

The Common Cause

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

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Notes and Comments.

Women's Suffrage in the U.S.A.

In a letter published in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, Mr. Joseph Fels calls attention to an aspect of Women's Suffrage in the United States which has hitherto scarcely been understood in this country. He points out that the States where women are enfranchised have a tremendous advantage, in the Presidential elections, over those where only men can vote. "The Presidential vote," he says, "has been increased by three or four millions, which practically means that the Suffrage States can swing the next Presidential election. This fact has naturally excited large interest in the rest of the Republic, the advantage being easily apparent. It is hardly to be expected that New York and Pennsylvania will do nothing while Illinois doubles her effective vote."

This phase of the situation is creating keen interest in America. We publish among our foreign news an account of the efforts that are being made to obtain an amendment to the Constitution of the United States that shall make Woman Suffrage nation-wide. An amendment to this effect has already been introduced into the Senate, and has been favorably reported by the committee.

Suffrage Summer Schools.

The accounts which we print this week of the suffrage gatherings at Oxford and St. Andrews show that great things may be hoped from the summer school movement. That so many women should be willing to spend part of their holidays in serious study, in order to fit themselves for suffrage work, is remarkable evidence of the enthusiasm roused by the cause. The National Union will receive a great accession of strength from this band of devoted workers, who have been making themselves familiar with the social and political problems of the day, practising the art of addressing a public meeting, and generally equipping themselves for the work of promoting women's enfranchisement.

Hooliganism at Suffrage Meetings.

Mr. McKenna's reply in Parliament to questions with regard to hooliganism in connection with the Suffrage Pilgrimage can scarcely be regarded as satisfactory. In answer to Mr. Philip Snowden, he stated that no suggestion had been made by the National Union that the disorder was organised from any centre,

and that all the evidence he had tended to show that it was due to outbursts of local hooliganism. This is very misleading. The National Union, in the report¹ sent to Mr. McKenna on August 14th, produced evidence which points very strongly to organised attempts to stir up the hooligan element in the crowd. "The ringleaders," states this document, "were generally men who did not belong to the locality, but preceded the Pilgrims from place to place, and collected bands of rowdy youths to create disturbance, and particularly to pursue the speakers after the meeting and use them roughly." The report also gives a number of specific instances in which the same man, or group of men, stirred up trouble in different places. There is also considerable evidence that the Anti-Suffrage speakers who preceded the pilgrims used language calculated to stir up violence.

Politics and Economics.

The impossibility of severing the political and economic interests of any class is well illustrated in the programme of work which will be before the Trade Union Congress at Manchester on September 1st. Resolutions demanding Parliamentary action are very numerous, and include Insurance Act amendment, educational reforms, an eight hours day, the abolition of piecework in Woolwich Arsenal, and the improvement of Workmen's Compensation Acts. The faint cries, still reiterated at intervals by anti-suffragists, that economic conditions are not affected by votes, begin to appear in the light of a jest. Perhaps this was what they were really meant to be. It certainly looks like it when one finds that £256,000 has been paid out in six months, to men, in unemployment benefit. No woman's trade has been given a share in this benefit.

Increased Cost of Living.

No doubt the report issued last week by the Board of Trade as to the increased cost of living of the working classes will come up for discussion at the Congress. This is a subject of special interest to women. "As things are to-day," says a writer in the *Manchester Guardian*, "every English employer who is paying the same rate of wages for the same work of twelve years ago is paying from 3s. to 5s. per sovereign less value. Every German employer of labour is paying from 5s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. per German sovereign under similar conditions in less value, and there need be no wonder at the working man's thrifty wife asking what it all means." Not only are women asking "what it all means," but they are asking for political power in order that they may help to grapple with the problem. Many different remedies are being suggested, and most of these can only be supplied by means of political action. Some people, for example, are urging Tariff Reform; others a compulsory rise in wages. With these and other suggestions Parliament may shortly be called upon to deal, and it is important that questions so vitally affecting the interests of women should not be discussed without due consideration being given to their point of view. So long, however, as women remain without the vote, their influence upon political questions must be lamentably small.

¹ See page 328 of our issue of August 15th.

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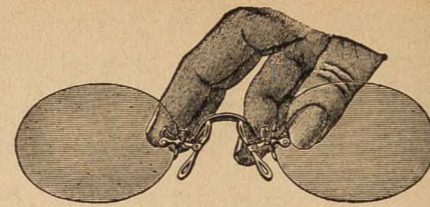
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NOTICE.—This paper is obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by mid-day on Friday. If any difficulty is found in obtaining it locally, please communicate with The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

Contributors are requested to note that the latest time for receiving news for the week's issue is the first post on Tuesday. Federation correspondents are asked to send in their reports not later than Monday, first post. All unsolicited contributions should be accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope.

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

Methods of Controversy.

In response to the memorial presented by the doctors some weeks ago, Mr. Asquith announced his intention of appointing a Royal Commission of Enquiry into the nature and treatment of venereal diseases. We shall await with the deepest interest further information as to the scope of the enquiry and the composition of the Board.

First of all, it is imperative that both sexes should be represented on it. On such a subject—one on which there have been so many and so disastrous mistakes made in the past—there can be no room for false modesty. The presence of women is absolutely essential, and they should not be in a minute minority, but in numbers which shall give due weight to their point of view.

Secondly, we trust that the proposed Commission will not consist only of medical men and women. There should be a very large representation of the laity. That experts should rather give evidence than pronounce judgment is a very sound British opinion; and this is peculiarly a question into which human and moral factors enter as well as those purely scientific ones which are apt to absorb the minds of specialists. The record of the specialist on this subject in the past, indeed, does not inspire any very extraordinary degree of confidence; at least, in the minds of Suffragists.

Thirdly, we hope that an enquiry of an international scope may be set on foot at the same time, to enquire into the White Slave Traffic. Public opinion is deeply stirred upon this question, and has not been dragged into entire quiescence by official denials. It remembers too well the official denials which met the terrible indictment of Mr. Stead, to believe so easily as it did then that nothing is wrong because the Home Office knows of nothing.

It has been suggested that a danger exists of an attempt to return to the discredited "regulation" system. It is necessary to be very watchful; but we believe that enquiry (especially if not conducted only by one set of persons) will harden opinion in the opposite direction. When the Chicago Vice Commission was appointed in America, rather more than half the Commissioners were in favour of some form or other of police regulation. When its investigations closed, every Commissioner was opposed to every form of it. Miss Jane Addams informs us that precisely the same thing has already happened to the Rockefeller Commission, which has been sitting only a comparatively short time. We believe that the regulation system and its effects have only to be understood in order to be held in abhorrence by ordinary people. In facing so grave a question, however, it is essential that public opinion should be both steady and courageous. We have suffered both from sentimentality and from cowardice in the past; and in view of the discussion that must accompany the holding of this enquiry, both in the press, on the platform, and in private, there are certain considerations which must be faced.

Does it conduce to sobriety and frankness to have articles on such a question unsigned, or signed by misleading pseudonyms? The articles in the *English Review* of July and August, for example, are signed respectively "A Mother" and "A Father," and quite a considerable number of people have been

Reform of Legal Procedure.

We are glad to learn that a memorandum has been addressed to the Home Secretary by the Women's Freedom League, protesting against the mode of procedure in our Courts in trying cases of indecent and criminal assault. In our issue of August 1st a contributor pointed out the need for special courts, presided over by women, for trying delinquent girls. No less necessary, in the interests of decency and justice, is the influence of women in the trial of certain offences against women and children. The injustice and impropriety of the present custom of excluding women—even relatives of the victim—from such trials, and questioning girls alone in a court crowded with men, who are often of the lowest type, was admitted by the Home Secretary when his attention was called to it by the Freedom League last February; but no steps have been taken to remedy the abuse.

Some weeks ago we called attention to the need for women to serve on juries. There is also a great need for women officers with a certain amount of legal training to act in an advisory capacity to magistrates in cases where women and children are concerned. In Russia, the special Children's Courts of Justice inquire into cases of physical and moral injury inflicted upon children and young girls, and there is much to be said for the practice. It is certainly necessary in the interests of justice that the woman's point of view shall be represented, both in the case of misdemeanours of this type which can be dealt with summarily, and of the more serious offences under the Criminal Law Amendment Act which are tried before a jury. While protesting against the views expressed in the memorandum of the Freedom League, that women are excluded from indecent cases because the court "only admits to those cases that section of the public whose interests demand that the other section of the public shall be kept in ignorance of the horrors which such trials elicit," we do believe that the average man is inclined to regard certain offences far more lightly than a woman would do. We hold, however, that men are unduly lenient in such cases, not out of sympathy with the offender but because they do not realise to the full the suffering involved, and that if the women's point of view could be brought home to them it would meet with very little opposition. But so long as women are liable to be excluded from the courts, and take no part in the administration of the law, there is little hope that offences against the person will be dealt with more drastically.

Piccadilly Flat Case.

We publish in our Parliamentary Notes, on page 344, the discussion which took place in Parliament on the Piccadilly Flat case. In view of the fact that at the trial of Queenie Gerald both the presiding magistrate and the Prosecutor for the Crown stated that there was evidence of procreation, we cannot regard Mr. McKenna's attitude as satisfactory. If such evidence exists, we must join in the demand which is now being made in many quarters that proceedings shall be instituted against Queenie Gerald. So long as cases of this kind are hushed up, and those men who write and demand "innocent girls" are enabled to do so with impunity, there is no hope whatever of putting a stop to the white slave traffic.

Reformatory Training for Girls.

A report has just been issued by the Borstal Association with regard to the reformatory treatment of young offenders. Some years ago there was no place of detention except the ordinary prison for young criminals convicted after their sixteenth year; but now over 1,000 lads are being given industrial training and other instruction at Borstal, Feltham, and Canterbury, while 90 girls are accommodated in a separate wing at Aylesbury Female Gaol. A much larger number of girls would undoubtedly be given the chance of reformatory treatment if it were not for a mistaken idea of leniency on the part of magistrates. Sentences of detention in a Borstal Institution can only be passed at Assizes or Quarter Sessions, and magistrates of Summary Courts will seldom commit girls for trial, their usual practice being to sentence young girls to a term of ordinary imprisonment too short to make them see the error of their ways, or to enable them to receive a training that may help them to earn their living when they leave. In some of our prisons a modified Borstal system is now in use for the younger inmates; but discipline cannot be inculcated in a few weeks, nor can a young woman whose training has been utterly neglected be taught to earn an honest livelihood in a short space of time. It is to be hoped that magistrates will come to recognise the value of industrial and physical training for girls as well as for boys, and that in addition to Borstal institutions—which are only suitable for really serious cases—a greater number and variety of certified schools will be provided for the reformation of girls.

impressed by the fact that "a mother" should hold the views contained in the first. Yet internal evidence suggests that it was written by a man, and probably by the same person who in the August number appears as "A Father." It is true that many people may hold views worth hearing on the subject these articles deal with, and not be in a position to give their names to the public. It is worth considering whether the irresponsibility which comes from secrecy, and the distrust inspired by it, does not cancel the value of the contribution.

At least it is certain that all discussion, whether anonymous or otherwise, should be perfectly frank. We are all bound to hear a great deal with which we shall disagree on the subject of the coming enquiry. Some of us will seem wild, and others hide-bound in our ideas. But while many to whom entire reserve has seemed essential in the past are painfully putting it aside, because they realise that it has resulted in disaster to the race, they are entitled to demand a like frankness on the part of others. Their quarrel—and ours—with the *English Review* is not, first of all, that they entirely disagree with it, but that its contributors have not the courage of their opinions. They make dark hints, but leave them dark. They call for "courage," but leave it to others to show it. They conjure us to "think clearly," and leave us in a fog. They set down a number of astonishing propositions as things which "everybody knows." They dare not give a name to their conclusions.

The women's movement has, we believe, won two positions which no degree of subtlety will persuade it to abandon. One is that there must be no difference in the standard applied to the two sexes. Whatever it be, it must be the same for both.

The different standard may be defended by a thousand pleas as to the different "natures" of men and women, and by the differing effects of vice in them. It has been—it doubtless will be—defended by pens far abler than that of the writer of "Men and Morals," whose anxiety to engage the support of Suffragists cannot conceal the contempt for them which makes every allusion a sneer. But the ruthless logic of facts is too strong. Accept a lower standard of chastity from men than women, and you get the inevitable setting aside of some women for the purposes of vice. Those who belong to the Woman's Movement may or may not be convinced (we believe they will not) that this is the price at which the social fabric must be maintained; but they will, we believe, be *solidaire* in thinking that such a price cannot, at any risks, be paid, and that the "social fabric" is not worth what these "moralists" ask for it.

Secondly, there can be no difference of class. If the article of "A Mother" means anything, it means that what cannot be asked from women of education and breeding may be supplied by—others. Who are these others? Women without breeding and education? The "temporary wife" of one class; the "permanent" one of another? The childless wife of one class; the mother of another? Or what is intended if it is not this? Let us be told plainly, that we may decide, knowing what we are about, whether we shall, indeed, sacrifice one set of women to another set; or rather try whether a more courageous way may not produce a "social fabric" better worth saving than the one we see around us, produced, not by rebellion against, but by immemorial acquiescence in, that double standard which these moralists seek to preach afresh, with such an air of originality and courage.

Women Workers in the Potteries.

When the daughter of an industrial worker leaves school and proceeds to take her place in the world as a wage-earner, in many localities she is able to make her choice from a variety of occupations. This choice is practically non-existent in the pottery towns of Stoke-on-Trent, Hanley, Burslem, Tunstall, Longton, and their neighbourhood. The number of domestic servants required is very small, for the majority of the inhabitants keep no servants, or, if they do, the conditions and wages they offer are, except among the comparatively few well-to-do people, not likely to attract quick and capable workers. The number of shops, too, requiring assistants is also small.

The one great industry, apart from coal-mining and iron-works, is the manufacture of china and earthenware. About 63,000 persons are employed in this trade in the whole country, nearly 48,000 of whom work in the Potteries. Approximately, 33,000 work in dusty processes (amongst whom the death-rate from lung diseases is very high), and rather less than 7,000 in processes involving contact with lead, of whom over 2,300 are women and girls. Official statistics show that women are much more susceptible than men to the action of lead. In women, too, the evil does not always end with their personal sufferings, since

work in lead, at any time even before marriage, has been found to result in an excessive miscarriage rate.

On hearing this, many people are ready to exclaim at once "Exclude the women from the work." It is the dread of being excluded from the work, both individually and also "as women," which causes many to hide their symptoms and to say, and even to think, as little as possible about the disease which may be in store for any one of them. The exclusion of the lead, rather than the exclusion of the women from the work, should be our aim.

Lead-poisoning attacks people in different ways. Among the commonest forms of trouble resulting from lead, are anæmia, lead colic, and a peculiar form of paralysis affecting the hands and arms, known as wrist-drop, the muscles in the wrist giving way, and the hands hanging helpless. In acute cases blindness may ensue, or convulsions ending in death.

Special rules for those engaged in this work have been drawn up from time to time. Those issued in 1903 were thought to be so adequate that under them the leading manufacturers promised the "extirpation of lead-poisoning." This promise was not fulfilled, and in May, 1908, a Departmental Committee was appointed "to enquire into the dangers attendant on the use of lead and the danger or injury to health arising from other causes in the manufacture of earthenware and china." This committee issued its report in June, 1910 (Cd. 5219, price 1s. 5d.), and made certain recommendations. These recommendations resulted in further regulations, which, after considerable delay, came into force in January, 1913. The manufacturers have not on this occasion promised the extirpation of lead-poisoning as a result of their enforcement. They have, no doubt, grown less sanguine in the matter, and some of them, although perhaps only in the depths of their hearts, probably agree with those who think that only the extirpation of the lead will extirpate the poisoning.

"The most important, because most dangerous channel by which lead finds its way into the human system, is now believed to be through the lung tissues by the absorption of the fine, almost invisible, particles of lead dust breathed in with the air."¹ Cleanliness in person and methods of work on the part of the operatives, added to the provision of good conditions of work and adequate wages by their employers (for the well nourished are less susceptible to disease), will do much to keep at bay this often unseen foe; but, whatever precautions are taken, so long as there is lead there is danger.

The great majority of medical witnesses before the Departmental Committee "were strongly of opinion that all, or nearly all, lead workers have lead in their systems." The report also states that the evidence tends to show that "general health of many operatives is impaired, though not to an extent sufficient to give rise to definite symptoms of lead-poisoning. The lead is cumulative in its action, and a person not suffering from an attack may be on the very verge of one owing to the amount of lead in his system."

Every case of lead-poisoning in a lead worker, which a medical practitioner comes across in the course of his professional duties, has to be notified to the Chief Inspector of Factories at the Home Office. The sufferer is told to go to the Certifying Surgeon of the district, to confirm the doctor's opinion. The cases so confirmed are tabulated as the certified cases of lead-poisoning in the particular trade during the year. Those occurring in the manufacture of china and earthenware for 1912 were 80, including 14 deaths.

The casual observer who prides himself on being a statistician as well as a lover of the truth smiles pityingly at the enthusiastic philanthropist who, deploring the suffering caused by lead-poisoning, recommends the purchase of leadless glazed ware. The statistician waves his figures in the face of the philanthropist, and says "What is 80 out of nearly 7,000—or, for the matter of that, the 90 of 1911? The philanthropist without knowledge—and there are many—may be inwardly somewhat taken aback, but will probably answer "80 is 80 too many." The philanthropist with knowledge will point to the Report of the Departmental Committee for evidence of the lowering of health of vastly more than 80 of the 7,000, and will quote the report of the Chief Inspector of Factories for 1911, in which H.M. Inspector of Factories, Miss Sadler, states that out of 768 women and girls employed in 68 potteries (there are about 550 potteries altogether), 258 were marked in the special register as "absent" or "left" between the months of January and September, 19 marked as suspended by the certifying surgeon (that is, told to stay away from work for a time, as

¹ See *An Analysis of the Regulations Governing the Manufacture of Pottery in the British Isles*. By William Burton, M.A., F.C.S.

the condition of their health was such that they could not safely continue to work in lead. No compensation is given during this enforced absence), 10 only were reported as lead-poisoning cases. Where, the philanthropist asks the statistician, were the 258 who were no longer working but yet neither suspended nor certified as ill? It would be most improbable that all were married within nine months, or had inherited sufficient means to render them independent of work.

This is a question which urgently needs an answer, and until it is answered, and satisfactorily answered, even those who could should not comfort themselves with "only 80 out of 7,000." Besides which, if we begin to consider only the 80 certified cases in detail, we are aghast at the suffering before we have gone half through the list, notwithstanding that compensation of half wages is paid to certified cases of lead-poisoning. Out of 24 certified cases of women mentioned by the Potteries Fund Committee in their Report for 1912,² taken consecutively from their ledgers, the most satisfactory is one who was only ill for five months. Most of those taken ill between July 1st and December 31st, 1911, were still ill in December, 1912. Ill, and struggling to live on their compensation, and often having to keep one or more relatives on it as well, the average compensation of those over 21 being 5s. 5d. a week (half wages). Those under 21 receive full wages as compensation). One was reported as married because, after her mother's death, she found that she could not live on her compensation.

These things ought not to be. Where is the remedy to be found? There was only one woman on the Departmental Committee, Miss Gertrude Tuckwell. She recommended that a schedule should be drawn up of articles to be made only with a leadless glaze, to which the Home Office should have power to add; until, within a given number of years, the use of lead in the manufacture of china and earthenware should be abandoned. In making this recommendation, she stood alone, the possibility of composing such a schedule not being considered feasible by the other members of the committee at present.

Women could, if they would, stand by Miss Tuckwell, and prove, by insisting on being supplied with only leadless glazed ware, that at any rate the crockery needed in an ordinary household can be satisfactorily made without lead, and so can be placed on a schedule prohibiting lead-glazed articles. It is a great reflection on women, as they are the chief buyers of crockery, that a retail dealer, who has stocked leadless glazed ware for ten years, should have told the Committee he considered the public to be apathetic in the matter, and to show no marked preference for ware made without lead. Those who find difficulty in buying it from their own dealers, many of whom do not attempt at present to stock it, owing to the small demand for it, should go to the Leadless Glaze China Company, 16, Belgrave Road, S.W. (five minutes' walk from the Grosvenor Hotel, Victoria). Here they will find nothing but leadless glazed ware, both useful and ornamental, and at prices to suit all purses. It may, perhaps, be well to mention that all Worcester china is leadless. People often think that in buying only leadless glazed ware, their choice will be reduced to thick and ugly varieties. A visit to the Leadless Glaze China Company will soon prove that this is not the case.

Evidence as to the excellence and durability of leadless glazed ware by those using it will be extremely valuable whenever this question is again before Parliament. It is impossible to estimate what women with knowledge and experience, even before they are directly represented, may not be able to accomplish in the way of social legislation in this as well as in many other directions. When they are directly represented, their knowledge and experience will of course be doubly valuable.

We have now definite means at our disposal for increasing the demand for leadless glazed ware, and so of discouraging the use of lead in the manufacture of china and earthenware. If we take these means, we are helping to decrease suffering for our fellow men and women.

MARY E. PHILLIPS.

Women's Work in Children's Care Committees in Rural Districts.

II.

An important branch of Care Committee work is the provision—preferably through existing organisations—of simple

¹ To be obtained, together with other information on the subject, from Miss Phillips, 45, Gloucester Street, S.W.

lectures for mothers upon health and home management. Experience compels the mention of two essential conditions, however, if these lectures are to succeed in their object.

Firstly, the lecturer should endeavour to win, and not attempt to coerce, her hearers. For some reason, as yet undetermined by psychologists, disquisitions upon such subjects as ventilation, cleanliness, and the discriminating use of food-stuffs, are peculiarly liable to arouse the nervous susceptibilities of an audience. At no time is more skilful handling required on the part of a lecturer, who will do well to make the discourse as constructive and as little destructive as possible, building upon any knowledge which her audience may possess, and presupposing their acquiescence when condemning such things as pickles for infant diet, bedrooms secured against "draughts" by means of cunningly devised obstructions in the chimney, or a too rigid economy in the use of soap and water.

Secondly, lectures, even the most judicious, lose half their value unless they are followed by friendly talks to individual parents in their homes. It is this individual work which gives the human touch, and which takes from the "lecture" anything that may savour of cold officialdom. Moreover, without this friendly help, the lecturer's recommendations are apt to be regarded as uttered by "a voice . . . far up the height," bidding to altitudes unclimbable.

The importance of this branch of Care Committee work can scarcely be over-estimated. Mr. Horsfall reminds us of the source of many of our country's ills, of the countless homes where dirt and airlessness prevail, and where children are ill-fed, "because the wife has not gained in childhood and youth knowledge of household work, and has not formed the habit of applying such knowledge, and knowledge of the conditions needed for the maintenance of health and strength."³

"Distress," states the L.C.C. handbook with reference to children's care, "is often due to unwise expenditure of insufficient means." In Munich, household work and management have, since 1900, been taught regularly to girls in voluntary eighth year classes, and so excellent have been the results that many young working men have sent petitions to the Munich School Authority, begging that all girls may receive household training in school for the benefit of future homes. This seems an ideal state of things. But until such a happy day dawns for our own nation, we can aim at least at securing the intelligent co-operation of the present generation of parents in home improvement. It is only thus, by the reforming of the home, that any solid progress is likely to be effected.

Two excellent papers⁴ are issued by the Bucks Educational authority for distribution by their Care Committee workers. These papers contain, besides practical hints on ventilation, cleanliness, and care of the teeth and eyes, information as to the cheapest and most nourishing foods, together with instructions for cooking the same. Such papers are of great use to workers, they form a valuable basis for talks, and give information in a permanent form.

In scattered country districts, school-children's midday meals, especially during the winter months, are frequently a difficulty. The children may have walked a considerable distance, in cold and wet, and the sandwich lunch, often of bread and lard with cold water as a beverage, is neither appetising nor sufficient, particularly in the case of delicate children. It is possible to provide a large mug of cocoa for each child at the rate of 1d. per head per week. This payment renders the scheme self-supporting.⁵ The addition of this warmth and nourishment to an otherwise scanty meal has produced excellent results, weakly children soon showing signs of marked improvement. Some years ago, in the same school, soup was provided twice weekly, and the head teacher, unconscious of the significance of his words, remarked to the writer of this paper, "I now give the arithmetic lesson on soup days; the children work so much better after this extra food."

That essential, the sympathetic co-operation of teachers, is seldom sought in vain. Space compels the briefest reference only to another department of Care Committee work, that of influencing children to join an evening school as soon as possible after day-school attendance ceases. In this connection, the influence of handicraft upon character, "the worth—invisible, mystic, to the soul, where it works its evident miracle," may well be pondered. There is, further, the giving of advice to children with regard to the choice of employment, a matter of active concern to all who have the future welfare of their country at heart.

MARGARET SMITH-MASTERS.

¹ *Reforms Needed in our Educational System*. T. C. Horsfall. (7d.)
² *Health Hints to Parents*. By A. V. Hogarth, School Medical Officer. (Bucks.)
³ The writer of this article will gladly furnish details of the cocoa scheme to workers if desired. Letters (which should contain a stamped envelope) may be addressed—Care of Editor.

The "Protection" of the Law.

The breeze came in at the open windows, laden with chemical fumes and sweets; but it was a choice of two evils—they must either have the breeze, disagreeable as it was, or they must endure the suffocating heat of the workshop. The older women preferred the windows open, and the younger ones did not care either way; but it had already been a cause of trouble, and the atmosphere in the shop was heavy with suppressed discontent.

Polly Williams had climbed on to her stool and looked out; her brother was unloading a cart in the yard below, and she had called to him, with the result that he and another man had looked up and laughed at her. Unfortunately, at that moment the foreman came through, and Polly was fined a shilling. The fine was strongly resented; Polly was a stupid, good-natured girl, who worked slowly, and generally made "poor money" in any case, but the whole workshop was very sensitive in this matter of fines.

Deductions from their wages were made for so many things, and always without their consent; there was a halfpenny for hospital every week, and a penny for shop-sweeping, and twopenny for "power," and the price of cotton, besides punishment fines. And it had not escaped the notice of the women that though all the shops were swept the men were never asked to contribute to the cleaning of their workrooms; while one enterprising young woman with a gift for arithmetic had shown that the wages of the woman who did the sweeping were paid two and a-half times over by the pence that were deducted from the workers.

Dully, too, they resented being compelled to pay for the cotton put into their employer's work, and for the power that moved his machines, but they never thought of openly resenting any such rules; each new-comer found them in force when she entered the factory, and accepted them without question; it was the Insurance Act that had drawn their attention to the matter. When the men had complained that they had to pay more for insurance than the women, the latter had retaliated by reminding them that they got higher wages and greater benefits, and did not have to pay fines.

"Still you didn't oughter to look out of the winder, Polly; it stops yer workin'," said the oldest woman in the shop, who, because of her grey hair, was called "Fanny Mother," by the others.

"It's me own time," said Polly, sulkily. "I were waitin' fer steels, an' all."

"They're grand sort o' corsets these 'ere busks is meant for," said another girl, wearily. "I can't make no money worth havin' at them."

"It's a shame," said her companion, cutting threads rapidly as she spoke. "'E always gives you poor work, Nance." And she glanced enviously across towards where a young girl with a quantity of curling fair hair bent over her machine.

"Floss is quite a fresh girl, and she gets all the best work," she added in low tones.

Nance raised her heavy eyes with a meaning look. "She's the foreman's latest," she said. "She'll have to pay, sooner or later."

"Well, you got over your trouble well, Nance, you did." "You was all very kind in collectin', an' that," replied Nance, "an', of course, I were thankful it died; but my young man ain't never spoke to me since."

The other girl sighed. "There is factories where, if girls doesn't keep straight, they've only themselves to blame for it," she said. "Fanny Mother told me of one where the girls can all wash, and there's a dinin'-room for them, with a sofa in it, an' all, and they can 'ave their dinners made hot for a penny a week; it ain't like goin' to work, that ain't; you'd feel like a lady."

The girl next Nance joined in. "Our Sue," she said, "that's me married sister's little girl, 's just left school, and where she's got a place she says the master is a Christian; 'ow she knows is, there's places for 'em to wash, and when 'e comes through the rooms 'e always says 'Good mornin', and nods at them all, ever so friendly."

TEMPLAR PRINTING WORKS, BIRMINGHAM.

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"I don't mind about washin' and dinin' rooms, and all them lucksheries," said Nance. "What I like is factories where there's forewomen, and girls can keep themselves respectable without bein' 'fear'd of losin' their place."

"Some foremen's all right, of course," she added; "but then agin, there's some as isn't."

And, as all the girls knew Nance's bitter experience, and some of them had been there long enough to remember Elsie Tennant, no one replied.

A year later, in the same room in the corset factory, in the dinner hour, there was great excitement. Paper parcels of food and cups of tea, without saucers, stood beside the silent machines; but dinner was forgotten, and all the workers were gathered round Fanny Mother and Nance, who still wore their outdoor clothes.

Fanny Mother had been crying. "Poor little thing," she was saying, "she 'ad to stand up there in the witness-box, afore all those men, and answer any questions they arxed 'er, an' they arxes you questions a-purpose to muddle you, seems to me."

"What's more, I reckon a court full o' men is no place for to make a girl tell things like that, even if she is goin' to be a mother, an' the more sorry I am for 'er'."

"'Er father, 'e were that furious, you could see, 'e couldn't scarcely get 'is words out, an' 'er poor mother sat nex' me, and all she kep' a-sayin' was 'Not my Floss, not my little Floss.'"

Fanny Mother broke down, and Nance tried to answer the eager questions.

"Oh, 'e sez," she stumbled her words over one another, and got her pronouns hopelessly mixed; but her hearers seemed to grasp her meaning, "'e sez, sez 'e, 'it all depends on 'er age,' and 'e up and swore 'e thought she was sixteen, as she'd told 'im she was, which she never did, and then 'e sez as she might very well be took for that, bein' a fine girl grown, an' 'e let 'im off with a caution."

"But what's the use of the law then?" said Alice Jeffreys, a girl but newly come.

"There ain't any use in it for the likes of us," said Nance fiercely.

"There, Nance, there's a good girl, don't carry on; we can't 'elp the laws as doesn't make them," said Fanny Mother sadly, "all we got to do now is to 'elp Floss over 'er trouble as best's we can."

"Sixpence a week from all as earns over seven shillings, and threepence if its under," said one of the elder women, "and we'll all pay it to Fanny Mother every Saturday faithful so's she can take it to Floss's mother reg'lar."

The dull tones of a bell rang out, and cups of tea were hastily swallowed, the untasted dinners being thrust back into the little bags with bits of cotton crochet work or folded paper novels, and hung up again on pegs with the hats and coats at the bottom of the long room.

The whirring sound of the machinery began thrilling through the factory, sleepily at first, then sharper and louder; Nance was heard to remark as she sat down in her place, "Well, I shall make mine a shillin' a week," and then the ordinary workaday life went on as before, and nothing seemed to be very different. Except, perhaps, to Floss.

CAROL RING.

Pro.

The Suffragettes put up your back,
Socialists you can't abide,
And likewise the Insurance Act,
And I don't know what beside.

Money-making in the city,
Seems to you both coarse and wrong,
And you think it is a pity,
That I waste my time in song.

All we do before we die, friend,
Is at last so very scanty,
Don't you think that you might try, friend,
To be Pro—instead of Anti?

The Oxford Suffrage Summer School.

From August 11th to 18th the National Union's Summer School at Oxford has been full to overflowing. The numbers in residence were forty-six, including Mrs. Berney, who presided over the school, and Miss Dora Mason, organiser-in-charge; ten were Federation scholars, and several non-residents attended the lectures. The large numbers of secretaries of societies among the students was most satisfactory, and it is to be hoped that interchanging experiences of Suffrage work will prove very helpful to those who have to do so much of the responsible work of the Union, often under very difficult conditions, in scattered country districts. The list of lecturers included many experts; the School being honoured by having two Professors of the University of Oxford to address them. The lecture given by Professor Haverfield on "The Franchise in Ancient Rome" was full of interest, and must have made many listeners impatient for the time when they should have leisure to devote to reading not directly connected with votes for women!

Professor Geldhart (Vinerian Professor of English Law), who was kind enough to give two lectures on the "Legal Position of Women," made many difficulties and intricate points clear. The lecture by Miss Susan Lawrence (L.C.C.) on "Women in Industry" was one of the most valuable of the session. Miss Philippa Fawcett



STUDENTS AT THE OXFORD SUMMER SCHOOL. (Note the sellers of the "C.C.") (Photo by Messrs. Gillman & Co., Oxford.)

on the "Historical Side of the Movement" gave many instances, some serious and some entertaining, of past prejudices now successfully demolished, and this record was very encouraging. Mrs. Berney gave a truly feminine touch to the course by her lecture on "Embroidery, with special reference to Banner Making."

Miss Courtney's lecture on "The Growth and Organisation of the National Union"; Miss Helga Gill's on "Women in Norway" were much enjoyed by the students, and Miss Dora Mason's excellent lectures on "Organisation" and "Press Work" were most helpful. Mrs. Rackham's lectures on "Poor Law" and "Women in Local Government" were not only valuable for their information, but also as a model to speakers who have to deal with technical subjects and find it hard to arrange their material. The Speakers' Classes and Debates, conducted by Miss Mildred Ransome, Mrs. Haverfield, and Miss Mason were, of course, a most important feature of the School.

On Sunday afternoon Professor Geldhart most kindly took a large party over several of the Men's Colleges, and visits were also paid to the Women's Colleges, Lady Margaret Hall and Somerville College. Lawn-tennis and the river provided recreation in the afternoons for those students who were not engaged in canvassing or speaking at village meetings at Eynsham, New Merston, and other places near Oxford. There was one cause for regret, in the unavoidable absence of Miss Dunnell, the Hon. Secretary of the Oxford, Berks. and Bucks. Federation, who with Mrs. Haverfield, Secretary of the Oxford W.S.S., made all the preliminary arrangements, which resulted in the school being such a success.

The Suffrage Summer School at St. Andrews.

Beautiful for situation and the joy of many Suffrage hearts at this time is St. Andrews, so often the "grey city by the sea," but not grey just now assuredly, for the sun shines and there is enough joy, nay exultation, housed in the home of the Summer School to leaven a much greater "lump" of greyness than any one city could possibly present. This note of happy confidence is tremendously comforting to those of us who have been plodding along doing what we could, but not seeing very much result of our labours, and feeling as if the great day for which we hope is still very far off; and we will surely go back to our societies carrying with us a spark of the fire that is burning so brightly here.

The causes of our high spirits are probably two—the presence among us of our honoured and greatly loved President, with her sunny look and her brave, bright words, and the fact that a number of us had the great good fortune to be in the Pilgrimage and so to realise, as Mrs. Fawcett says, "our strength and position in the country and the force and vitality of the non-militant movement." The school is very full, and is in every way excellently organised. We are housed in the University Hall, the residence of the women students of St. Andrews, and very comfortable housing it is.

A. S. P.

The ABC of Women's Suffrage.

We Suffragists belong to all parties and to none. But we notice that no Government, whatever party it belongs to, takes very much heed of our grievances, because it has not to depend on our votes in order to get into power, or keep there. Even when a Cabinet Minister is a Suffragist, he cannot help feeling that women's grievances are not very "urgent," because they are not voters. We had a remarkable example of this in the last week of Parliament, where the Chancellor of the Exchequer was asked to fulfil a promise he had made to a deputation of women.

Mr. Lloyd George is a Suffragist,

so we might expect better treatment from him than from some others. But what did he say, when reminded of his promise? He said the matter was "the sentimental grievance of a few ladies," and that it was not important enough for him to ask Members of Parliament to stay in town a few days longer, in order to put it right. He also said that if he did put it right, it would cost the Exchequer

£1,250,000.

It does not seem to us very reasonable to call a grievance "the sentimental grievance of a few ladies," and then announce that it is costing them £1,250,000! If the State—probably the richest State in the world—cannot afford to lose £1,250,000, what about the people who have to pay it? Is it only "sentimental" of them to complain?

Why do they have to pay it?

They have to pay it in taxes, because they are married people whose income, when it is lumped together, is just too high to escape being taxed. The husband and wife may have quite separate small incomes below taxation limit, made by their own work. If they were brother and sister, or if they were not legally married, they would not have to pay at all.

They have to pay, because they are Married.

Do you think that is sensible? We think it is stupid and wrong; but we cannot get it put right, because it is the wife, generally speaking, who suffers most. She generally has the smaller income, and it is therefore she who would be likely to fall below the taxation level, and not have to pay at all. But when

her income is added on to her husband's, it is assessed along with his. If any rebate is claimed,

the Rebate is Paid to Him,

and she has no means of recovering it, even if the whole of the income belonged to her, and none of it was her husband's at all!

According to Lord Robert Cecil, some married couples are paying four or five times what they would pay if they were not married. But according to the Chancellor of the Exchequer,

this is only a "Sentimental" Grievance.

The Exchequer cannot afford to lose this enormous sum, but people whose incomes are not large—for it is those who would otherwise come below the limit of taxation, who have to suffer—they can easily afford to pay away £1,250,000, and if they complain, it is because they are "sentimental"!

Mr Lloyd George also said he could not put this right because it was too late. Members of Parliament are going off for their holidays, and they really could not be asked to stay two or three days longer for such a trifle. Yet they get

£400 a Year for doing the Work.

Perhaps that is why the State cannot afford to give up the £1,250,000, most of which is paid by women! They have to have it, you see, in order to pay the salaries of the Members of Parliament, who cannot give up two days of holiday to put a women's grievance right.

Finally, Mr. George was asked if he would try to put it right "in good time" next year. But no—he could not even promise that. So it will be left to the last moment again, we suppose, and then the poor Members of Parliament will be too tired, and too badly wanting a holiday, to be worried with it.

Do you think this attitude of mind belongs to one party or one Chancellor of the Exchequer only? Not at all. Don't make any such mistake. It belongs to nine politicians out of ten, or more likely, to ninety-nine out of a hundred! A man is to be congratulated if he has the honesty to see that this always must be the attitude of people who depend upon votes towards people who haven't got them, and is therefore a Women's Suffragist.

THE NATIONAL UNION

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

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

I herewith enclose cheque postal order for £ _____ d., the amount of my annual subscription. Plus 6s. 6d., one year's subscription to "The Common Cause."

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* Please cross out if not required.

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Foreign News.

The demand for women's suffrage abroad, as at home, frequently goes hand in hand with the demand for social reform. This tendency is shown by recent events, both in Portugal and in France.

PORTUGAL.

In Portugal, the feminists have been working for a Bill for the repression of smoking and drinking among children. This is now ready for presentation in their House of Commons. They have also presented a petition to Parliament demanding refusal of bail to prisoners accused of wronging children, and a Bill upon the subject is now promised by the Minister of Justice. Although the Senate approves of granting the vote to women, the Lower Chamber is still opposed. As a correspondent writes, "it was a disappointment, but sooner or later it will come," and certainly it appears that the tide of public opinion, as gauged by the press, is fast advancing in favour of women's suffrage.

FRANCE.

The suffrage movement in France is progressing steadily, and here also it is working in the interests of social welfare, especially as regards women and children, success being due to the active and untiring propaganda of the Women's Rights Societies.

In 1912 a law of Tribunals of Children and Adolescents was passed, which allowed women lawyers to be entrusted with "a supplementary enquiry" in these cases. "This is the first time," says *Jus Suffragii*, "that a function with authority, small though it be, has been allowed to women." According to Monsieur Antoine Perrier, it appears to render them eligible for the position of magistrate also.

A Law for the Assistance of Mothers, which had been pending for thirteen years in the Senate, has now been carried, owing to the same agencies. Mme. Maria Verone, barrister-at-law, has been appointed a member of the extra-Parliamentary Commission to draft a Bill for Child Protection.

AUSTRIA.

Here women taxpayers have been entitled to vote in local elections since feudal times, but the vote has always been cast by proxy. By a new law they are authorised to vote in person, and their voting is made compulsory. But according to Imperial law women are forbidden to found or take part in political associations. "The curious anomaly," says *Jus Suffragii*, "has thus been created of compelling women by a local law to vote, but forbidding them by a national law to share in campaign work on behalf of the object for which they may vote."

U. S. A.

CHICAGO WOMEN PROVE THE UTILITY OF THE VOTE. "After having had the vote less than four weeks," states the *Women's Journal*, "Chicago women won a point last week where they had failed to make themselves heard in more than a year's voteless effort. Not only did the Chicago Council Finance Committee accede to their request for an investigation of the city's garbage disposal, but it appointed two members of the Woman's City Club upon the commission of seven. The women are Miss Mary McDowell and Mrs. William B. Owen. \$10,000 was appropriated for the investigation.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN VOTERS.

Last week a Congress took place in Washington of representatives from all the States in which women are already enfranchised, to outline plans for securing the vote to women in other States. The meeting was held under the auspices of the National Council of Women Voters, of which Mrs. Emma Smith Defoe, of Tacoma, Washington, is President. A campaign to obtain a constitutional amendment giving nation-wide votes for women was discussed, and also the separate campaigns in different States which are to be waged next year. There was also a big public meeting and a banquet. Members of the Council were granted a hearing on August 14th by Chairman Henry, of the House Rules Committee, with regard to the pending Bill for the creation of a Woman Suffrage Committee in the House. In issuing an appeal to women voters to attend the Congress, the Council urged the necessity for pressing upon the Government the need for action with regard to women suffrage, in view of the favourable report which has been unanimously given by the Senate Committee upon a United States constitutional amendment enfranchising women.

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HOLIDAY COMPETITIONS.

I.—SELLING COMPETITION.

We offer

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to the sellers of the largest numbers of the *The Common Cause* during the holiday months. The first period will extend from August 8th to August 28th, the issues sold being those of the 8th, 15th and 22nd. The second period will extend from August 29th to September 18th, the issues sold being those of August 29th, September 5th and 12th.

Copies must be ordered from the office of *The Common Cause*, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., and all orders must be marked at the top of the paper, "Holiday Selling Competition." Carriage will be paid both ways, and allowance will be made in the usual way for unsold copies returned within a month.

Orders are already coming in for the Holiday Selling Competition. A correspondent writes that she has sold three dozen copies of the last number on the shore at Hunstanton. We know from personal experience that not dozens but hundreds of copies can be sold at the Oxford Summer School. Who will undertake this "pitch"?

II.—SHORT STORY COMPETITION.

We offer a

PRIZE OF TWO GUINEAS

for the best Short Story or Sketch, illustrative of the lighter side of the Woman's Movement. The length must not exceed 1,000 words.

MISS CICELY HAMILTON

has kindly consented to act as judge, and from her decision no appeal can be made.

III.—"ABC" PAGE COMPETITION.

One of the most popular features of the *The Common Cause* is its ABC page. We offer a

PRIZE OF ONE GUINEA

to the writer of the best page of this type. The length must not exceed 800 words. The judge will be

MISS MARGARET ROBERTSON,

herself the writer of many brilliant ABC pages.

Stories and ABC pages must be sent to *The Common Cause* Office, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, London, W.C., by September 5th, and must in every case be type-written. The Editor reserves the right to publish any contributions sent in besides those of the Prize-Winners.

Some Recent Books.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. By Lady Aberconway. ("The Grosvenor Press," Victoria Street, S.W. 2d.)

All suffragists should provide themselves with a copy of this clear and logical criticism of Mr. Asquith's attitude with regard to women's enfranchisement, and do what they can to induce those who are not already convinced of the justice and expediency of our claim to read it. Lady Aberconway sums up the anti-suffrage attitude in a masterly fashion:—

"There exists no natural disability in the female sex for the exercise of political rights. The whole of the disability lies in the mind of the male sex, which, accustomed as it is to pre-eminence, cannot entertain without difficulty the idea of equality with women. This is the whole anti-suffrage argument.

"Nothing is more encouraging, nothing is more touching, than to see the gradual victory of reason and justice over the primitive instincts of men, who year by year are becoming less selfishly male and more widely human. In ever-increasing numbers men see that if the male sex be indeed the stronger, wiser, and nobler sex, they will not need to bolster up their power with artificial legal advantages enacted in a masculine Parliament. They are beginning to discern how absurd it is to declare by law what women shall not and must not do in the struggle to live. They recognise how much better it would be to leave women free to show what they have will and power to accomplish in a state of freedom."

WITHIN OUR LIMITS: ESSAYS ON QUESTIONS MORAL, RELIGIOUS, AND HISTORICAL. By Alice Gardner.

LECTURES IN HISTORY AT NEWNHAM COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE. (Fisher Unwin, London, 1913.)

Miss Gardner's book has the sterling qualities it used to be the fashion to deny to women's work—sobriety, thoroughness, balance, and breadth of view. It would form an admirable introduction for young people into the wider problems bound up with all true religion and sound learning, for, instinct as it is with reverence for the past, it never loses touch with the vivid questions of our own day. In the essay, "Reason and Feeling in Social Questions," Miss Gardner deals with our great question of the enlargement of life for women, and her dealing shows the utmost sympathy, as well as the utmost faithfulness. It is hardly necessary to add that she is a Suffragist, and essentially law-abiding. Perhaps the dominant impression drawn from reading the book is a sense of singleness of aim and steady hopefulness, all the more sustaining for its quietude. "It is good to realise," our author says (p. 177) "that, after all, we and all our actions and capabilities are infinitely small in comparison with universal nature. . . . But if it is in any way possible that man may be a co-worker with God, his failures may seem remediable, and his achievements lasting. . . . He cannot remake the world. But it may be his blessedness to believe that what he does is part of a process, the end of which he cannot see, but which he believes to be good."

THE TRUTH ABOUT WOMAN. By C. Gasquoine Hartley. (Eveleigh Nash.)

Miss Hartley's title is unfortunate; it raises hopes which are doomed to disappointment. Her book deals with many interesting biological facts and curious primitive customs, as well as with various modern problems, which are supposed to be more easily understood and remedied in the light of biology and anthropology. Miss Hartley lays no claim to a special knowledge of any of these subjects, and builds her argument on copious citations and quotations from numerous scientists, psychologists, and historians. Nowadays we are more or less accustomed to accepting as "the truth," statements made by eminent specialists in all the various arts and sciences, all of which no one person can hope to master. The selection of opinions, however, that Miss Hartley characterises as "true," do not carry conviction. To take one small example, we are expected to believe that the following, quoted from Mr. H. G. Wells is "a true and terrible indictment of women":—

"If there is one thing in which you might think women would show a sense of some divine purpose in life, it is in the matter of children, and they show about as much care in the matter—oh, as rabbits! Yes, rabbits. I stick to it. Look at the things a nice girl will marry; look at the man's children she'll submit to bring into the world—Cheerfully! Proudly! For the sake of the home and the clothes!" Now that distorted statement of a half-truth, touched off in Mr. Wells's best pseudo-scientific slang, may appeal to such as his own imaginative Kippas as being a profound truth, but nobody else ought to be taken in by it. We hope Miss Hartley has not been so easily deceived by others less racy and more profound than Mr. Wells; but we fear that it is only too probable that that is exactly what has happened.

THE EIGHTH YEAR. By Philip Gibbs. (Williams & Norgate. 2s. net. pp. 256.)

THE POWER BEHIND. By M. P. Willcocks. (Hutchinson & Co. 6s. pp. 428.)

Mr. Gibbs divides his book into the Argument and a Demonstration, and thus has an opportunity of saying twice what is not quite worth saying once. According to Mr. Gibbs, the childless wife of a very snobbish middle-class man gets so bored by the time the eighth year of marriage approaches that she takes to drink, religion, suffrage work (i.e., window-breaking, of course), or illicit love-affairs—a fine choice of occupations. The remedy for all this, also according to the author, is social work or motherhood. Mr. Gibbs begs the question,

and in order to accentuate the fact, apparently, draws his sympathetic picture of the mother-in-law. Babies, of course, grow up, and even during childhood are claimed by efficient nurses, governesses, and schools. The husband, who objects to religion and suffrage work, would also object to slumming—the moment it became a real occupation. "The idea that women want work never entered his head. His whole ambition in life is to prevent his wife working, not only when he is alive, but after he is dead" (p. 90). Has not the author touched on the real root of the matter here, and perhaps failed to realise it?

Some of the difficulties for which Mr. Gibbs gives us such simple and clear-cut remedies are touched on by Miss Willcocks in *The Power Behind*. Here, however, we have disaster because of the clash of ideals, not because of their complete absence. We are shown the girl with a fine ideal of life, work, and love, conscious of the struggle between her mental and spiritual self on the one hand, and the demands of her youth and sex on the other. We are shown here the wife of a man who is conscious only of her youth and beauty, and remains completely ignorant of her mind. "Work! She was mad about it! What do women want with work. . . . The child will take up her time, foolish little woman. We shan't hear so much of 'work' now" (p. 26). The same cry! Miss Willcocks offers us no patent medicine warranted to work a cure in a given time; she knows that no such cure exists. The "arc-light of intellect thrown on man and woman" is doing its work, and through a greater breadth of mind and freedom of spirit alone can the difficulties revealed by this light be solved.

BEBEL HOUSE

Has been founded not only to serve as a Socialist Residential College for Working Women, but also through various International activities to be a centre of an Educational Movement which will help organised Working Women and young Socialists of both sexes and all classes to realise their oneness with the world-wide Socialist Movement.

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Correspondence.

MARRIED WOMEN'S WORK AND INFANTILE MORTALITY.

MADAM,—The statement made by Mr. John Burns at the recent Conference in London on Infantile Mortality that the high death-rate in the cotton towns of Lancashire was due to the employment of married women in the factories, has aroused a great deal of discussion, and as the above statement will be accepted by many as the cause of the high death-rate, it may interest the readers of THE COMMON CAUSE to have a few facts put before them from a working-woman's point of view.

In my letter to the *Manchester Guardian* of the 7th inst., I pointed out the low infantile death-rate of Nelson, where quite as large a percentage of married women work as weavers as in the other Lancashire towns quoted by Mr. John Burns with a much higher death-rate. In the recent Medical Officer's Report of Nelson, the infantile death-rate was given as 77.3 per 1,000, nearly the same as Hampstead, mentioned by Mr. Burns as a model in this respect, and less than Battersea with 83 per 1,000. Mr. Burns implies that Battersea may boast of the low figure, because of the non-existence of married women's labour. Then how does he account for Nelson's still lower figure, where most married women are wage-earners—and its equal rate with Hampstead, which he considers a model rate?

I do not think that the above question will be answered by the President of the Local Government Board. He has made the statement that the loss of child life is due to married women going out to work, and no doubt he will stick to it. But that is not so alarming as the fact that working women are voteless, and their power to check panic legislation, which may take the form of prohibiting married women from having the right to work without giving her other means whereby she can assert her own individuality is "very limited indeed."

The sense of fair play is not always shown when legislators discuss the important question of child life. The very fact that nature has ordained women to be the mothers of the race causes public opinion to turn its criticism towards her first when children are suffering. I once took part in a discussion on married women's labour at a conference. The arguments were based on one particular line of thought. Some pitied the mother, others blamed her; a few suggested certain means of educating the mother on her responsibility towards her children. When I stated that a little attention ought to be given to see that the fathers did their duty, no one had any idea that they needed any attention.

One reason why I am a convinced Suffragist is that the mothers (even as wage-earners) take the greater share of responsibility in the upbringing of their children; therefore, they ought to have the greater means, not less, to enable them to do justice to the rising generation. The mothers of Lancashire are not shirking their duty as parents any more than working-women of other counties; the truth is that they are falling into line with the changed economic conditions, which demand a higher standard of life, and to supply the means of the higher cost of living, along with the growing desire to partake of some of the pleasures of life, they have with their characteristic grit, turned out to work, to earn money to meet the new conditions. According to Mr. John Burns's figures, they have been the means of placing Lancashire in the lowest scale of pauperism in this country. The working women of Lancashire do not claim that they are endowed with superhuman abilities, alone to resist the forces which are tending towards the deterioration of the race; but what they do claim is, that they are human beings, struggling hard to develop their own economic independence: therefore preparing for the time when men and women will face the great problem of the loss of child life in the councils of the nation.—Yours, &c.,

SELINA COOPER.

THE PILGRIMAGE AND THE MILITANTS.

MADAM,—One cannot feel anything but gratitude for, and admiration of, the members of the N.U.W.S.S., who have brought their great Pilgrimage to such a successful issue. To have won the kindly approbation and commendation of the Home Secretary must be gratifying beyond all expectation, coming as it does from a Minister of the Crown so strongly opposed to the Cause for which they stand. Having initiated and led the march from Edinburgh to London in the autumn of last year, in the same spirit and for the same end as the recent Pilgrimage, I am bound to identify myself with those whose work in this great Cause is based on constitutional lines; and all that is just and true in me demands to inquire—From what source does this approbation spring?

For fully forty years constitutional methods were unable to gain recognition, much less approbation. Mrs. Fawcett, who has given her life to this great Cause, and has never once deviated from this approved course of action, has had to strive until the evening of her days for the small crumb of encouragement now thrown to her. Long-deferred justice induced more fiery zealots of the Cause to take the field; and there followed six years of more or less violent militancy—which has harassed the Government by its defiance of law, and the unassailable strength of moral and physical courage displayed by its advocates. The tortures of the hunger-strike, forcible feeding, and the operation of the Cat and Mouse Act, have nauseated both Ministers and people; and Mr. McKenna turns with relief to the patient workers who, hitherto, had not been worthy of his notice—much less his commendation.

I hold no brief for militancy, but I claim that by contrast, and by

contrast alone, can constitutional methods accept the palm which Mr. McKenna has been pleased to bestow upon them. As the pioneer of this form of propaganda, which has done so much to dispel the apathy of the country towards our Cause, I candidly admit that the courage and self-sacrifice of the militant women impelled me to go forth to bring this discreditable suffering to an end. May it not have been this same spirit which prompted the Pilgrimage, and sustained the courage and endurance of the Pilgrims, and won for them the long-delayed approbation of those in high places? Thus a seeming evil has been turned into good, and brought forth fruit a hundred-fold.—I am, faithfully yours,

FLORENCE DE FONBLANQUE. (Leader) Marchers q.V.

[We disagree with Mrs. de Fonblanque's letter at every point. The unbroken testimony of the Pilgrims proves that much of the tremendous effect achieved by their Pilgrimage was due to the fact that in the public mind it disassociated the Suffrage movement from militancy. The Pilgrims went forth, indeed, with the single purpose of helping the Suffrage cause; but very many of them believed that nothing could help it so much as the knowledge that there existed a vast body of law-abiding citizens who demanded the enfranchisement of women. We believe that the event has proved them right.—Ed., C.C.]

THE ART OF DRESS AND "THE COMMON CAUSE."

MADAM,—I take it for granted that your request for opinions on the above subject was not meant to be confined to members of one sex only. As a sincere worker in the Woman Suffrage cause I have often spoken and argued in its favour, specially from a man's point of view, and I feel sure that you are willing to consider the opinions of men (as well as of women) who are in full sympathy with the movement.

Some three or four years ago, when being urged to undertake the secretaryship of a N.U. Society by a lady, who was one of its founders and has all along been a most enthusiastic officer, I objected that it would surely be better to have a lady secretary. Her reply was that, on the contrary, it was most important to show and emphasise that the movement was in no sense one of sex-antagonism, but of mutual co-operation, and that it would be most helpful to have the association of men workers. I felt the force of her argument, and have always done my utmost to work upon those lines. From that time until the present I have carefully read THE COMMON CAUSE week by week, and my appreciation of it has been largely founded upon its devotion on broad and comprehensive lines to the one purpose of its existence. It has been conducted in such a manner as to interest from beginning to end all men and women who were true adherents of the movement. I have never heard any explanation of the title "Common Cause," but it has always suggested to me the truth of the principle that it is to men's real interests as well as to women's, a common cause, that the latter should possess political liberty and power.

I hope that our weekly paper will be read by men in increasing numbers, and as I am confident that this is also the general desire of all N.U. members, I doubt very much the wisdom of any changes that would tend to give it a one-sex character. I quite appreciate the artistic and, in some cases, even the ethical side of the question of dress, but I certainly fear that the insertion of any technical articles on the subject would still further confine the circulation of the paper to members of that sex which, perhaps sometimes unjustly, is credited with a particular interest in the subject.

I believe that the same arguments apply as regards a serial story, unless, of course, it was one that dealt capably and seriously with the question of Women's Suffrage.—Sincerely yours,

CHARLES G. BOULLEN, Hon. Sec. Ambleside and District W.S.S.

MADAM,—As one of those who welcomed the idea of an article on dress in this paper, may I explain my reasons to Miss Adams.

1. That dress plays an important part in all women's lives.

2. That it is advisable for those who are prominent in the Women's Movement to dress sensibly yet beautifully—which does not mean extravagantly.

3. Many women can only afford one weekly paper: it is better that this paper should be THE COMMON CAUSE, rather than one of those which are too full of dress and the doings of the fashionable world to waste (?) a word upon such an episode as the Women's Pilgrimage. Here we should see dress in its right proportion to life.

From the dress point of view, many of us would be thankful to read an article which would condemn certain styles, instead of applauding whatever fashion may be the latest. It has seemed to me of late that fashion has been specially retained by the Antis, so that they may point to the extreme votaries of fashion and say, "See how intrinsically foolish women are."—Yours faithfully,

A. F. LOWRY.

EXTRA PAGES OF "THE COMMON CAUSE."

MADAM,—As a member of the Camberwell branch of the N.U.W.S.S., and a regular reader of THE COMMON CAUSE, I have been very interested reading correspondence "re enlarged edition" of the same. May I suggest that short articles on art, science, notable men and women, preferably women, would be of very great interest to business women, who have very little spare time to visit public libraries where such articles might be found in various magazines, or an income sufficiently large to enable them to buy such.—Yours very sincerely,

E. EDITH SUTCLIFFE.

In Parliament.

Questions.

August 13th.

"CAT AND MOUSE" ACT.—Mr. Chancellor asked whether the release of prisoners under the (Temporary Discharge for Illness) Act depends entirely on the doctor's report; whether the length of licenses is determined wholly or in part by the doctors; or, if not, on whose authority do these decisions rest?

Mr. McKenna: The decision whether the prisoner is to be released, and for how long, rests entirely with the Home Secretary. I receive reports from the medical officers of the prisons, and give due weight to them, and in some cases I have given a limited discretion to the governor as to the time of discharge, but in all cases the decision rests with me.

ASSAULT ON SUFFRAGE PILGRIMS.—Lord R. Cecil (U., Hitchin) asked the Home Secretary whether he was aware that at St. Neots, Stafford, Tiverton, and Cirencester non-militant women suffragists were pelted and otherwise assaulted by roughs, who were endeavouring to break up peaceful meetings held during the recent suffrage pilgrimage; whether he was further aware that no arrests had been made in connection with these offences; and whether he would take steps to secure to all subjects of his Majesty the right of free speech.

Mr. McKenna: I received about a fortnight ago a deputation from representatives of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, who organised and conducted the suffrage pilgrimage. They put before me, with great moderation, their complaint that at some of the places where they held meetings the police failed to give them adequate protection, with the result that their meetings were broken up. I undertook that if they gave me a precise statement in writing of their specific complaints with regard to each place, I would communicate in the matter with the several police authorities. This document I have received this morning, and it appears to be a moderate and fair statement of the facts, though, of course, before pronouncing any opinion, I am bound to hear what the police authorities concerned have to say on their own behalf. The statement shows that, in most places, the police gave the pilgrims ample protection, and that in some other places they failed only because their numbers were insufficient. I shall at once communicate, as I promised to do, with the several police authorities, and I shall not leave any of them in doubt as to their duty to protect men or women who are holding peaceful meetings for a lawful purpose.

August 14th.

Mr. Snowden asked whether any efforts have been made to trace the instigators of hooliganism at meetings held in connection with the suffrage pilgrimage, and if any evidence had been obtained that the disorder was organised from one centre.

Mr. McKenna (after referring to his answer of the previous day): No suggestion has been made by the National Union that the disorder was organised from any centre, and all the evidence I have tends to show that it was due to outbursts of local hooliganism.

PICCADILLY FLAT CASE.—In the course of debate on the Appropriation Bill, a discussion took place on certain aspects of the Piccadilly Flat case.

Mr. Keir Hardie asked the Home Secretary if he adhered to the statement which he made on Tuesday evening that the report of the Piccadilly Flat case which appeared in the *News of the World* did not contain a statement by Mr. Travers Humphreys, who prosecuted Queenie Gerald, which he (Mr. Hardie) then read to the House. The right hon. gentleman said his copy of that paper did not contain the reference. On the strength of that, he (Mr. Hardie) had asked the editor of the *News of the World* to explain why this paragraph did not appear. He had also examined all the editions of that paper issued for that week, and, so far as he could discover, they all contained the statement in question.

In his speech the Home Secretary had said that he did not know what he (Mr. Hardie) wanted him to do. What he wanted him to do was either to publish the correspondence found in the flat, or, if that were impossible, to bring a charge of procuration against the woman, so that all the facts of the case might be brought out. The right hon. gentleman made several statements so serious that they required some explanation. He said that Mr. Laurie, the chairman, in summing up, stated that there was some evidence that Queenie Gerald had acted as a procuress, but that he thought Mr. Laurie, in making that statement, was incorrect on the facts of the case. That appeared to him to be a rather serious reflection on the presiding magistrate. There ought to be no difficulty in obtaining evidence to support a charge of procuration. Were the letters seized by the police bogus

letters or business letters? If they were business letters there must have been some means by which the woman identified the writing. That, probably, could be discovered by her accounts or in her diary. It seemed to be a mere quibble to say, because the names in the letters were names not in the handwriting of the writers of the letters, that they did not justify further action being taken to discover who were the writers. The right hon. gentleman had also said: "All the other letters, no doubt, indicated a desire on the part of persons unknown that Gerald should procure innocent girls for them, but Gerald never did procure such girls." What was the Home Secretary's authority for that statement? Had he evidence on that point? If not, what was his reason for going out of his way to make such a very definite statement on a subject on which there appeared to be considerable evidence that the very reverse was the case? The sending of the letters and of large sums of money to the woman showed that there might be other facts which further investigation would bring out.

Unless the authorities took action and had this woman charged with procuration, he would be justified in believing, and many besides himself would believe, that that course had been taken because there were names mentioned in this case which the Home Secretary and the authorities were averse to having revealed.

Lord R. Cecil (U., Hitchin) said he wished to dissociate himself from the allegation just made. He would be glad, however, if the Home Secretary could give the assurance that he would consult his legal advisers, and see if anything further could be done in the matter.

Mr. McKenna said before an action for procuration could be brought there must be evidence upon which to found the charge. Procuration, in the sense of the Act of Parliament, meant procuring a woman who was not a prostitute. How, then, could a charge of procuration be brought when all the evidence which the police got from the four women found in the flat was that before they went to the flat the woman asked whether they were already on the streets, and told them that if they were not she had no use for them. There were letters asking the woman to procure girls, and there was evidence that, in response, she did so, and received payment for the procuration of women who were already prostitutes. There was abundant evidence that she defrauded her clients, but no evidence of procuration in the legal sense. The letters were signed Jack, Tom, or Harry, the writers taking care not to disclose their identity.

Lord R. Cecil: They were guilty of attempted procuration.

Mr. McKenna replied that they would have been charged if the authorities could have got at them. Proceedings were instituted against Morris, but he fled the country instantly. He was sure the House and the public would support him in the view that it would be a moral wrong to publish the names of men who might possibly be innocent, and against whom they had no other evidence whatever except the inscription of their names in a diary and a ledger in the handwriting of a brothelkeeper. (Hear, hear.) In those circumstances it would be a wrong, and would possibly inflict an irreparable injury. (Hear, hear.)

He was asked, how did he know these were all the facts. They could not launch a prosecution against a person on the speculative chance of discovering facts. If Mr. Hardie's view as to how criminal laws might be used were put in force against himself or his friends in that way, he would be the first to complain, and rightly so. (Hear, hear.)

CHILDREN ACT.—In reply to questions as to the evasions of the provision of the Children Act which excludes children from licensed premises, and as to the practice of parents leaving children outside while they are drinking within, Mr. McKenna stated that the matter would receive careful consideration when the opportunity came for amending legislation.

August 15th.

REPORT ISSUED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.—Mr. Chiozza Money asked the President of the Local Government Board if he has official information showing that in the United Kingdom there are 500,000 new cases of syphilis every year, and in London 40,000 such cases.

Mr. Burns referred to a Report by Dr. R. W. Johnstone which was laid before Parliament a few days before.

Parliament was prorogued until November 3rd.

Re INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE SHOP.

In response to many appeals MISS TRIM (who has been in charge of the Bookselling Department of the International Suffrage Shop since the opening) has decided to carry on business on similar lines. A temporary Office has been secured at 15, ADAM STREET (under the Shop), and all orders will receive prompt attention. The permanent address will be announced later.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

Friends of Women's Suffrage.

Work in London Society's Area.

The London Society has pleasure in reporting that the number of Friends of Women's Suffrage in the Society's area now amounts to over 13,000. Since the Society sent in its first report, not quite a year ago (August 15th, 1912), over 11,000 friends have been enrolled. About 3,000 of these were enrolled at the meetings held in support of the Women's Suffrage Pilgrimage on July 24th and 25th, and in the Hyde Park Demonstration on July 26th. Pilgrims from other Societies gave most generous help in enrolling these friends, and London members and friends were also active in profiting by this occasion to increase their numbers. Over 400 friends were enrolled during the meeting in King's Hall, Southwark, on July 25th, which appears up to the present to be a record number for an indoor meeting. Even before the special opportunities afforded by the arrival of the Pilgrims, the increase in the number of friends was steady and fairly rapid, numbers of friends being enrolled every week at open-air meetings in all parts of London.

It has been difficult to make the organisation in any way keep pace with the increase in the number of friends. Organisation varying in its degree of completeness has, however, been attempted in the following constituencies, or parts of constituencies:—

Battersea, Camberwell, Clapham, Chelsea, Deptford, Holborn, Fulham, Greenwich, North Hackney, Central Hackney, Hammersmith, Hampstead, Islington, North Kensington, South Kensington, North Lambeth and Kennington, Newington and Walworth, Paddington (North and South), St. George's, Hanover Square, St. Pancras (North, South, East, and West), Bermondsey, Rotherhithe, West Southwark, Bow, Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East, Bow and the Millwall District of Poplar, Walthamstow and the Richmond District of Kingston, each have about twelve or thirteen visitors visiting regularly; Whitechapel has about twenty helpers who do regular work among Friends; a good many of the other constituencies named have five or six regular visitors each, and the Highgate Committee has begun energetic work in North St. Pancras and part of Hornsey. In some of the other districts mentioned the organisation attempted has only amounted to one or more meetings with a personal canvass.

None of the London friends have been entirely neglected during this quarter, as literature about the Pilgrimage has been sent to them all. The local committees undertook this in their own districts, and the notices were for the most part delivered by hand, being accompanied by letters asking the friends to give personal help. The remainder of the friends living in districts where there are no local committees, or where the local committees were unable to undertake it, were circularised through the post. General time-tables of the Pilgrimage, special handbills of meetings in the neighbourhood in which each one lived, and a selection of propagand literature were sent to about 1,800 friends. This work was carried out by voluntary helpers at the office.

The result of these efforts was that a large number of friends came to the various meetings and processions. They helped to sell COMMON CAUSES, to carry banners, and to collect money. When the Pilgrims came through North London, the Stamford Hill Tramways Band played for half-an-hour, for a merely nominal fee, to draw a crowd for the speakers when they arrived. So great was their success, that the number of listeners made two platforms necessary instead of one. The band was largely composed of "Friends," and had twice before been hired to play at garden parties. But, as the band secretary said, they now had the courage and sturdy sense to come out and identify themselves with the movement. This gentleman (Mr. Councillor Hume) made himself responsible for delivering all the notices to Tottenham "Friends," of whom there are about sixty, with, as yet, no Committee of the London Society. In the East End several very poor friends collected money on collecting-cards before the Pilgrimage days. Three very poor girls in Bow collected 7s. Friends in Canning Town also collected money, and friends from Canning Town and the Tower Hamlets joined the procession through the East End. Whitechapel friends carried banners and sold COMMON CAUSES during the final demonstration. Great enthusiasm has been shown by the East End friends about the Pilgrimage, and it seems likely that the very friendly reception given to the Pilgrims by the London crowds has been partly due to the success of the Friends' scheme. It has taught the London poor the difference between militant and law-abiding Suffragists, and has enlisted their personal and individual support in a way which would hardly have been possible without it.

Number of friends of Women's Suffrage in the area worked by the London Society, August, 1913:—

I.—BEFORE PILGRIMAGE.

1. Friends reported on by local secretaries and F.W.S. secretaries:—

(NOTE.—These are, in almost every case, Friends who have been visited, invited to meetings, or otherwise kept in touch with the work of the Society.)

(a) In London constituencies	6,991
(b) In suburban constituencies	1,194
Total	8,185

2. Friends in areas where no F.W.S. work is being done locally:—

(NOTE.—These Friends are circularised and have literature sent to them from the head office on specially important occasions.)

(a) In London constituencies	837
(b) In suburban constituencies	1,346
Total	2,183
Total number of Friends visited in constituencies	10,368
Enrolled just before the Pilgrimage, not yet distributed into constituencies	276

Total before Pilgrimage	10,644
II.—Enrolled during Pilgrimage week and since	3,046
Total number of Friends in London	13,690

"Extra Pages" Fund.

Already acknowledged	£	s.	d.
Miss Crossfield	202	5	8
Miss Jacobs	10	0	0
Miss Jacobs	0	1	6
Total	£212	7	2

We specially request that all cheques and postal orders sent to THE COMMON CAUSE shall be crossed, as we have reason to suppose that several sent in the course of the month have fallen into dishonest hands.



Soap in Flakes

THE PUREST FORM of SOAP PRODUCED.

For use with all fine fabrics such as Laces, Blouses, Silks, etc., or with Flannels and Woollens usually liable to shrinkage.

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Buy the Royal Primrose Soap from the Suffrage Shop, 54, Long Row, Nottingham. Send for Price List and Samples. All profits to the cause.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D. Hon. Secretaries: MISS K. D. COURTNEY, MISS C. E. MARSHALL (Parliamentary), MISS EMILY M. LEAF (Press), MISS EVELYN ATKINSON (Literature).

Sunday Meetings in Hyde Park.

The Hyde Park Meetings continue to draw large crowds, and every week numbers of new "Friends of Women's Suffrage" are enrolled. Anyone who can give up an hour or two to this work will be gratefully welcomed.

Lost Property.

The following articles have not yet been claimed since the demonstration:— One Burberry. Black golf jersey. White jersey. Red sunshade. Four umbrellas. Small green bag. Money bag. Three baskets. Water bottle. Tooth brush and case.

Tablecloth (?). Coat with motor scarf attached. Three rain coats. Two straw hats. Travelling cushion. Banner sling. Several black Common Cause bags. Sundry flags.

Please send full description when claiming any of the articles. LOST ON THE PILGRIMAGE, a small banner entitled "Justice for Women." Last seen at Leeds, July 1st. Information gladly received by Miss I. F. A. Beaver, 3, Osborn Terrace, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Literature Department.

Will Societies please note when ordering Mrs. Philip Snowden's "Feminist Movement" that the price is 1s. net.

Women's Suffrage Pilgrimage Offerings.

Table listing names and amounts for Women's Suffrage Pilgrimage Offerings. Includes entries like 'Already acknowledged 4,678 16 3', 'Mrs. Dick Rutland 1 0 0', 'Ikley W.S.S. 2 0', etc.

Table listing names and amounts for various societies and individuals. Includes entries like 'Miss Rigby 1 0 0', 'Mrs. Richardson 2 8 0', 'Miss Conway 2 0', etc.

Further lists to follow, bringing total to £8,450.

The Stead Memorial Hostels.

It will be remembered that a short time ago a Women's Special Shilling Fund was opened to provide lodging homes for women, to be called the Stead Hostels. To one who was throughout his life a devoted champion of the women's cause, such a memorial is peculiarly appropriate, and the appeal for funds has met with a ready response.

Donations from men are welcome for the general fund for providing hostels; but it is intended that the first of the hostels shall be provided by the donations of women only.

Many distinguished names are upon the list of members of the Council, among them that of our beloved President, Mrs. Henry Fawcett. Contributions to be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Bouchier F. Hawksly, 30, Mincing Lane, London, and marked "Women's Shilling Fund."

Small Collecting Booklets, leaflets, and all information can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Miss Josephine Marshall, "Salve," Willfield Way, Hendon, London.

Items of Interest.

Women Composers.

It is interesting to note that Dr. Ethel Smythe is to conduct her Overture to "The Wreckers" on Thursday evening next. This fine work should attract a large audience. But there is food for melancholy reflection in the fact that, barring the usual collection of miscellaneous ballads, this should be the only work by a woman included in the forthcoming series of Promenade Concerts.

Portia Asain.

The Court of Cassation at Rome has dismissed the appeal of Professor Theresa Labriola against a decision of the Court of Appeal which refused to admit her as a barrister entitled to practise to the law courts of Italy. Silence is not consent in this case. Because the law does not intend her to practise, it does not intend her to interpret this omission as an invitation to prepare herself to do so.

A Game for Women.

Bowls is a game associated in most minds with the stirring times and swashbuckling heroes of Elizabeth. The nonchalant Drake on Plymouth Hoe finishing his game while the sails of the Spanish Armada climb over the horizon is a popular fancy many artists have sought to illustrate. There are many Bowling Clubs in England to-day, and included in them are many women. The game calls for tremendous skill with, comparatively speaking, a minimum of exertion, and is one in which men and women can compete amicably and more or less equally.

The Blot on our Escutcheon.

There is not one woman doctor in the whole of Spain; there is only one woman who interests herself in the affairs of the Municipality of Madrid— Countess Emilia von Ardo-Baran; about 50 per cent. of the women are totally uneducated, and any movement in the direction of female emancipation unknown. Spain is the dirtiest, most primitive, badly conducted, careless, inefficient country in Europe. Surely a peculiar coincidence where the women are so apathetic.

The Netherlands Past.

The Daily Citizen has an interesting article on the evolution of the Dutch Vrouw, entitled "A Century of Women." The Netherlands is celebrating its centenary as a kingdom by the inauguration of many exhibitions, and one of the most important is the Women's Exhibition at Amsterdam, mentioned in these columns a few weeks ago. The object of this exhibition is to illustrate the strides made in the moral, mental, and economic development of the Dutch woman since 1813.

and Present.

The contrast to the above dismal picture is forthcoming in that section of the Exhibition devoted to present-day Dutch women. Since 1872, Holland has not been backward in recognising her women. She has recorded the names of ninety-three lady doctors, forty-five lady lawyers, sixty-six women druggists, twenty-five women scientists, twenty-nine women philologists, and many women theologians, and, moreover, women are entering the technical schools to prepare for engineering professions. Fifty-three female students are already at Delft, and to show that the Dutch woman is not necessarily "unsexed" by this forward movement, the Schools for Housewives boast nearly 8,000 enthusiastic, sincere, hardworking students, anxious to master the arts of housekeeping and cookery in all its branches of modern efficiency.

Another Women's Hostel.

The Tunbridge Wells Common Lodging-Houses, Ltd., has just transformed the old Crown Tavern in Varney Street into a lodging-house for women and children. The premises have been entirely renovated, and clean and comfortable accommodation provided at a very moderate cost. The hostel was opened by the Mayor of Tunbridge Wells last month and bids fair to be a great success. It is to be hoped that other towns will undertake similar schemes, for in many places it is impossible for girls and women to obtain respectable lodgings at a price which they can afford to pay.

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Chapter 1

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were made for floors, not for table-cloths and sheets.

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All in cold or lukewarm water.

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Women Rescues Drowning Miner and Child.

A young Nottingham woman, Mrs. Annie Sutton, was presented last week with the certificate of the Humane Society and a sovereign for rescuing a man and a child from drowning. A child had fallen into a pond in a disused quarry at Bulwell, two miners, neither of whom could swim, went to the rescue, but were soon in difficulties. Mrs. Sutton heard cries, and, dashing down the quarry, leapt into the water, rescued the child, and handed it to the onlookers. She entered the water again and helped one of the drowning men to safety, and returned for Thomas Mather, but he became entangled in a submerged tree, and was drowned.

Report.

East Midland.

The Wellingborough N.U.W.S.S. united with the local C.L.W.S. to give a Garden Party on Thursday, July 24th, at "Archfield" by kind permission of Miss Lilly, local Secretary of the C.L.W.S. Addresses were given in the afternoon and evening by Miss Abadam, N.U.W.S.S., and the Rev. C. Hinsell, C.L.W.S. Dramatic and musical entertainments were arranged by Miss L. James; Mrs. Arrcliffe Sennett's clever little play, "An Englishwoman's Home," causing much amusement. Other attractions were tennis and croquet tournaments and bowls, also a small sale of work and comestibles. In spite of depressing and gloomy prophecies the party was quite a success. The sum of £11 15s. (net) was realised, and both Secretaries were able to send 25 to their respective Societies, that of the N.U.W.S.S. as a donation to the Pilgrimage Fund— earmarked East Midlands Federation.

A very successful meeting which arose out of the Pilgrims' visit to St. Albans and Harpenden was held by Mrs. McCulloch, Maldon Lodge, Harpenden. It was well attended by factory girls from St. Albans, who much appreciated the address given by Miss Villiers, Hon. Secretary of Stevenage branch. All present signed Friends cards. Mrs. Berge, a member of the Harpenden Society, kindly helped in providing tea.

Forthcoming Meetings.

- AUGUST 22. Whitty-Open-air Meeting, Battery Parade (near the Pier)—Speaker, Miss Philippa Fawcett—Chair, J. Mitchell, Esq. 11.15. Goathland-Open-air Meeting on the Green—Speaker, Miss Philippa Fawcett—Chair, F. Taylor, Esq. 5.30. AUGUST 23. Oxford-Garden Meeting at Jesus College (by kind permission of the Principal)—Speakers, Mrs. Haverfield, Miss Helga Gill 2.45. AUGUST 25. East Finchley-Meeting of Adult School—Speaker, Mrs. Baker 7.30. Manchester-Meeting at Victoria Park Gates—Speakers, Mrs. Muter Wilson, Miss Wallhead, Mr. Redfern 8.0.

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News from Other Societies.

W.S.P.U.

Mrs. Pankhurst is at Trouville, and telegraphs that as soon as she regains her health she intends to return and continue her work.

Actresses' Franchise League.

The above Society has taken the Coronet Theatre for a week, beginning December 8th, when they open with Brieux's new play, "La Femme Seule," translated by Mrs. Bernard Shaw. A revival of Mr. Farquarson Sharp's version of Bjornson's "A Gauntlet" is also promised. If this venture succeeds, a woman's theatre, or theatre managed by, and in the interest of, women, may result. On the Organising Committee of the preliminary season appear the names of Lady Cowdray, Miss Cleely Hamilton, Lady Meyer, Mr. and Mrs. Harben, Mrs. Bernard Shaw, and others. Many well-known actors and actresses have promised their help.

Macclesfield Young Liberals.

Mr. W. L. White and Councillor H. G. Barclay, the President and Chairman respectively of the Macclesfield Young Liberals, have resigned their positions feeling that they could not join with the political work of the Liberal Association so long as full discussion of public questions, including Women's Suffrage, was denied to the members of the Association. Mr. Barclay regretted Colonel Brocklehurst's vote against the Dickinson Bill.

PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS.

Ten words, 9d. per insertion; every additional ten words, 6d. per insertion. All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Limited, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

SUFFRAGE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

SURREY, SUSSEX AND HANTS.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

A PLANT and BULB SALE will be held in HORSHAM the FIRST WEEK in OCTOBER. Promises of plants have been received from many well-known gardens. Bulbs are clean, sound, first quality, imported direct from Holland.

Proceeds of sale to swell the Funds of the Federation. Members are asked to help by sending their orders for plants or bulbs to

Mrs. DEMPSTER, 4, Sutton Grove, Seaford.

Orders by post will be despatched from Horsham the day previous to sale.

THE SUFFRAGE ATELIER.
EXHIBITION OF NEEDLEWORK, BANNERS, LACE, &c., on Saturday, September 6th, 2.30 to 7 p.m., at the Westminster Tea Shop, 17, Tothill Street. Tickets available from 2.30 to 5 p.m., or from 5 to 7 p.m., price 1s., including tea, to be obtained at The Suffrage Atelier, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, and at 17, Tothill Street.

"RECRUITING."—Two-Act Suffrage Comedy. 7d. post free.—"Hollies," Branstone Road, Burton-on-Trent.

CARBOROUGH.—Office, Falconer Chambers, N. Huntriss Row. Mornings 11.30. Visitors welcome.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS.

THE LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE announces a CHRISTMAS SALE OF WORK and begs members and friends to bear this sale in mind during their summer holidays, when they are at leisure to ply their handicrafts FOR THE GOOD OF THE CAUSE.—Write, Miss P. Strachey, L.S.W.S., 58, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

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ALLERTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, Sutton Coldfield. Pupils for Housewifery and Cookery received for a year's course, at moderate fees.

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

ELOCUTION AND VOICE PRODUCTION
MISS ESTHER WALKER (Pupil of Miss Nora Conway) is open to engagements for At Homes, Concerts, &c., and can receive a few Pupils. Application by letter to—MISS ESTHER WALKER, West Hill Lodge, Lower Terrace, Hampstead Heath, N.W.

GARDENING, COOKERY, HOUSEHOLD MANAGEMENT, LAUNDRY.—Ladies received. Charming country residence. Efficient instruction; month or term; individual consideration.—Peake, Udimore, Rye.

HOME Education offered two children with two boys and a girl. Pinewood district. Modern lines. Vegetarian. Non-theological. 15s. each weekly. References and particulars sent.—Charles Oliver, B.A., Tadley, Basingstoke.

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POSITIONS VACANT.

MAID or MAID-COMPANION WANTED for Surrey cottage; September.—Apply, stating salary required and all particulars, to Box 1,920, C.C. Office.

REQUIRED, on Small Grass Farm, Woman-Helper; milk six Guernsey cows; oblige generally.—Apply, Mrs. Hallen, Pebworth Fields, under Stratford-on-Avon.

WANTED, October, Lady Gardener to visit for fortnight; help rearrange small garden near Liverpool; moderate terms.—S. Penmaen, R.S.O., Glamorgan.

POSITIONS WANTED.

A GENTLEWOMAN (widow), thoroughly capable household manager and a good needlewoman, desires either a temporary or permanent post as companion to a lady, or as companion-housekeeper to either lady or gentleman.—E. Shairp, 29, Ovington Street, Lennox Gardens, S.W.

MEMBER recommends a German-English girl, three languages, clever, useful, for any post.—Mary Reinhardt, 11, Suarez Strasse, Charlottenburg, Berlin.

MEDICAL.

MRS. SCOTT-BRIGGS' BUREAU recommends free of charge, Sanatoria Homes with Doctors and Nurses receiving Resident Patients. Maternity and all cases. Homes and Schools for Children; also fully trained nurses, masseuses, &c. Send for list to 56, Mortimer Street, W.

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TOILET PREPARATIONS FOR LADIES. To suit all conditions of Skin and Hair. Send for Price List, post free, to ROMNEY & CO., Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire.

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A SPECIAL OFFER.

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