusiastic audience. Major Adams, of the Wokingham Society, seconded the resolution, which was carried with seven dissentients; the number of those voting being very large. The back of the hall was filled with working men who appeared sympathetic and interested. The meeting has had a good effect in East Berks, and new members are still being enrolled. Wokingham sent two delegates to the demonstration at the Opera House.

West of England.

BRISTOL.—On November 18th Mrs. W. C. H. Cross gave an address at the Counterslip Schoolroom on "What Women will do with the Vote." At the afternoon of the same day Mrs. Howard Usher spoke at a Mothers' Meeting at Wycliffe Sohols on the White Slave Traffic. On November 25th Mrs. W. C. H. Cross addressed the League of Young Ladies at a meeting of the Women's Suffrage. On November 26th Miss Sturge spoke at the S. Agnes Women's Guild.

MISS FRASER'S CAMPAIGN.—Miss Fraser was in Bristol from November 23rd till December 1st inclusive. The first meeting she addressed was at the meeting of the West of England Federation, held at Queen's Hall on November 23rd; Miss Tanner was in the Chair and Miss Courtney gave a most lucid and able exposition of the present political situation. Miss Fraser followed with an excellent speech on the general question of Women's Suffrage. During the week three public meetings were held: at Badminton, at St. Paul's, and at the Victoria Rooms. At the Victoria Rooms the Chair was taken by Professor Skemp, who took the place of Sir John Gorst, whose illness prevented from attending. He explained the position of the Reform Bill at present, and said that women had done much more than the men to show their desire for the franchise. She dealt especially with the laws as they affect women and children, and showed how necessary the views of women are on the most vital questions of the day. Professor G. H. Leonard, in supporting the resolution, made a maiden speech on behalf of Women's Suffrage. He compared the feminist movement with the Renaissance. At that time man found out where he was and where he stood in the universe; the struggle of the present day was due to the fact that woman had discovered herself. Miss Theodore Johnson also supported the resolution. Three drawing-room meetings were held by Mrs. Caldwell at Berkeley Square, by Mrs. De Winton, at Stoke Bishop, where Professor Skemp was in the chair; and by Miss Mullock presided over at a meeting of over sixty women. At all three meetings Miss Fraser spoke with great force, and impressed her hearers by her calm and logical statement of facts and arguments. On the last day of the campaign Miss Fraser addressed the members of the Men's Sunday Society at Kingsley Hall. At every meeting a resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage was carried, and thirty-nine new members joined the society during the week. On November 26th Mrs. Cross took the Chair at a meeting for women only. Two Mile Hill, and Miss Fraser spoke on social purity.

DEBATE.—On December 6th the Liberals at Bridlington organised a debate at Grove Hall. The speakers were Mr. H. Norris against Women's Suffrage and Mr. Harold Hicks in favour. Unfortunately the suffragists were defeated, though owing to the number of outsiders present it is impossible to judge how far the vote represented the views of the particular locality, especially as almost every speaker in the discussion spoke for the Suffrage.

South Wales and Monmouth.

ORGANISER'S REPORT.—For the last ten days I have spent most of my time at Brecon, where there visits to Cardiff, Maidee, and Newport, with flying visits to Cardiff, Maidee, and Newport, where there was a public meeting on December 11th. Brecon is a rather inaccessible place in mid-Wales, of unusual interest as an old world town. Although Breconshire is so sparsely populated that the whole county forms a single Parliamentary constituency, and though it is

remote from any great city centre, its capital at least seems to be unusually progressive. It is the only place in Wales that has had a lady Mayor. On December 12th we had two Women's Suffrage meetings in Brecon. At the afternoon gathering in the Church Lecture Room Miss Fraser was the chief speaker, and the resolution proposed by her was seconded by Prof. Mill Edwards, of the Theological College. In the evening Mr. J. Conway Lloyd, Mayor of Brecon and Conservative candidate for the shire, took the chair, and a letter from his predecessor as Mayor, Miss Mott, was read by him, expressing sympathy with the movement. The meeting was largely attended, and an unusually large collection taken. At the two meetings, afternoon and evening, about 19 names were given in for membership, only a few of which had already been promised. This brings our numbers up to well over the necessary minimum, and we hope to start a society in Brecon on December 16th. L. P. WARING.

Dramatic Entertainment in Glasgow.

An interesting dramatic entertainment was organised by the Glasgow Branch of the National Union of W.S.S., which was given to an interested audience in the Athenaeum Hall, Glasgow. It took the form of a series of tableaux showing the part played by noble women in the making of history, and also presenting the state of subjection in which women have been held by men during the ages. The heroic figure of Joan of Arc was depicted first marching to Orleans, and then chained to the stake with the faggots glowing into a consuming flame around her—an impressive spectacle. The next scene portrayed Queen Isabella of Spain interviewing Columbus before he set out to discover the New World. Passing to less thrilling times was seen Elizabeth Fry, the philanthropist, reading to the prisoners in their Newgate cell, a tableau of touching pathos in which the leading part was borne by Miss Josephine A. Woods, a great-granddaughter of the woman who was a pioneer in prison reform and the originator of a great nursing institute. Among the other famous women recalled were Queen Vashti and Catherine Barlass. The second group of tableaux was entitled "The Devolution of Man," and covered a field ranging from the Garden of Eden to the epoch of 2000 A.D. It portrayed woman's gradual emancipation from a state of slavery, until man is relegated to the place of a specimen (recently discovered and as yet unclassified) in the Zoological Department of Glasgow University some 80 years hence. One of the scenes introduced "The New Woman" (wanting the vote of course), who suddenly breaks in upon a group of characters attired as John Leech's Ladies and gentlemen of 1865. The audience were assured, however, that that was her first and last appearance, in anticipation no doubt that the demand will soon be complied with. Another tableau represented the Bar of Justice in 1950, with women as judge, counsel, jury, and even the press. Into the court were led by female constables a stalwart sailor, a soldier, a "swell," a navy, a footballer, a curate, and a golfer. The defendants were found guilty, the music assuring the audience that the punishment fitted the crime. "The Devolution of Man" tableaux were arranged by Miss D. Carleton Smyth, who was admirably supported in their presentation. The remainder of the entertainment was devoted to the performance of Miss Katherine Mann's playlet, "The Scottish Emigrant," a finely drawn picture of humble life, which showed how love of the hills and lochs of the old country triumphs over the desire to seek a fortune on Canadian soil. The characters were sympathetically borne by Miss Rita Mennie, Miss Christina Menzies, Mr. A. Parry Gunn, and Mr. W. L. E. Aitken.

BRISTOL.—On November 18th Mrs. W. C. H. Cross gave an address at the Counterslip Schoolroom on "What Women will do with the Vote." At the afternoon of the same day Mrs. Howard Usher spoke at a Mothers' Meeting at Wycliffe Sohols on the White Slave Traffic. On November 25th Mrs. W. C. H. Cross addressed the League of Young Ladies at a meeting of the Women's Suffrage. On November 26th Miss Sturge spoke at the S. Agnes Women's Guild.

Suffrage Demonstration in Manchester.

The Manchester Suffrage demonstration week closed on Saturday evening, December 14th, with crowded and enthusiastic meetings. Shops were opened on December 9th, in each of the nine Manchester and Salford constituencies, staffed by a hard-working band of helpers, who carried on active propaganda daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Outside the shop a big, bright, red, white and green sign displayed our object. On the tram routes it was sufficient to tell the guard, "Suffrage shop." "You can't miss it," was generally the reply. It was no small task to arrange for a nightly meeting in each shop; late meetings were held simultaneously every evening. Speakers came forward willingly, and some seventy or eighty men and women of all creeds and parties gave our message to the crowds that nightly packed the shops. The original intention had also been to hold dinner-meetings in each constituency, but we eventually found it necessary to cancel many of these, and to allow the number of meetings held to be determined by the particular needs of the locality.

In all, about 100 meetings were held, and judging by the attendance and the behaviour of our audiences, our campaign was sympathetically received in all parts of the town. Some 80,000 handbills and pamphlets were distributed, and over 3,000 postcards, asking the local M.P.'s to support Woman's Suffrage in the Reform Bill were signed and sent to the House of Commons. The dinner-hour and afternoon meetings in the St. Ann's Square shop were especially notable for the excellence of the speeches; and the number of business men who came for enlightenment and sympathetic discussion makes us regret that the great expense prevents our continuing this special piece of work right up to the passing of the Reform Bill. Shop meetings bring the speaker into intimate relation with the audience, and it is especially valuable to have the opportunity of finding

the individual difficulties that hinder our hearers from fully endorsing our arguments.

The resolution passed at each meeting—in the majority of cases without opposition—was:—"That this meeting urges the House of Commons to introduce some measure of Women's Enfranchisement into the Government Franchise Bill, for which Mr. Asquith has promised facilities." Only on two occasions were there any disturbances; in both instances it was the thoughtless youth or drunken man who was the aggressor.

Among our speakers were:—Professors Alexander Chapman and Herford; Revs. L. Herford, Professor Moulton, A. C. Sinclair, E. E. Rees, J. E. Roberts, E. A. Cornibear, W. Whitaker; Councillors Grindle, J. Johnson and S. Hague; Messrs. G. G. Armstrong (Manchester Editor of the *Daily News*), F. Stanton Barnes, Fenner Brockway (Editor of the *Labour Leader*), E. Lloyd Jones, J. H. Hudson (prospective Labour candidate for Eccles), Robert Lewis, J. B. Martindale (prospective Labour candidate for Widnes), Percy Redfern, Richard Robinson, Arnold Thompson, J. R. Tomlinson, E. Neville Smith, F. Oppenheim. Some notable women speakers were:—Councilor Margaret Ashton, Mrs. Lees (late Mayor of Oldham), Mrs. Aldridge, Mrs. Bayfield, Mrs. Annot Robinson, Mrs. Tattersall, Mrs. Muter Wilson, Mrs. Hiller, Miss Cox, Mrs. Norbury, Miss Janet Hayes, Mrs. T. M. Young.

The campaign on the whole received a satisfactory amount of publicity and prominence in the local press, both in the way of reports and pictures. The *Manchester Guardian* and the Northern Editor of the *Daily News* and *Leader* were a most valuable help throughout. On Monday the *Manchester Courier* made the campaign the occasion of a really excellent article contrasting the quiet solid work of the constitutional Suffragists with "militancy," and sketching the growth and organisation of the National Union and the Manchester and District Federation. The *Manchester City News* (in which for some time an interesting Suffrage correspondence has been running) gave a good article at the close of the week.

Women Advertisers.

The Advertising Exhibition, organised by the *Advertising World* with such success at the Horticultural Hall, December 9th to 14th, has given us an insight into the possibilities of modern "publicity" by bringing together a valuable demonstration of the latest advertising achievements in the way of big business advertising schemes, etc. It has also rendered good service to the women engaged in "advertising," by setting apart a section for the display of their work. Here were instrumental in the upbuilding of many, now well-known commercial enterprises. In this section the exhibit of Miss Frances L. Fuller, advertising agent, was especially attractive. On December 12th, the promoters of the Exhibition further extended their courtesy by bringing together all the "advertising" women at an "At Home," so that they could discuss the formation of an Advertising Association—the first opportunity, by the way, afforded to women for co-operation in this sphere of work. The committee was then and there formed, and included amongst others, Mrs. Watts, Miss Johnson, Miss Sayer, etc., and we have reason to believe that this useful organisation will soon be in effective working order.

Tayside Society.

On December 7th a very successful drawing-room meeting was held at Mrs. Carstens', Fairview, Wornitont-Tay. Miss Cotterill, who came from Edinburgh at great personal inconvenience, gave a most interesting address on "Legislation as it Affects Women and Children in the Home," and pointed out the benefit of co-operation of the sexes with regard to these Acts. Seven new members were enrolled, and several others promised to join later on.

Rotherham Society.

A correspondent writes:—Meetings are held in the Temperance Hall every Tuesday night. These meetings, to which all friends and sympathisers are invited, are being used for the purpose of discussing questions concerning the suffrage. Next meeting, each member who is willing to do so will give in a ten-minute speech her special reason for wanting the vote. The Society very much appreciates the work of the Organiser (Mrs. Townley), who has done great things amongst the Trade Unions, and has aroused Labour in Rotherham to a sense of responsibility regarding its women. We are very short of funds, but hope to stir people who have the wherewithal to help us if they will. There is much rough work to be done here, but we intend to fight on.

Progress at Grimsby.

On Tuesday, December 3rd, a very interesting meeting was held in the Town Hall. Lord Lytton and Miss Abadam had arranged to be the speakers, but unfortunately Lord Lytton was unable to be present owing to an important debate in the House. Miss Abadam, therefore, took the meeting on her own shoulders with great success. Fifty new members joined, and many others promised to come to future meetings. Lady Doughty took the chair, and Miss Clara Bennett and Mr. Gilchrist also spoke. In all cases the press here has been very favourable to the Suffrage, publishing excellent reports of meetings and giving preliminary notices. Grimsby will be before long one of the strongest Societies in the Federation. D. STEPHENSON.

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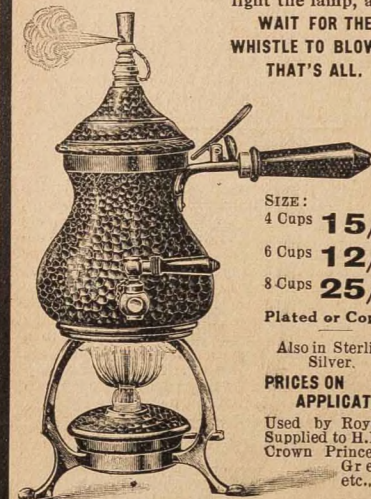
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Correspondents are requested to write on ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER ONLY.

BOW AND BROMLEY ELECTION.

I quite appreciate the General Policy of the National Union, but granted that Mr. Lansbury is a friend, surely such a misguided one is to be avoided rather than courted. People ask what motivates the leaders of the Militants have which make them wreck the Cause each time its prospects look brightest. Under these circumstances it seems very short-sighted of the National Union to support an avowed Militant. The methods employed during the election, a matter of a few days, have nothing to do with my point. Are the Militants friends or enemies in the eyes of the National Union?

Enemies; therefore why support one? “H.”

[The policy to be followed in by-elections is decided by the vote of the National Union's Council meetings, and the decision thus arrived at is binding upon the Union until reversed. Where, as at Bow and Bromley, the Election Fighting Fund Committee is not undertaking the election, there is no choice for the Union or its Societies. They must support the candidate who is most favourable to Women's Suffrage. In this case there could be no question that Mr. Lansbury was more favourable than Mr. Blair.—Ed. “C.C.”]

“THE UPHOLSTERED CAGE.”

We, the undersigned readers of THE COMMON CAUSE, notice with much regret the reviewer's observations upon “The Upholstered Cage.” We are acquainted with various poor ladies who are in no way excluded from their own class, but would be so immediately if they gave up their respectability. How your reviewer can assert that the woman who can only have for company the society of bad men and women has more opportunity for mental development and enjoyment than her virtuous sisters greatly astonishes us, and we fear these remarks may not be overlooked by those hostile to Women's Suffrage. To our mind Miss Knowles's opinions are as bad as is her grammar, according to her reviewer.

LAURA RAVENSCROFT.  
KATHARINE B. T. WILLS.  
ELIZABETH B. HALLOWES.  
FLORENCE ANDREWS.

[We are afraid that the author of “The Upholstered Cage” is right and our correspondents are wrong upon the point in question. It is not said that all ladies who work are cut off from the society of their social equals, but it is certain that their extreme poverty does cut off very many of them. It is also unfortunately true that the young woman who lives upon the money of a wealthy man has more comfort, more money, more variety, more leisure (which means opportunity for mental development), and often more companionship than she who works for her own living. To deny these truths can help no cause. In spite of them the woman is wiser as well as more honourable who chooses work and poverty. That they should be truths is, to repeat the words of the review, “an arresting indictment of our social conditions.” To alter those conditions is one of the social duties of women in general, and the best tool for altering them will be the Parliamentary vote.—EDITOR C.C.]

PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

In the admirable table compiled by our Federation (West Lancashire, West Cheshire and North Wales) and published in the COMMON CAUSE of last week, by an oversight all reference to Birkenhead is omitted with regard to work done. As this may imply slackness on our part, may I ask you to kindly rectify the omission in an early issue by stating that “a resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage was passed by the Birkenhead Town Council, that the Electors' Petition in Birkenhead was signed by 1,341; that the Women Municipal Voters' Petition in four wards only was signed by 933, and that resolutions in favour have been passed by the local Liberal Association and the Women's Liberal Association.” A. WISE.

Meeting of The Jewish League.

A crowded and enthusiastic meeting was held by the Jewish League for Woman Suffrage on December 15th, at 2, Orme Court, W., by permission of Mrs. Herbert Cohen. The chairman, the Rev. Morris Joseph, in an excellent speech answered adverse criticisms on the support given by the Jewish clergy to the Jewish League for Woman Suffrage. The Hon. Mrs. Franklin spoke of the necessity of a Jewish League for Woman Suffrage, and emphasised the stimulus of religion in working for an ideal. Mrs. Auerbach welcomed the League, and Mrs. Herbert Cohen made a stirring appeal as Honorary Treasurer. There were over 100 people present, forty-two members joined, and promises of help were forthcoming.

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The Week's Meetings.

(ARRANGED BY THE NATIONAL UNION.)

DECEMBER 20.  
Eylorstown, Rhondda—Ebenezer Vestry—Chair: Mr. Arthur Davies. Speakers: Miss Davies, Miss Waring 8.0

SCOTLAND.

DECEMBER 20.  
Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—At Home 4.30  
DECEMBER 22.  
Bo'ness—L.L.P. meeting—Miss Alice Low Evening

MEETINGS ADDRESSED BY MEMBERS OF THE UNION.

DECEMBER 20.  
East Kilbride—Liberal Association—Miss Edith W. Kirby 8.0

Opening Meeting of the Orcadian Society.

The opening meeting of the Orcadian Women's Suffrage Society took the form of a social evening at the Albert Hotel, Kirkwall, on November 8th, when Mrs. Baikie, of Tankerness, gave an address on the present crisis, explaining the various possible amendments to the Government's Franchise Bill, and their chances of success, and appealing for support for our friends in the House of Commons. Mrs. Curstler, the Secretary, read an encouraging account of the state of the Society, number of meetings held during the past year, financial condition, etc. A delightful programme of music, reading and recitation followed. Mr. Curstler proposed the resolution calling on the Government to include women in the Franchise Act, which was passed without dissent by a crowded meeting, and some new members joined.

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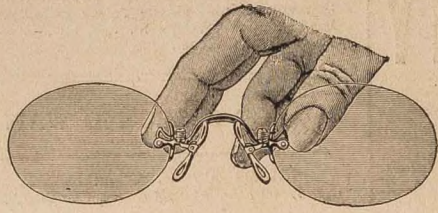
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