

# The Common Cause,

The Organ of the National Union of

# Women's Suffrage

Societies.

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## Notes and Comments.

### The Princess Royal.

Everyone will sympathise with the Princess Royal and her daughters in their great grief. King Edward's eldest daughter shares in the popularity enjoyed by all her family, and the special Act by which her father, on his accession, created her Princess Royal was very welcome to the public. The Duke and Duchess of Fife have in recent years led a very retired and domestic life, but their two young daughters have lately begun to appear more in public, and have excited much interest by their grace and sympathetic personalities. They were created princesses at the beginning of the present reign, and the elder, Princess Alexandra, now becomes by special remainder Duchess of Fife.

### The Results of Experience in Norway.

The Norwegian Parliament has passed a Bill admitting women to all existing public appointments except posts in the Government itself, the State Church, the Diplomatic and Consular service, and the Army and Navy. It reserves to itself the right of closing to them positions which may be created in future, and which Parliament considers only suitable for men. Mr. Vik brought forward an amendment admitting women to Government posts, which received as many as 28 votes among the 88 members present. Mr. Scheel, the Minister of Justice, in opposing this amendment on behalf of the Government, said he agreed with it in principle, but that the matter was so far-reaching and important that he thought Parliament ought to go step by step, and observe the results of what they were now doing before proceeding further. The Bill itself was passed by a large majority composed of all sections of the house, irrespective of party divisions.

No more encouraging example could be given of the results of experience. While accepting the principle that their actions must be guided by careful observation of the effects of what has already been done, the Norwegian Legislators have taken this big step forward. Could anything prove more clearly their opinion of the results of their previous step, the admission of women to the parliamentary franchise?

### By-Elections.

Two of our Federations have been engaged in by-elections during the last fortnight. The Carmarthen election was decided last week after a very energetic and exciting propaganda campaign on the part of the National Union. As we go to press the result of East Edinburgh is still in doubt. This is the eighth election that the Scottish Federation has fought in ten months, and only those who have themselves served a severe apprenticeship know quite how much this implies. No work is more valuable to the National Union and to the Cause, and

none imposes a greater task on the workers. The Suffragist who goes to a by-election for the first time feels very like the young soldier who finds himself for the first time at the front. There one realises how fundamental is the distrust of Women's Suffrage in the minds of many party wire-pullers, and there also one is buoyed up by a sense of the deeply-rooted sympathy which the true democracy feels for us. At by-elections one learns to do many things one previously thought quite impossible. They are concentrated essence of Suffrage work. No member who is within reach of one should miss the opportunity of going, partly for her own sake, and partly for the sake of the few who always do go, and who, when by-elections occur again and again in the same area, are apt to bear too much of the brunt.

That the valiant work done by the Scottish Federation in these last months bears good fruit is shown by the fact that Mr. J. M. Hogge, the Liberal candidate in East Edinburgh, was one of three candidates in Camlachie when Mr. Mirrlees stood, and was then only an Adult Suffragist. Now he has answered our questions so satisfactorily that we are able to support him. The Edinburgh Society has succeeded in convincing him of the justice of our policy, and he is only one of many who have recently been won for the Suffrage cause by the increasingly energetic propaganda in Scotland.

### Miss Mary Macarthur.

The *Manchester Guardian*, whose excellent report of the Suffrage debate at the Birmingham Labour Conference we quote on page 733 says that the miners' delegates were a good deal affected by the speeches of Mr. Snowden and Mrs. Anderson, which entirely convinced the rest of the audience. They were obliged to vote according to instructions, but it is possible that some of them did so with reluctance. Mrs. Anderson, well known to all women workers as Miss Mary Macarthur, spoke with great eloquence. No woman could have a better right to appeal to the conscience of the

class for whose rights she has struggled with a passion and devotion which cannot be surpassed among any of its male leaders. The working women, to whom she gives her life, have certainly stood by the working men, and have a right to count on their whole-hearted support.

### Our Portrait.

We publish this week a portrait of Miss Chrystal Macmillan, M.A., B.Sc. Edinburgh. Miss Macmillan is a distinguished member of the Executive Committee of the National Union and of the Executive Committee of the Scottish Federation. She is also a Vice-President of the Edinburgh Society for Women's Suffrage and Hon. Secretary of the Scottish University Women's Suffrage Union.



(Photo. Langier, Edinburgh).

MISS CHRYSYAL MACMILLAN, M.A., B.Sc. Edinburgh,  
Executive Committee N.U.W.S.S.



## The A.B.C. of Women's Suffrage.

There are still people who think that Women's Suffrage is all a dodge to set women against men. But, if so, why are so many men already in the movement? Are they blinded and don't see where it is leading them? Or do they see what it is really leading to and like what they see? Most of the wisest men of the land are amongst them; and this is because the women's movement is leading to

### THE END OF THE RULE OF FORCE AND COERCION,

and to the substitution for it of self-government and self-control. The antagonism of men and women, where it exists, is due to the setting of one above the other, and to the State's and family's favouritism towards men. If the boy always gets the biggest cake, or the best education, or the most pocket money, the girl becomes jealous. It is to put an end to a similar state of affairs that the suffragists are striving. When the best jobs are all kept for men, and the best pay goes, not to the best worker, but to the male worker simply because he is male; when the law counts a crime in women what it does not regard as a crime in men, as it does in the case of the Divorce Law; when the unmarried mother finds the law so hedged about with means of protecting the father from fulfilling his responsibilities that only 3.03 per cent. ever obtain any help from the fathers of their children; when these things happen according to the laws and customs of the land, then women are jealous and indignant and angry;

### THAT STATE OF THINGS IS SEX-WAR.

But suffragists are trying to put an end to it by altering all these injustices; and they see that the next step is the winning of the vote by which the laws are made.

Suffragists are not working against men. On the contrary they want to help men to fight against all the misery in the land. They want all women to understand that it is their duty to help. Some women say,

### "I CAN'T BE BOTHERED WITH POLITICS."

Suffragists answer them, "It is your *duty* to be bothered with them and to bring your special knowledge to bear on them." How often one hears, "The reason I'm not interested in the suffrage is that I can't be bothered." Here is one of the greatest movements of the world going on around these people, and they "can't be bothered." This is a movement for the alleviation of suffering. But supposing Great Britain were over-ridden by a great plague which was killing off hundreds

of its inhabitants, what should we think of those who said, "I am not interested in this 'Black Death,'

### I CAN'T BE BOTHERED."

Yet there is

### A GREAT PLAGUE IN THE LAND—

misery, disease, unemployment, under-payment, and because it kills slowly and in secret instead of dramatically, in the open, fewer people take notice of it. They "pass by on the other side."

Rounding the corner of a dark square in London the other evening a suffragist, walking very quietly, came suddenly upon a man who advanced rapidly from the opposite direction, with eyes on the ground, so that he did not see her. His feet shuffled in broken boots, and his hands were huddled inside his coat, partly to draw it closer, partly to keep them warm. Quite absorbed in his distress, he was sobbing aloud as he passed, "I can't get no work no-how. I can't get no work no-how." That is the plague in our midst. Remember, too, that when a poor out-of-work man becomes a vagrant a poor out-of-work woman is led into temptation. She is tempted to sin, in order to get bread for herself and her children. The suffragist, seeing the suffering that comes from unemployment, poverty and many other evils that might be altered says, "Politics will help to cure these evils; I must take an interest and gain a power in politics. That power is the vote. Women are told they

### ARE ALWAYS WANTING MORE POWER.

In that sense they *do* want more power, for the voteless person is of no account in politics. No suffragist imagines that the vote will bring perfect comfort and happiness immediately, but it will

- (1) Help to raise the status of women;
- (2) Make them of value in the political world.
- (3) Ensure that no more attempts will be made to deprive them of work, as in the case of Pit-Brow girls;
- (4) Protect them in Government posts, so that the Government will not attempt to save money at the expense of women, as they are doing, *e.g.*, in the introduction into the Post Office of assistant women clerks at a lower rate of pay to do the work of the ordinary better-paid women clerks.

Already the efforts of the suffragists have roused the spirit of justice in men and women, and not only is there the very evident demand for equal rights for men and women, but there have been many other improvements in the position of women. It remains for us to work always with more earnestness in order

TO WIN THE VOTE IN 1912.

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CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE that this paper goes to press on Tuesday. The latest news, notices, and reports should, therefore, reach the Editor by first post on Monday. The Editor reminds correspondents, however, that the work is made much easier if news is sent in as long beforehand as possible. Monday is only mentioned as the last day possible, not as the one upon which all news should arrive.

NOTICE.—This paper should be obtainable at newsagents and book-stalls by mid-day on Thursday. If people have any difficulty in getting it locally they should write to the Manager, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., giving the name and address of the newsagent or bookstall from which they wish to be supplied.

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## Standing by the Women.

"This Conference, in harmony with its previous decisions, is of opinion that the enfranchisement of all adult men and women should be included in the Reform Bill to be introduced by the Government in the coming session of Parliament. It further requests the Labour Party in Parliament to make clear that no Bill can be acceptable to the Labour and Socialist movement which does not include women."

These are the words of the resolution which the Labour Party passed at its Birmingham Conference on Friday, January 26th, by a majority of 233,000. The occasion is of historic importance, for it has made plain that the working men of this country not only intend that women shall be enfranchised, but are determined to refuse any further measure of enfranchisement for men which does not include votes for women. This point was brought into great clearness by the discussion on the resolution. Mr. Smillie, speaking against it on behalf of the Miners' Federation, complained that it contained two proposals, with one of which the men he represented were in perfect agreement, while they dissented from the other. He left no doubt as to the whole-hearted co-operation of the miners in the demand that women should have votes on the same terms as men, and their desire that the Labour Party in Parliament should fight for it as hard and as long as they could. But he added that if this effort failed, and it was not possible to obtain adult suffrage, his Federation was not prepared to reject manhood suffrage as a last resort. He made his reasons perfectly plain, but in answer to them the Conference decided by a large majority that even as a last resort it would have none of manhood suffrage.

It was a glorious result, not only because the opposition of Labour will make the passage of a Manhood Suffrage Bill almost impossible, and the triumph of a measure of justice to women practically certain, but because each occasion when a large body of human beings has the courage to refuse a seeming advantage for itself because it leaves out others who are suffering worse injustice, marks a step onward in human progress.

We say advisedly "a worse injustice." We do not hold that a measure of justice should necessarily be refused because it is incomplete and leaves out some of those who ought to have been included in it. The Miners' Federation doubtless believed that they would be justified in accepting Manhood Suffrage if they could not get Adult Suffrage, just as we believe that if we cannot at once achieve our object of getting votes for women on the same terms as men we shall be justified in accepting a measure which at any rate gives votes to some women.

But our case and that of the miners is widely different. As has often been pointed out there has been no demand for Adult Suffrage. 11,000,000 men have votes already. The few that have not got votes have hardly begun to ask for them. If they had pleaded for their enfranchisement with one-hundredth part of the vigour with which women have pleaded for theirs they would have gained it long ago. These men are not disfranchised as a class, but only as individuals. Every man is a potential voter. The conditions that prevent him from getting or using his vote may often be unfair, but most men have the chance of voting some time, or can acquire it by their own efforts if they care enough about it. The case of women is different: they cannot vote because they are women—no effort that they can make as individuals, no change in their condition as individuals can give them any hope that they will be allowed a voice in framing the laws under which they are forced to live. This is the injustice which has made women unite in the most ardent, patient and passionate political agitation which has ever been carried on in this country. For fifty years they have been asking for their political freedom, for twenty-six years they have had a majority in favour of it in Parliament. Their demand has grown in intensity as they have realised more and more how social and industrial liberty depends upon political liberty. It is now one of those cries for justice which only those whose senses are dulled by ignorance or moral obtuseness can fail to hear. Thousands of women are in the most literal sense giving their lives to it, and humanity is suffering all the bitter waste that comes from neglecting such appeals. If the men who have heard it, suffered it to go unanswered, and at the same time accepted a boon for themselves, they would be guilty of a betrayal of right which would do irreparable injury to themselves and to every cause they have at heart. The Independent Labour Party realised this from the first, and lost no time in announcing that no measure of franchise reform which did not include women would be acceptable to them. They are now engaged in a political equality campaign, the distinguishing note of which is the demand for justice to women. "Every claim made by the I.L.P.," said the *Labour Leader* a fortnight ago, "is a claim on behalf of both sexes." And the sincerity of this statement is borne out by everything that is said and done by its leaders. The Chairman of the Birmingham Conference showed that he also realised it when he said in his opening address:—"The sex disability must be removed." The 913,000 who voted for the resolution on Friday have realised it too, and we are assured that there is at least one political party in this State which understands that men cannot be free alone, and which will not buy a seeming gain for itself by a surrender of its claims on behalf of women.

And now we only ask of our friends in other parties that they should be equally far-seeing and equally sincere. We women who are claiming our political emancipation are of all parties, we have received promises of help from men of all parties, and we have a right to ask that those promises should be carried out even at some cost to the men who made them. Women's Suffrage is a non-party measure, not because it is less important than the proposals which find a place on party programmes, but because it transcends them all. It is in harmony with the deeper ideals of all parties, and appeals to the elementary sense of justice of every sincere man who has thought about it with an open mind and is not stupefied by sentiment or convention. The best and wisest of the Conservatives have long realised with Mr. Balfour that it is not only men who have a stake in the country, and that it does not make for efficiency or stability to exclude from the franchise women who have all the qualifications which would be deemed sufficient in a man. On Liberals our claim is stronger. They who profess to stand for freedom cannot longer withhold from us the freedom for which we ask, nor suffer us to be deprived of it by a trick. They who talk of Government by consent have governed us this seven years without our consent. They have missed opportunity after opportunity of giving us our liberty. Now at last some of their leaders have come forward and offered to lead a Suffrage campaign. We have long had a majority in their party, and we have the deepest right to ask that every individual member of that majority should come forward and take part in the campaign, and should make some sacrifices to see that we are righted, and that the principles of his party are put into practice in a matter which regards women, as well as in matters which regards men. The difference of opinion among members of the Cabinet is no doubt an inconvenience to their followers, but to attempt to escape from that inconvenience by the Referendum, a method



which they have denounced fiercely when it was proposed for measures affecting men, would be, as has been pointed out by the *Daily News*, the *Manchester Guardian*, and the *Nation*, an evasion unworthy of honourable men.

The loss of the Reform Bill would be a serious blow to the Labour Party, but it is prepared to face it rather than accept the measure in the form of Manhood Suffrage. That is to say that Labour men regard the reform which primarily affects women as of greater importance than one which might result in a party gain for themselves. If Liberal men will show themselves equally firm, nay if they will only regard our demand for justice as not less important than their party claims, the schemes of our enemies will do us no harm. We expect and believe that they will show us this good faith. All over the country large numbers of women are giving up comfort, pleasure, health, ambition, means of livelihood, work that they love, and a thousand human joys for the sake of the cause. They have a right to demand that men of all parties should stand by them in the constituencies and in Parliament, and should make it plain that that strange abortion, Manhood Suffrage, which fulfils no ideal and satisfies no logic, cannot pass into law, but must be transformed into a wiser and a juster measure—in which women have their place. The Labour Party recognised this right at Birmingham last week. We look to the rest to show us an equal faith.

### The Suffrage Movement in France.

Now that the subject of Votes for Women has emerged finally from the limbo of academic discussion, and has become one of the burning questions of the day, it may be interesting, and even profitable, to compare the attitude towards it of the average Frenchman with that of our own countrymen.

M. Emile Faquet has recently published a most charming volume of essays on various aspects of "Le Féminisme," which may, we think, be taken as fairly typical. M. Faquet is, of course, nominally, a Feminist—that is to say, he is most anxious that women should have fair play—but it is easy to see that he has no great confidence in their powers. He would have all professions thrown open to women, but he would earnestly dissuade them from entering upon them! Not the most convinced Anti-Suffragist is more certain than M. Faquet that "Woman's place is the home," but with the logic of a Frenchman he perceives that ultimately it depends on Man whether she is to remain in it. "It is the strict duty of a man to provide for a wife and the children she bears him. When he fails to do so . . . he makes a *widow*"; but that a man, finding as his competitor a woman thus forced into the labour market, should wish to hamper her efforts by limiting her choice of a profession—this fills M. Faquet with a most righteous indignation! "It is thus that, after having been an egoist, man becomes a criminal (*scélérat*)."

Very few will be found to dispute the assertion that the happiest, most normal "career" for a woman is that of wife and mother, but, apart from other considerations, we are faced with the fact that in England women do undeniably outnumber men to the extent of over a million. Unless, therefore, we adopt the marriage customs of those Eastern countries from which Lord Cromer and Lord Curzon derive their experience, it is impossible for all women to marry. Do the Anti-Suffragists who would have us concentrate all the thoughts and energies of our girls on their relations with the opposite sex, ever think of the misery laid up for those whom the exigencies of our civilisation prevent from fulfilling their destiny, if they have no other objects or interests in life on which to fall back?

"Man's love is of man's life a thing apart,  
'Tis woman's whole existence,"

wrote Byron, and the Anti-Suffragists would love to have it so, but we know better. Nothing but misery can arise from such a morbid concentration of the faculties on one special aspect of existence.

In France there is much less disparity in numbers between the sexes, and this fact may perhaps partially account for the superior position women occupy in that country, for no one who knows anything of French literature and society can doubt that, in the middle classes at all events, they enjoy much more consideration in France than in England.

The mind of a Frenchman, from his earliest youth, is occupied with "La Femme," both in the abstract and the concrete, to an extent which is often nauseating to a healthy-minded Englishman, but has some good results. The half-contemptuous hostility to the society of the opposite sex which characterises a certain type of Englishman is almost non-

existent in France, and to be popular with women is a feather in a Frenchman's cap, whereas to be branded as a "lady's man" is fatal to an Englishman in the eyes of his own sex. But the chief reason for the consideration with which women are treated in France is an economic one. As was recently pointed out by Mrs. Belloc-Lowndes, public opinion in that country would cry shame upon the parents who spent everything they possessed upon their sons and left their daughters totally unprovided for. The "dot" which a French girl brings to her husband ensures her a certain amount of economic independence (if the marriage takes place "*avec séparation de biens*," as is generally the case nowadays), and also gives her consideration in her husband's eyes. It also, in opposition to the idea generally prevalent in England, gives the girl a freer choice in the matter of a husband. Many a girl in England could marry the man of her heart, if, like her French sister, she could bring a little grist to the domestic mill! As it is, she must either take the first man who is "able to keep her," or remain unmarried. What wonder that, in many instances, she chooses the latter alternative?

The Frenchwoman's "dot" also enables her in many instances to become a partner in her husband's business, and men are consequently accustomed to the idea of women's co-operation in the ordinary affairs of life. Hence it results that there is very little of the sex-jealousy which makes itself felt in the English Anti-Suffrage movement.

French Suffragists claim that the absence of organised opposition in France is due to the suavity of their methods, but it may also be that the question on the other side of the Channel is still in its academic stage.

The Feminist movement in France, though in some respects it has out-distanced us (for example, women are called to the Bar in France), has never concentrated itself on the demand for the vote in the way it has in England.

Although many Feminists hold, with M. Faquet, that women should be "electeurs et éligibles," they have not as yet acquired even the municipal vote.

A law admitting women as voters for the *Conseils Municipaux*, the *Conseils d'Arondissement* and the *Conseils Généraux* was brought before the Chamber of Deputies in 1906 by Monsieur Dussaussoy, and has since been strenuously advocated by M. Ferdinand Buisson, but without success. It goes without saying, therefore, that in France the question of the Parliamentary vote has not yet reached the point when the full force of the opposition is felt.

We in England have always known that when it became obvious that the question of Votes for Women must be treated seriously and practically we should have to face a fiercer and more malignant form of opposition than any we had hitherto encountered. That time has come now. The enemy is fighting in the last ditch. We may carry the position by assault this year. On the other hand, we may have to continue our campaign of mine and counter-mine for years to come. But whatever happens, let each one of us be able to say, in the words of one of the greatest champions of Woman's Cause:—

"Think of me as one who marched breast forward,  
Never doubted clouds would break,  
Never thought, though right were worsted, wrong would triumph,  
Held, we fall to rise, are beaten to fight better  
Sleep to wake."

CONSTANCE ASTON.

### A Sentence from Meredith.

It is interesting in view of the fact that the Anti-Suffragists, under pressure of real apprehension, are being more and more driven back on to their old bed-rock argument that votes for women will be disastrous because Nature intended women for something else, to look at the attitude to this question of George Meredith. Meredith's clear-eyed humanity could make no terms with the notion, latent in this view, that the race, for which Suffrage is declared to be a danger, really consists only of its men: that women, valuable to it as means, have no place in it as ends. Nor could he tolerate a view of Nature which makes her so stupid as to endow a being, intended by hypothesis only for one simple function, with so many subtle and complicated aptitudes, physical and intellectual. For him life could not find its justification in its own perpetuation merely: that which has value handed on must have value here and now. Women have gifts to hand on to the men and women among whom they live, as

well as to those that follow after them, and what they hand on depends upon what they themselves now are. The richer they are the keener their sense of life and their knowledge of it, the more fully their infinitely various endowments are developed, the richer is that which they may transmit, whether directly to their children, or indirectly through art, science, every form of work. Nothing in Meredith's writing will be more arresting to later generations of readers than his awareness of the women of to-day and his foresight of the women of to-morrow. No one understood women better than he, or was a keener or more consistent advocate of their equal claims to that freedom of individual life and expression which is priceless to the race. He represents, of course, a strong reaction from the sentimental view. It is remarkable to notice, especially throughout his later work, how constantly he pushes aside the sentimental, or even the mainly ethical, aspect of the question, to dwell upon its economic side. Women, he says again and again, must rest their claims neither upon the chivalry of men nor upon their sense of justice, but upon their own efficiency: they must wrest recognition by the work of their hands. Economic independence is for him the keynote of their progress. In his latest work, the unfinished "Celt and Saxon," there is a sentence which expresses this attitude so clearly that it is worth quoting:—

"Women must take the fate of market fruit till they earn their own pennies, and then they'll regulate the market. It is a tussle for money with them as with us, meaning power. They'll do it as little by oratory as they have done by millinery, for their oratory, just like their millinery, appeals to a sentiment and to a weaker; and nothing solid comes of a sentiment. Power is built on work."

Now there is no doubting the truth of this. The Anti-Suffragist may choose to ignore it, but upon the power built on work already done and doing his arguments break as upon a rock. Work done has disproved most of his apprehensions in advance. By work women are already enfranchised, in deed if not in word. For a century at least a constantly increasing body of women have been doing all the things that to him still loom awful as results of the granting of the vote. When women began to be educated, the thing was done. Now thousands of women are engaged in independent careers: millions are employed in industry. The work is being done, and will go on being done, because women have learned the lesson that it is by the earning of pennies that their freedom is won. Only its conditions are still more harmful and difficult than they need be, its effects limited and thwarted, because the woman worker's services are denied the elementary recognition given to every man as such. The fellow worker has indeed a claim more immediate than that of abstract justice, and the very difficulties of her position are such as urgently demand for her the protection of the vote, since they are largely such as it can remedy. As to the evils of the economic independence of women, experience has already shown that many of them are illusory.

The marriage rate is not declining; but marriage is likely to be more real as a bond of fellowship when the woman, instead of "taking the fate of market fruit," can afford to choose her mate, and marry for affection instead of merely for an "establishment."

And here, perhaps, we may allow something to the sentiment upon which "oratory" rests, for it is surely a strange paradox that the work of the wage-earner should carry so much more weight than the unpaid services which are really as important to the community as a whole. If the woman who devotes her time and mind and strength to rearing and educating children is—and assuredly she is—of primary value to the State, should not her work be recognised as power? Why should she always be told that because hers is work that only she can do, it is, therefore, to be the only work not recognised as that of a citizen. Is she to be limited for her appeal to millinery, as if her taste demanded aptitudes of which it was an adequate expression? Such a view must be harmful to the race. I think it could further be proved that it does not give us even the most beautiful millinery.

M. A. HAMILTON.

### The Labour Party Conference and Women's Suffrage.

[The Labour Party's resolution and debate on Women's Suffrage last week was of such great importance that we think our readers will be glad to have the following full account which we quote from the *Manchester Guardian* of Saturday, January 27th.]

Mr. A. Henderson, M.P., moved:—"That this Conference, in harmony with its previous decisions, is of the opinion that the enfranchisement of all adult men and women should be included in the Reform Bill to be introduced by the Government in the coming session of Parliament. It further requests the Labour Party in Parliament to make it clear that no Bill can be acceptable to the Labour and Socialist movement which does not include women." He reminded the Conference that during last session he introduced a deputation to the Prime Minister with the object of securing that the demand for adult suffrage which the Conference had made from time to time should be met in the Government Reform Bill. But instead of granting that demand the Prime Minister announced that the Government only proposed to introduce a Bill for manhood suffrage. It was important that they should repeat and emphasise their demand, and he hoped the Conference would also make it perfectly clear that any Bill which did not include women would not be acceptable to the great Labour and Socialist movement. (Cheers.)

Mr. W. C. Anderson, in seconding, said it was the women who had forced this question of franchise reform to the front, and the Labour Party would commit a shameful betrayal if they allowed a Bill to pass which left the women out. He asked them to say that they stood first of all for political equality between men and women, and, in the second place, that while leaving their representatives largely a free hand in Parliament—it was not possible to tell them how to act in this or that set of circumstances—the recognition of the political claims of women in the Bill was the basic minimum.

Mr. R. Smillie, speaking for the Miners' Federation, said it was to be regretted that the last part of the resolution had been tacked on. The Miners' Federation, who believed in old-fashioned methods, always called the members together to get their opinions on the various resolutions which appeared in the Conference agenda, and the result was that the miners' delegates were pledged to vote for some resolutions and against others. In this case they found themselves in a dilemma, for this was a composite resolution and included two proposals, one of which they were instructed to oppose. The Miners' Federation were wholeheartedly in favour of a full extension of the franchise to all men and women of 21 years of age, but they were opposed to the policy of refusing manhood suffrage if they could not secure the enfranchisement of women at the same time. They said that the party ought to fight as hard and as long as they could for adult suffrage, but if they could not get that, then rather than not get manhood suffrage the miners were prepared to oppose the last part of the resolution. He was not of the opinion that the further extension of the suffrage to men would retard the enfranchisement of women. On the contrary, he believed that, given manhood suffrage, it would not be very long before the franchise was extended, not to some women by virtue of a property qualification, but to all women as of right. (Hear, hear.) He regretted that the miners' representatives would have to vote against the resolution, because it would be said that the miners were against adult suffrage. They were not; they were as anxious that women should have the vote as that men should have it, but they could not support the resolution in the form in which it had been moved.

Mr. Philip Snowden, M.P., said that what the resolution asked the Conference to do was to translate into practical deeds the pious opinions it had uttered in every Conference previously held. There never had been in any debate at the Labour Conference any expression of hostility to the political enfranchisement of women.

Mr. Smillie: There is not now.

Mr. Snowden (continuing) said they had had differences as to methods, but they were all agreed that the claims of women to political enfranchisement were of the most imperative and urgent character. All who had been associated with the women's movement knew that there had been a considerable amount of suspicion as to the sincerity of the professions of some men who declared that they were in favour of adult suffrage. If the Conference were now to go back upon its professions in favour of adult suffrage at a time when the question was one of practical legislation nothing would give juster cause for that suspicion. The claims of women stood in an entirely different category from the claims of men. There was no demand, and there had been no demand, for the extension of the vote to those men who were outside the franchise at present. (Hear, hear.) There were nearly 11,000,000 men enfranchised, and there were far more votes for men than there were men who could intelligently use them. A woman on the other hand might possess every qualification entitling a man to vote, but the indignity of a sex disqualification was imposed upon her. If there were any party to whom the women had a right to appeal that party was the Labour Party, which professed to stand for the weak and downtrodden, and if there was any chivalry in the Labour Party, if they had any capacity to admire pluck and courage, they would adopt this resolution, and say that they would not have votes for themselves won at the expense of the imprisonment of women. (Cheers.)

Mrs. Anderson (Independent Labour Party) said that when she refused on behalf of women trade unionists a limited and property franchise she little thought that the men by whom the women stood in the past would desert them now. Now that women were in sight of full citizenship, the miners were prepared to tell the Government at this stage that they would take manhood suffrage and leave the women out altogether. ("Shame.")

Miss M. Murby (Fabian Society) said the position which the miners had taken up was inconsistent with the mandate of those who sent them there. Their position was utterly illogical, and they would find it hard to justify before their constituents. It reminded her of the Irish tradesman who wrote to a customer saying that he could not let him have certain goods for less than 9d. a yard, and added as a postscript: "In case you won't accept these terms we will let you have the goods for 8½d." (Laughter.) The action of the miners at this juncture was an insult to women. Unless the Labour Party supported the claims of women in a large and just spirit the charge against them that they were bankrupt in ideals would stand proved up to the hilt. (Cheers.)

On a card vote the resolution was carried by 919,000 votes to 686,000. The announcement of the figures was received with loud cheers.



### Mrs. Fawcett's Campaign.

On pp. 736 and 737 will be found brief reports of some of the great meetings at which Mrs. Fawcett has been speaking daily

throughout the country. The daily Press is no longer closed to Suffrage news, and most members will already have seen reports of her speeches. Everyone should follow with attention her speeches on the present situation, they dispel mists and show us where we really stand.

#### NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

**OBJECT:** To obtain the Parliamentary franchise for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.  
**METHODS:** (a) The promotion of the claim of women to the Parliamentary vote by united action in Parliament and by all constitutional methods of agitation in this country. (b) The organisation of Women's Suffrage Societies on a non-party basis.

**Hon. Secretaries:** Miss K. D. COURTNEY. **President:** Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.  
**Hon. Secretary:** Miss EDITH PALLISER (Parliamentary). **Hon. Secretary to Press Committee:** Miss I. B. O'MALLEY. **Telephone:** 1960 Victoria.  
**Telegrams:** "Voiceless, London." **Hon. Sec. to Literature Committee:** Miss I. B. O'MALLEY. **Telephone:** 1960 Victoria.  
**Offices:** Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

### From Headquarters.

From the point of view of Suffragists the most significant event last week was the passing by the Labour Conference of a resolution requesting the Labour Party in Parliament to make it clear that no Bill can be acceptable to the Labour and Socialist movement which does not include women. The precise wording of the resolution will be found elsewhere, and its importance is fully dealt with in this week's leading article. It is evident that the word "unacceptable" has not been adopted without due consideration of what it implies: members of the National Union will remember that, whereas the I.L.P. used this word in the resolution which it passed in November, the Parliamentary Labour Party then contented itself with the weaker expression "unsatisfactory." The Labour Party Conference has now adopted the word "unacceptable," which can only mean that the representatives of Labour will vote against the third reading of a Bill which further extends the franchise to men and does not include some measure of Women's Suffrage. The position is thus summed up in the *Times* of January 27th:—"In spite of the opposition of the miners, the Parliamentary Labour Party was instructed to oppose any Franchise Reform Bill which does not give votes to women."

The Labour Party counts 84 on a Division, and its opposition would go very near to defeating a Reform Bill which does not include women, even if its attitude should not be adopted by other strong supporters of Women's Suffrage on the Ministerial side. The resolution passed by the Labour Party is another step, and a long step, towards the enfranchisement of women in 1912.

The National Union has sent the following message to Mr. Henderson:—

"The National Union sends warmest thanks and congratulations to the Labour Party. (Signed) FAWCETT."

It is, we hope, unnecessary to contradict the rumour that was circulated in the Press last week to the effect that Mr. Lloyd George was weakening in his opposition to the Referendum as applied to Women's Suffrage. Such a rumour could not of course fail to be satisfactory to that section of the Press which, for one reason or another, is anxious to see the Referendum established, but the *Daily News* was able to give it an emphatic contradiction at the time of its publication on the authority both of Mrs. Fawcett and of Mr. Lloyd George, who described the report as "silly twaddle."

There is, in fact, not the slightest ground for supposing that Mr. Lloyd George has altered his views with regard to the Referendum—views which he expressed at the Horticultural Hall on December 16th, when he said that "The Referendum, unfair for other questions, would be doubly unfair for Women's Suffrage," and that he could not see "how any Liberal statesman who opposed so strenuously the use of the Referendum for other questions, could, with any sense of fairness or decency, extend it to questions like Women's Suffrage."

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

58, Victoria Street, S.W.

## PUBLIC RECEPTION, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6,

At the Empress Rooms, Kensington High Street (High Street Station) from 3.30 to 6.15 Chair:—The Hon. Mrs. SPENCER CRAVES.  
 Speakers:—Miss K. D. COURTNEY and Mr. ROBERT CHOLMELEY. Recitation arranged by Miss ELSIE FOGERTY. Discussion invited.

friends to feel responsible for their local Society and Federation, but also for the National Fund, which is quite as important for the vitality and well-being of the National Union.

Ear-mark your Albert Hall gifts for any of our special objects, for your Society or Federation, in any proportion you like, but pray make them large. Gifts or promises sent to the platform without ear-mark, will be equally divided between the National Union Campaign Fund and the London Society.

Meantime, we need money urgently for the Campaign Fund from anyone who can give at once.

I want:—1. Annual subscriptions to the National Fund. 2. Donations for the 1912 Campaign. 3. Donations for by-election work. 4. Donations for additional organisers. 5. Donations for free literature for propaganda purposes. 6. Donations for organising demonstrations and meetings. 7. Donations for our organiser's tour in Ireland, now in progress.

F. M. STERLING (Treasurer *pro tem.*)

### Press Department.

The following papers have expressed strong opinions against the proposal of the use of the Referendum in the case of Women's Suffrage:—

*Daily News.* *Newcastle Daily Journal.*  
*Manchester Guardian.* *S. Wales Daily News.*  
*Evening Times.* *Yorkshire Daily Observer.*  
*Christian Commonwealth.* *Staffordshire Chronicle.*  
*Nation.* *Bristol Evening News.*  
*Sheffield Independent.* *Aberdeen Free Press.*

The following regard it as inconsistent that the proposal of a Referendum should extend to Women's Suffrage only:—

*Sunday Times.* *Yorkshire Post.*  
*Derby Express.* *The World.*  
*Midland Evening News.* *Daily Express.*  
*Birmingham Post.*

The *Eastbourne Gazette*, the *Cheltenham Chronicle* and *Cheltenham Examiner*, *St. Helens Advertiser* and *St. Helens Reporter* have opened out columns for the discussion of Women's Suffrage.

EMILY M. LEAF.

### Contributions to General Fund.

Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1911	£	s.	d.
1911 .. .. .	1,257	5	2
Received from January 20th to 27th, 1912:			
Subscriptions:—			
Mrs. Overton .. .. .	10	0	
Miss A. M. Offer .. .. .	5	0	
Miss Emma Keller .. .. .	1	0	
Mrs. L. Matheson .. .. .	10	6	
Mrs. Stuart Hogg .. .. .	10	0	
Miss A. M. Allen .. .. .	1	0	0
Donations:—1912 Campaign:—			
Miss W. M. Green .. .. .	10	0	
Miss M. R. Earle .. .. .	9	6	
Miss Milton: Dec. 7s.; Jan., 5s. ..	12	0	
Whitby and District W.S.S. (past profits and sale) .. .. .	4	0	0
Miss A. M. Allen .. .. .	4	0	0
Mr. Henry James .. .. .	1	10	0
Affiliation fees:—			
Southport W.S.S. .. .. .	1	7	6
Clevedon W.S.S. .. .. .	6	3	
Blackpool and Fylde W.S.S. .. .. .	14	0	
Oldham W.S.S. .. .. .	2	10	0
Yeovil W.S.S. .. .. .	7	9	
Eastleigh W.S.S. .. .. .	5	0	
Wallasey and Wirral W.S.S. .. .. .	3	0	0
Southwell W.S.S. .. .. .	14	3	
Ayr W.S.S. .. .. .	5	3	
Olton W.S.S. .. .. .	15	6	
Oxford W.S.S. .. .. .	3	16	9
Instow W.S.S. .. .. .	7	3	
Whitby and District W.S.S. .. .. .	1	12	0
Hitchin and District W.S.S. .. .. .	1	14	0
Malton and District W.S.S. .. .. .	12	6	
Worthing W.S.S. .. .. .	1	18	3
Cambridge W.S.S. .. .. .	5	7	6
Derby W.S.S. .. .. .	1	5	0
Kilnarnock W.S.S. 2nd instalment ..	7	6	
Central Sussex W.S.S. .. .. .	4	0	0
	£1,302	2	3

Thanks to the kind donation from Mrs. Patterson, acknowledged last week, an advertisement of THE COMMON CAUSE has been placed at the bookstall, Westland Row, Dublin.

### The Common Cause.

We have received the following letter from Mrs. Stanton Coit:—

DEAR MADAM.—It occurs to me that some valuable propaganda for our movement may be done by supplying copies of the COMMON CAUSE to as many physicians and dentists all over England as will allow this paper to lie on the table in their waiting-rooms.

A great number of people who in the ordinary course of events don't easily come into contact with our views and demands—or only hear of them through distorted representations—might possibly be induced to beguile the weary moments of waiting in a doctor's ante room, by glancing at a Suffrage paper which by its uncompromising title and the attractive cartoons on its cover, promises agreeable reading.

If this suggestion finds favour with your readers, I advise starting "A fund to supply doctors' and dentists' waiting-rooms" for the next three months tentatively, and I am willing to open the lists of subscribers to this fund with a donation of £10.

The local societies in any given district might add to the usefulness of the work by providing insets to these "waiting-room" copies in the shape of a sheet of—say 24—perforated slips containing applications for membership; so that any reader wishing to join a Women's Suffrage Society need only fill in one of the slips and send it with her signature to the nearest local society.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient servant,

ADELA COIT.  
 [We accept gratefully Mrs. Stanton Coit's generous offer. Already a few doctors in the West End receive THE COMMON CAUSE every week for their waiting rooms, thanks to donations from the Hon. Mrs. Franklin, Mrs. Mackenzie Bell and others, previously acknowledged. One guinea would supply twelve waiting rooms for three months if the paper was sent direct by post from this office. But Mrs. Stanton Coit's suggestion that the membership forms of the local societies should be slipped into the papers points out a more excellent way. Each

**Mustard is Nature's condition—a pure, natural stimulator of appetite—a natural aid to digestion. The "Mustard habit" is a salutary habit.**

Health depends largely upon the proper digestion and assimilation of the food we eat. Good Mustard promotes both; by its aid to the enjoyment of the food, and by its action on the food. So important a factor should be the best, should, in fact, be

**Colman's**  
**D. S. F. mustard**

### Literature Department.

A new cheap leaflet on the Referendum and what Liberal Ministers have said about it will be ready this week. The title is "Women's Suffrage and the Referendum," the price 6d. per 100.  
 I. B. O'MALLEY.

society could obtain the consent of the most prominent doctors and dentists in its district to place a copy of THE COMMON CAUSE on their waiting-room tables for three months, and the papers could then either be delivered by the society out of its weekly supply (the number so used to be deducted from the account), or a local newsgate could be asked to undertake the distribution. But as newsgates, however friendly, are only human, and very busy people, they might forget to insert the membership forms. It would, therefore, be wiser for the society to undertake the delivery of the papers. The copies of THE COMMON CAUSE needed to supply doctors and dentists will be sent free of charge to secretaries making application to the Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C. Or the names and addresses of physicians and dentists may be sent to this office to be dealt with direct, but we cannot insert local notices or membership forms in copies sent through the post, this being contrary to Post Office regulations.]

British Suffragists going abroad will be glad to hear that they can obtain THE COMMON CAUSE through all the principal booksellers in other countries. Brentanos, of New York, have long stocked it, and it is to be had in Australia and South Africa. The last news we had from Kimberley states that Handel House in that city supplies THE COMMON CAUSE regularly to the members of the Women's Enfranchisement League. We have just received an order from a bookseller in Moscow to send the paper regularly. The eyes of Suffragists all over the world are turned towards England at this time.

### By-Elections.

CARMARTHEN BOROUGH.

Mr. W. L. Williams (L.) ... 3,836  
 Mr. H. C. Bond (C.) ... 2,555  
 Mr. F. G. Vivian (Ind. Lab.) ... 149

L. majority over C. 1,281



Our campaign which began somewhat under disadvantages, has concluded with wonderful success. When the electors realised that we were non-militant, the distaste with which they had been inclined to receive us was changed to great interest and friendliness. The reports, highly exaggerated, in the Cardiff and Swansea daily press had brought us very much into the public eye, and we reaped the advantage of this publicity when we became popular.

I was allowed to speak inside the Llanmore Iron Works on the evening of January 22, and received a cordial welcome and a most attentive hearing. This meeting was reported in the "Llanely Guardian," the editor of which paper had also helped us by drawing attention to the fact that we were not a militant society. On the afternoon of January 22, we had arranged for a women's meeting in the upper storey of our committee rooms. A small crowd of men were very anxious to come in, and finally I arranged to address the men downstairs, while Miss Waring had the women's meeting above. This was a most successful arrangement, and after a somewhat prolonged speech, we had a very unconventional discussion; that it was useful was proved by the fact that when latecomers put what they considered "posers," the first arrivals were quite prepared to answer on my behalf. Moreover, I heard later that they carried the war into the enemy's country by tackling the Anti-Suffrage speaker and confuting his arguments. When I made the offer I expected 20 or 30 men, but the crowd must have numbered from 80 to 120 at different times. The evening meeting was an excellent one. Miss Janet Price, of Cardiff, took the chair and charmed the audience with her persuasive arguments, leaving them in a mood which made it easy for me to follow her.

On January 23 we had the advantage of having with us a member of the National Executive, in the person of Miss Lanner, of Bristol, who spoke at the mid-day meeting outside the copper works. Miss Tanner, with Miss Price, undertook the afternoon meeting for women, while I again had a meeting for men. Both were very successful, and were worthily followed by the evening meeting in Lakesfield schoolroom, where Miss Tanner was speaker, while I took the chair. Our audience was large and sympathetic; we arranged to have questions early in the evening, in order that they might be dealt with at length, and it proved a useful experiment. Towards the close of the meeting, a lady rose and said she had been voting for 16 years; we invited her to speak from the platform, and she proved to be from the State of Idaho. Her testimony was valuable, and well received. A vote of thanks was proposed and seconded by two gentlemen in the audience, and carried with enthusiasm. We sold THE COMMON CAUSE and badges with ease, and have arranged with three local newsgasters to sell THE COMMON CAUSE and show posters in Llanely. One cannot help feeling that the Suffrage cause has been greatly helped in Llanely by our election campaign. So many helped in various ways that it would be invidious to name individuals, and the general kindness was such that we might almost feel inclined to say with seriousness, what the boys sang at us jocularly at our first meeting: "How can we bear to leave thee?"

C. E. COWMEADOW.

EAST EDINBURGH.

Candidates:—Mr. J. M. Hogge (L.). Mr. John Jameson (C.). Majority last election:—2,654 (L.). Polling Day.—Friday February 2nd. Committee Rooms.—18, Montrose Terrace. Organiser in Charge.—Miss Alice Low.

Since sending my last report, Mr. J. M. Hogge has received a deputation from our Society. The deputation consisted of Miss Chrystal Macmillan, Dr. Elsie Inglis and myself. We had an hour's talk with the Candidate during which we pointed out to him the necessity of giving definite answers to our questions.

He had already mentioned women's suffrage in his election address; he has promised to vote for amendments to the Reform Bill in descending order, and he will oppose Adult suffrage for men unless women are included also. He also promised to vote for the Conciliation Bill failing women's suffrage amendments to the Reform Bill.

Consequently, as Mr. Jameson is against us, we support Mr. Hogge. We have held splendid dinner-hour meetings, those at St. Margaret's Railway works, Miller's Foundry and William Younger's Brewery being particularly good. Open-air meetings are held every evening and any questions which are asked are those of suffragists who are anxious to learn more about the subject, rather than those of "Antis."

We have held two good public meetings, and intend to hold a third in Broughton Road School on January 29th. Last week we were very much helped by having with us Miss C. M. Gordon and Miss Bury, both of the North-Eastern Federation. Miss Gordon sacrificed the last few days of her holiday to come to us and we wish she could have remained longer. At our second public meeting where Mr. Easson and Mr. Lawson spoke excellently, a sheaf of questions were handed up from ladies of the Anti Suffrage League. These were answered by the speakers to the entire satisfaction of the audience. This so far, has been the only appearance of our opponents. Miss Hilliard is doing admirable work at the Committee Rooms

ALICE LOW.

London Society.

DEMONSTRATION IN RICHMOND.

Seven times round the walls of Jericho walked the Israelites, and all of us know the sequel. Lady Yoxall, Chairman of the Richmond Committee, went to the root of the matter when in a few words at the close of the Surrey Branches demonstration on Saturday, she made this happy allusion. Though prejudice does not always yield to argument, it has a curious way of falling flat at the sight of a procession. At Richmond the sun shone as at midsummer, and the banners were gorgeous as at midsummer, and the marchers, men and women, marched with a spirit which proved they agreed beforehand with Lady Frances Balfour's observation, "There is to be no peace nor rest until justice is done to the women of this country." They were led by Mrs. Fawcett, Lady Frances Balfour, and Miss Emily Davies. Every arrangement worked perfectly and the greatest credit is due to the Surrey committees, to Miss Watson, to the Surrey, Sussex, and Hants Federation, to the Artists' League, and to many outside friends for the magnificent way in which they cooperated with Miss Strachey and the headquarters' staff in making of a new experiment an assured success. At 1.50 precisely formation began, at 2.30 precisely we started, at 3.40 the head of the procession entered the theatre and on the stroke of 4.0 the mayor in his chain of office, and accompanied by all the speakers announced, took his seat before the curtain. All "as advertised"! At 4.5, the audience, just settling down after their warm reception of the speakers, which included three hearty cheers for Miss Emily Davies and Mrs. Fawcett, burst into renewed applause as the rise of the drop scene revealed again the beautiful banners, grouped with marvellous effect upon the stage, and each one, instead of merely leaning in the usual way against the wall, held in position with military precision by its bearer, many of whom were sacrificing with true suffragist spirit, all chances of hearing the speeches in order to contribute to the vivid effect.

For twenty minutes the stewards were busy arranging the audience. The processionists and reserved ticket holders being seated, the general public were told that they might enter, but their response to the invitation was so full of ardour that someone (was it Mrs. Henry?) raised a cry, "Standing room only, price, one shilling!" and a brisk traffic in shillings resulted. Everywhere the new office of "Guide" justified its existence. Meanwhile, as the large crowd remaining outside showed no inclination to depart, Miss Cockle kindly consented to the use of her car as a platform and she, with Miss Sterling, Mr. Malcolm Mitchell and others held an attentive crowd for nearly two hours. THE COMMON CAUSE, with its most beautiful portrait of our leader, did a record sale and a certain number of enthusiasts wound up the day with a visit to the Castle Electric Theatre, whose enterprising manager had prepared an admirable cinematograph show of the afternoon's event.—Those whom illness, or other sad disability, kept away from the procession, should not fail to go and see this during the week.

Of the speeches, little need be said as they have been reported in the London Press in a manner that shows that Suffragists, and what they mean to do, are no longer negligible. Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Philip Snowden, and Sir John Cockburn were all in their best form and that is saying much. Mrs. Snowden's allusion to the Labour Party's spirited policy provoked loud applause. Mrs. Fawcett's weighty and well considered words have materialised the position of the N.U. and those looking to it for guidance. She said in effect "We refuse the referendum. We believe our friends in the Cabinet will be true to their professions and do the same. We shall regard the Government as discredited should they depart from their

present honest non possimus attitude in regard to this "method of denying justice." The resolution was carried with only two dissentients.

Mr. Sandover in proposing a vote of thanks, alluded in highly complimentary terms to the mayor's fair record of work on behalf of good causes and gave strongly reasoned argument for his own firm conviction that the Women's Suffrage cause was good.

As stated above a large part of Mrs. Fawcett's speech is admirably reported, almost verbatim, in practically all the leading dailies of Monday, notably in the Suffragist organs, the Manchester Guardian and the Daily News. Space being valuable in the COMMON CAUSE it is quite impossible to give the names of many of those who have worked so successfully to make the Suffrage field day an event worthy of record in the local annals of Richmond, but a last word of appreciation must be given to our men friends, whether of the Men's League or of the Independent Labour Party, or of our own membership, who showed by giving up their Saturday's holiday, that chivalry is not yet dead.

Among the Suffrage societies who took part in the procession were the following:—The Artists' League, the Church League, the Catholic W.S.S., the Forward Suffrage Union and the Tax-Resistance League. A. H. W.

The following communication has been received from the Honorable Mrs. Spencer Graves, hon. treasurer of the L.S.W.S. "I have the letter appealing for £1,000 went out I have received from 145 of our members the generous sum of £481 2s. 6d., besides a considerable number of increased annual subscriptions. To these kind friends I offer most grateful thanks, but of our 3,500 members will not another 145 show equal generosity and so bring the amount to the sum desired. Our London society is almost a federation—has more constitutions, and employs a larger number of organisers, having such a vast population in which it works. Remembering this, is it too much to expect that even a third band of 145 might find donations possible?"

QUARTERLY CONFERENCE.—This conference was held at 8.30 on January 16th, in the Small Queen's Hall, Miss Helen Ward in the chair. The public was admitted, and the programme was speeches with free discussion on the N.U.W.S.S. policy. Miss Clementina Black (dealing specially with the absurdities of the "referendum for Women's Suffrage" idea), Miss Courtney, and Miss Royden were listened to with close attention, the points made receiving cordial recognition. The N.U. resolution was passed by an overwhelming majority and forwarded to the local M.P. Miss Palliser was unable to be present but wrote a letter of encouragement to further effort and promising to return from a needed holiday to resume her heavy duties as Parliamentary secretary before the opening of Parliament.

RECEPTION.—The first of the new series of Tuesday afternoon receptions was held on January 23rd at the Empress Rooms, Mrs. Theodore Williams in the chair. Miss Sterling addressed herself not only to members, but also to the strangers present, in a full review of the grounds of our claim, and concluded with an analysis of the reasons which are prompting our alarmed opponents in their efforts to induce the Government to break its pledges to the Suffragists by leaving the question to a referendum to be established ad hoc. Miss Royden showed how in her visit to America she had observed that the forces of wickedness were more openly allied against the enfranchisement of women than in the case in this country. Several of her remarks received endorsement from an American lady present.

BERMONDSEY.—The Adult School was addressed by Miss Goddard on November 22nd. The audience was much interested and the speech was followed by discussion.

CANBY HILL.—An open air meeting was held on January 12th at Grove Lane. Speaker: Miss Cohen; Miss Gloyd in the chair. A large and sympathetic crowd gathered and the COMMON CAUSE was sold.

On January 15th the monthly meeting for members and friends of the Branch was held at 35, The Gardens. The meeting was well attended and Miss Ruth Young delighted her audience with a most interesting speech. The resolution was passed unanimously and a copy forwarded to the M.P.'s for Camberwell, Dulwich and Peckham respectively.

CHINGFORD (Essex).—On January 9th Miss Mary Fielden (by arrangement of the L.S.W.S.) addressed the Women's Liberal Association; Miss Morton in the chair. The resolution was carried with one dissentient.

ESHER AND EAST MOLESLEY.—On January 11th at the Church Schools, Claygate, a meeting for working women was addressed by Mrs. May and Mrs. Beatty; Miss M. Martineau in the chair. Several new members joined, and there was a collection in Richmond demonstration.

On January 18th, at the Conservative Hall, E. Molesey, working women were addressed by the Hon. Mrs. Haverfield; chair: Miss M. Martineau. Over 100 listened with great sympathy and a good collection was made for Richmond demonstration. Both meetings were favourably reported in the local press.

FULHAM.—On the evening of January 17th Mrs. Raikes Bromage kindly lent her drawing-room for a meeting. Although the weather was bad there was a good attendance. The Hon. Mrs. Eustace Fitzgerald took the chair and Mrs. Duncan Harris—at short notice—most kindly spoke in the unavoidable absence of Miss Corbett. Her address was listened to with much interest and many questions were asked. Three new members joined and the COMMON CAUSE was sold.

NORTH KENSINGTON.—A most successful entertainment was given by the committee at Bosworth Hall, on January 15th. The Actresses' Franchise League kindly arranged the entertainment under the direction of Miss Inez Bensusan; it consisted of a recitation by Miss Nora Hastings, songs by Miss Elizabeth Dexter and an entertainment at the piano by Mr. Gerald Lindley—followed by a play "The Englishwoman's Home," most ably acted by Mr. J. Benedict Butler, Miss Inez Bensusan, Mr. Eric Snowden and Miss Pamela Derrick—all much

appreciated by an enthusiastic audience, which also listened attentively to suffrage speeches by Miss Winifred Mayo (A.F.L.) and Miss Helen Ward (L.S.W.S.). Sister Ruth acted as chairman.

NORTH KENSINGTON.—A small, but successful meeting was held at the tea rooms, 11, Lauderdale Parade, on January 20th. Miss Kilgour was in the chair, and Miss Keeling, P.L.G., was the speaker. Two new members joined. The COMMON CAUSE was sold.

POLIARD.—Miss Goddard spoke at a meeting of the Women's Own, at Christ Street Chapel, on November 22nd.

Miss Gimingham addressed a Mothers' Meeting on January 15th, at the Wesleyan Church, Woodstock Road. About 100 were present and considerable interest was shown. Free literature was distributed.

SUTTON.—On January 17th at the Adult School, Sutton, Mr. S. F. Angel in the chair, a very successful meeting was held by the Sutton branch of the London society, in conjunction with the Adult School Debating Society, Mrs. Philip Snowden being the chief speaker. Mr. C. Wright, president of the local Liberal association led a not very strong opposition. Mrs. Rushworth started the discussion in which six suffragists and four anti-suffragists took part. A sympathetic audience of about 500 gave a most courteous and attentive hearing to all the speakers. In conclusion, Mrs. Snowden answered fully all questions and objections.

Federation Notes.

Surrey, Sussex and Hants.

A new Society, Egham, has affiliated to the National Union.

The Surrey Societies and contingents from the Federation attended the Richmond demonstration and the banners were carried in the procession. Occasional organisers will be attached to the Federation to carry on its increasing activities. M. O'SHEA. Miss FAWCETT AT BRIGHTON.

Brighton was pleased to welcome Mrs. Fawcett again, and showed its pleasure unmistakably by the enthusiastic crowds that gathered to hear her at the Dome on the 26th inst. It was here, that, as a very young woman, she addressed her first meeting on the subject of Women's Suffrage. Lord Abernethy, who took the chair, struck the note of the meeting by almost immediately introducing the subject of the Referendum. He stigmatised it as a method brought forward to defeat Women's Suffrage and trusted the Government would not identify itself with so despicable a subterfuge. He then introduced Mrs. Fawcett as "the foremost woman in this great cause."

Mrs. Fawcett moved the following resolution:—"That this meeting protests against the exclusion of women from the Government Reform Bill, regards the proposal to single out Women's Suffrage for the application of a Referendum as a discreditable trick to defeat votes for women, and projects the adoption of a measure for the enfranchisement of women, pledges itself to use every effort to secure that result." It was quite unnecessary, she thought, at this time to labour the abstract reasons justifying the admission of women to the Suffrage. The state of women's position clearly showed their need of representation. All political parties fully accept the principles of representative Government. On the Conservative side Mr. Balfour had said that the essential principle was Government by consent, and had said that if there were to be Manhood Suffrage, he would never assent to dealing with the problem without doing his best to make it, not Manhood Suffrage alone, but Women's Suffrage also. Turning to the Liberals, she said it was one of the tasks of that Party to establish representative Government in all its fulness. But what kind of fulness that was where women are unrepresented? Liberal Anti-Suffragist members overlook the point that women too are human beings. Mrs. Fawcett said she had been reassured after the announcement of a projected Reform Bill by those who were watching over the cause. Sir Edward Grey had made it a condition of his assent to the Reform Bill that it should leave an opening for an amendment dealing with women's enfranchisement. The affirmative answers of Mr. Asquith to the four questions which had been put to him at the deputation had also been reassuring. Then came this plot; the anti-suffrage plot. It was well recognised as such by those who knew it. She was not going to speak that evening for or against the Referendum as a general measure, but she emphatically maintained that Women's Suffrage, which had passed a Second Reading seven times in the Commons was not the measure to be singled out for a solitary application of such machinery. Dealing with rumour that Mr. Lloyd George was weakening in his support and leaning to the Referendum, she was able to tell them it was absolutely untrue and unfounded. The reason she could say this so decidedly was that the previous day she had had an hour and a half's conversation with Mr. Lloyd George, in which he said that he in no way drew back from his statement at the Horticultural Hall and that the rumour was "silly twaddle." We know, repeated Mrs. Fawcett, that this, too, is a plot, the result of the intrigue, to which I have alluded. As to the exact measure which might be expected to pass the Commons, she favoured an amendment which could be carried, although logically incomplete, to one, which might be logically complete, but which could not be carried. It must be remembered that it would have to be carried through three successive sessions. This movement was far too strong for chicanery or defeat. Our business was to keep the Prime Minister to his promise for the Conciliation Bill, the promise of a week in a busy session was very important lever, which could be used in negotiating with the Government. Mrs. Fawcett concluded by calling on all women, and on those men who so nobly give us aid, to take heart. The movement is world

wide, it is one of the greatest of movements, and it is one of the proudest things in the lives of this generation that they can give themselves to such a movement.

Lord Robert Cecil seconded the resolution. In an interesting speech dealing with the present position he, too, declared the Referendum proposal was a mere dodge to defeat the Suffrage. He was in favour of the Referendum, but of all cases which were suitable for an initial experiment he considered Women's Suffrage was the least. If the proposal were really adopted he would honestly admit that everything the most militant section had said would turn out to be true and that those who had made promises to the Suffragists would in his judgment be covered with indelible disgrace. The resolution was carried unanimously.

One of the events of the evening was the appearance of the Hon. John Gordon, the junior Member for Brighton, as an advocate of Women's Suffrage.

An incident particularly gratifying to the Brighton Society was the fine public tribute paid by several of the speakers to their Hon. Sec., Miss Merrifield.

Manchester and District.

DEPUTATION TO MR. HILL WOOD, M.P. (HIGH PEAK DIVISION.)

On Monday, January 15th, Mr. Hill Wood received a deputation from the National Union Suffrage Societies in his constituency. Mrs. Dawson, Mrs. Edward Hall and Miss Thackeray represented Whaley Bridge, Mrs. Leonard the Marple Bridge Society, and Miss Margaret Robertson went on behalf of the Federation. Mr. Hill Wood is convinced that the best hope for Suffragists still lies in the Conciliation Bill, and he pledged himself once more to continue his support of this measure, and volunteered to do all in his power to press for early facilities for it. With regard to the Reform Bill, Mr. Hill Wood said that he would certainly support an amendment on Conciliation Bill lines, and after some discussion he said that in all probability he would first support the Norwegian amendment. He desired not to pledge himself until he saw the exact form of the amendment, but it seemed to him to promise a satisfactory solution. That he would vote against the Reform Bill on the Third Reading he scarcely needed to assure us. On the question of the Referendum, Mr. Wood agreed with the deputation that it would be totally unfair to attempt to apply the principle to Women's Suffrage only or to set up the machinery for the sake of dealing with Women's Suffrage. He spoke very hopefully of the change of feeling with regard to Women's Suffrage in the House of Commons.

DEPUTATION TO MR. PHILIP MORRELL, M.P. (Burnley.)

On Friday, January 26th, a deputation from the Burnley Society waited upon Mr. Morrell at the Thorn Hotel, Burnley. Asked what he thought of the prospects of Women's Suffrage, Mr. Morrell replied that he considered that the chief hope of the suffragists lay in Mr. Lloyd George, whose advocacy he regarded as of supreme importance. He himself was prepared to follow Mr. Lloyd George and intended to support his amendment, but he was prepared to support a narrower amendment (e.g., one on the lines of the Conciliation Bill) if that failed. With regard to the suggested application of a Referendum to Women's Suffrage Mr. Morrell stated that he was prepared strongly to oppose this. He agreed with the deputation that after the pledges given by the Government this would be an indefensible procedure. He considered that the chief hope of the suffragists lay in Mr. Lloyd George, whose advocacy he regarded as of supreme importance. 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A committee meeting was held the following day, and plans were made for a white elephant tea in order to raise funds for a public meeting.

On Thursday evening a public meeting was held in the Central Hall, Maryport, which was well attended. The Rev. J. Richards took the chair, and delighted the audience with a sympathetic and amusing speech. At the end of my speech, Mr. Maughan, J.P., proposed a vote of thanks, and confessed himself converted to our cause. Mr. Spark seconded the vote of thanks. A good collection was taken, and about thirty people gave in their names as willing to join a local society. The reporters' table was crowded to overflowing, and half-a-dozen Cumberland papers had long accounts of the meeting on the following day.

At Maryport Mrs. Maughan has consented to be President, Miss Sybil Maughan and Miss Bessie Ritson will act as joint hon. secretaries, and Mr. Spark as hon. treasurer.

A great deal of time has been spent during the last ten days in organising three deputations in neighbouring constituencies.

I am most grateful to Mrs. Brown, Whitehaven, Mr. D. Mason, Workington, and Miss Newby, Maryport, for their kind hospitality.

MARGUERITA NORMA-SMITH.

#### Scottish.

Before this week's COMMON CAUSE is published, the new Ardrossan and Saltcoats Society will be launched, the fifth society founded by the Scottish Federation within ten weeks. Our campaign in the North Ayrshire election certainly paved the way for the establishment of a permanent organisation, and on all sides we are greeted with reminiscences of our successful indoor and outdoor meetings in December. It has been satisfactory to welcome into the new society eleven women teachers, and to be encouraged by words of sympathy (and a donation) from the head masters of two of the public elementary schools. From the party point of view the Ardrossan and Saltcoats Society is well blended, Liberal and Tory women being in fairly equal proportion. This week I hope to lend a helping hand to the Society in Port Glasgow, one of the Kilmarnock Burghs, and to urge our people there to call Mr. W. C. G. Gladstone, their member, to account for joining the Anti-suffrage deputation to the Prime Minister. (Address, Post Office, Port Glasgow.) On February 3rd, I go to the Montrose Burghs, and shall be glad of names of sympathisers there, sent to Post Office, Montrose.

ALICE CROMPTON.

#### DEPUTATIONS TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

Members of Parliament in the West of Scotland have shown their interest in Women's Suffrage lately, by inviting deputations from local societies. These deputations have been fully taken advantage of, and interviews were given by Colonel Greig, M.P. for West Renfrew, and Mr. Godfrey P. Collins, M.P. for Greenock. In each case the questions asked by the Member showed a deep concern regarding the movement, and proved on the part of Colonel Greig, a determination to continue his support of the Cause; while Mr. Collins is returning to London with a promise to hear all he can, and an expressed desire to uphold the cause of women whenever and wherever he can.

#### South-Western.

ATLEBORO.—A most enthusiastic meeting was held on January 11th, when Miss Willcocks (Exeter) spoke on "Why Women want the Vote," and Miss Davenport, organiser for the Federation, on the political situation. The hall was brightly decorated with posters and the colours, and the meeting roused great enthusiasm, one old inhabitant offering the speaker "her heart's blood." The wives of sailors and fishermen are determined to help to get the vote. The one difficulty in this branch is the extreme poverty of the township—the largest subscription received yet is 14d.

BARNSTAPLE.—A meeting was held in the Parish Church Room on December 11th, with Mrs. Mangan in the chair, when Miss Davenport explained the methods and aims of the Society. Nine new members were enrolled, and a committee of 12 was formed, with Mrs. Mangan as Hon. Secretary and Miss Harston as Treasurer. At a meeting of the Liberal Women Crusaders, presided over by Lady Baring, Miss Davenport gave a most interesting address. She was also able, through the courtesy of Alderman A. J. Beavell, to address the women employed at the Pilton Glove works, when Mrs. Reavell was present. Thanks to Miss Davenport's energy many new members are being enrolled.

BIRMINGHAM.—Miss Davenport has been spending a week in Bideford, and held three meetings during that time. On January 19th she addressed a meeting of the Women's Liberal Association, and on the same evening addressed a cottage meeting at Northam. Next day a meeting of members and friends took place at the Out Round Tea Rooms, by kind permission of Miss Doulette, who lent a large room, which was quite full.

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON.—A dance in aid of the Federation funds realised £9.

EXETER.—A whist drive and dance was much enjoyed by all, and brought a profit of £14 to the Federation funds.

INSTOW.—Miss Willcocks and Miss Davenport addressed a meeting at Instow, when the suffrage resolution was carried.

TOXNES.—A branch of the N.U.W.S.S. has been formed here, and held its first meeting at the Seymour Hotel Assembly Rooms, on December 19th, when addresses were given by Miss Willcocks, Mr. F. J. Widgery (Exeter) and Mr. E. K. Windatt (Totnes). The chair was taken by Miss F. E. Mills Young, local secretary, in the absence of Mrs. Robin Allen, who telegraphed that she was unwell, and wished the meeting every success. The officers of the Toxnes Branch are as follows: President, Mrs. Chapman; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. M. B. Gower Mee and Mrs. Arrowsmith; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Wray; Hon. Secretary, Miss F. E. Mills Young; Visiting Secretary, Miss J. Courtney Gidley.

PLYMOUTH.—During the past month we have had the

advantage of the help of the Rev. Hatty Baker, who has been preaching and lecturing in the neighbourhood, and the interest aroused in her work as a pioneer woman preacher attracted attention to the Suffrage meetings which she addressed. Her lecture on "Women in the Ministry," given to the N.U.W.S.S., drew many strangers. The New Year's Social of the Free Church League for Woman Suffrage was crowded when Miss Baker gave another deeply interesting address. The *Western Daily Mercury* have given excellent reports and preliminary notices of all these meetings.

SIDMOUTH.—A meeting of the Women's Liberal Association, on January 22nd, in the Small Manor Hall, was addressed by Miss Davenport; there was a very good attendance and much enthusiasm. Another meeting at New Hall, Sidford, January 24th, was addressed by Miss Willcocks. The number attending (over 50) was particularly gratifying, as the outlying villages of Sidbury and Sidford are new ground, worked up in a short time in the face of great opposition and most discouraging weather. A third meeting in the Constitutional Club, addressed by Miss Willcocks, was followed by a debate. The subject in all three meetings was women's suffrage from industrial, social and political points of view.

#### South Wales and Monmouthshire.

CARMARTHEN BOBOTOERS BY-ELECTION is the first we have had since our Federation was formed. The educational value of elections cannot be over-estimated. Llanelly especially has been aroused to much enthusiasm which we are hoping will result very shortly in a large increase of members to the local society. Mrs. Cowmeadow organised the campaign, assisted by Miss Waring; and Miss Helen Fraser, Miss Tanner and Miss Janet Price helped by speaking. In the early part of the campaign they had a very lively time, but it was remarkable how peaceful the latter part of the campaign was. The people understood that our methods of propaganda were constitutional.

Mrs. Cowmeadow did valiant service in the committee-room, her patience and tact in dealing with the crowd of men who came in to "argue the point" were excellent.

Miss Waring did much useful work in Carmarthen and Llanelly in November, and one heard from many sources of the good work she accomplished then. She has now gone to Swansea to prepare the way for another new society.

#### CARDEFF AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

The work of this Society for the year 1911 closed on December 16th with a small sale of Christmas gifts, by which we made about £22. Lady Owen and Sir Isaac Owen, Vice-Chancellor of the Bristol University, opened our sale of work, and by their presence and kindly help did much to ensure its success.

On January 15th we were glad to welcome back Miss Helen Fraser, though we lost her again to Llanelly for a few days. On January 23rd she addressed a very successful public meeting in Barry, which was entirely organised by our Barry Committee of which Mrs. Edgar Jones is the Secretary. She has also spoken at three drawing-room meetings given by Mrs. Baker, Mrs. V. D. Halsey and Mrs. Wilce Davis; and has addressed the members of the Railway Women's Guild. Thirty new members have joined the Society during the week, and it seems likely that the meetings which have been held will result in a still further accession of strength.

#### AN APPEAL FOR FUNDS.

May I appeal to Welsh men and women to help us at this critical time. Success or failure to secure our enfranchisement in this generation will depend very largely upon our efforts in arousing the conscience and the sense of justice of the people this year.

The inauguration of six new societies in our area has meant much expenditure. We ought to have societies in every town in South Wales and Monmouthshire. Who will help us to do it? Many members have sacrificed much time and given of their labour ungrudgingly, let those who cannot do this give their money. The small gift as well as the large gift will be welcome. Gifts or promises made at the Albert Hall meeting may be earmarked for our Federation, or may be sent direct to the Treasurer of the Federation, Mrs. Roberts-Rosser, 2, The Grove, Pontypridd.

#### East Midland.

LEICESTER.—A performance of "How the Vote Was Won," preceded by "Lady Butterby and Mrs. McBean," was given by members and friends of the Leicester Society at the Victoria Hall on January 18th. The performance was arranged by Mr. and Mrs. Durrad, the former of whom was most effective in the principal part. Miss Wilkinson contributed a violin solo, and Mr. J. M. Gimson, J.P., and Miss Gittins gave short addresses. The evening furnished one more proof of the value of Suffrage plays for propaganda purposes, as well as for enjoyment and for adding to Suffrage funds.

NOTTINGHAM.—The meeting addressed by Mrs. Fawcett at Nottingham last month was even more successful than the original report indicated. The number of new members who joined the society on that occasion was 58.

#### Irish Notes.

Irishwomen have been prompt to avail themselves of the opportunity offered by the extension to Ireland of the County Councils Bill, which entitles women to sit on County and other Councils. Two ladies have been elected by large majorities in the recent City elections—Miss Harrison was the successful candidate for the South City Ward, Dublin, and Miss Mary Strangman, M.D., for the Tower Ward, Waterford. Both ladies are keen Suffragists, and very valuable canvassing work was done for them by the various Suffrage societies. Miss Harrison is one of Ireland's best portrait painters; but in recent years she has, to a great extent, sacrificed her art for social and philanthropic work. She has been prominent in promoting schemes for the relief of

unemployment. It is interesting to reflect that her art master was the famous Alphonse Legros, who excelled in painting poor people; the very spirit of poverty is reflected in his work. One wonders how much the influence of such a master has affected, not only the art, but the life of his pupil.

Miss Strangman, Waterford's lady Councillor, is a medical practitioner, and has done good work in many ways for the health of the city. She is a member of the Working Committee of the Women's National Health Association, and one of the leading spirits of the woman suffrage movement in Waterford.

The recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation has done much to consolidate this new and valuable association, and many interesting schemes for more fruitful and widespread work have already evolved from the contact of different minds and personalities. Active preparations are afoot for the meetings at Athlone, Parsonstown and Mitchelstown.

In the North the federated societies are equally active. Dr. Walkington and Miss Montgomery have laid the foundations of a new society in Belfast, and they hope to celebrate its birthday publicly when Miss Helga Gill goes there on the 29th. Miss Montgomery has been doing good pioneer work in districts just outside the city of Belfast, and here again Miss Helga Gill's delightful speeches will no doubt prove immensely stimulating. She charmed all her Dublin audiences and won many new members for the Irishwomen's Reform League.

One of the most energetic and flourishing societies joined in the Federation is that in Lisburn. Although little more than a year old it has achieved quite remarkable successes. Only those actually living in Ulster can fully comprehend the tremendous difficulties against which the cause of Women's Suffrage has to contend in that district. A very large number of Ulster women refuse to interest themselves in any movement which does not advance the Unionist cause. They may be Suffragists, but they put Unionism first, and they are disposed to regard as traitors those who, though Unionists, will not work for a political cause until they have full political rights. There is, therefore, something of the heroic in the determined stand made by our northern Women Suffragists. To hold up a banner of Votes for Women, without regard to the burning question of Unionism, requires no little courage. The Lisburn W.S.S. has won the respect even of those who, at its first inception, made the direst threats against it. When its first meeting was announced some of the townspeople made it known that they would not allow it, and would break the windows of the hall in which it was to be held. But the hon. secretary stood in the window waiting for the first stone to be thrown—and it was not thrown! At the recent Municipal elections in Lisburn, a deputation including some of the very men who had threatened a forcible prevention of suffrage meetings waited on this same lady, hon. secretary of the society, to beg her to stand for the Urban Council! She refused to take any part in public work until she possessed political rights.

The Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation has made some interesting engagements. Mrs. Despard has promised to make a tour in Ireland at no distant date; and Mr. Laurence Housman has promised to address meetings of the various societies during the second week in May.

The Rev. James Hannay ("George Birmingham") has chosen an attractive subject for his address on February 6 at 4.30 p.m., in the hall, 35, Dawson Street, Dublin. He will speak on "The Value of the Vote." This meeting is organised by the Irishwomen's Reform League.

Under the auspices of the Munster Women's Franchise League, a most successful meeting was held in the Youghal Town Hall on January 4. This was the first meeting held in Youghal, and the audience was most sympathetic. At the close a working woman remarked: "You have said the things we have been thinking for years, but were not able to put into words for ourselves."

Miss Day spoke at a crowded meeting of the Presbyterian Guild in Cork. A lively debate followed.

On January 23, Miss Gill, of the N.U.W.S.S., gave an address on Women's Suffrage in Norway, at Mrs. Connell's Tea Rooms. Miss Gill also spoke in the Skibbereen Town Hall. Skibbereen is in the centre of a very scattered district, and many poor people walked miles to attend the meeting.

#### The Women's Labour League.

The Women's Labour League passed the following resolution at their Conference at Birmingham, on Tuesday Jan. 23rd:—

"That this Conference is of opinion that the enfranchisement of all adult men and women should be included in the Government's promised Electoral Reform Bill, and urges that the Labour members will lose no time or opportunity in pressing this upon the Government. This Conference further calls upon the Labour Party in the House of Commons to oppose any Government Bill for Electoral Reform unless it contains a clause enfranchising women."

We publish below a full report of the proceedings of the Conference.

The Women's Labour League held their seventh Annual Conference in Birmingham on Tuesday, January 23rd. It was in many ways a memorable one; the recent heavy double loss of Mary Middleton and Margaret MacDonald, and the absence through illness of Margaret Bondfield lent a note of sadness and seriousness to the proceedings throughout. As is so often the case after the loss of revered leaders there was evident a re-consecration of those who were left to carry on the work, a stern resolution that the Cause should not suffer more than was inevitable; and this was finely expressed by Sister Kerrison in the chairman's address.

The first Resolution on the Agenda to protest against secret diplomacy and agreements with foreign powers that had never been brought before the House of Commons, caused some criticism in the Press. "What had women to do with foreign policy?" men asked. Mrs. Bruce Glasier pointed out that when war resulted, women were the chief sufferers; there was not only the loss of husbands and sons, but they had to see vast sums of money spent in war which were needed in the homes of the people.

Also women felt indignant that alliances should be made in the name of the British nation which filled them with shame, such as the recent alliance with the Russian autocracy. The honour of the English nation is dear to its women; and they demanded a democratic control of these matters. The Conference declared that it welcomed the Labour unrest of the past year, which the chairman had described as a "Labour Awakening"; demanding a national minimum in wages, housing, sanitation, education and child nurture. And Dr. Marion Phillips paid a tribute to the women who had backed up the men in the recent strikes for obtaining a living wage and better conditions. She said the women's share in a strike was often overlooked, yet it was harder than that of the men, who at least had the excitement of meetings and processions, while the women had to sit at home by the empty grate and the empty cupboard and hear the cries of the hungry children.

A strong protest was made against the use of the military at strikes; and also against the way in which the police treated women and girls, often, it was alleged, inciting them to be disorderly. Further complaints were made against the too frequent arrests and convictions on the evidence of young constables anxious for promotion; and especially in the case of women, heavy sentences for trifling causes often not proven. Mrs. Annot Robinson urged the appointment of women magistrates to deal with certain cases, and even women constables.

Miss Lenn (Leicester) and Miss Julia Varley supported the demand for women's lodging houses, and described the present unspeakable conditions of the common lodging house. On the feeding of necessitous school children, the establishment of school clinics, and the question of Women's Suffrage there were no two opinions in the Council. Mrs. Donaldson, of Leicester, moved the important resolution in favour of the inclusion of women in the Reform Bill, given above, and it was carried unanimously.

A good deal of useful discussion took place on the valuable work being done by the Worker's Educational Association, in providing lectures and classes for working women. Mrs. Tull, of Hendon, drew attention to the increasing desire of these women for higher education. Opinions were various on the question of raising the school age, but there could be nothing but approval for the provision of higher education for mothers at the cost of 1s. per year. The subjects most in demand in various parts of the country were Industrial Legislation, Economics and Literature.

The inefficiency of the present out-patient departments of Hospitals received a good deal of attention; one felt that doctors and nurses did their best, and Dr. Ethel Bentham reminded the

Conference that there was a limit to the number of cases a doctor could attend to in one afternoon; it seemed a further argument in favour of school clinics.

Housing, Equal Divorce Laws and a demand for facilities for greater cleanliness for workers were other subjects which received the attention of the Council. Mrs. Booth (Derby) brought greetings from the Women's Co-operative Guild containing 27,000 members, and Mrs. Webb (Bristol) from the Railway Women's Guild with a membership of 2,000. The chairman of the Labour Party also brought fraternal greetings, he spoke of the League's "magnificent opposition to war," and expressed his belief that the enfranchisement of women would be in the interests of peace.

The proceedings of the Conference throughout were on a very high level, and marked by an extraordinary earnestness and thoroughness of grasp. It would have been an object lesson to those who believe women unfitted to understand affairs of imperial and national importance to hear the able and business-like discussions, and note the orderly and serious manner in which a very long and comprehensive agenda was got through.

There is no doubt but that the delegates would return to their Branches not only inspired and encouraged, but with a broadened view and extended knowledge of the subjects dealt with, which must make them wise comrades for their husbands and enlightened teachers for their children, and a definite force for good to the community.

One could not but feel what a loss it is to the nation that such women should be debarred from exercising the vote.

F. C. T. RING.

#### The Fabian Society.

The following resolution has been unanimously adopted at a business meeting of the members of the London Fabian Society.

"That in view of the Prime Minister's pronouncement in regard to the proposed Reform Bill, this meeting of the Fabian Society declares that no measure will be acceptable which does not include both men and women, and urges the Government to introduce a genuine measure of Adult Suffrage, establishing political equality between the sexes. It points out that as the majority of the male workers is already enfranchised, and as this majority is also a majority of our adult males, the introduction of Manhood Suffrage will make little change in anything except the machinery of elections and the number of names on the register; and can, therefore, be taken only as a formal and emphatic denial of the Suffrage to women in reply to their recent agitation. Under these circumstances the meeting pledges itself to support the campaign throughout the country in favour of complete Adult Suffrage without distinction of sex, and to do its utmost to discredit and protest against the form in which the forthcoming Government Bill has been forecast by the Prime Minister."

"This meeting further declares that the suggestion put forward by certain sections of the Liberal press that Women's Suffrage should be made the subject of a Referendum, should be strongly opposed on the ground that Women's Suffrage is a question on which it is impossible to take a poll of the persons who are most vitally concerned therein."

#### Women's Liberal Associations.

At a Conference of delegates from the Women's Liberal Associations in the East Midlands area held on January 18th, a resolution welcoming the Prime Minister's assurance that full facilities shall be given for the adoption of a woman's suffrage amendment to the Reform Bill; thanking Mr. Lloyd George and Sir Edward Grey for promising to advocate such an amendment, and pledging those present to do all in their power to secure for the amendment the support of the Liberal M.P.s in the Eastern Midlands, was unanimously carried on the proposal of Miss Wallis, of Lincoln, who remarked that the economic independence of women was involved, and expressed the opinion that the giving of the vote to married women would greatly raise the status of marriage in the eyes of both sexes, and would be of inestimable benefit to the State. Miss Pendleton, of Nottingham, seconded, and Lady

Xoxall expressed herself cordially in support of the resolution.

Copies of the resolution were sent to the Prime Minister, Mr. Lloyd George, Sir E. Grey and to all the Liberal M.P.s in the East Midland area.

#### University Women Teachers and the Suffrage.

At the annual meeting of the Association of University Women Teachers held on January 20th at University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C., a resolution was adopted deploring the delay on the part of the Government in dealing with the enfranchisement of duly qualified women, regretting that the question had been complicated by the introduction of a Manhood Suffrage Bill, and urging the Government to recognise the educational work which is being done by women, by making it possible for them to have a voice in the legislation which controls education.

#### Foreign News.

##### Austria.

The Polish Women's Suffrage Committee in Galicia has been affiliated to the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, and is the 27th National Association to be admitted. There are now 22 nations represented in the Alliance. Of these Austria, which, owing to the Association Laws cannot have a national committee, is represented by three national committees, while Finland has three national societies and little, enthusiastic Denmark two national associations.

The Polish League at Lemberg is doing good service to the cause. We learn from Jus Suffragi that the League was planning a deputation of representatives of all women's societies on January 14, the day of the opening of the Galician diet, to urge the necessity of an amendment to the proposed scheme of electoral reform making it apply to women as well as men. A petition was also drawn up by the League and signed by all women's associations in Galicia, asking Dr. Bilinsky, President of the Polish parliamentary club at Vienna, to support a Bill admitting girls to classical and modern state schools. At present there is not one state school of this description for girls, and their higher education is left entirely to private enterprise. Galician suffragists hope to show that the education of girls is as much the concern of the State as that of boys.

##### France.

The French Women's Suffrage Association has sent a message of thanks to those English Cabinet Ministers who have come forward to help the Suffrage cause. On December 19 they sent the following telegram:—"The French Women's Suffrage Association, auxiliary to the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, sends its cordial congratulations to Sir Edward Grey, Lord Haldane and Mr. Lloyd George on their support of Woman Suffrage. It rejoices in the furtherance of the cause in France by the advocacy of the British Suffragists.—Signed, Mme. Vincent, President."

The Ministers sent a gracious acknowledgment to this message. On December 23 the Executive of the Union met to discuss the Union's policy during the impending elections for the Municipal Councils. They decided not to put forward candidates of their own, but to support any who would make votes for women part of their programme.

A campaign of suffrage lectures is proving very useful, and in particular the civil servants attend in large number, especially the employees of the education, postal, telegraph and telephone service. A special meeting for hospital nurses is also under contemplation. Madame Vincent appeals in Jus Suffragi for the loan of lantern slides from other countries to add to the efficacy of these lectures by showing French women the processions and demonstrations of women in other countries. An international exchange of such slides would surely be most interesting and helpful.

##### Belgium.

On September 24 last, the following resolution was adopted by the Roman Catholic Democratic Congress at Conrtrai:—"That the various objections against women's suffrage cannot stand the test of a thoroughly impartial examination; that on the contrary, the participation of women in municipal, provincial and even in State elections would further the nation's morality,



order and welfare. Considering that those countries where any kind of suffrage is given to women have gained many benefits from it, and have not felt the evil prophesied, the Congress urges that in case the Belgian parliament shall revise the existing electoral laws they shall grant to women the same electoral rights as to men."

Mrs. Auerbach.

Mrs. Auerbach writes from Cape Town:—"I wonder by what strange illusion I had persuaded myself that a holiday from suffrage work awaited me in South Africa! Immediately on landing last Tuesday, I received a letter of welcome combined with the announcement that I was expected to address a public meeting in Cape Town on Thursday, got up and advertised for this especial purpose, and my name in huge letters on a vast placard announcing the meeting was the first sight that greeted me as I walked up the main street of Cape Town. It was really rather startling, and I, in my innocence, had imagined I had left woman suffrage behind me!"

Of course it is very encouraging to see the immense progress that the movement has been making here in the last three years. The interest displayed in it is astounding. My meeting on Thursday night was crowded and a lot of men were standing all the time at the back of the hall. The audience were very enlightened, very cultivated and very sympathetic. There is to be a drawing-room meeting at the house of a member of the Cape Town Committee to-morrow afternoon, and on Thursday we depart and continue our journey up the coast. Several ladies here take the COMMON CAUSE, and the Women's Suffrage League has a membership in this district of 1,000.

A Close Parallel.

The Nation calls attention to a very interesting parallel between the present situation with regard to Women's Suffrage, and that which arose a century ago with regard to Catholic Emancipation:—

For the second time in the history of the last hundred years a question of the first importance has been lifted out of the party system and remitted to the representative body. Catholic Emancipation, like Woman Suffrage, divided the King's Government. In 1812, Lord Liverpool, the Prime Minister, was compelled to make it an open question, and to allow his personal opposition to lie in the balance against the support of his most powerful colleague, then the leader of the House of Commons. Later on, Canning and Castlereagh joined hands in fighting the battle of relief, while remaining the strongest members of a Government acutely divided on the question. It was waged for many years with varying fortune, but never, until the last stage was reached, with the formal assistance of the chiefs of the party which eventually passed it. It would be hard to imagine a nearer parallel with Woman Suffrage. Mr. Asquith may or may not have had the Liverpool precedent in mind. But he has followed it with some closeness. Since 1908 he has given the House of Commons a free hand. Now he has slightly enlarged its liberties so as to make himself the formal executant of its final will. This is not an abdication of power; it is rather a proper and constitutional recognition of the fact that the Executive is the child and not the parent of Parliament, and that within the bosom of that ancient body resides a never-abandoned power of initiative and effective action.

"Extremely Uncharacteristic."

It is interesting to note the opinion of such a noted Anti-Suffragist as Mr. L. V. Harcourt on Mr. Lloyd George's attitude to Women's Suffrage. Mr. Harcourt received a deputation from the W.S.P.U. last week, and was asked, among many other questions, whether Mr. Lloyd George intended to abandon his Suffrage campaign. Mr. Harcourt replied that if this were so, the good news had not reached him, and added that he thought it would be very uncharacteristic of Mr. Lloyd George to give up a measure in which he appeared to be so keenly interested. Mr. Harcourt has had as many opportunities of judging the Chancellor's characteristics as most people, and in this case he certainly has no reason to be biased.

The Stansfield Trust.

We have received the annual report of the Stansfield Trust. Our readers will doubtless remember that this Trust was founded in memory of Sir James Stansfield's services to the cause of justice to women, its objects being: to promote

the equality of men and women before the law of the land; to diffuse a knowledge of the position of women as compared with men under that law, and as it might become under any suggested alterations of it; and in regard to the relation of the sexes to maintain their equal responsibility to one and the same moral law.

The present trustees are:—Miss Leigh Browne, W. H. Dickinson, Esq., J.P., D.L., M.P., The Lady Emmot, The Hon. Mrs. Fordham, G. W. Johnson, Esq., C.M.G., W. S. B. McLaren, Esq., M.P., Miss M. J. Shaen, Sir Charles J. Tarring, J.P., Dr. Helen Wilson.

The officers for 1912 are Miss E. C. Harvey, Hon. Sec., Lady Emmot, Hon. Treasurer and Miss F. V. M. Taylor, Scrutineer of Parliamentary Bills.

During the foregoing year the Trust has issued Reports on 65 Bills affecting women and children, eleven of which have since become law.

The annual subscription for these reports has been lowered from one guinea to 6s. 6d. per annum, in order to make them more accessible to social workers. All information can be obtained from the Hon. Sec., Miss E. C. Harvey, 16, May's Hill Road, Shortlands, Kent.

Medical Women for India.

The Weekly Times of January 26 has an interesting article on "Medical Women for India," a subject which we have already dealt with in this paper. The writer in the Times bears out all that was said by Dr. Slater in the article we published on January 11th. He says:—"The evidence is overwhelming that a hospital for women, conducted by women, and staffed by women, who are also available in the homes of the sick, is regarded, wherever it has been established, as a boon of the highest order. In a few cases, we believe, native women are induced by the intensity of suffering or by the fear of death to admit the visits of English medical men; but it is certain that doing so involves an abandonment of cherished notions of propriety such as can hardly be altogether harmless to those who are compelled to consent to it. The only effectual remedy for the manifest evils now existing would be the establishment of a female side, so to speak, of the existing Indian Medical Service, a department of female doctors, to be gradually diffused over the country after the manner of the males who are now employed, and who would be available for the treatment of native women, either in their homes or in the local hospitals for women, as the nature and circumstances of each case might require. An essential part of the scheme would be provision for the medical education of native women to conduct ultimately among their own sex a large proportion of what would in this country be described as "general practice," although it would be necessary, for some time to come, to obtain hospital physicians and surgeons and consulting practitioners for extensive districts from the medical women of England, who may now, in every department of their calling, fairly claim to be second to no practitioners in the world. It ought not to be difficult to lay down the outline of a scheme which would arrest a mortality that is a reproach to the civilised Government permitting its continuance, and which in the course of a few years would render medical help in time of need accessible to the great majority of the women in India. The expense of such a scheme would be insignificant when compared with the benefits certain to accrue from it, and in time it would become in a large measure self-supporting. But, as India is ruled, the initiative of the Government is necessary in order to give shape and stability to the plan, to secure for it the support of wealthy natives, and to obviate the conditions which have interfered with the full efficiency of Lady Dufferin's Fund. There is a great opportunity for connecting the name and the visit of the Queen-Empress with a reform which might reach every home in the great Dependency, and the advantages of which, as far as can be foreseen, would be unshadowed by any probability of co-existing evils.

Suffrage in California.

Some interesting bits of information as to the working of Women's Suffrage in California have reached us lately. "The Dominion" for December, 1911, describing an election in Los Angeles says, "The chief features of the election were that the women cast nearly half of the total vote and that they defeated socialism, knocked out prohibition, declared for municipal newspapers and put through several by-laws for various city

improvements. They voted faster than men and required less coaching. They kept peace at the polling places, outvoted men in nearly all the precincts, worked for the candidates more enthusiastically than the men and converted many former foes to their cause.

No doubt the English suffragists will make the best use of the Los Angeles example in an endeavour to convert the Government to a sense of reason."

Another correspondent sends us an interesting account of clubs for the discussion of political and social subjects recently founded in Glendale, California. The writer and her husband have joined one of these clubs. She says:—"We go together, consider the same problems together, discuss frankly and rationally the problems of the day—meet together other men and women also interested in like subjects, and so the admission of women into politics becomes a greater bond of sympathy between husband and wife, and instead of destroying the home becomes a powerful basis of intellectual equality and attraction."

A Conversation which Actually Took Place.

Miss X (applying for a post as governess.) "Oh! no, Mrs. Y, I could not possibly come for the salary you name. I must at least have a living wage."

Mrs. Y (indignantly.) "A living wage, indeed! Really, Miss X, one would think you were a Suffragette!"

"The Force 't' at will Win."

When Custom forces Truth upon his knees, And Prejudice places her stern right hand Athwart th'awakening eyes of Verity, Blinding his sight; Then seems it vain for Justice to demand These two strange warders to give up the keys, And lose the slaves whom they so long have bound, Obscure as night, With the thick veil called "Destiny," And chain of "Might is Right."

But Truth, with vigour of eternal Youth O'ercometh Custom, snatching from his eyes The grim, lean fingers pressed by Prejudice; And in the light Thus gained, he now decries Justice and Purity, who shout, "Oh! Truth, Render to us the hand of fellowship, In thy new Might, That we may be a trinity, Unvanquished in this fight." Jan., 1912. GLADYS A. WYLLIE.

Reviews.

THE WOMEN OF SHAKESPEARE. (By FRANK HARRIS. Methuen p. 288. 7s. 6d. net.)

There can be few books of "criticism" more ravishingly funny than this. From the introduction in which Mr. Harris defends himself for conferring immortality on Goethe and Coleridge by mentioning them in his book, to—well, not quite to the close, which is a little too disgusting to be funny; but at least up to the last chapter.

One's instinct is to parody the method of argument, but a proper sense of what is possible forbids; it cannot be parodied. It is too good. It can only be—in flattering terms—described. The theory, then, is that Shakespeare was too great an ass to be able to understand, much less describe, anything that he had not experienced himself. The method of proof is to leave out all the things he described and had not experienced (such as murders), and to illustrate freely from the text the things that, conceivably, he might have experienced. He describes scolding wives, for example; therefore, his wife was a scold. Look at Adriana! Is it natural to have a scolding wife in "a gay farce-game"? Certainly not. Unheard of. Adriana is quite out of place. Mr. Harris could have thought of something much funnier, something in which there would have been, as he plaintively remarks, "some amusement." Shakespeare, however, really thought that a scold in a farce might be made amusing. No—I mean he did not think it would be amusing, but he knew it would be like his wife, and for this reason alone, he wrote "The Comedy of Errors."

Shakespeare also wrote of unchaste women and lustful men. Therefore, he loved an unchaste woman and was a lustful man. He describes several women as having black hair and eyes;

therefore, the woman he loved had black hair and eyes. How else could he have known there were such women? But Mary Fitton was his mistress, and her portrait shows her to have brown hair and blue-grey eyes! Yes—true—but it was the fashion to have red hair (not brown!), and no doubt the painter was a fashionable fellow, and so.

This dark, fair woman did not yield to Shakespeare at once. (How do we know? Because Leontes says of Hermione: "Three crabbed months had soured themselves to death ere I could make thee . . . clap thyself my love.") But she was the ruin of him in the end. (Proof: Wolsey says of Anne Boleyn: "All my glories in that one woman I have lost for ever.") He, however, never forgave his scolding wife. He returned to Stratford-on-Avon, it is true, but only because his mother entreated him to do so on her death-bed. How do we know this? Because Volturnia (who, however, was not on her death-bed) implored Coriolanus to have mercy on Rome. You do not follow? Let me refer you to pp. 224-225, and if after that you do not follow, you must be content to rank yourself with Goethe and with Coleridge.

On another page of this enchanting book, something is proved by the "significant" fact that no fewer than three people in Shakespeare (if the doubtful plays be included) use the expression "tush." I do not clearly understand what it is that this proves, but who shall say that it does not prove something? Probably, that Shakespeare himself used this expression on occasion.

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THE LABOUR LEADER

in which Factory and Public Health Law is explained by an expert. . . .

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If his immortal spirit is privileged to read the pages of Mr. Harris, one cannot doubt that it must have escaped his lips a thousand times. This, I fancy, must prove that he has read Mr. Harris.

For the crowning triumph of this gentleman's method is the way in which facts prove theories and theories facts. Thus: Shakespeare's plays are full of insane eroticism; this proves that Shakespeare was insanely erotic. Is that clear? Very well. Now start again. Shakespeare was insanely erotic; therefore, his plays are full of insane eroticism—even where you never would have guessed it. What, even Macbeth? Ah, here the wings of Mr. Harris's soaring spirit flag a little. He says only that Macbeth is "an imperfect index" to the soul of Shakespeare. Will he not, in a future edition, rather "prove" that Shakespeare did not really write "Macbeth"?

"Othello," of course, he did. Does this prove that Shakespeare was black, because the Moor was black? No. It only proves that he was middle-aged, because the Moor was middle-aged. And as for the blackness, that probably belongs to Mary Fitton.

I want Mr. Harris to write us another book. He had thought (he tells us) of calling this one: "The Woman-Shakespeare," but "feared it might be misunderstood." Let him write that book now, and without fear. Let him prove that Shakespeare really was Mary Fitton. It would be as easy as lying, one cannot but think. A. M. R.

OPENINGS FOR UNIVERSITY WOMEN.

(Published by The Central Bureau for the Employment of Women, 5, Prince's Street, Cavendish Square, W. Price 1s.)

This is a very useful pamphlet, designed to give a bird's eye view of the professional field open to women of higher education, although a good many of the professions mentioned do not necessarily demand a University degree of women who wish to take them up. Possible careers are divided into nine main headings, under each of which is a very clear list of the various branches included, together with the posts obtainable, length, nature and cost of training required and, where possible, range of salary. The pamphlet also contains a comparative table of University degrees and diplomas in the British Isles, thus giving a broad outline of the courses of study open to a student in her University years. It has been prepared for the Students' Careers' Association by Miss M. G. Spencer, Secretary of the Central Bureau for the Employment of Women.

THE BUSINESS GIRL.

Vol. I. No. I. Price 1d.

We are glad to welcome the first number of this monthly paper, described as the Official Organ of the Institution of Women Shorthand-Typists. The Institution is quite new, and its objects are stated as follows:—"To promote the interests of Women Shorthand-Typists, to provide an organisation through which the large number of women who have adopted the calling of shorthand-typing, may act for the common welfare and secure by combination, co-operation, and by the exercise of professional control, a recognised standing and a living minimum wage for all engaged in the profession of shorthand-typing." It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of such combinations of workers in a profession. Combination, it is true, does not achieve everything—but it is one of the strongest factors in any attempt to improve conditions of work, and a necessary part of the machinery of self-government. Many such organisations are needed among women, and it is to be hoped that other workers in hitherto unorganised professions will follow the example of the shorthand-typists.

Letters to the Editor

Correspondents are requested to send their names and addresses, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. The Editor is not responsible for any statement made in the correspondence column.

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

"REVOLTING DAUGHTERS."

Mrs. Hecht asks for the date of the controversy on "Revolting Daughters." There have probably been several, but I have a record of one such controversy, chiefly carried on in the Spectator newspaper, which belongs to November and December, 1879.

C. C. OSLER.

CONDUCT OF ANTI-SUFFRAGIST MEETINGS. Suffragists should be on the look-out for the resolution at Anti-Suffragist meetings. In Leamington it came

"Thinking Women Read The Standard"

IN a few weeks this phrase has become a truism. Why? Order The Standard for a week, or a day, and you will see. It is because, since October 3, The Standard's daily news pages have included one headed:

"WOMAN'S PLATFORM"

which every Thinking Woman in the land, and very many thinking men, want to see and to study every day. "WOMAN'S PLATFORM" has ended what was called the "Press Boycott" of the serious interests of thinking women—not their ribbons and ornaments, but their thoughts, aims, claims, views, hopes, deeds, and—Work.

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The Standard, 104, SHOE LANE, LONDON, E.C.



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on when we were not expecting it, and was so rushed that numbers of Suffragists had no opportunity of voting. The chairman refused to read the following questions as unfit for a public audience:—

1. If men deal so adequately with women's grievances, how is it that the divorce laws are unequal?
  2. How is it that the "age of consent" is fixed at 16, a period when temptation commences?
  3. How is it that the maintenance laws are so unsatisfactory that the London guardians pay £30,000 a year to support deserted wives and children?
- Comment is needless.  
Press Sec., West Midland Federation, Warwick and Leamington.

**A CORRECTION.**

A correspondent calls our attention to the fact that Ford Madox Brown's name was accidentally misspelt in last week's COMMON CAUSE. We apologise for this and several other misprints.

**Other Societies.**

**FREE CHURCH LEAGUE FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE.**  
Organising Sec.: Mrs. C. Fleming Williams.  
General Secretary: Rev. C. Fleming Williams, 2, Holm-  
bury View, Springfield, Clapton, N.E.

Tuesday, February 13th, 8 p.m.: Y.M.C.A., Breed's  
Place, Hastings. Speakers, Rev. C. Hinescliff and Rev.  
C. Fleming Williams (Ch. L. and F.C.L.).  
Friday, March 1st, 8 p.m.: Rectory Road Congre-  
gational Church, Stoke Newington, N. Rev. C.  
Hinescliff, Rev. C. Fleming Williams, etc.  
Friday, March 8th, 8 p.m.: Lewisham. Among speakers,  
Rev. C. Fleming Williams and Rev. C. Hinescliff.  
Tuesday, March 26th, 8 p.m.: Deptford. Details later.

**THE WOMEN'S TAX RESISTANCE LEAGUE.**  
On Wednesday, January 24th, Mrs. Kineton Parkes  
addressed a meeting in the Queen's Hall, Bognor, on the  
subject of "Tax Resistance." She gave many reasons  
why it was necessary for tax-paying Suffragists to refuse  
to pay their taxes this year, and explained the position  
in its relation to the present political situation.  
The League with its colours made a very good show in  
the Suffrage procession at Richmond on Saturday.

**THE ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE.**  
There was a good attendance at the members' meeting  
of the Actresses' Franchise League on Friday last, when  
Miss Adeline Bourne acted as hostess, and Miss Elsie  
Chapin gave an interesting account of her recent slum  
investigation work. Mrs. Madeleine Lucette Ryley made  
a witty and humorous speech, terminated by a deligh-  
tful recitation of a Suffragist version of "Mother  
Hubbard."

A meeting will be held in the Grand Hall of the  
Criterion Restaurant, on Friday, February 2nd, at 3 p.m.  
Speakers: Mr. Atherley-Jones, K.C., Mrs. Hylton Dale,  
and the Rev. Hugh Chapman. Mrs. Saba Raleigh will  
be the hostess and Mrs. E. S. Willard will take the  
chair. Miss Ada Moore will sing.

**THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.**  
Hon. Secretary: Miss Beatrice Gadsby, B.A.  
Hon. Treasurer: Miss Monica Whately.  
Office: 51, Blandford Street, Baker Street, W.

Members are asked to make known the new office  
address. Office hours 5 to 6, Tuesdays and Fridays, or by  
appointment. Members who walked under the Catholic  
banner in the procession last Saturday were very well  
received all along the route of the procession.  
The Hon. Secretary is still most anxious to have offers  
of drawing-rooms for meetings. The reception for  
members and their friends will take place in February,  
full particulars will appear later.

**WOMEN WRITERS' SUFFRAGE LEAGUE.**  
A feature of the matinee which is being given by the  
Women Writers' Suffrage League at the New Princes  
Theatre, on Friday, February 9th, is the famous Trafalgar  
Square scene from "Votes for Women," by Elizabeth  
and the Rev. Hugh Chapman. Miss Dorothy Minto and Miss Agnes  
Robins will sustain their original parts, and Miss Lilian  
Braithwaite will play Vida Levering and Mr. Mark  
Hannan, the chairman. The production will be in the  
hands of Mr. Harold Chapin.  
In Miss Elizabeth Baker's comedy, "Edith," the  
heroine will be Miss Lena Ashwell. Many well-known  
actresses have undertaken to appear in the Shakespeare  
Pageant.

**NEW PLAYERS.**  
Among the many well-known people to be present  
at the Matinee at the Kingsway on February  
5th are the Countess of Selborne, President of the  
Conservative and Unionist W.F.A.; the Lady Mary Cooke  
and Mrs. Leopold de Rothschild, vice-presidents; Mrs.  
Fawcett, President of the National Union of W.S.S., Dr.  
Garrett Anderson, Miss Dorothy Sharp, Miss Leonora  
Tyson, Miss Ada Wright, of the W.S.P.U., and such well-  
known Suffragists as Mrs. H. W. Nevinson, Mrs. Percy  
Dearmer, the Countess von Resetas, etc.

**Forthcoming Meetings.**

**ARRANGED BY THE NATIONAL UNION.**

(The meetings are given only a fortnight in  
advance.)

- FEBRUARY 1.**  
Gateshead—Coate's Tea Room—Miss C. M. Gordon,  
M.A., Councillor Carr (chair). 7.30  
Leamington—Birc's Music Rooms, Parade— 3.0  
Franchise Club.  
Burton-on-Trent—Fria's Walk Schools—Whist  
Drive. 7.0  
Hull—Lecture Hall, Kingston Square—Dramatic  
Performance. 7.30

- FEBRUARY 2.**  
Pangbourne—Mrs. Charles Jones's drawing-room  
meeting. 3.30  
Gateshead—Mrs. Hutchinson's drawing-room meet-  
ing—Miss C. M. Gordon, M.A., Dr.  
Charlotte Browne (chair). 7.30  
Penarth—Small Andrew's Hall—Miss Helen Fraser  
and others. 8.0  
Whitby—Temperance Hall—The Lady Frances  
Balfour, Miss Mercer, D. Corrie, Esq.  
(chair). 8.0  
Birmingham—10, Easy Row—Franchise Club. 8.0  
Southport—Cambridge Hall—Philip Snowden, Esq.,  
M.P.; A. S. Rowntree, Esq., M.P.;  
J. J. Cookshott, Esq., J.P., and others,  
The Mayor (chair). 8.0  
Maidenhead—Drill Hall—Mrs. Fawcett, T. Malcolin  
Mitchell, Esq.; L. A. Atherley Jones,  
Esq., K.C., M.P.—Mrs. Robie Uniacke  
(chair). 8.0

**FEBRUARY 3.**  
Seaford—Town Hall, Waterloo—Miss Evelyn Deakin,  
Major White, M.P. (chair). 3.30

**FEBRUARY 5.**  
Uxbridge—Brookfield Restaurant, High Street—At  
Home—"The Insurance Bill." 7.30

**FEBRUARY 6.**  
Fife—The Grand—Miss Abadam. 8.0  
Newcastle-on-Tyne—27, Ridley Place—Choir practice,  
conducted by Mrs. Bellas Simpson. 8.0  
Wallasey and Wirral—Liscard Concert Hall—Mrs.  
Philip Snowden, J. T. Chester, Esq.,  
J.P., C.C. (chair). Evening. 8.0

**FEBRUARY 7.**  
Bath—Post Office Chambers, Norgate Street—  
The Political Situation—Miss  
K. M. S. Robertson. 4.0  
Bournemouth—Assembly Rooms, The Avenue—  
"At Home." 4-6  
Scarborough—St. Nicholas Boarding House—Miss  
Abadam. 3.30  
Dewsbury—Town Hall—Mrs. Fawcett, Dr. Jane  
Walker, R. Clough, Esq., Mrs. Cannon  
(chair). 7.30

**FEBRUARY 8.**  
Birmingham—The Farm, Sparkbrook—Miss Lloyd's  
drawing-room meeting—Mrs. Ring,  
Miss Southall (chair). 4.0  
Keswick—Battersby Lecture Hall—"Some Objections  
to 'W.S.'"—Rev. Taylor Herd—  
"Women's responsibility now and after  
enfranchisement"—Miss Sidney  
Knight. 8.0

**FEBRUARY 9.**  
Manchester—Midland Hall—Suffrage Bazaar. 12.30  
York—Mrs. Thompson's drawing-room meeting—  
Miss Abadam. 3.0  
Harrogate—Spa Rooms—Miss Abadam. 8.0  
Lechworth—Pismore Institute—At Home to meet  
Mrs. Rackham and H. N. Brailsford,  
Esq. 8.0

**FEBRUARY 10.**  
Manchester—Midland Hall—Suffrage Bazaar. 12.30  
Southport—Congregational School, Chapel Street—  
Rummage Sale. 3.0  
Leeds—Y.M.C.A. annual meeting—Miss Abadam. 7.0  
Manchester—Midland Hall—Suffrage Bazaar. 12.0

**FEBRUARY 12.**  
Stevenson—"The Chestnuts"—Mrs. Wathen. 8.0  
**FEBRUARY 13.**  
Newcastle-on-Tyne—Drawing-room Cafe, Northum-  
berland Street—Mrs. and Miss Pease's  
drawing-room meeting—Miss I. O.  
Ford. 3.0

**FEBRUARY 14.**  
South Shields—Congregational Hall—Miss I. O. Ford. 7.30  
**FEBRUARY 14.**  
Birmingham—Council House, Handsworth—Mrs.  
Despard, Mrs. Rabone (chair). 8.0  
Bath—Post Office Chambers, Northgate Street—  
Mrs. Skemp. 4.0  
Bournemouth—Assembly Rooms, The Avenue—At  
Home. 4-6  
Newcastle-on-Tyne—Crosbie's Cafe, Northumberland  
Street—Miss I. O. Ford. 3.15  
Stocksfield—The Red House—Mrs. Adams's meet-  
ing—Miss I. O. Ford. 7.30  
Hexham—Miss Robb's drawing-room meeting—Miss  
C. M. Gordon.

**FEBRUARY 1.** LONDON.  
Blackheath—Blackheath Chambers, Blackheath  
Village—Miss C. Corbett, B.A., Mrs.  
Mackern (chair) afternoon. 8.30  
N. Kensington—Horbury Rooms—Debate: Mrs.  
Harold Norris (N.L.O.W.S.) v. Mrs.  
Stanbury. 8.30

**FEBRUARY 2.**  
Windsor—Mission Hall, Spital—Mrs. Bernard  
Everett, Rev. B. S. C. Smith (chair). 8.0  
**FEBRUARY 3.**  
N. Paddington—11, Landerdale Road, Maids Vale—  
Social meeting—Miss Ellen Walsh,  
Mrs. Franklin (chair). 8.15

**FEBRUARY 5.**  
E. St. Pancras—Upper Hall, Y.M.C.A.—Debate:  
Mrs. Merivale Mayer v. Mrs. Stewart,  
Councillor Rev. J. Harley, M.A.  
(chair). 8.30  
W. Kensington—Lecture Hall, Chalonier Street—  
Miss K. D. Courtney, J. Malcolin  
Mitchell, Esq., The Lady Frances  
Balfour (chair). 8.30

**FEBRUARY 7.**  
Holborn—24, Woburn Place, Russell Square—Mrs.  
Ferguson's At Home—Mrs. Duncan  
Harris. 4.0  
**FEBRUARY 8.**  
S. Kensington—Allen Street Schools—Mrs. Stan-  
bury, Rev. Llewellyn Smith, W. J.  
Johnson, Esq. (chair). 8.30  
N. Hackney—48, Clapton Common, N.—Miss G.  
Dykes Spicer, W. King, Esq. (chair). 8.0

**FEBRUARY 9.**  
Central and South Hackney—League of Young  
Liberals, 216, Mare Street, N.E.—W.S.  
meeting—Mrs. Gimmingham, M.A. 8.30  
**FEBRUARY 12.**  
Central and South Hackney—Enfield Road Schools—  
Kingsland Ward—Mrs. Gimmingham,  
M.A. 8.30

**FEBRUARY 13.**  
Kensington—Empress Rooms—London Society's  
reception—Mrs. F. T. Swanwick, M.A.,  
Miss Cecily Corbett, B.A., The Hon.  
Mrs. Franklin (chair). 3.30  
**FEBRUARY 14.**  
Southwark—"Sons of Temperance" Lecture Hall,  
Blackfriars Road—Mrs. F. T. Swan-  
wick, M.A. 8.30

**SCOTLAND.**

**FEBRUARY 1.**  
Inverleithen—Free Library Hall—Dr. Elsie Inglis.  
Edinburgh—Leith Walk—Open-air meeting—Miss  
Alice Low, Miss Lisa M. Gordon. 8.0  
**FEBRUARY 2.**  
Glasgow—Office, 202, Hope Street—Miss I. Waddell's  
"At Home." 4.0  
Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home"—  
Miss Alice Lcw. 4.30  
Edinburgh—Deputation to Mr. Charles Lyell, M.P.  
(South Edinburgh). 5.30

**FEBRUARY 8.**  
Edinburgh—Cafe Hall, Princes Street—annual  
meeting—Mrs. G. F. Abbott (Miss  
Lamond). 4.30  
**FEBRUARY 9.**  
Edinburgh—Mrs. Charles Somerville's drawing-  
room meeting—Mrs. G. F. Abbott. 3.0  
Glasgow—Office, 202, Hope Street—Miss A. Stuart  
Paterson. 4.0  
Inverness—St. Margaret's—Paper, "Olive  
Schreiner's 'Woman and Labour'"—  
Mrs. James Fraser. 8.0

**FEBRUARY 13.**  
Edinburgh—The Misses Kemp's drawing-room  
meeting—Mrs. G. F. Abbott. 3.45

**IRELAND.**

**FEBRUARY 2.**  
Dublin—33, Molesworth Street—Irish W.S. and Local  
Government Association—"Industrial  
Law and the need for W.S."—Rev.  
R. M. Groynin, F.T.C.D., Councillor  
Harrison, Miss Badham, LL.D. 8.0  
**FEBRUARY 8.**  
Dublin—33, Molesworth Street—Irish W.S. and  
Local Government Association—Com-  
mittee meeting. 11.30

**MEETINGS ADDRESSED BY MEMBERS OF THE  
UNION.**

**FEBRUARY 1.**  
Oldham—Junior Unionist Association, Rhodes Bank  
—Miss M. Robertson, B.A. 8.0  
Fanghoun—Liberal Club—Debate at meeting of  
Men's and Women's Liberal Associa-  
tions—Mrs. Merivale Mayer. 8.0  
Melton Mowbray—Gospel Mission Hall—Mrs.  
Croslier's Mother's Meeting—Mrs.  
Renton. 3.0

**FEBRUARY 2.**  
Melton Mowbray—Board Room of Co-operative  
Society—Women's Co-operative Guild—  
Mrs. Renton, Miss I. S. A. Beaver. 7.30  
Birmingham—Medical Mission School for Mothers,  
Floodgate Street—Mrs. Ring. 3.0  
Soberton Towers, Hants—Drawing-room meeting—  
Mrs. Heffenden, Miss Norah O'Shea. 3.0

**FEBRUARY 2.**  
Cambridge—Women's Co-operative Guild—Miss M.  
Martineau. 8.0  
Bristol—League of Young Liberals, Brunswick  
Square—Debate on W.S.—W. C. H.  
Cross, Esq., LL.B. v. H. Trappell, Esq.,  
LL.B. 8.0

**FEBRUARY 3.**  
Royston—John Street Schoolroom—Nonconformist  
Young Men's Society. 8.0  
Bristol—24, Richmond Terrace (Headquarters Girls'  
Guilds)—Debate—Mrs. Solomon v. Miss  
J. M. Berrill. 7.0

**FEBRUARY 4.**  
Birmingham—Smothwick I.L.P.—Mrs. Ring. 6.30  
Peterborough—Lincoln Road School—Adult School  
—Mrs. Renton. 2.45  
Peterborough—Christchurch Schoolroom—I.L.P.—  
Mrs. Renton. 7.0

**FEBRUARY 6.**  
Bolton—Co-operative Buildings—Men's Co-op.  
Debating Society—Miss M. Robertson,  
B.A. 7.30  
**FEBRUARY 7.**  
Brierfield, Lancs.—Women's Co-operative Guild—  
Miss I. O. Ford. 7.0  
**FEBRUARY 8.**  
Kirkstall—Liberal Association—Mrs. Renton. 8.0  
Colne—Women's Co-operative Guild—Miss I. O.  
Ford. 7.0

**FEBRUARY 12.**  
Melton Mowbray—Women's Liberal Association—  
Mrs. Renton. 7.30  
**FEBRUARY 14.**  
New Wortley—Liberal Association—Mrs. Parrish. 8.0

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"Woman and Social Regeneration."  
7 p.m. Miss MILLICENT MURBY,  
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