

THE VOTE

(THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.)

VOL. I.—No. 4.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH, 1909.

ONE PENNY.

NOTICE.

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WHAT WE THINK.

Cold Comfort.

Lord Crewe informed the deputation of Liberal women which waited on him at the Colonial Office last week that what he had to say would doubtless be regarded by them as very cold comfort. He then proceeded to make the comfort as cold as he could. He treated them to a pleasant dissertation on the perils that would assail Liberalism if women had the vote. He reminded them that if the Government did what they asked, viz., made Woman's Suffrage a plank in their platform when they went to the country, it would involve changes in the personnel of the Cabinet as at present constituted. "But," continued Lord Crewe, "if you yet consider that, in spite of this, the party remains the best engine for progress in the country, you will be prepared to hope for the conversion of the Liberal Party to your views!"

What a reward for faithful service! The demand of thousands of Liberal women for justice and recognition must be put on one side, lest it should lead to the resignation of Mr. Asquith. Mr. Asquith himself promised them their reward—did they not sing a public and pathetic pæan of gratitude to him for his famous "pledge," and denounce the wicked Suffragettes for saying at the time that it wasn't good enough? And now to be told that the most they can hope for is the "conversion of the Liberal Party to their views"!

The only thing they can hope for—if they have any sense of dignity left—is the speedy extinction of the Party that has so shamelessly betrayed them.

Trial by Jury.

The first trial by jury of the Suffragettes is proceeding as we go to press. The principle that underlies the appointing of the "twelve good men and true" to decide the issue of a case is that offenders against the law shall be tried by their peers, by those who, being in similar

circumstances, are supposedly capable of understanding the temptations or exasperations that beset the defendants. But there is no man or group of men throughout the length and breadth of Britain, or even in her remotest colonies, who could imagine himself for one moment in the humiliating position of these two women. They are like the others who have hitherto been tried by the one-man system, the victims of a complete sex-dominance. The most they can hope for is that the jurymen may be free from the prejudice of the magistrates who have inflicted such vindictive sentences at the bidding of the Grand Inquisitor of the Liberal Cabinet.

Votes for Kaffirs.

Mr. Asquith spoke, as his sycophantic press tells us, eloquently and with feeling at the Guildhall last week on the subject of Brother Boer, and coupled his praise of Boer and British statesmanship with a plea for political rights for the coloured races. Mr. Asquith pleading for political rights should be a spectacle to move gods and men to laughter. But, of course Kaffirs in his estimation stand on quite a different footing from Liberal or other women. "Being males, they are human beings." While this moving eloquence was being poured forth, two girls were in custody for bringing their desire for political rights in an unorthodox way before the speaker. They are now in prison, sentenced to one month's hard labour, and undergoing all the horrors of starvation as a protest against being treated as criminals. Women are always so unreasonable. Why will they clamour for political rights while they still retain the inestimable privilege of being the hewers of wood and drawers of water for the great and glorious party of which Mr. Asquith is the shining exemplar?

Lost Votes.

Dr. Clifford has been writing in the *Daily News* about the rejection of the London Elections Bill by the House of Lords. "Those who have taken part in London elections have seen the intolerable wrongs inflicted on our fellow citizens by the present arrangements. A man loses his vote by crossing Edgware Road from Paddington into Marylebone. Scotsmen and Manchester men compare their cities with London, and ask why this gross injustice is permitted to continue. Thousands of men are robbed of their voting power every year. Our imperial masters, the peers, who hate freedom, rejoice in it, and continue the robbery; and then wonder why men detest them, and wish their lordly house could be brought to the ground." By the alteration of a few words this could be quoted by Suffragettes with great effect. But they mustn't mind being accused of hysteria and exaggeration if they do. Of course, in their case they would not be alluding to the deprivation of the rights of a few women, but to the denial of liberty to a whole sex, which would be still less excuse for the use of language so "frequent and painful and free."

M. H.

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PORTMAN ROOMS "AT HOME."

An exceptionally enthusiastic welcome greeted the Rev. Hugh B. Chapman (of the Chapel Royal, Savoy) and Mr. Laurence Housman, the speakers at last Wednesday's "At Home." The audience paid the highest tribute of admiration possible, inasmuch as several new members, some of them women who had entered the room anti-suffragists, gave in their names. Mrs. Borrmann Wells was in the chair. The collection at the end of the meeting was generously doubled by Mrs. Hicks.

Mr. Laurence Housman spoke on a topic which showed him at his best—the submission of women. Those who preached that women should be submissive, he said, overlooked the fact that the submissive attitude was the most deceptive. That was true not only of sex, but of races. We did not understand the races which we kept in submission. First we must free the races and we must also free women before we could begin to understand their capabilities. Any protection which was given to women was given for value received, and it was only false protection which demanded submission as a condition. If the anarchists had the courage and persistence of women they could make law in any country impossible.

"Whenever good work is being done the devil kicks up a dust," said the Rev. Hugh Chapman, a saying which puts in a nutshell the whole militant movement and its immediate effects on the country and the Press. The present moment, continued the speaker, was the time for friends of Woman's Suffrage to come forward. When success had been won friends would not be needed. The Church was apt to come forward rather late. He believed in freedom of thought, the speaker continued—he was, in fact, "tremendously catholic"—but in England we were very hypocritical. Women in the mass were used as slaves entirely to please man's animal passions. He touched on the appalling conditions of women in the East, and remarked that here in England they were little better. Liberty was the initial necessity of all. "Of every hundred men who go to heaven," said François Coppée, "ninety-nine will owe it to their mothers." But in spite of the respect in which the name of mother was held the domestic tyranny of man was abominable. He had learnt that during thirty years in the slums. The note of freedom was the note to be struck. The movement for the emancipation of the Congo was germane to this and every other movement which had the love of freedom at its core. And secondly came the dignity of woman. He was fighting to raise her from the slough into which she had sunk. It was a duel between Egeria and Circe. Hardly less important was the expansion of woman. Villadom bred small minds in small rooms, minds given up to parochial gossip. Women needed imagination, needed to think they were important, to get ideas into their heads. He did not wish to see them with their noses flattened against Selfridge's windows. Women's influence on politics would be all on the side of morality. No really bad man would have a chance of getting into the House, and what was eloquence compared with virtue? It was women who felt most keenly the burden of the drink question, which ought to be settled by them. Women would never let the social evil continue when they had the power to deal with it. After a glowing tribute to Mrs. Despard, the Rev. Hugh Chapman continued: "Be earnest in your endeavours. The honour of Christ is concerned in this movement, the glory of God is in it." He urged the necessity of federation between the different sections in the woman's movement. "When it is one movement, with one aim, then the cause will be won."

From the very beginning the Freedom League has been ready to enter a Federation of Suffrage Societies, and we still hold out the right hand of good-fellowship to all sister organisations.

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ACTRESSES' AND WRITERS' MATINEE.



ELLEN TERRY.

(Photo: Lottie Charles, 32a, Curzon Street, W.)

Towards their treasury the Actresses' Franchise League and the Women Writers' Suffrage League organised a wonderful matinee at the Scala on Friday. Such an occasion must necessarily aim at uniting pleasure, profit, and propaganda, and the final result as seen in the "Pageant of Famous Women" must have pleased that most painstaking and picture-loving enthusiast Miss Edith Craig and the many others who helped in writing, in staging, and in acting the numerous brilliant and effective items which passed in pleasant sequence in front of the Scala footlights. The Pageant was the great reward of those who had listened to the lesson of the afternoon interpreted in many different ways by tale, and plot, and precept, for the great women of other days, from Sappho to Joan of Arc, came to life again to justify their modern sisters. "Justice" (Lady Grove), in a blaze of gold, with sword and scales, lent ear to "Woman" (Miss Adeline Bourne) when she summoned from the past and present the heroines of Art, Learning, War, and Charity; while "Prejudice" (Mr. Kenyon Musgrove) slowly wilted as the great procession passed, and at last turned tail and disappeared. Delightful Ellen Terry, lavish of her services in the cause she has espoused, swept in as "Nance Oldfield," gracious and alluring. "What would the world be without women?" she asked "Prejudice." "Banish them from it, and a long, gawky youth would play my parts.

How dull the stage would be, and far from merry—Not knowing Oldfield, Woffington, and Terry!"

Mrs. Brown Potter, in flaming gown, impersonated "Charlotte Corday," and sweet Marion Terry was brave "Florence Nightingale." "Joan of Arc," with the light of battle in her eyes, had Pauline Chase to give her life, and "Rosa Bonheur" had Edith Craig, "Catherine of Siena" Madeline Lucette Riley, and "Madame Vigée Lebrun" Margaret Halstan. Women in armour and women in powder and patches and white-robed poetesses passed close on one another's heels to bear witness against the monster "Prejudice," until at last "Justice" rose convinced, and declared that woman shall no more be the "thin grey shadow of man," but his equal.

Three new one-act pieces, "The Pot and the Kettle," by Cicely Hamilton and Christopher St. John; "Master," by Gertrude Mouillot; and "The Outcast," by Beatrice Harraden, found favour and were most amusing. The first-named was a clever skit on the "antis," the second a well-conceived study of the male loafer who is not above sponging on a woman, and the third an exquisitely-written little domestic drama with a plaintive motif. Of the rest of the programme it is safe to say that it was all good, and that all who helped gave of their best. From Margaret Halstan's superb delivery of Laurence Housman's Prologue to the last word of "Justice" in the Pageant the right note was struck and well sustained.

In the audience were representatives of every form of suffrage society, lovers of peace and lovers of war, united by the same kindly intention—to help these two Leagues, which have helped them whenever they have been asked, without questioning whether the prayer came from Suffragist or Suffragette. E. T.

WOMEN VERSUS THE BUDGET.

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N.B.—Infants, Married Women and Lunatics are not so entitled. Consult Mrs. E. AYRES PURDIE, A.L.A.A., Certified Accountant and Income Tax Specialist, Craven House, Kingsway, W.C.

A BOOK FOR SUFFRAGISTS.

"Woman in Political Evolution," by Joseph M'Cabe. (Watts and Co., price 6d.)

"In ancient Greece," says Mr. M'Cabe, "there was a certain symbolic ceremony of a very picturesque character in connection with one of the great festivals. A lighted torch was to be conveyed to a distant altar, and a series of horsemen had to discharge the ceremony. Along the line of frantic riders, from the exhausted hand of one horseman to the fresh grasp of the next the fiery symbol was handed, until the last placed it in triumph on the destined altar.

"The story of the evolution of woman's position recalls this old ceremony. For nearly three thousand years at least the torch has passed from rider to rider, and the altar is in sight. . . . In one respect, however, the parallel fails. It is true that the cause has moved onward through the ages, but there have been years—even centuries—when the torch was almost, if not quite, extinct. There have been times when the distant altar seemed to be forgotten, and women sank back into uncomplaining subjection."

But the torch has flamed out again to-day, and for reasons which the author of this vitally interesting book gives in full and convincing detail can never more be extinguished until it is laid on the altar.

It is a wonderful story Mr. M'Cabe unfolds. Step by step he traces the evolution of woman from savagery to barbarism; through the struggling years of early civilization up through the great nations of the past—Egypt and Assyria, Greece and Rome; through the dark ages of early Christianity, when the torch of feminism burnt very faintly indeed, and was passed on with secrecy and suffering from one bruised hand to another, for the possession of intelligence in those days meant for women the dreaded charge of witchcraft, with its concomitants of torture and death. Then came the Italian Renaissance with its revival of ancient culture, and the torch, burning with comparative brightness once more, was given to France, and from thence passed to the vigorous hands of England, Germany, and the United States.

The chapters might well be called "tabloids of concentrated history," so full of information are they—information that is absolutely invaluable to Suffragists of both sexes, both meek and mild, and militant.

The position of women in ancient Egypt will cause surprise to many. "The Egyptian woman of the lower and middle-class," says Maspéro, "was more respected and independent than any other woman in the world." In no class of the community was there a trace of the dominating tendency of the male, and the resultant family life seems to have been of the happiest. And in the richer classes she had even greater independence. Such inheritance as there was passed through the mother, and she had so high a position in the home that Egyptologists speak of the husband as "a privileged guest." She had her own house and her own slaves, and complete liberty to go about and receive visitors. In point of fact, it is only in recent years that an Englishwoman has had an equal social liberty; even now she has not so high a prestige in the home, and certainly not the same position in regard to inheritance and prosperity.

In ancient Greece, of course, the women had one of the greatest thinkers of the world and most treasured writers in all literature to advance and make articulate their claims to recognition. Plato was the most advanced feminist who has ever existed; he insisted always on the inherent equality of the sexes. A precedent of modern scenes that will surely be quoted by many a Suffragette in future is given in the chapter dealing with woman in ancient Rome. In 195 B.C. the women demanded the repeal of the Oppian Law, which bore heavily upon them. Cato, who was then Consul, and others resolved to retain the law, and a struggle ensued that one could almost transfer from the Forum of ancient Rome to the Parliament Square of modern London. According to Livy, matrons, "restrained neither by authority, nor modesty, nor the control of their husbands," beset all the ways that led to the Forum, and importunately demanded the votes of the legislators. Re-

inforced by crowds of provincial women, they kept up a noisy agitation during the debate in the Forum, and—strangest parallel of all—"dared to approach the consuls, prætors, and other magistrates," and at length forced their way into the houses of the tribunes and won them to the cause. Cato, who led the resistance, complained that he had to bore his way with shame through a crowd of women to reach the Forum! Evidently there were no convenient underground passages in those days.

I have no space to follow Mr. M'Cabe's masterly demolition of Dr. Reich's flimsy and unsound dictum that "The subordination of women is one of the prices of Empire." But demolished it is, with deadly logic and unanswerable analogies drawn from historical and philosophical sources. He shows how politics, which began by being man's business, is now, by the entry of women into the industrial world and the invasion of politics into the domestic world, essentially a matter for both. He proves that the basis of enfranchisement is competency, and claims that women fulfil every condition necessary for the right exercise of power.

Mr. M'Cabe has given much valuable service to the woman's movement, but had he never done anything more than write this book he would deserve his own particular niche of glory.

"Ancient Suffragettes" is the title of a pamphlet written by Mr. W. H. Nevins, and it contains delightful little sketches of Hebrew and Grecian rebels of famous memory. It can be obtained—as can also Mr. M'Cabe's "Woman in Political Evolution," from the Literature Department, W.F.L., 1, Robert Street, Adelphi.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Hon. Secretary of the Women's Freedom League has received the following letter from a correspondent in Reading:—"I am not a member of any particular Suffrage Society, but am very much interested in the subject, and during the summer holidays I endeavoured also to interest a country friend of mine by taking her to several Women's Freedom League meetings. "I wrote to her the other day, and said: 'I think, after all, I shall join the Constitutionals.' In her reply to me she said: 'I know the Women's Freedom League, and have heard of the W.S.P.U., but who in the world are the Constitutionals?' I have taken the reproof to heart, and have not yet become a 'baalamb.'"

Yours sincerely,
"M. N."

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DR. SALEEBY, F.R.S.E.

By ETHEL HILL.

The point of view of a scientist and educationist is always interesting. His horizon is necessarily broader than that of the man in the street, who often sees no farther than the little money-grubbing circle in which he moves. The issues with which he deals are vaster. He approaches every subject in a more intense way. His aims are rarely selfish or his ambitions purely personal—Humanity and the good of Humanity is always prominently in the foreground of his life-work. So it is with Dr. Saleeby and his attitude towards the Woman Question. In his eyes the enfranchisement of women has a permanent race value. Their subjection and their economic dependence he designates "Execrable! Abominable!" In this he would be one with Charlotte Perkins Gilman and her admirable book "Women and Economics."

Dr. Saleeby says he supports, and warmly supports Women's Suffrage, because we have every reason to suppose that women's knowledge, opportunity, and judgment in real politics are more valuable than those of men. By real politics he means domestic and not the rubbish talked about in the House of Commons. Life begins at home, and there are no politics but those which concern life. Women live nearer to childhood, nearer nature's instruments of the future, and if only one sex should vote they should

"It is asserted," I remarked, "that women would take no interest in Imperial affairs."

"They show their sense," he replied, smiling. "They understand the only kind of Imperialism which does not destroy Empires. There is no wealth but life."

"Do you think motherhood should be endowed?"

Dr. Saleeby thought for a moment before replying. "I object, strongly object, to any measure that would make fatherhood less responsible. It would be against the whole history of organic evolution, from fishes upwards. But mothers must be endowed without destroying the responsibility of fatherhood."

Dr. Saleeby considers that the services of woman as a carer for life and childhood will give her the economic status to which such supreme services are entitled. He thinks very much depends upon the recognition of the important race part that a woman plays. "Mothers are much more vital to a nation than Dreadnoughts."

"You detest war?"

"I loathe it."

He looks beyond the accession of gold and territory, the blatant singing of "Rule, Britannia!" and sees the

depleted race, with its strong men slain and the vital life-blood of a nation drained.

"Pasteur," I have heard him say, "cannot add to the Frenchman's stature the inches that the Napoleonic wars cut off. We have reason to believe that Japan will suffer racially from her latest war and that England has done so since her last Boer war."

Dr. Saleeby has written a passage in his "Ethics" that we may easily apply in a similar way to those who criticise the difficult, dangerous, and unpleasant path we are forced to tread to reach our goal. The attitude of the Press to the Movement he calls "grossly dishonest" and a direct incentive to militant action. In "Ethics" he speaks of what he considers such vile sports as pigeon-shooting, foxhunting, and the like, for he thinks the taking of life for pleasure is immoral.

"I am well aware," he writes, "that we who condemn these 'sports' must appear to condemn many men in every respect better than ourselves. But we must discriminate between condemnation of an act and condemnation of the actor. As scientific students of psychology and the factors of human character we must consistently decline to pass any judgment upon our fellow-men. Merit, credit, blameworthiness, responsibility—we are far from sure that we know how to use these terms aright. We are in no judicial position, fortunately, and we will assume no judicial functions. We reserve our right to say that acts are right or wrong, but we will say nothing about the actors."

"The wrong act is wrong though all the world acclaim it right. Some may take it upon themselves to judge the actor according to his estimate of his act: but if the act made for happiness—or blessedness, if you like—it was right; if not, it was wrong. Right or wrong are not matters of opinion—else there is no such thing as a scientific ethics, but can at most be merely a history of opinion."

Dr. Saleeby is sure of one thing—the enfranchisement of women will come as inevitably as daybreak dawns on night.

"Do you support Adult Suffrage?" I enquired in parting.

His reply was characteristic:

"I have no faith in the voice of Democracy. I hope it may one day come to an educational qualification. A man of science can't believe that wisdom is to be found by counting noses."



*With the best wishes for
the woman's cause
of Dr. Saleeby*

Next Week: MRS. ETHEL SNOWDEN.

GOSSIP.

"And they made a noise like crickets,
A chattering wise and sweet."

W. B. YEATS.

In the old days of the Lyceum when the late Sir Henry Irving was actor-manager there it was usual to place a chair in the wings for Gladstone during his Premiership so that unobserved of the house he could enjoy the play. In the interests of the modern Cabinet it might be well if the custom were revived in order that an evening's amusement might be a pleasure unalloyed—George.

Last week Dr. Alice Vowe-Johnson was the plaintiff in an action before Mr. Justice Darling and a special jury, against a local paper in Norwood whose editor had grossly libelled her. Dr. Vowe-Johnson has been for four or five years medical officer to a Poor Law school at Norwood, and the sensation-monger endeavoured to stir up local feeling against her and embarrass her in the execution of her duty by means of paragraphs with catchy headlines questioning her action in the case of children showing symptoms of ophthalmia. Apart from the libellous nature of his efforts, the inklinger did not wait to consider the possible effects of contagion to the neighbourhood if the doctor were regarded as incompetent and her orders were openly neglected by the parents. But these attacks upon professional women do not form an isolated instance; a very vindictive paragraph appeared in a Sunday paper some months ago accusing women doctors of under-cutting—an accusation which could not have been made by anyone having any knowledge of the lynx-eyed supervision of the British Medical Council and the stringency of the medical convenances. The judge with the connotative name in announcing the terms of the settlement agreed to by Dr. Vowe-Johnson, observed that she had acted with great generosity in accepting an apology and agreeing to a nominal verdict. Upon reading what was published he remarked that it was impossible not to come to the conclusion that the jury would have been bound to decide that an attack was made upon her skill as a doctor. For ourselves we may add that a man would have paid a personal visit to the editor and tried conclusions with a stout stick. But then, this Norwood inklinger would have been afraid to libel a man.

The Birthday List shows an even greater collection of men of straw than has been brought together in any previous Liberal portfolio. The tenuity of the biographical notices even in Liberal papers proves that some of them must have come as a surprise to many supporters of the Government. Of course, no women are honoured—that, while supreme power lies in the hands of one sex, was to be expected, and called for no comment and no surprise from either Liberal or Tory organs. Yet the great event of last week was the opening by the King of the new buildings of the National Paralytic Hospital in Queen Square, an institution which owes its origin to the gentle philanthropy of two old ladies, poor in money, but rich in benevolence, who sold lace and embroidery made by themselves to found a hospital for paralytic, and who in the flare of trumpets over personages who had had beds named after them and over the usual advertisement-seekers, were quite forgotten. This fate seldom befalls the male philanthropist, whether his service or his money be devoted to the good of his kind or the good of his party.

The Marquis of Granby, a youth who will one day be Duke of Rutland, fell the other day into a police trap set for the furious driver. But the Marquis, though he had exceeded the speed-limit, showed himself by no means furious, and amiably remarked to the man in blue, "It's a fair cop, constable." A society known to the world of letters as the English Association exists, we believe, for preserving the fair tongue of Milton in its purest form. Hitherto they have waged war on Cockaigne. Now they might turn to Mayfair.

EZRA TWINKLE.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1909.

THE PROOFS OF BETRAYAL.

During the last few months members of the Cabinet have again and again committed themselves. Four deputations at least have been received—and answered. And the answers have been such as should convert to militancy all Liberal women who have any knowledge of politics, any belief in Liberal principles, and any respect for their sex. First Lord Crewe emphatically rejected the suggestion that this Government had any intention of dealing with Women's Suffrage during the present Parliament, this in spite of the reiterated assertions of Liberal papers that justice was to be done before the dissolution. Mr. Birrell followed by stating that the question had *not yet* received the consideration of the Cabinet, and disposed of the Universal Suffrage red-herring by adding that he was opposed to Adult Suffrage, while personally favourable to the principle of votes for women. Then came Mr. Winston Churchill, who delivered himself of much youthful impertinence, and informed the world of women through the Women's Freedom League, that justice was of small account compared with the wounded feelings of those who had refused it. He indicated that the Government would do nothing, and further made the disgraceful statement that the leaders of neither party would put this question upon their programme until the militant agitation ceased. The excuse used to be that there was no agitation; it seems now that there is too much. But no woman who understands politics is to be misled by this kind of childish bombast. This attitude is similar to that of the big bully who has robbed a boy of a penny and then assaulted him because he cried out for its return. The depth to which Mr. Winston Churchill has descended can be deduced from the fact that he fatuously believes that this attitude of his is dignified.

Now Lord Crewe has been interviewed again by the women of the Liberal Forward Union. As he and his colleagues had already disposed of all hope as to the intentions of the Government before the dissolution, the Liberal Suffragists drove their questions a stage further. They asked if the Government intended to get a mandate from the electors so that the question could be settled in the next Parliament. The reply of Lord Crewe was an emphatic "No!" The reply gives no shock of surprise to the Women's Freedom League. This falsely-named Liberal Government would prefer not to be returned rather than to be returned with a mandate for Votes for Women. How long yet will the Liberal women Suffragists be in the learning of their lesson? How long will they delay to supply that last element of motive force which might yet save the situation? How long will they continue to barter their independence and to sell their souls for an empty shibboleth? How long?

They could yet save the Government from the condemnation it has merited. Women are phenomenally grateful. If the Liberal women forced the hands of the Cabinet by an eleven-hour revolt the anti-Liberal feeling that has been bred of their thousand and one insults and evasions would die down. Now is the hour for a revolt. Let the Liberal women break the party shackles. Let them go on strike. Let them repudiate the insults that have been offered to them by the mere temporary commanders and corruptors of their party. Let them bring things to a pause. If they are brave enough for this they can not only save the name of their party from degradation, but they can give the final glorious touches to the work of sacrifice that we have begun and builded up—they can make certain the immediate granting of Votes for Women.

TERESA BILLINGTON-GREIG.

GRADUATES' SUFFRAGE UNION.

A new Suffrage Union has lately been formed for graduates of the London University, the chief object of which is to "promote the enfranchisement of women by means befitting a University Association." Thus the Union will take an entirely neutral position on the question of methods employed by the existing Suffrage bodies, and will aim chiefly at bringing home to the general public what weighty support the movement has on the intellectual side. It will also seek "to influence the return of a Parliamentary representative who shall carry on the traditions of the University as regards equal treatment of men and women, and shall be prepared to extend this principle to the demand of women for citizenship." The exclusion of women from the University Franchise is the more anomalous when we consider that in all other respects they share equally in the privileges of the University; and the fact that both the present Unionist Member and the prospective Liberal candidate are declared opponents to Woman's Suffrage makes it imperative that we should organise without delay to secure the return of a Member with more enlightened views on this great question. Will all graduates in sympathy with the objects of the Union help it by becoming members and send their names and a subscription of 1s. or upwards to Miss Jessie Scott, M.A., 98, Shaftesbury Road, Ravenscourt Park, W.?

UNJUST JUDGES.

In a magnificent volume devoted to the Old Bailey Mr. Eden Hooper has some strong things to say about the administration of criminal justice in the country at the moment. He denounces the inequality of the sentences inflicted by different judges for identical or similar crimes. The prisoner, he says, continues to go before the judge as one about to draw a chance in a lottery.

BALLADE OF A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT.

They know no guiding of a star;
 The bark of State they cannot steer
 To any haven, near or far;
 They change with all the winds that veer.
 Their efforts fail, for man is "mere,"
 As Hansard proves by tome on tome;
 But woman must not leave her sphere,
 The Place of Woman is the Home.

* * *

The Chosen Ones who make or mar
 The nation's fortunes year by year,
 If any would reveal the scar
 Our honour bears, can only jeer.
 If question comes of boots, or beer,
 Or Chinese pork, with wrath they foam;
 But when of women's shame they hear—
 "The Place of Woman is the Home."

* * *

Though women face the shock and jar
 Of fighting evils vast and drear,
 And drag the great triumphal car
 Of Progress, without fault or fear,
 They still must breathe the atmosphere
 That blighted Babylon and Rome:
 "These women have no business here,"
 The Place of Woman is the Home."

* * *

ENVOY.

M.P.'s, the time, you say, is near
 When far and wide your workers roam;
 Your women must no more appear
 The Place of Woman is the Home.

KENNETH RICHMOND.

MAINLY ABOUT WOMEN.

Marie Corelli.

Marie Corelli finds the American woman not quite like other women. But as the "Errand Boy" in "What's On" wittily says, "Being so profound an observer, Marie Corelli may also have noticed that the Frenchwoman is 'not quite' like the Hottentot lady."

Miss Corelli has also been discussing the "Problem of the Suffragette." She thinks it may be taken for granted that the Suffragette is a disappointed woman; she is a song sung out of tune. "Everything rough, violent, ungraceful, and unseemly has the immediate effect of making a woman look ridiculous; and there is no more humorous figure in the world than an excited Suffragette. Teddy bears are nowhere in the running with her. One would laugh all the time if one were not humanly sorry for her. She has lost so much; she will gain so little." So much for the point of view of Marie Corelli. She is, however, just as severe on chivalrous man. She points out British indifference to clever women, and upbraids Englishmen for choosing wives stupid as owls rather than run the risk of being found stupid themselves. She then instances a woman's book which was belauded so long as the sex of the writer was not disclosed, and seems to think that Mme. Curie is very far from getting her due simply and solely because she is a woman.

And yet she says women have lost so much in fighting for free individuality and have so little to gain! She speaks of the "brilliant potentialities of a woman's intellect," and cites Queen Elizabeth as far the greatest monarch England has ever known.

Now, are we to infer by this that women must keep passive their "brilliant potentialities" in order to please the men? But why should Marie Corelli upbraid men for liking stupid women? Isn't it a case of the pot calling the kettle black? For her own idea of a clever woman is—but let me quote the fount of wisdom:—

The Spider and the Fly.

"A clever woman sits at home and, like a meadow spider, spreads a pretty web of rose and gold, spangled with diamond dew. Flies, or men, tumble in by scores, and she holds them all prisoners at her pleasure, with a golden strand as fine as a hair. Nature gave her, at her birth, the right to do this, and if she does it well she will always have her web full."

The Writers' and Actresses' Matinee.

It is a pity Miss Corelli was not at the Writers' and Actresses' Matinée last Friday. What would she have thought of the magnificent Pageant of Famous Women—the learned women, the artists, the saintly women, the heroic women, the rulers, the warriors—representatives of all the noble army of women who have stamped their names indelibly upon the world? Let us hope she would have gone straight back home to lovely Stratford-on-Avon and killed her poor, foolish "Meadow Spider" waiting in a "web of rose and gold" to entrap her "insect" man.

Women in Art.

The feature of the Nineteenth Exhibition of the Society of Portrait Painters is a series of portraits of musical and dramatic celebrities. M. Blanche and Mr. Nicholas give us two living pictures of Miss Marie Tempest; Mrs. Brown-Potter, with her wealth of red hair, provides material for Mr. W. B. E. Rankin; and Mr. C. H. Shannon portrays Mrs. Patrick Campbell, enigmatical and splendid. The Exhibition is well worth a visit.

Nobel Prize for a Woman.

It is now considered certain that the literature prize will be given next year to the greatest woman writer of Sweden, Madame Selma Lagerlof. Last year an equal number of votes were cast for her and the late Mr. Swinburne.

Illlogical Women.

We hear many women say that they have given up Woman's Suffrage, *in which they firmly believe*, because they do not like the methods adopted to get it. Well, I read in my newspaper yesterday about a clergyman convicted of theft. Will the same women give up religion because they do not approve of all the acts of its professors?

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 Please strike out the lines not required and return to the office of this paper.

ACTRESS VERSUS SUFFRAGETTE.

By ISRAEL ZANGWILL.

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A performance at the Scala Theatre, organised by the Actresses' Franchise League of Great Britain, has served again to draw attention to the close sympathy between the stage and the suffragettes. Not only do the leading actors of the day endorse the demand of votes for women, but, what seems still more wonderful, the leading actresses.

A little consideration, however, removes the wonder. The stage is the sphere which women adorn equally with men, if not indeed with superior lustre, and in which women have worked—when all of scandal is said—on those terms of sexless camaraderie which the new social development demands. It is the one arena in which their ability to make a living in equal competition has never been in question. To tell actresses that their place is "the home" would scarcely occur even to the most bigoted defenders of the hearth, for to all except the strictest sectarians the actress has long proved her necessity as a factor of civilisation. And yet it is well to remember that even in the acting profession there was a time when Rosalind and Ophelia could only be played by males.

It is, however, from the philosophic standpoint that the relation of the actress to the suffragette opens up the most interesting perspectives. For the typical suffragette is, even in the popular imagination, no longer the unsexed virago, the unhusbanded surplus, the spectacled blue-stocking. Manliness does not go even with militancy. Alike on the posters and in the cartoons the suffragette is now a young and pretty girl; in short, so far as feminine fascination is concerned, she is become indistinguishable from the typical actress.

And this approximation to the actress is even closer than mere bodily likeness. The suffragette, like the actress, appears on a stage or a platform, her charms are an equal, if a less conscious, part of her success, and her chief working asset is her voice. She, too, achieves her effects by words, which are sometimes even converted—under interruption—into duologues and repartees.

Where, then, lies the difference between actress and suffragette? The most obvious difference is that the suffragette speaks her own words, is authoress as well as actress. This, however, is not the essential difference, since the rank and file no doubt repeat the speeches of their betters, who in their turn may repeat themselves almost as mechanically as an actress. Does it lie in the fact that the actress gets applause and flowers and the suffragette malodorous missiles and hisses? Not in absolute logic, since eggs and sibilance are not unknown to the legitimate drama. But in practical logic this brings us nearer the core of the matter. The actress asks for bread, the suffragette more often for a stone. She faces enemies rather than friends, she is speaking not to pleasure her audience, but to win it from its prejudices. In short, she is on the stage as herself and not as a puppet, a puppet, moreover, mainly worked by commercial showmen. Stevenson applied the phrase "The Daughters of Joy" even to himself and to all male artists who lived to please and must please to live. Without, however, taking so dour a view of the purveyors of æsthetic pleasure, it must be admitted that they fall into a lower category than the artists who, like Wordsworth or Carlyle, are driven to their work by a fire which they do not utilise to boil the pot. And as high as, if not higher than, creative art is creative action upon the real world-action which moulds it "nearer to the heart's desire," as a sculptor imposes more gracious forms upon his block of granite.

The world of Art, as Schopenhauer pointed out, is a world without any necessary relation to Will. Art, when enjoyed by the spectator, makes no demand upon his volition. It was only the naïve sailor in the gallery, who, seeing the heroine of the drama thrown into the river, dived down to her rescue. And if the spectator of the play must surrender his will, still more is this the case with the player. The actor must move through an action as fixed beforehand as that of the filmy figures of the

cinematograph, as independent of his will as the movement of the slaves who serve as chessmen in those living games of chess played by Oriental despots upon their chalked-out courtyards. Some margin of liberty no doubt remains even to the breathing chess-piece. One bishop may look more sanctimonious than another as he swoops down upon a castle, a knight may permit himself a malicious chuckle at his contorted influence upon the enemy's queen, a humble pawn may swell visibly as he checks the king. As so a stage-player, too, is not wholly the serf of the author of his being, not wholly his manager's mannikin. His personality fills out, even partially transforms, the part in his script. But within what narrow limits his free will operates. And even the most individualised performance soon sinks into mechanism under repetition. According to Diderot and Coquelin, such automatism is even the perfection of the actors' art: feeling, with its accidents of variation, is to be scrupulously avoided.

Now the actress has long appeared to the crowd as the ideal image of freedom and spontaneity, and, indeed, as a pioneer of public work and wages for women she did shake herself free from many old-fashioned crampings and conventions. But so far as her actual profession is concerned she is bound in even tighter chains than the ladies of the harem. The stage, in appearance so Bohemian, is really the most rigid of all barracks. More punctually even than the bugle-call sounds the prompters' bell or the call-boy's voice. Not even upon the great railway systems must trains cross given points more punctually than actors and actresses must make their entrances and their exits. No more dreadful catastrophe could occur in a theatre—outside fire and panic—than that a player should not appear at his cue, and a clever American story-teller, Miss Virginia Tracy, in her "Merely Players," has used this theme to work up a breathless excitement, as thrilling as any novel of adventure can evoke. Such a failure of second nature is almost unknown on the stage, so minute and punctilious a time-consciousness does the player develop. It may be that outside business hours his chafed spirit rebounds in revenge to the other extreme, and that this is the explanation of his notorious instability, for it may almost be said that an actor never keeps an appointment off the stage nor misses one upon it. It is this element of slavery to an inexorable mechanism and this substitution of pleasure-giving puppetry for personality that have no doubt lain behind the traditional refusal of society to accept the profession as dignified. If the rite of Christian burial is no longer refused it, and even the rite of Christian knighthood no longer withheld from it, its emancipation from prejudice is still not universal. The actress in America has still no social standing; in China the son of an actor cannot be a mandarin. Those actors or actresses who run theatres or companies or who have some power of choice over their parts, or, best of all, play some serviceable rôle in real life, rise indeed beyond the puppet phase. But the actor *quâ* actor—and the average actor is an actor, wholly an actor, and nothing but an actor—must pay for his surrender of volition by a fall in status.

Hence it is that the actress takes lower rank in the scale of spiritual values than the suffragette, whose career is the continuous expression of her personality, her will-power, and—highest of all—her subordination of both of these to the interests of her sex. The ardour with which the actress has embraced the movement for political enfranchisement may spring from some dim recognition of this inferiority and from her desire to rise into complete personality and womanhood. Like her unpunctuality off the boards, it may be the reaction of her soul against a life too constricted. And assuredly the cult of a political cause, especially if crowned by self-sacrifice, is a far better form of reaction against the slavery and automatism of the theatre, a far finer expression of independence and will-power than the old Bohemianism.

CONCERNING OUT-DOOR SPEAKING.

It has been said that the first rule in public speaking is to have something to say, "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh"; that is why in the Suffrage cause we have so many orators coming ever fresh into the movement, women who have felt the wrongs and injustices done to their sex, and to whose lips come readily words to plead the cause of the desolate and oppressed. There are diversities of gifts; sometimes the best and most scholarly speaker, excellent for drawing-rooms and cultured audiences, will fail in holding crowds, whilst the successful orator of a street hurly-burly will freeze and alienate the more fastidious. But now so much speaking is done in the open it behoves all of us to overcome our timidity and to join the ranks of the street-corner orators. Ours is a democratic movement, and on our common platform we have the peeress and the factory slave, the logical University graduate, the charming actress and the soberly-bred daughter of the country rectory.

After "abundance of heart" the next essential is abundance of voice. Some have this gift by nature, while others have to acquire it. A few lessons in voice-production will greatly improve and strengthen a weak organ, and much sipping of water during a speech will prevent that hoarseness which afflicts most of us after a bye-election. Do not be alarmed at a failure or two or an attack of stage-fright. That has happened to most of us, and often in our dreams the evil moment comes back again when we first rose to face the howl of execration (seldom heard now) and saw the grinning faces around mocking, jeering, shouting. We remember still the yet more terrible moment when a hush fell on them, and they were listening to a voice, surely not our own, which seemed to be talking strange nonsense from a great distance.

It has been cynically said that it does not so much matter what you say as that people should hear you saying it. This, though a truth, is only a half-truth, for any mis-statement or exaggeration will be recognised at once and remembered against the cause for ever. Above all things, never despise your audience, especially in poor neighbourhoods, for there, though they belong to no university, they have all graduated in the hard school of want and pain; they know what the inside of gaol and work-house means—and sometimes of lunatic asylum and barrack-school; they are familiar with police-courts, and are themselves the victims of the sweater. Some of them will have travelled in many countries, and have experienced almost every climate on the globe, and usually there is amongst them one of those fine scholars who will at once correct you in dates or historical facts or argue over "good old homo" of the Magna Charta. You must be prepared for every one of them, and you must never bore your audience with hackneyed phrases unless you wish given out the hymn, "Tell me the old, old story."

Youth and good looks are a great asset for an outdoor speaker, and also a nimble wit, great knowledge, and good temper (particularly at question time), and that indescribable quality called "magnetism," which is, I believe, really only earnestness. Patience is also a virtue to be cultivated, the stormiest meetings sometimes end peacefully. We all know that sudden hush that falls upon the rowdiest audience. Sometimes it is that some phrase has caught their imagination, and sometimes that some one amongst them has insisted on order.

Although "nothing when you are used to it," it is a great ordeal at first to speak in the open; a still worse ordeal to face hostile crowds—to see the stupid, brutal faces white with rage—to listen to the abuse and obscenity, whilst filth and eggs and stones fly around. Truly, as St. Paul says, many of us have "fought with beasts."

A calm exterior should be maintained as far as possible, though many of us have felt Jonah's temptation to flee and take ship to Tarshish. Happily, things are improving, and the man in the street throughout the country is getting used to seeing us out on cart and orange-box preaching her gospel. "Eave 'alf a brick at 'em" is a sentiment provoked only by the unfamiliar sight.

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THE YULETIDE FESTIVAL.

In three weeks' time the great meeting of the Women's Freedom League will be held at the Royal Albert Hall, London, and it is already evident that it will be one of the greatest Suffrage successes of the winter. With it begins a new era for the League, and a great extension of its functions and activities. Already great purposes are looming up and taking shape—they are on the other side of December 11th. Meanwhile, we all have to concentrate on the Festival—it will represent not the efforts of two or three, but of all the members of the League, who are now working with a will, each to do her share. There is not a Branch in the country which, helping, will not be proud of the result, or, abstaining, be sorry for its neglect, for this Festival is to be truly "a gathering of the clans," a renewal of vows, and an inspiration for the fight!

The descriptive handbills which are being distributed give an idea of the varied and delightful nature of the programme which will draw our friends from far and near.

The return of Mrs. Billington-Greig to our fighting ranks, the wit and wisdom of Israel Zangwill, and an enlarged and more splendid reproduction of the Women's Pageant—arranged by Edith Craig—which took London by storm last week at the Scala Theatre, and in which Miss Ellen Terry, Mrs. Langtry, Mrs. Brown-Potter, Miss Margaret Halstan, Miss Pauline Chase, and other equally well-known artists will take part, are some of the outstanding features of the day.

In addition, we shall owe to the generous co-operation of the Actresses' Franchise League a performance of "Press Cuttings" (by Bernard Shaw) and new Suffrage plays by Miss C. Hamilton and Christopher St. John, Miss Bessie Hatton, and Mrs. Chapin.

The gallery will be devoted to some particularly interesting bazaar features and exhibitions by the Branches and the Suffrage Atelier.

It is safe to assert that on December 11th nowhere in London will be found a more interesting gathering and entertainment, and those who want tickets are advised to make immediate application for them.

We also appeal for personal service and help, for the organisation of this Festival involves an enormous amount of work, and we need volunteers who, conscious of the greatness of the Cause, are yet willing to give patient service.

There are many little things and many seemingly trivial things to attend to which the Cause ennobles, and surely every member can do something! The future calls, and it is hard sometimes to concentrate on the little wearying needful details of our daily tasks, but they are the links between yesterday and to-morrow! We must do the work which lies nearest, and that is now the arrangement of this great meeting. It must be a success and worthy of the League! Will you help?

B. BORRMANN WELLS.

SCOTTISH NOTES.

Head Offices: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. JULIA WOOD.
Office Secretary: MISS KIRBY.
Organisers: MISS ANNA MUNRO, MISS OLIVE ROBERTSON.
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The £1,000 Fund.—The Hon. Treasurer of the Scottish Council of the W.F.L. appeals to Scottish readers of THE VOTE for contributions to the £1,000 Fund.

The Scottish Council is anxious to be self-supporting, and so relieve the Central Organisation in London of burdens which it has, up till now, had to bear on behalf of Scotland at times of more than usual activity, such as bye-elections.

Also the demands upon the resources of the Scottish Council are steadily increasing with the marked and rapid development of the League in Scotland.

Subscriptions will be gratefully received and duly acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Julia Wood, W.F.L., 30, Gordon Street, Glasgow.

Edinburgh Central.—We had been told at the Café Vegetaria that ever since June there had been frequent inquiries for our afternoon "At Homes," so we were delighted to be able to resume these meetings on November 9th, when Mrs. Bell, of the N.E.C., acted as hostess. After tea, Mrs. Joseph Dobbie took the chair. Miss Henderson, of the Lewisham Branch, who is spending a holiday here, kindly consented to relate her prison experiences, and her description of life in Holloway evoked great interest.

At the evening meeting the same day the speaker, Miss Chrystal MacMillan, M.A., B.Sc., and her subject, "Laws concerning Women," attracted a large audience. No one is better qualified to treat this subject than the lady who pled the graduates' case before the House of Lords, and in her hands the law quite lost its traditional tediousness.

Mrs. Dobbie, who is to be hostess on the afternoon of the 23rd, will gladly welcome all members and friends who can be present. We hope that after Christmas the "At Homes" will be weekly, as we have many responses to the appeal for hostesses. We are arranging to have posters of THE VOTE displayed at the stations and at various shops.

HELEN MCLACHLAN, Assist. Sec.

Dundee.—The annual business meeting was held on Tuesday, 9th inst. There was a good turnout of members. The office-bearers for the ensuing year were elected.—Miss L. Clunas (secretary), Mrs. Allan (treasurer), Miss D. Anderson (literature secretary), Miss J. A. Smart (Press secretary). The help of members was solicited for the Yuletide Festival.

Some business matters connected with the Scottish Council were discussed. The secretary was appointed as delegate to the Scottish Council. A vote of thanks to the chairman, Miss Husband, concluded the proceedings. J. A. SMART.

FUTURE EVENTS IN SCOTLAND.

- Friday, Nov. 19th **Glasgow Athenæum:** "How the Vote was Won," 8.
- Tues., Nov. 23rd **Edinburgh, Café Vegetaria:** "What are Militant Tactics?" Miss M. Jolly, M.A., Mr. G. R. Holmes. "At Home," Café Vegetaria, Edinburgh, 4-6.
- Tues., Nov. 30th. "At Home," Café Vegetaria, Edinburgh: Miss Isabel Hamilton, L.L.A.
- Tues., Dec. 7th **Glasgow "At Home,"** Ewing Galleries: Mr. Joseph McCabe, 7.30.

ON ADVERTISING.

Sweet are the uses of advertisement! This is a truth we would impress on all our members. Next month we are holding an epoch-making festival in the Royal Albert Hall. Stars from the musical, dramatic, literary, and political firmaments are gathering together to coruscate and fight for us in their courses. The duty falls on us, therefore, to fill the hall so that the artists and speakers who have so generously placed their services at our disposal may have a reception worthy of their genius.

But halls do not fill themselves automatically, and every member of the League must do her utmost to bring this festival before the notice of the public. We must advertise, advertise, and again advertise.

Lists should be made of all theatres, concerts, and meetings of all descriptions in every district of London, and at each one workers should be in waiting to distribute handbills.

New exhibition posters are being printed, and members should see that three or four at least are displayed in every suburb. Halls, tramcars, news agencies, shops, everything and anything can be pressed into the service.

Sandwiching should not be forgotten. Do in all the suburbs what the P. and A. Brigade is doing in the central districts. Talk and chalk about the festival; let each member do her utmost, and the W.F.L. Yuletide Festival will be the most brilliant success of the London season.

LONDON ACTIVITIES.

Hon. Organiser: MRS. BORRMANN WELLS.

YULETIDE FESTIVAL, ROYAL ALBERT HALL.

Ladies' Orchestra.

Members are still wanted for the Ladies' Orchestra at the Yuletide Festival on December 11th. Will all willing to join send in their names at once to Mrs. Borrmann Wells at 1, Robert Street, Adelphi? Rehearsals will be held on Wednesday afternoons as follows:—November 24th at 101, Abbeville Road, Clapham (ten minutes from Clapham Common Tube Station); December 1st and 8th at 31, Spencer Park, Wandsworth (ten minutes from Clapham Junction Station, L.S.W.R. and L.B.S.C.R.).

Children's Christmas Tree.

A "Yuletide Festival" would not be complete unless the children were included. Will members please remember that a magnificent Christmas tree is to be decorated and hung with presents for little Suffragists on December 11th? We want it to be very attractive. The presents will be distributed by Mrs. Despard. Will all who wish to help kindly send in their names to Miss Seruya, at 1, Robert Street, Adelphi?

FUTURE EVENTS IN LONDON.

- Friday, November 19.—Winder's-road, Battersea Park, Mrs. Duval, 7.30.
- Sunday, November 21.—Clapham Common, Miss Underwood.
- Monday, November 22.—Wellington Hall, Finchley Road, Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett, 8. Chair, Mrs. Hicks.
- Wednesday, November 24.—At Home, Portman Rooms, Baker Street, Mrs. Nevinson, 3-6. Mrs. Amy Sanderson. Chair, Mrs. How-Martyn. Alan's Tea Rooms—Miss Mary MacArthur, 8.
- Monday, November 29.—At Home, Portman Rooms, Miss Margaret McMillan, Mr. John Russell, M.A., 7.30-9.30. Mrs. Nevinson.
- Saturday, December 11.—Yuletide Festival, Albert Hall, 3-10.

The Storming of London

The magnificent **WOMAN'S PAGEANT** presented at the Scala Theatre last Friday under the Management of Miss Edith Craig has taken London by storm.

The *Daily News* says:
"Never has such a magnificent apotheosis of the heroines of history been seen on the London stage."

This Pageant will be repeated, by arrangement with Miss Edith Craig, at the

ALBERT HALL on DEC. 11th.

Miss **ELLEN TERRY** will appear as **Nance Oldfield**, Mrs. Langtry, Mrs. Brown-Potter, Miss Pauline Chase, and Miss Margaret Halstan will also take part.

Come to the **Albert Hall** to see the **"Dream of Fair Women!"**

- "PRESS CUTTINGS," by G. Bernard Shaw.
- NEW PLAYS** by Cicely Hamilton, Christopher St. John, Bessie Hatton, Mrs. Alice Chapin.
- SPEECHES** by Mr. Israel Zangwill, Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Billington Greig, Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett.

Take your tickets early to prevent disappointment.
Tickets 2/6, 1/-. Children 6d.

REPORTS FROM THE PROVINCES.

- Liverpool—Headquarters:** 25, Canning Street.
Organisers: Miss Broadhurst, M.A. Miss Farquharson, M.A.
- Manchester—Organiser's Address:** Harper Hill, Sale, Cheshire.
Hon. Organiser: Miss Manning, B.A.
- South Yorkshire—Organiser's Address:** 12, Athol Road, Manningham, Bradford.
Assistant Organiser: Miss L. Irene Tillard.
- N.E. Yorkshire—Headquarters:** Northgate, Roman Road, Middlesbrough.
Organiser: Miss Alice Schofield.
- South Wales—Temp. Headquarters:** 22, Hamilton Street, Cardiff.
Organiser: Miss M. Matters. Miss V. Tillard.

Liverpool and North Wales.—On Tuesday next we inaugurate a North Wales campaign, during which we hope to visit and hold meetings in Bangor, Carnarvon, Holyhead, Bethesda, and Port Dinorwic. By the kindness and energy of Mrs. Hudson Williams three meetings have been arranged in Bangor for Wednesday—a meeting of the students, a drawing-room meeting, and a meeting for women. There is a keen desire on the part of the people of Bethesda for another visit of the Freedom League, and so we have sent on our bills announcing a meeting for Saturday afternoon, and already we have received post cards from enthusiastic inhabitants: "We shall be delighted to show your bills, and want to hear more about 'Votes for Women.'"

In Carnarvon a large meeting has been arranged in the Guild Hall, to which we hope to draw people from the neighbouring villages, and even from some of the villages in Anglesea, where Suffragettes are now no longer unknown quantities, and where the Freedom League is known and trusted.

In the beginning of the week, during a hurried visit to Glasgow, I addressed a meeting of the women students of the University, and pointed out to them that it was not only a duty but a privilege of women students to be Suffragists, and that women's colleges ought to be the training ground for future exponents.

Miss Broadhurst's visit to London was productive of much good, and we particularly congratulate ourselves on having secured Mr. Laurence Housman and the Rev. Hugh Chapman, of the Savoy Chapel Royal, to speak in Liverpool at an early date.

MARGARET MILNE FARQUHARSON.

In Chester members are busy preparing for the performance of "How the Vote was Won," which takes place on November 30th, also for a Cake and Candy Sale to be held early in December.

Manchester.—This week in Manchester has been a very busy and successful one. As a result of the Bermondsey arrests Monday brought us a recruit for the telling work of sandwiching. Tuesday was signalised by a protest made in the Assize Court by Miss Vernon, who was listened to in absolute silence, and left the court unmolested. On Wednesday the largest and most successful of the autumn "At Homes" was held in the Memorial Hall, when our guests numbered some 600. The event of the evening was, of course, the delightfully racy and amusing speech given by Miss Cicely Hamilton, but the whole meeting was buoyant and enthusiastic. We received a severe heckling on the Bermondsey incident, but the audience was distinctly militant in its sympathies, and only the tact and good humour of our chairman, Mr. Richard Robinson, saved question time from becoming a men's meeting for the defence of the militants. The demand for "The Vote" far exceeded the supply, and we were reduced to buying up the stock of the station bookstalls in order to produce a few copies for the following day.

Thursday saw us once more at Swinton, where a quieter but sympathetic meeting was addressed by the Rev. Box Heywood, M.A., and Mrs. Manning. Friday and Saturday evenings were given up to "Vote" selling. Trade was particularly brisk on Saturday, and the greater part of the ten dozen copies ordered by the Central Branch is already disposed of. "The Vote" seems to command the sympathies of a very wide public.

In addition to these activities, Miss Heyes addressed the Sale Social Guild on Wednesday. Her speech was much appreciated, and was followed by an animated discussion. On Tuesday, by the kind invitation of the Rev. N. Anderson and Mr. F. Dounes, I took part in a discussion at the Merton Green Debating Society in order to defend militant tactics.

The proceeds of the Memorial Hall meeting up to the present are £5 1s. 6d.

Manchester members, please do not forget that our next "At Home" is in the Memorial Hall on November 17th, the day after Miss Neilan's and Mrs. Chapin's appearance at the Old Bailey, when news of the trial will be given.

We are sorry that Mr. Iden Payne has been obliged to postpone his engagement with us until January, and that the slight delay caused in getting a substitute has prevented us from advertising Mrs. Nevinson's visit quite as widely as we should wish. Miss Neal has been very busy getting advance notices into the local papers, and the other members have devoted themselves whole-heartedly to the tasks of handbills, &c., but we want more helpers. Two more invitations to address debating societies have been received, so Miss Heyes will speak to the Pendlebury Independent Labour Party on November 21st and Miss Neal open a debate at the Young Men's Institute in connection with the Moss Side Baptist Church on November 23rd. On Tuesday this week I spoke to the Young People's Guild of the Willert Street Domestic Mission. I found the members already ardent Suffragists, and anxious to help forward the cause.

The total receipts of the Swinton "At Home" were £3 10s. 5d., other money received this week (by sale of tickets and donations) amounts to 11s. 6d.

M. E. MANNING.

N.E. Yorkshire and Durham.—Mrs. Amy Sanderson has been visiting this district during the past week, and has addressed meetings in West Hartlepool, Darlington, Bishop Auckland, and Stockton. At the two last-named places it was evident that a portion of the audience had come to create a disturbance. On the other hand, the larger portion had come to give a fair hearing, and objected to the interruptions. Unwittingly the disturbers were the cause of our gaining the names of several sympathisers and intending members. The audiences at West Hartlepool and Darlington, though small, were keenly interested, and asked many questions of the speaker. A large and orderly crowd listened to Mrs. Sanderson for nearly two hours in the Church Square, West Hartlepool, on Tuesday. The local paper contrasts this with the last open-air meeting held there on the same subject. Meetings are to be held in all these towns during the next few weeks so that the effects of work already done shall not be lost.

Mrs. Cobden Sanderson will visit West Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, and Sunderland next week.

South Wales.—The Andrew's Hall, Penarth, was crowded, and hundreds turned away, on Tuesday night, when we held our first meeting. Miss Margaret Jewson made a most efficient chairman, and delighted the audience with her good humour during a most trying onslaught from non-intelligent opponents. We shall be able to form a branch in Penarth and also to produce "How the Vote was Won" in the near future.

Our reception at the Royal Hotel on Friday, November 12th, was a brilliant success. The Press gave excellent notices and pictures of the production, giving lavish praise to the performers. Mrs. D. A. Thomas, as hostess, received many of the City Fathers, men of letters and commerce, during the evening. Viscount Tredegar kindly lent his orchestra, and everything went with a swing from start to finish. The Press have contributed sub-leaders on the moral of the play, and congratulated us generally on our novel entertainment. Professor Stanley Jevons is taking the chair at our Mass Meeting in Cory Hall next Wednesday. This is the first of a series of meetings we hope to arrange, catering for the various circles, educational, commercial, social, and political, in this city. Some of our sympathisers attended Lord Ninian Stuart's meeting, and drew his attention to the claims of the women. Lord Ninian (who is the Conservative candidate) declares himself in favour of the Suffrage. All communications may be addressed to 22, Hamilton Street, Cardiff.

MURIEL MATTERS.

FUTURE EVENTS IN THE PROVINCES.

- Thurs., Nov. 18th Memorial Hall, Albert Square, Manchester: "At Home," 7.30.
(Manchester Central Branch), Speaker's Class, 7.
Public Meeting (Manchester Central Branch), 8.
Business Meeting, 9.
- Friday, Nov. 19th Penarth: Miss Muriel Matters, 3. Chair, Mrs. H. Woolf.
- Sat., Nov. 20th ... Bethesda: Miss Broadhurst, M.A.; Miss Farquharson, M.A.
Guildhall, Carnarvon: Miss Broadhurst, M.A.; Miss Farquharson, M.A.
- Mon., Nov. 22nd ... Co-operative Hall, Barry: Miss Muriel Matters, 8. Chair, Mrs. H. Woolf.
Town Hall, West Hartlepool: Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, 7.30; Miss Manning, B.A.; Miss Schofield.
- Tues., Nov. 23rd ... Carmarthen: Miss Muriel Matters, 8.
Ettingshall Chapel, Wolverhampton: Debate; Mrs. Sproson. Chair, Mrs. Darby.
- Wed., Nov. 24th ... Speaker's Class, 23, Walters Road, Swansea: Hostess, Mrs. Knight, 8.
- Thurs., Nov. 25th Alexandra Hall, Sunderland: Mrs. Cobden Sanderson; Miss Manning, B.A., 7.30.
Carmarthen Road, Swansea: Miss Schofield; Miss Phipps, B.A., 8.
- Thurs., Nov. 25th Manchester Central Branch: Speaker's Class, 7. Public Meeting, 8. Business Meeting, 9.
- Sat., Nov. 27th ... Brynaman: Miss Phipps, B.A.; Miss Muriel Matters, 8.
- Sat., Nov. 27th ... Town Hall, Bromley: Entertainment and Social: Mrs. Borrmann Wells and others; 7.30-10.
- Tues., Nov. 30th ... Chester: Meeting, "How the Vote was Won"; Miss Broadhurst, M.A.; Miss Farquharson, M.A.; local members.
- Wed., Dec. 1st ... Old Malt House, Ivy Lodge, Caldicot: Miss Muriel Matters, 3. Chair, Mrs. Mitchell, Miss Muriel Matters, Miss Violet Tillard, 8.
- Tues., Dec. 7th ... Central Hall, Bradford: Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Amy Sanderson, Rev. R. J. Campbell. Chair, Mrs. How-Martyn.
- Thurs., Dec. 16th St. George's Hall, Liverpool: Tableaux.

UXBRIDGE BYE-ELECTION.

The W.F.L. are awaiting the Government's decision in regard to Uxbridge. If a Liberal candidate is put up the W.F.L. will be there.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

Organisers

Are required by the Women's Freedom League. For conditions and further particulars apply to the Hon. Secretary, Women's Freedom League, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

Finance.

All contributions to the Legal Defence Fund for Mrs. Chapin and Miss Neilans should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, 1, Robert Street.

Posters.

All London branches should send in their posters for advertising meetings to Mrs. Snow, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, who will see that they are exhibited at the "At Homes."

Street Sellers for "The Vote."

Do you want to help *The Vote*? Then send in your name to Mrs. Snow at 1, Robert Street, and become a street-seller. We want our paper to reach the widest possible public, and this can only be done by having a seller at every corner. In this way we can speedily double our sales and enlarge the paper. If you live some distance out of town, then send in your name and sell papers in your own district. Remember that success depends on the efforts of each one.

BRANCH NOTES.

Manchester Central.—The annual meeting of the Manchester Central Branch took place at the temporary office, 9, Albert Square, on Thursday, the 11th inst., when a very encouraging report of the year's work was read, which, it is hoped, will, with the treasurer's balance sheet, appear in "The Vote" at a later date.

Several alterations in rules were discussed and passed, and the Branch then proceeded to the election of officers for the coming year. Owing to her duties as hon. organiser for the district occupying all her time, Miss Manning felt it necessary to resign the offices of organising secretary and treasurer of the Branch, to the regret of the members. To avoid confusion, it was decided to elect a president of the Branch, and allow the office of organising secretary to lapse.

The following officers were elected:—President, Miss Neal; secretary, Miss A. Hordern; treasurer, Miss Brown; Press secretary, Miss Neal; literature secretary, Miss Hordern; committee member, Mrs. McMurray.

The Branch then discussed a resolution, which, it was hoped, would not be too late for the General Conference, and after arranging to concentrate everyone's energy on making the general fortnightly "At Homes" and the Yuletide Fair a success, the meeting closed, and the members dispersed to distribute handbills announcing the next "At Home." It is hoped that a very successful year is before the Central Branch, as the membership is growing both in numbers and efficiency.

M. I. NEAL, President and Press Sec.

Ipswich.—An interesting debate took place in the Burlington Schoolroom last week on the subject of "The Enfranchisement of Women." It was opened by Mrs. Hossack, one of our members, and opposed by Mr. Stearn. The Rev. J. Arthur Jones was in the chair. On a division being taken the opener was found to have gained by a majority of one. The debate had the effect of interesting many in the question of "Votes for Women." On Thursday our weekly meeting took the form of a welcome to men sympathisers. Mr. Hutley was the speaker, with Mrs. Hossack in the chair. Requests were made for gifts for our Club House, which met with a generous response. Will any sympathisers in Suffolk willing to help in any way kindly communicate with me, at 160, Norwich Road.—C. E. ANDREWS, Hon. Sec.

Caldicot.—Two special meetings have been arranged at the Old Malt House, Ivy Lodge, for Wednesday, December 1, when Miss Muriel Matters will be the chief speaker. At the afternoon meeting the chair will be taken by Mrs. Mitchell, Llanfrefchfn Grange; in the evening by Miss Tillard. Admission free. Men by ticket only.

Sheffield.—Last Monday night Miss Barnet opened the discussion, at our Discussion Society here, on "Payment Regardless of Sex." Miss Leonard took the chair, and the attendance was good. Plenty of discussion ensued, the consensus of opinion being in favour of equal pay for equal work.—D. E.

All communications for the W.F.L. pages to be sent to the Press Secretary, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., not later than first post Saturday morning.