

THE VOTE.
September 7, 1912.
ONE PENNY.

HUMPHRY WARD-ISM & VOTES FOR WOMEN.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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Edited by C. DESPARD.

OBJECTS: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men ;
to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between
the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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THE
WOMAN SUFFRAGE
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OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Discussions and Forecasts.

The Parliamentary holiday is half over, and discussions and forecasts are rife as to the work of the coming session. With the exception of Ulster and its covenant of resistance to law, to which women as well as men are urged to subscribe, Woman Suffrage is the most talked about and written about question of the day. *The Englishwoman*, which, month by month is winning its way as a standard magazine by sheer force of merit, gives in its September issue two important articles on women and the Reform Bill. One is written by Mr. P. Whitwell Wilson, an ex-Liberal Member of Parliament and the present Parliamentary correspondent of *The Daily News and Leader*; the other is by Mr. W. H. Dickinson, a champion of our Cause and the introducer in 1907 of a Bill to enfranchise municipal voters and married women—a Bill which Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman eloquently supported but allowed to be talked out. Both writers are anxious that militancy should be suspended for the moment, awaiting the issue of events. We envy "P. W. W." his unshaken faith in the Prime Minister; he calls attention to the "curious circumstance" that ministers have remained silent on the subject of the threat of resignation if a Suffrage amendment be carried, but declares that the Prime Minister, "who gave the pledge on the amendments, has no intention of evading responsibility by resignation." "Such an act is unthinkable, because it would be less than strictly honest," writes "P. W. W." He suggests that questions should be put to the Prime Minister, and "clear information ought to be forthcoming" as to resignation in consequence of a Suffragist victory, a course which "on grounds of personal fidelity is clearly impossible for the head of the Administration." Mr. Wilson confesses that, as a man, he is incapable of feeling the precise sense of profound injustice which has been aroused among women by the misplaced flippancies of Anti-Suffrage debaters in the House of Commons but he leaves uncondemned the deadly insult to the womanhood of the nation by the introduction by Mr. Asquith of a Manhood Suffrage Bill.

"Cynical and Unworthy."

After urging that "a provisional postponement" of militancy would show that such tactics indicate a desire to obtain the vote not to overthrow the Government, that it would help in dealing with the Nationalists, that it would be popular with the public, and throw "responsibility on to Parliament where, in fact, the responsibility does now lie," Mr. Wilson proceeds to read a lesson to Mr. Redmond, and he declares that even if the Nationalist leader sought to ease the Government's position by killing Woman Suffrage, it would be "a cynical and unworthy stroke." Mr. Redmond is advised to imitate the Prime Minister, and "stand aside and allow a free vote to be taken on its merits." The line of safety for Home Rule is not tactics, nor threats of Ministerial resignation, but of prestige which will be gravely damaged if the rights of private members are not respected. "Parliament does not consist of rogues," writes P. W. W. We trust not, but the recent actions of the Prime Minister and of Mr. Redmond do not inspire confidence among women; they prove that when the sacrificial knife has to fall, the woman's Cause is the easiest victim. We agree with Mr. Wilson when he insists that the present House of Commons, having solemnly and decisively accepted the principle of Woman Suffrage, "to throw over that principle now would be to strike at the dignity of Parliament and the sincerity of public life, a blow, the effects of which would be of the utmost gravity." Mr. Asquith and Mr. Redmond need this lesson as much as other Members who so lightly break their pledges to women.

Servant Not Autocrat.

As may be expected, so staunch a friend as Mr. Dickinson argues the case for Woman Suffrage with

force and ability, and his practical advice is concentration on Amendment No. 2—practically his Bill of 1907—which will include married women. "In every country that has female Suffrage," he writes, "the wife has a vote, and if you tell a citizen of Colorado, of New Zealand, or of Victoria, that in England women Suffragists hesitate about giving the vote to wives, he will express his total inability to understand the frame of mind which renders such a doubt possible." Mr. Philip Snowden, taking up the question in *The Christian Commonwealth*, recognises the difficulty of getting complete unity among the various degrees and kinds of woman Suffragists in the House of Commons, and urges, with the policy of give and take, strenuous work between now and January, when the Committee stage of the Bill is likely to be reached. We are ready for work, but we also demand that Members shall no longer consider that Principle can be lightly disregarded for the sake of Party, and that the Prime Minister shall remember that he is the servant, not the autocrat of Parliament and the nation.

Will the Government Heed?

During the past week the Institute of Journalists, incorporated by royal charter, has been in conference at Brighton, and though its deliberations have included many weighty subjects, all more or less intimately concerned with the work of the profession, the dominant question of the day—Votes for Women—made itself heard in unexpected but effective ways. The President himself, on the occasion of the annual banquet, pointed to the Institute as an object lesson to "effete politicians." It had, he declared, solved long ago a question that was seriously troubling Downing-street and Westminster; it recognised no sex bar and admitted women to membership on exactly the same qualifications as men; nor did it impose restrictions to prevent women holding office; women were elected to the Executive and other Councils, and at the present time a woman holds the responsible post of hon. treasurer of the London District. We welcome the latest signs that the Institute of Journalists is putting its traditional democracy into practice by electing women to important offices, and suggest that the election of a woman President need not be unduly delayed. It would emphasise the excellent object lesson the Institute affords the Government. The President's reference to the Institute's practice of equal treatment is another evidence of the growth of opinion in favour of the professional and political equality of men and women. A number of well-known Suffragists, including Mr. and Mrs. Zangwill, were present at the Conference, as well as women voters from New Zealand and Australia who strongly resent their disfranchisement in the Mother Country.

Undaunted.

The dog-in-the-manger policy of a number of Swiss journalists towards the enterprise of women in starting a paper on their own account to which we called attention recently, is, of course, defeating itself. Difficulties and opposition have only strengthened the determination of the women to carry on their organ *L'Adula*, which is gaining greater influence and receiving sympathetic encouragement with every issue. We have heard with pleasure from the present Editor of the welcome now being accorded to the paper, and wish her increasing success. *L'Adula* is a weekly, published in Italian at Bellinzona, and is concerned chiefly with literary, historical, and educational topics. It takes a most dignified attitude towards its opponents; from an article entitled "Public Opinion," we take the following extract:—"Public opinion will be worthy of true appreciation and respect when every individual follows virtue and allows himself to be guided by justice and reason." We commend these words to the Prime Minister, his colleagues of the Cabinet, and Members of the House of Commons in their judgment on the Woman Suffrage question. Trickery has a trick of recoiling; the dog-in-the-manger attitude defeats itself; "justice and reason" are our right.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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AT HEADQUARTERS.

Trafalgar-square Demonstration.

Suffragists of all societies are cordially invited to rally in Trafalgar-square, Saturday afternoon, September 21, to join in the Women's Freedom League's demand for the political enfranchisement of women *this session*. The speakers will include the following members of our League:—Mrs. Despard, Miss Nina Boyle, Miss Anna Munro, Miss A. B. Jack, Mrs. Schofield Coates, Mrs. Merivale Mayer, Miss Constance Andrews, and Mrs. Tippet. Readers are asked to do all they can to make this mass meeting in Trafalgar-square widely known; volunteers are needed for handbill distributing and for poster-parading Tuesday and Thursday, September 17 and 19; and those willing to collect, sell THE VOTE and literature in the Square on the 21st are asked to communicate at an early date with Mrs. Fisher at 1, Robert-street. With the loyal co-operation of our members and friends in London we hope to make this demonstration a great success and to impress on politicians before Parliament reassembles that women expect them to deal honourably with the question of Woman Suffrage at an early date.

Caxton Hall Public Meetings.

These Wednesday afternoon meetings have every prospect of becoming a popular feature of our Suffragist programme, and we should be extremely glad to have from our readers addresses of any of their friends in or near London to whom we could send notices. The chair will be taken promptly at 3.30 each Wednesday afternoon.

International Suffrage Fair.

By the request of several of our members the Women's Freedom League offices will be open each Wednesday evening, beginning September 25, from 6 till 9.30, so that those members and friends who would like to meet together and work for the Fair may have the opportunity of combining pleasure with industry. It will be a gigantic task to provide sufficient saleable articles for the four days' Fair at Chelsea Town Hall, beginning Wednesday, November 13, but we confidently rely on the organisation and enterprise of Mrs. Harvey, coupled with the vigorous co-operation of Freedom Leaguers and their friends to make this International Suffrage Fair the greatest possible success.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

MIDLOTHIAN BY-ELECTION.

Candidates:—HON. ALEXANDER SHAW (L.).
MAJOR A. HOPE (U.).
PROVOST BROWN (LAB.).
Last Liberal Majority . . . 3,157
Polling Day, September 10.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS, Edinburgh
Branch Suffrage Shop, 33, Forest-road, Edinburgh.

The Women's Freedom League has started work in two sections of the constituency; meetings at night and during the dinner hour will be held at Dalkeith, West Calder, Broxburn, Penicuik, the locomotive works at St. Margaret's, Eskbank, and Gorgie. I shall be in charge of the Dalkeith district, and Mrs. Sproson at the West Calder end. The campaign has already been inaugurated by Miss Jack and the local Branch, and the first meetings were held at Dalkeith and Gorgie.

The fight lacks enthusiasm so far as the candidates' nostrums are concerned. Neither Disestablishment, Franchise Reform, nor Trades Union Bill evoke any

kind of excitement among the electors. The Insurance Act is sharply criticised; but Home Rule appears to be the chief issue. Mr. Outhwaite's land taxes are hardly taken seriously, and the National Union robbed him of almost the whole of his audience at his principal meeting. The kindest reception is being given to the suffrage propaganda; but it is doubtful whether their sympathy will carry the voters so far as to induce them to poll their votes for the women. C. NINA BOYLE.

POLITICAL NEWS.

The Canadian Prime Minister and Woman Suffrage.

On August 28 Mr. Borden, the Canadian Prime Minister, received at the Savoy Hotel, London, two deputations—one from the Women's Social and Political Union and one from the National League for Opposing Woman Suffrage.

He listened to a number of speeches and to the Suffragists he said that he had no intention, on his return to Canada, of introducing legislation for extending the franchise as it was a matter for the Provincial Legislature. The laws of Canada, he added, were not unjust to women, but, if any injustice existed, the Dominion Government would at once consider any alteration suggested. Mr. Borden also said that no militant methods would be able to sway him from what he deemed to be his duty in the best interests of the country as a whole.

Mrs. Tuckwell, matron of the British Women's Emigration Association, urged the necessity of strengthening the laws governing the white slave traffic. She said that although in some cases negroes in Canada had received sentences of three years and thirty lashes a year for offences against white girls, the fact remained that sometimes the negro quarter was considered of more importance than the girl he had assaulted.

Mr. Borden said he appreciated very much what had been said with regard to the importance of taking any action that was possible by way of legislation in respect of the white slave traffic, and he would be obliged if Mrs. Tuckwell would send him a confidential memorandum containing information which might be useful in framing further legislation. No effort on the part of the Canadian authorities would be spared to suppress the traffic.

Women Voters in the United States.

The New York Correspondent of *The Times* gave the following information regarding the percentage of women voters and the appointment by each of the candidates for the Presidency of a woman to work among women voters:—

"In spite of the growth of the movement for woman suffrage it is not generally known even in the United States that there are six States in which women of twenty-one years of age have the right to vote at all elections. These States are California, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

"The Census Bureau at Washington has just completed the tabulation of a preliminary statement which shows the number of women who are entitled to vote in these six States, as shown by the returns of the Thirteenth Decennial Census, which was taken in April, 1910. It should be understood that these figures do not represent the number of actual women voters, but rather the number who, at the time the Census was taken, were eligible to vote from the standpoint of age alone, apart from any other qualifications. No account has been taken of those who have become of age since April, 1910, or of those who may have died since that date.

"The total number of women in these six States who were of voting age in 1910 was 1,346,925, of whom 654,784, or 48.6 per cent., were native whites of native parentage; 333,925, or 24.7 per cent., native whites of foreign or mixed parentage; 327,682,

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or 24.3 per cent., white immigrants; 13,488, or 1 per cent., negroes; and 17,046, or 1.3 per cent., Indians and Asiatics.

"There is no doubt that this women's vote will have a very great bearing in the coming Presidential election, so far as the result in these six States is concerned. The three Presidential candidates—President Taft, Dr. Woodrow Wilson, and Mr. Roosevelt—have all appointed women managers on their campaign committees, among whose duties is that of working among the women voters in these States."

Knowledge versus Ignorance.

In a letter published in *The Times* on August 29, protesting against the literature of Suffrage Societies being described as "nauseous publications," when dealing with the relationship of the sexes, Mrs. Isabel Hampden Margesson observes:—

"Have we not stoned the prophets long enough? I think we have. In the struggle of knowledge versus ignorance the victory is won, and the names of the victors are on civilisation's roll of honour. Whom have we as victors in England? Josephine Butler, Florence Nightingale, William Stead, Edward Carpenter. Does any one deny them their crown? Brieux in France, Ibsen in Norway, Hauptmann in Germany, Walt Whitman in America, to mention only a few names as they occur to me, leaving out hosts of others, have also suffered and conquered in the same cause. May we not regard them as modern antitypes of Giordano Bruno, who died for the crime of speaking the truth?"

"Briefly there are two schools of thought—one which teaches that knowledge is dangerous to youth, while the other proclaims it as youth's indispensable safeguard. One of the chief causes of the change in public opinion on the merits of these opposed views lies in the shock it has lately received from the official reports of the secret and vile ramifications of the white slave traffic. We learn that London, the centre of religious and charitable effort, is the clearing-house of the world for this awful trade. Public opinion has been deeply stirred, and it has awakened not only to the shame and cruelty of trapping innocent children (children who can only be trapped because of their ignorance), but to the awful dangers which threatened the health and morals of the nation. We demand further enlightenment and—a remedy."

"We are offered a remedy. It is one and the same in all civilised countries, and it is the exact opposite of that suggested by inference in your correspondent's letter. Shortly stated, it is:—That the youth of both sexes and in all classes shall be carefully instructed on the physiological and sociological aspect of the sex question by those who are competent to undertake such training in the interests of the State. In consequence of this prescription, the only known antidote to the poison of the social evil, the Governments of Germany and France have provided special classes for the instruction of the young in these matters. It is hoped that our own Government will soon take steps in the same direction. Doubtless such will be the case when public opinion is still further stirred by the deterioration of the race through the vile traffic."

"Remove the Cause of Discontent."

The *Labour Leader*, in a leading article on the Labour Party and Woman Suffrage, considers that recent events are responsible for the growth of an adverse public sentiment, not toward women's suffrage, but strongly toward some of the methods adopted by some of its advocates; it adds:—

"Whilst we express our opinion quite freely on this point, we have the utmost scorn and contempt for any Member of Parliament who tries to make the mistaken tactics of a few of those labouring under a constant sense of intolerable wrong an excuse for voting against what he is pledged to support. The women have a deep and real grievance, and if this grievance is not removed during the Committee stages of the Reform Bill, Parliament must be prepared to face very unpleasant consequences. If women are to be branded much longer as political inferiors there must come an end to the endurance of the most law-abiding woman. We heartily agree with those who say it would be better to remove the cause of discontent than to leave the wrong untouched and merely inflict harsh and brutal sentences on women who in moods of bitter despair do reckless and indefensible things."

"It is the business of Parliament to redress this injustice so that the actions that spring from injustice may also be a thing of the past. We look to the Labour Party to throw its whole influence on the side of political freedom for women. What is more, we are convinced that no gift of political reform can honourably be accepted which still closes against women the door of citizenship."

Forcible Feeding.

The comment of *The Christian Commonwealth* on the report on forcible feeding recently issued by Dr. Agnes F. Savile, Mr. Mansell Moullin and Sir Victor Horsley is as follows:—

"These doctors have given a very careful attention to the inquiry, and have examined the women who have been tortured, and they have communicated with the physicians who have attended the women on their release from prison. The result is that the report gives a direct negative to the statements of the Home Office that forcible feeding is unattended by any danger. The serious results which have followed this outrage upon the

women cannot be stated in a paragraph. The long report must be read, and we cannot imagine any Englishman who reads it not being fired with a burning sense of indignation and a feeling of humiliation that he belongs to a country which can practice such atrocities, and indeed defend them, without shame. The report says that the wonder is that so many of the prisoners retained their sanity; but the danger is not yet passed, for it is well known that serious consequences often develop later. This question of the forcible feeding of women in British prisons is quite apart from that of militant tactics. We may disapprove of the actions which have brought the women into prison, but nobody with a spark of human feeling can do otherwise than condemn both the practice and those who are responsible for inflicting it. It is, according to the Report of these eminent physicians, a practice which involves a severe physical and mental torture. If it were not that party bigotry makes men brutes, a Government guilty of such brutality would be driven from power by an outraged public sentiment."

The Referendum for Woman Suffrage.

Mr. H. E. A. Cotton, L.C.C., Liberal candidate for the Harrow Division, declares that before so fundamental a change as woman suffrage is effected the electors have a right to be consulted, and though "not ordinarily in favour of the Referendum as a political instrument," advocates its employment in the non-party question of woman's enfranchisement.

He writes to the Hendon Women's Liberal Association thus:—"So far as the Harrow Division is concerned, I told the members of the executive committee of the Liberal Association, when I met them on July 19, that if the majority of the women in the division could satisfy me that they desired the Parliamentary vote I would feel myself bound to support their claims if I were placed in a position to do so. This statement met with their approval. To it I adhere, and I shall repeat it when I meet the General Association of the Council."

Suffrage on the Stage.

From September 9 to 17 a special Suffragist "turn" is billed to take place at Hammerstein's Vaudeville Theatre, New York, when real Suffragists, not stage ones, will appear on the boards for the first time. Women from Norway, Sweden, Iceland, Denmark, Finland, and Bombay will wear the costumes of their country. Women voters from the six "free" States will wear white with laurel wreaths, while the States where this important question is being put to the referendum this autumn will be represented by women with shackled wrists, but with veiled stars, symbolic of the fact that they are waiting to be released from bondage.

American Suffragist's Protest.

Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, the multi-millionaire patron of American Suffragists, gave a ball last week to Newport's "Four Hundred" as a Suffragist protest against the recent "vulgar flauntings of their wealth" by "Newport's idle rich." According to *The Standard's* New York correspondent, the ball was in honour of Miss Inez Milholland, a young Socialist Suffragist and Vassar graduate, who has been working this summer among Newport's society leaders under Mrs. Belmont's patronage, hoping to convert them to "better things." Instead of the lavish displays made recently by Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, the Belmont party was marked by extreme simplicity while giving Newport's jaded nerves a new thrill. Mrs. Belmont engaged for the evening the Eastons Beach at Newport, which is a miniature Coney Island, designed for excursionists and those at the unfashionable end of the social scale. It includes sand and surf bathing, a dancing hall, a merry-go-round, a shooting gallery, and similar attractions. Most of the guests arrived in splendid ball dresses and the same priceless jewels they wore at the Stuyvesant Fish and Vanderbilt balls, but soon entered into the fun.

The collation was in keeping with the entertainments, and consisted principally of sausages and mashed, with beer, while out of pity for those unable to take this fare, chicken salad and champagne were also served. Mrs. Belmont employed the ordinary coloured department of a plebeian restaurant at Eastons Beach to do the cooking, instead of an expensive caterer, and fifty waitresses, instead of the well-trained menservants to which Newport millionaires are accustomed. A Boston aviator landed on the Beach in the midst of the festivities carrying a Votes for Women flag.

"A SCRAPE O' THE PEN" COMPANY.

Our best wishes are offered to our fellow-member, Miss Kate Evans, who with her two young sisters left Liverpool on August 30 for America on tour with this company. Miss Evans was recently helping Miss Munro in Rothesay, and her many friends on both sides of the Border heartily hope that the piece (written by our friend Mr. Graham Moffat), and the parts which Miss Evans and her sisters take in it, will meet with every success across the Atlantic. The play, we may add, is now to be seen in London at the Comedy Theatre, and will, we hope, bring as great success to its author and the actors as the now famous *Bunty*, by Mr. Graham Moffat.

F. A. U.

THE SHAM OF THE WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC BILL.

During the debate of June 10th, in the House of Commons, on the White Slave Traffic Bill, an hon. Member, referring to the Government, said:—"There is no Bill they have yet introduced, in my experience, that has not been completely turned inside out either on the floor of the House or in Committee upstairs." That was a pregnant forecast of what has happened so far, and what is likely to be the ultimate condition of the White Slave Traffic Bill when it finally emerges from Committee "improved beyond recognition."

The fierce controversy which, we are told, raged around Clause 1 in Committee, through the "wondrous kind" care extended to the "liberty of the [male] subject"—in respect of this class of offence only be it remarked—succeeded in amending it so as to make it practically useless. This seems to the mere woman to suggest only man's "fellow-feeling" to man, and reveals once more the utter hopelessness of expecting even-handed justice to be meted out on such a question when but one hand, and that the male, is dealing with it.

It is appalling to think that the one sex which governs the world is the sex whose nauseating and unbridled lust has brought the whole traffic into being, a traffic which—as Dr. Ettie Sayer put it in her letter to *The Times*—"is tremendously lucrative to those engaged in it." This statement is fully borne out by the official returns given by the Vice Committee of Chicago, headed by the Mayor, which amount to the amazing sum of THREE MILLIONS STERLING PER ANNUM PROFIT to the organisers out of the earnings of five thousand unfortunate women in that city alone.

Now this fact points to one side of the subject which was untouched during the debate—i.e., that for the trade to be so "tremendously lucrative," the clients for whom these obscene traffickers cater must be rich and consequently powerful. Therefore so long as the demand upon their part exists, they will see to it that the supply also continues.

The insincerity of the whole Parliamentary attitude was shown up when one Member, in the course of the debate, remarked:—

It was a matter of some astonishment to me to find that many members who are supporters of this Bill were actually supporters of another Bill introduced in this House to lessen the penalties against procurers and bullies. (Italics mine.)

Another Member observed:—

I do not know whether the promoters (of the Bill) have taken the trouble to ask the magistrates and those who administer the law why so many of these dreadful exploiters of women's vicious practices escape? As far as I can learn, it is because of the decisions of certain landed magistrates.

How can we hope that a body of gentlemen (*sic*) who regulate life upon a basis of a double standard of morality can possibly do right in dealing with this matter, when their mental and moral outlook upon such questions has been rendered oblique owing to the pernicious influence of their education and the habits of their life? They, indeed, "see through a glass darkly." And what is darkest in it all is their lack of shame that it should be possible for the introducers of the Bill to make such a statement as the following:—

That commercialised vice—I distinguish this from mere prostitution—flourishes as a widespread and profitable business in the midst of our civilisation I do not think can be denied, and it flourishes only because there is a demand for it; and let us not forget that that demand comes solely from men. (Italics mine.)

It is little to be wondered at that the outcry against all the horrors of prostitution comes chiefly from women. Miss Jane Addams, in her remarkable book, "A New Conscience and an Ancient Evil," exposes this fetid social sewer, and reveals the sources from which it is fed, passionately praying the while to her own country and all the civilised world to make a brave crusade against this social evil.

In every large city throughout the world (writes Miss Addams), thousands of women are set aside as outcasts from decent

society that it is considered an impropriety to speak the very word which designates them. Lecky calls this type of woman "the most mournful and the most awful figure in history"; he says that "she remains, while creeds and civilisations rise and fall, the eternal sacrifice of humanity, blasted for the sins of the people" (men).

Little wonder, too, that history repeats itself in these evils when those who make the history and rule the world—one-handed—are of the sex from whom the demand for the victims comes. The hand that writes the law is the hand that pays the price for this hideous "eternal sacrifice."

An article on the late Mr. W. T. Stead's epoch-making pamphlet, "The Maiden Tribute of Modern Babylon" in the July number of *The Review of Reviews*, has the appalling heading, "As It Was in 1885, So It Is In 1912." And the writer states the present-day situation thus:—

The most astounding, the most horrible fact to be learned from this book is that the greater part of the indictment is as applicable to-day as it was when Mr. Stead wrote it in 1885. . . . The law was altered in 1885, as a result of the pamphlet, but the evils, which the law was supposed to cure, continue to-day, and seem to flourish most exceedingly.

After twenty-seven years this is a frightful charge against the Government of the country.

Oh! for a modern *Theseus* to volunteer to conquer our British version of the *Labyrinth of Crete*! Clearly it is not amongst our legislators that he will be found; for once again they have sacrificed the Cause of women to the "fellow feeling" which makes them so "wondrous kind" towards the possible innocent persons (of their own sex) who might be wrongly arrested had Clause 1 remained in its original form.

The Archbishop of Canterbury thought that it ought to humiliate us into the dust with shame that the facts of the traffic could go on for a single week without an outcry from one end of the kingdom to the other. Ah! well, your Grace, you may thank the one-sex legislation of the kingdom for the fact that it does go on, and is likely to continue to go on for all the use that the "Criminal Dand Amendment Act, No. II," is likely to be in checking it! Out of consideration for the tender susceptibility of Sir Frederick Banbury and Co. the words "White Slave Traffic," originally in the title of the Bill, have been omitted.

In conclusion I would ask Mr. Arthur Dee what of his statement made on June 10, thus:—

I feel very strongly as an opponent of Women's Suffrage that we men are under a special obligation to pay heed to the appeal made to us as men by the united voice of women on behalf of the most miserable and unfortunate of their sex. In my judgment the attitude of the anti-Suffragist would be inexcusable and its position untenable if it could be said, and said truly, that men were callous to the sufferings of women, and not willing to accord them even an elementary measure of protection. (Italics mine.)

Mr. Arthur Dee and his co-legislators must understand that we women are not to be deceived by shams any longer. And we realise a little more vividly since the White Slave Traffic Bill experiment, that the men who make the laws "are not willing to accord women even an elementary measure of protection," and we say it, and say it with perfect truth. Therefore "the attitude of the anti-suffragist" is "inexcusable and his position untenable" for we know that until we are armed with the franchise we shall not be able to force the men to do justice in this matter.

C. MERIVALE MAYER.

On 19th September, at 8.30 p.m.,
A MEETING will be held in the
STRAND LECTURE ROOM, 15, Adam Street,
Strand,
To deal with the future of the International
Suffrage Shop.

The lease of the above terminates on September 29th next, and unless ways and means can be arranged at this meeting, this unique Feminist enterprise must close down on that date—in spite of its undoubted propaganda value.

All who are interested are urged to attend and help to extend the work so effectively begun.

IMPERTINENCES!

Feminism.

Mr. Harold Owen is at it again. Lord Percy has given him a lead, and he has plunged unhesitatingly into the chase at the tail of the noble lord's worthy if unintelligent Pegasus. The scent which the hunt follows is the good old savoury red herring, the red herring of an extreme "Feminism," which they and *The Morning Post* and *The Sunday Chronicle* hope to be able to persuade a guleless public is the real trail of the Suffragette. It will keep them busy and happy and excited, and will probably do very little harm to anybody or anything, not even the "Feminists," so no one need worry; besides which it provides admirable opportunity for retort. We welcome the new departure as adding to the humours of a highly diverting world, and we may safely take it as one of the signs of the times, which show how hard-up our opponents are for weapons to use against us, when they have to stoop to such debased and debasing dodges.

The author of "Woman Adrift" (won't someone give us "Man Overboard"?) in two articles in *The Sunday Chronicle*, as a sequel to Lord Percy's attack, finds that woman is losing her old-time "modesty" because, apparently, she is no longer content to remain so ignorant of natural facts as to fall an easy prey to male lust. She is trying to find a weapon, the weapon of knowledge, with which to protect her young: and this is immodest! It is much more becoming that she should yield up her daughters, innocent of wrong, to the sacrifice of their youth and virtue, without complaint, without prying into the why or wherefore, without effort to alter or understand an iniquitous code. If Mr. Owen were really concerned for women's morals he would carry the war into his own country, and make it impossible for men to exploit young girls or debauch children. But that would not be nearly so congenial to his manly soul, which is only concerned for woman's iniquity.

Two examples of our falling from the paths of modesty Mr. Owen gives us. A nasty lady, it appears, has written him a nasty letter. More, she has signed it. Had she even remained anonymous, it would not have been so immodest. He appears not to have noticed, quite recently, in the Press of which we are all so justly proud and whose recordings give us such reason to boast of our civilisation, three rather gross cases of persecution by men of girls to whom obscene letters and postcards were addressed, often to their place of business. One such case was the cause of a decent girl losing her situation; but an upright judge granted her no damages, only binding her persecutor over not to do it any more. It is hardly to be wondered at if the awakening energy of women's minds, now quickened by the education that used to be denied them, seeks for scientific information in connection with these loathsome abnormalities from which they suffer intolerable things. It would, of course, be much more convenient if they would continue to suffer in silence and be modest.

Masculism.

The other instance of gross immodesty is that of the brave woman who tried to enforce her right to remain in court and see what kind of justice is meted out to women accused of immoral conduct. Mr. Owen thinks she has a nasty mind; he says some very severe things. Suppose, however, we were all too modest to face anything nasty or indecent, even to end or mend it? No nurse would wash a patient, no girl would touch a baby, no woman would go to a doctor, no wife could get a divorce, witnesses would refuse to give evidence—*l'imagination s'égare* in envisaging the orgie of modesty suggested by Mr. Owen's strictures. He defeats his own arguments, however, for he has already committed himself to the theory that woman's sole purpose in the scheme of things is to reproduce the species. This being her special and sole point of usefulness, is it not slightly feeble to pretend that she should do it in blind ignorance of the laws governing the repro-

duction of the species? Nay, more, since it is her only excuse for existence, would she not be almost as silly as Mr. Owen would like us to think her were she not to insist on knowing all there is to know about it? And seeing that he wishes to force her back on her sex and make sex and its functions her only resource, could he justly blame her if such topics were to occupy her mind to the exclusion of all else? Could he reasonably object to her specialising in her own particular occupation and talking of it in season and out of season in all its aspects, seeing it ought to be, according to him, her only interest in creation? It is like the impertinence of these people to assume that women have no business to know, to think, to discuss or to understand the things that most intimately concern their welfare and happiness. No new theories, forsooth, are to be formed on such subjects except by men, and with the sanction of men's approval. Mr. Owen, fortunately or unfortunately, is a century too late in his protest, but affords us an entertaining object-lesson of what it really means to be "adrift," mentally and morally.

INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE FAIR.

Hospitality Bureau.—Will members and friends willing to offer hospitality during the Fair week to members from the provinces kindly send in their names and addresses to Mrs. Holmes, 327, Brighton-road, South Croydon.

Advice.—Read *THE VOTE* without fail every week. It is the *only* means by which I can convey important information to each member of the League.

Choose your International Suffrage Fair Secretary as soon as possible, so that you may receive full information concerning the scheme of decoration, costumes, &c., and do not forget that I am willing to come at once and give full details to any Branch that wants them.

Important.—The Post Office officials say that measurement papers *cannot* be sent by halfpenny post.

Will all the Branches that have not yet sent me a list of names and addresses of members kindly do so at once, as lack of them is leading to confusion and some members will receive two letters concerning the Fair? Will these accept my apologies?

Urgent.—Can any member, living in a "central" position in London, give me the use of a good sized room for rehearsals of dances, action songs, &c., once a week for a few weeks before the Fair?

Further details are needed on the measurement papers. Will those Branches that have not yet sent in their papers please add the size of wrist, size of arm just below elbow, and say whether the lady is dark or fair. Against "costume" put "stall-holder" or "helper" *only*. Write the name of your Branch and the country or countries you represent at the top right-hand corner. It is absolutely necessary that *all* measurement papers be sent in without delay as over 200 costumes have to be made.

Help.—Miss Clarke, hon. Branch secretary, Newton, Montgomery Boroughs, is willing to get work done for other Branches who can provide materials, but have no time to make them up, and Miss Ada Mitchell, Merok, Great Northern-road, Highgate, N., will embroider tops for Djibbahs, blouses, tunics, &c.

Action Songs.—Much thought is being given to these, and they will be a very attractive item, but we cannot make them so unless we receive the names of many more girls and boys willing to take part in them.

Dolls.—Besides the dolls already advertised, I can now provide the following:—

10 in. long (Kaffir or Ayah) ..	4½d each.
9½ " " (Esquimo) ..	4½d.
8½ " " (Babies) ..	8½d.
12 " " (Dutch Girls) ..	4½d.
4½ " " (Kaffirs or Coons) ..	5½d.

Zulu dolls at 3½d. each are dressed, but they will sell at a good profit. Samples are on view at the W.F.L. Office, 1, Robert-street. Postage must be paid, but I can save London Branches that expense by taking dolls to the office, if they can be called for. K. HARVEY.

Brackenhill, Highland-road, Bromley, Kent.

HOW SOME MEN PROTECT WOMEN.

[The object of this column is to show not only how women suffer from acts of violence, but how slight a penalty the law exacts for such violence, in comparison with crimes against property. All members who kindly contribute newspaper cuttings, &c., are heartily thanked for their valuable co-operation.]

Murder.

Edith Paler or Murray, murdered by "Captain" Murray, at Eastbourne.

Florence Murray, *enceinte*, murderously assaulted with revolver, receiving four or five shots.

Three infant children of above murdered, then "Captain" Murray committed suicide. The tragedy was carefully planned and prepared for, not carried out in a moment of frenzy.

Mary Galbraith, aged twenty, Middlesbrough, throat terribly cut by husband, who was jealous, and had assaulted her on her wedding-day. Died in hospital. Husband owns to crime.

"Wilful murder."

Elsie May Spare, shot by George Critchlow when "mad drunk." Died immediately. "Wilful murder."

Florence Louisa Swann, shot by her sweetheart, Frederick Cherry, from jealousy, at Northampton. **Charged with attempted murder.** No hope is entertained of her recovery.

Mrs. Hubbard, Dover, seen waving bloodstained arm through window. Found dead in front room, and Alfred Lawrence, seaman, with fearful wound in throat. Shoemaker's knife used for the woman, razor for man. Lawrence not expected to recover, left note for the police with enigmatic message. **Wilful murder.**

Murderous Assaults.

Louisa Nicholls, of Soundwell, shot by her husband on July 15. W. G. Brown, a postman, also injured, and has not recovered his sight. Husband charged at Lawford's Gate Police Court (Gloucester), and in respect of Brown, said he was extremely sorry.

Catherine Bayliss, of Grassmoor, Chesterfield, attacked by husband with razor; subsequently man attempted suicide. Both lie in serious condition.

May Green, Stoney Stratford, lying in serious condition as result of attack from her sweetheart, Sydney Foster. Took her for a walk in lonely lane and made savage assault on her with his pocket-knife. Severely wounded on face, neck, and hands, one thumb almost severed, terrible gash in one arm. Left her lying bleeding, where she was found in collapsed condition from loss of blood. Man has surrendered to the police.

Mrs. Bentham, Jarrow-on-Tyne, found bleeding from wounds on arm and face. Husband standing near, his hands covered with blood. Stated to have declared his intention to murder her, as "he had had a terrible time with her." Committed for trial at Durham Assizes.

Mrs. Readdon, Crewe, brutally assaulted by husband. Coming home drunk, he ordered his little daughter to sell the basinnet. She gave the money received for it to her mother, who used it for food. Readdon set on her, kicking her savagely and seriously injuring her. On her return from seeing a doctor about her injuries, dragged her about the street by the hair. She lay in a critical condition for days. **Three months' Hard Labour.**

Ellen Jackson, Bootle, found in back yard with her throat cut. Man seen rushing away. Lies in critical condition in Bootle Hospital.—*Sunday Times*.

Mrs. Cunningham, South Side, Glasgow, August 21, murderously attacked by her husband. Quarrelled, and was put out of the house by the man, against whom she subsequently made a grave accusation. He attacked her with a razor which he drew from his pocket and gashed her seriously, afterwards committing suicide with the same instrument.

At Rushton, the same night, the wife of a lamplighter in the employ of the Urban District Council was attacked by her husband with an axe after a quarrel about money matters. Severe wounds on the head were inflicted, and when the woman, after falling in the yard, at length reached her brother's house, the husband cut his throat. Both lie in a critical condition.

Mrs. Sievwright, brutally attacked by husband after a quarrel about money matters. Kicked all over, and found semi-conscious and soaked in blood. **Six months.**—*Glasgow Herald*, August 23.

Criminal Assaults and Indecency.

Reginald Henry Condy, Petersfield, charged at the Police Court with indecently assaulting Doris May Pullinger, aged eight. Convicted of a similar offence at Petersfield last February, and sentenced to **One month**; and had another previous conviction for indecency. Discharged from the Army. "The Bench considered it a most scandalous case," and gave him **Six months' Hard Labour.**

Albert Davies, charged at Aberdare with indecent behaviour to two little girls at Abercynon, **Fined £20.**

William George Ballard, Ichen, charged with offences against his daughter, Ellen Eliza Ballard, on April 9, and other dates. **Five Years' Penal Servitude.**

Stephen James Cossey, 61, independent means, brought up at Marlborough-road before Mr. Mead, charged with writing libellous and disgusting postcards to Edith Fanny Bennett, domestic servant, whereby she lost her situation. The magistrate denounced him as "cowardly," and on his promise not to annoy the girl again **adjourned the case indefinitely.**

THE REAL REASON.

[Canon Masterman, addressing a large audience of foreign students at the Local Lectures Summer Meeting at Cambridge in August on the British Parliamentary system, said that the introduction of women into Parliament would produce a profound change in the character of Parliament. People did not recognise sufficiently that the real work of Parliament was not done so much in debates as in the conversations in the library or smoke-room or at the dining table, which conversations built up a spirit of camaraderie, at present impossible between men and women.—*Daily Press*.]

He stood in the deserted halls

Whence Britain's youth had fled:

A stick of chalk was in his hand,

A duster round his head.

"These foreign youths will swallow aught,"

Inly he must have said.

"I'll teach them something of the land

Where for a space they dwell."

He talked of Parliament and showed

How *not* to do things well,

And hoped that local men would soon

'Gainst carpet-bags rebel.

The need for second ballots

He most carefully explained,

For government by minorities

Too long his soul had pained:

Then straightway he went on to prove

This argument was feigned.

"If women should have votes—ah, well!

Majorities are queer!

And women are less scarce than men:

I make myself quite clear?"

And when they thought him hard to please,

He shed a bitter tear.

"I don't deny them votes," he said,

"For reasons out-of-date.

In Parliament they might do well,

Settling the nation's fate:

But then—they cannot take their part

In smoking-room debate!"

So, ladies, surely now you see

How hopeless is your cause?

The Canon's weighty words, dear dames,

Will doubtless give you pause,

Since you perceive *why* you've no part

In moulding Britain's laws!

HELEN McLACHLAN.

JOHN J. M. BULT,

Ladies' Tailor,
4, MADDOX STREET, W.
(Two Doors from Regent Street.)

DORIS SUIT (as sketch)

Made in the New Oyster Grey
Whipcord. Coat Lined Silver
Grey Satin. Hand Embroidered.
Also in 10 other colours.

6 Guineas.

Made to measure only.

Choice range of Serge,
Tweed, Plain Cloth and
Flannel Suitings.

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PERFECT FITTING GARMENTS
from own measurements or
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Patterns, Fashion Booklet and Self
Measurement Form on Application.



THE VOTE.

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SATURDAY, September 7, 1912.

NOTICE.—Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and SECRETARY respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.
Offices: 2, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

United Kingdom 6/6 per annum, post free.
Foreign Countries 8/8
"THE VOTE" may be obtained through all Newsagents and at the Book-stalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son.

HUMPHRY WARD-ISM AND VOTES FOR WOMEN.

"What have you there, my Lord Mayor of Dublin?" asked Mr. Speaker from his seat, on a recent historical occasion. And the reply of the Chief Citizen of "Dublin's fair city" was (metaphorically if not actually), "votes for women!" The answer and the incident, backed by the ever-increasing roll of Town and Borough Councils, now reaching the total of one hundred and eighty, and those the most important in the United Kingdom, that have passed resolutions and forwarded to the Government expressions of feeling in favour of the extension of the franchise to women must have made cheerless reading for poor Mrs. Humphry Ward. She, dear lady, in a belated obsession which calls for sympathy and tenderness rather than condemnation, will have it that the Parliamentary vote is a caparison not becoming a young lady (if I may venture to paraphrase a great classic) or any other kind of a lady. A lady's proper work and occupation, her "natural" and inevitable sphere, outside the Home, is local government. Mr. P. Whitwell Wilson, writing in *The Englishwoman* on the suffrage question, has something to say about Mrs. Humphry Ward's policy. He remarks:—

Most amazing of all is the Anti-Suffragist policy—surely a counsel of despair—whereby women are encouraged to submit themselves for election to all manner of public authorities on condition that they do not ask for the Parliamentary vote. Mrs. Humphry Ward must pardon me if I say that this is really a Gilbertian *reductio ad absurdum*. You admit that a woman may preside over the London County Council, with its debt of fifty millions, and its Budget equal to Belgium's, but you deny that this woman, so representing four and a half millions of ratepayers, should put a single cross on a single ballot paper for or against Mr. Walter Long or Sir Frederick Banbury. There are even those who think that if we had Home Rule all round women might vote for and sit in the four provincial legislatures, yet such women legislators are not to vote for the Imperial Parliament. These fantastic attempts to make the best of both worlds merely indicate how impossible in these days is the Anti-Suffrage position."

It must be really disturbing, and even distressing, to anyone more sensitive to logic than the average anti-Suffragist, to find that a few short years of local government activity on the part of some women have produced such disastrous effects on so much of the locally-governing male mind.

For, look you, our local government rights, limited as they still are, have not been of long standing. In spite of its being our "natural" sphere, the governing sex kept us out of it for many a long year. It was not until 1909 that women were finally admitted to local government rights on the present basis, which is that accepted by the much-abused Conciliation Bill, and includes about one million and a quarter of the thirteen millions of women who compose the female portion of the population. Yet in spite of the formidable majority arrayed against us, the leading citizens who get returned to Town and Borough Councils by the votes of many men and a few women have been so far "influenced" as to pass resolutions and petition Par-

liament in favour of a further and greater franchise for their women supporters.

Let us pause and give this matter the respectful consideration it deserves. It does not seem ever to have received its due weight. If local government is our proper and natural sphere, and if the result of our activity in that sphere is to make the men who work with us in that sphere demand for us a wider sphere—we are getting a little breathless but trust our meaning emerges clear—what has Mrs. Humphry Ward to say about it? She believes in the use of "influence"; behold the result. We believe in the power of the vote; the result is identical. Either Mrs. Ward must pull down her flag of influence and retreat from her "natural" sphere, and consign herself and her flag and her arguments to the limbo of Discredited Claims, or she must accept the logic of experience. If the result of our intrusion into local government is the rising up of many locally-governing men to demand our inclusion elsewhere, and if this demand and its fulfilment is disastrous, then plainly we should never have been admitted to local government, and it is not our "natural" sphere. But if it be so, why are the "natural" results not also to be accepted?

There are subtle mysteries surrounding this question, at which protagonists of the National League for Opposing Woman Suffrage darkly hint. Mrs. Gladstone Solomon has declared it to be a subject upon which the unmarried woman cannot enter into the feelings of the married. (This delicate difficulty does not seem to exist in the case of the Bachelor and the Benedict, for we have reason to suppose there are many married men on town councils. It is possible, however, that their delicacy has been undermined by having women voting for them.) It has been hinted in the most chaste and genteel fashion in the world that all the women local government voters who have not returned replies to anti-suffrage canvasses of whether or no they are in favour of votes for women, belong to a class we do not mention. And those who did not answer were the majority. And therefore . . . the Conciliation basis was impossible! The first and best answer to this is the one least liked—widen the basis!

Does Mrs. Humphry Ward still repose implicit confidence, we wonder, in the judgment of men who (a) through such important bodies as local governing councils, ask for that dangerous thing—women's suffrage; or (b) through that still more important body the House of Commons, have so limited the local government vote for women as to make it possible to hint that a majority of those eligible are impossible as citizens; or (c) who are even now, through so important an instrument as the Government Franchise and Registration Act, plotting the "reform" of still further penalising the married woman, the woman *sans reproche*, and shutting her out finally and completely from holding her own in her proper and "natural" sphere against her predatory and *déclassée* competitor? How can Mrs. Ward ask us to leave our interests submissively in the hands of those who either keep us and shut us out of our proper and natural sphere, or who on the other hand, wish us to be included in another which to Mrs. Ward seems improper and unnatural?

We find a difficulty in entering into the feelings of those who establish and uphold these anomalies; and it is a difficulty to which marriage or spinsterhood makes little difference! Miss Violet Markham it was, we believe, who perpetrated the enlightening description of local government as "that great field of equal rights and opportunities" for men and women. The touching confidence of these simple ladies in their equality is not shared by suffragists; nor will it be recognised until women help to control the "gate" and decide who shall or shall not be admitted. This can only be achieved by the power of the Parliamentary vote, and more and more of the local governing bodies continue to range themselves on the side of those who would confer on women this last and greatest badge of citizenship.

C. NINA BOYLE.

WOMAN, OLD OR NEW?

BY ISABEL C. TIPPETT.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

DOLLY ROCHESTER.

BILL ROCHESTER.

JOHN HARLINGTON—their Friend.

SCENE—A pretty and well-furnished drawing-room.

[CONCLUDED.]

(DOLLY goes to the telephone and rings up.)

DOLLY: Hello! 1440 Gerrard. Yes. Are you Martin and Holsworth? All right. Will you send at once by special messenger, the best and most expensive evening coat. Yes, lined with ermine will do. Yes, about 120 guineas. Yes, and three or four evening dresses, very good ones. And some hats, with plenty of big feathers. Oh, yes, and some petticoats and things. Yes, only on approval, of course! My name and address: Mrs. William Rochester, 4, King's-gardens, Mayfair. Yes, the messenger can wait with the things if you like. At once, please. Yes, thanks very much.

(DOLLY rings off, and sits down and writes a short note. Reads it to herself, and laughs with satisfaction. Enter BILL and JOHN.)

DOLLY: Bill, dear, I have been thinking. Perhaps after all you may be as right as I imagine I am. Anyhow, I will try to be the old sort of woman, instead of a new one.

BILL (kissing her): That's right, Dolly. I am awfully glad to hear it. I thought you were really a sensible girl. You only wanted things pointed out, eh, little woman?

DOLLY: That's all. Go and read the evening paper, Bill. (Offers it to him. He takes it, beams at her, and sits down to read. DOLLY goes to the other side of the room and sits down, too.)

DOLLY: John, I want to show you these photos. This is the last one of me. Do you like it?

JOHN: It's awfully good, Dolly.

DOLLY: Do you think I am—well, rather nice-looking?

JOHN: I don't think, I am sure of it!

DOLLY: What a dear you are to say that! Every nice, old-fashioned woman likes being flattered, even if she is as ugly as sin and not half so pleasant. And for being such a good boy, and playing up to my vanity—

JOHN (interrupting): But you are not vain, Dolly!

DOLLY: I am cultivating it. Every proper woman is supposed to be vain. It is part of her nature, and she should always live up to that. John, if you like, I will give you that photo. Wait; I will write on it, "From your devoted Dolly"! How will that do?

JOHN: I will put it in the most prominent place on my writing-table.

DOLLY: But I must have one of you. You don't know, John, how I have longed for one, always to remind me of you. Not, of course, that that is necessary. Do you know, I often think of you for hours together, and wonder what you are doing, and when I shall see you again.

(BILL turns his paper rather restlessly, and looks at them, frowning.)

JOHN: I say, do you really? That's awfully nice of you!

DOLLY (softly): Why, don't you know I do? (Puts her hand caressingly on his arm. BILL puts down his paper with a bang.)

BILL: Hum—hum! I say, Dolly, won't you—won't you sing something?

DOLLY: Shall I, John? If you say so, why, of course I will!

JOHN: I wish you would.

DOLLY (going to the piano, beckoning to JOHN to follow): What shall it be? Do you know this song? (Reads.)

"I am thinking of you always, my dear, my sweet,

I long for you day by day.

The kiss that you gave me—"

BILL: For heaven's sake, Dolly, not that silly, trashy rot!

DOLLY: But you gave it to me yourself, when we were engaged. You like it, don't you, John? It's such a dear, old-fashioned sort of song, that our mothers used to sing, I am sure.

JOHN: It's certainly old-fashioned. I suppose even Eve sang about kissing to Adam.

DOLLY (laughing): And let us hope the serpent in their paradise wasn't listening. Bill, I am sure you haven't nearly finished your paper?

BILL: Yes, I have. There is nothing in it. I say, Dolly, you—or—you are looking tired. I should go to bed if I were you!

DOLLY: Oh, indeed! I am not tired. I never felt so jolly in my life!

BILL: Well, anyhow, John and I are going to play billiards.

DOLLY: Oh no, I couldn't dream of letting dear John do that. You see, I want him to talk to me. (Knock at door.) Come in!

(Enter maid with stacks of boxes.) Oh, hurrah! They have come! Put them down, Maggie; anywhere you like. Oh, Bill, you were quite right about my not being very smart. Now you shall see! John, help me undo these! (She kneels on the floor, and JOHN helps her.)

BILL: What on earth is all this?

DOLLY: New things. Oh, just look at this coat! Oh, I say, Bill, only a hundred and thirty guineas! Oh, isn't it too sweet for words, and so cheap! I simply must have it,

Gracious, where is a glass? (Jumps on chair and looks at herself admiringly, turning round in front of hanging mirror.)

BILL: But I say, a hundred and thirty guineas!

DOLLY: Oh, that's nothing! Let's look at the frocks. Oh, that's a dream! Bill, Bill, how clever you were to make me want a lot of new dresses. And this one is only £27 10s. Oh, but I simply must have that—and this—and this! Why, they are simply dirt cheap. What's in that box, John?

JOHN: It's—well really, Dolly, I hardly like to say.

DOLLY: Oh, I know! It's underskirts. Such a dear, old-fashioned name for petticoats! Oh, what exquisite lace! Bill, look! £8 10s. each. I shall buy as many as they have got. Such a chance! It would be a shame to miss it. Oh, what lovely things! Bill, you were an angel to say I really wanted all this!

BILL: I didn't say so. Dolly, look here, do be sensible. I only said I liked to see you smart. I did not mean I was a millionaire. These things are ridiculous at my income.

DOLLY: My dear Bill, I have made up my mind to go into smart society, and I simply must be properly clothed. The sort of quiet, useful things I had with my trousseau would not do at all. Look here, I am going to send out a hundred and fifty of these notes to-morrow (takes up the letter she wrote and reads): "Mr. and Mrs. William Rochester request the pleasure of Lady Blackthorn and her daughters at the Princes' Rooms, November 5. Professional singers. Dancing 12 till 5 a.m."

BILL: The Princes' Rooms? Why, it would cost—well, more than we could afford!

DOLLY: Oh no! I am sure you could manage a little show like that, twice a month or so. And, of course, we must have the very best singers!

BILL: Dolly, have you suddenly gone mad?

DOLLY: Not at all. I have simply given up all higher education and women questions, and taken up instead the dear, old-fashioned woman's life of dress and amusements and entertaining. John, we will have the 1st, 4th, 7th and 10th dance together, won't we?

JOHN: Of course, if you say so, Dolly.

BILL: Look here! What does all this tomfoolery mean?

DOLLY: It simply means I am doing exactly what you told me to. I am trying to be just like your mother, only, of course, I must do things in a little smarter style, owing to my position as your wife. John, do you think I look ever so much nicer in this expensive coat than in the one I had for my trousseau? To keep up with the latest fashion one must have an entire new outfit every three months or so at least.

JOHN: Oh, clothes don't make any difference. It's you yourself, Dolly, that really matters.

DOLLY: Bill, did you hear that shockingly modern way of looking at the case?

BILL: Look here, John, as an old friend I must ask you to go. I—I—want to talk to Dolly.

JOHN: Of course, if you wish. But, Dolly?

BILL (very angry): I do wish—and Dolly— Confound it all, man, do you want me to kick you out?

DOLLY: Oh Bill, Bill, don't be stupid. John has simply been a brick, a saint! There, John, perhaps you had better go now, or you will hear me say too many nice things about you. Good-bye, and come again soon.

JOHN (laughing): I'll come, Dolly, when Bill asks me.

BILL: Then, by Jove—

DOLLY: Hush! You are much too old and dear friends to quarrel. Good-bye, John, and you'll see it's all right. (Exit JOHN.)

BILL: Now look here, what does all this mean?

DOLLY: It means just what you see. Here I am surrounded by smart, expensive clothes, with a man who I can flirt with, so you may admire me more, and a host of invitations to dull bores to give the last touch to make me a Society woman.

BILL: But I don't understand it. Why are you suddenly behaving in this extraordinary way?

DOLLY: Because you said you wished me to. Oh Bill, Bill! Don't you see I was much, much nicer before, and much more natural? Don't you see, dear, if I am only to be frivolous, you won't really like it a bit, and I should so soon grow such a worldly little cat? Why, do you know it is quite possible, really and truly, to let these expensive, pretty clothes fascinate me, and take a huge chunk of time out of my life thinking about them, and buying them, and all the rest of it. And oh, Bill, I don't want to do that. Isn't it better for me, and for you, too, to go on with the higher education than to grow a silly, worldly vain woman?

BILL: But why can't you do things in moderation and reason?

DOLLY: So I do. Why, dear, on an average I don't speak on a platform more than once a week! Isn't that moderation, when you know I really and truly feel about it a good deal?

BILL (pointing to the litter of clothes): But this isn't moderation!

DOLLY: Ah, that's true! You see, dear, we are only moderate in our virtues, never in our vices. After all, a woman has just as much human nature as a man has. Bill, face it out honestly. The New Woman, as you call her, is a creature who has been educated and developed, and has at last grown up. To her, womanhood means more than fine clothes, and Society, and tame cat lovers. Why, do you know where half my dress money goes?

BILL: No. What do you do with it, Dolly?

DOLLY: I give it to a rescue house. You see, Bill, it is more than I really and truly want for just dresses, and so I make it,

or rather half of it, a sort of conscience money. I have so much, all I could possibly want, and they—poor things, poor things! Dear, don't you see, when once we women of the educated classes, as we are called, have a little real knowledge, and have come face to face with some of life's biggest problems, our very hearts cry out to be able to do our mite to help to make things a bit straighter.

BILL: Yes, Dolly; I think I understand.

DOLLY: Oh do, Bill. It would be so nice if you did. Do you know, I think there is no sight more pathetic than to see Regent-street, Oxford-street, Bond-street between the hours of eleven in the morning till four in the afternoon, except perhaps to see those streets from eleven o'clock at night onwards. Don't you see, Bill, don't you see, dear, I want to do my tiny share to help?

BILL: But why haven't you said all this before? Why didn't you tell me it meant all this to you?

DOLLY: Because you were always so quick to fling "New Woman" in my face. And the mere words of "Equality between man and woman" is like a red rag to infuriate the bull. As for the softest-breathed "Votes for Women!"—oh, Bill, if you only knew how very, very difficult you can make it for me to speak to you on these things! It is not always so easy to bear scoffing and ridicule, especially from the man one loves. So I have tried to go my own way, and give as little reason for you to jeer and command, and forbid, by simply keeping very quiet about it all.

BILL: I think that was a mistake. I think if you had told me frankly, Dolly, just as you have now, you would have found I should have understood—anyhow, better than I did before.

DOLLY (laughing): But you never gave me a real chance before. It was always you who took the platform, and ruled autocratically from the chair if any discussion began.

BILL: Did I, Dolly? Well, it is rather new to me. You must make allowances, eh?

DOLLY: Of course I will. I tell you what, Bill, we will be much more sensible in future, and just reason things out together, like the real downright pals we are.

BILL: Right you are, Dolly, we will. But I say—(anxiously)—you didn't really mean all that with John, did you?

DOLLY (laughing): Of course not! It was only to show you that attempting to keep one's husband's love by making him jealous is rather a horrid sort of way for both of them.

BILL: Yes, but John—

DOLLY: I made John quite understand first. He was only "dummy" in the game, and not a very willing one either. You see, it was better to have John who understood than any one else.

BILL: I should jolly well think so!

DOLLY: And you will ask John to dinner to-morrow night won't you?

BILL: Rather, we will! Good old John!

DOLLY: And which am I to be—the Old Woman or the New?

BILL (taking her in his arms): Be just the woman God made you, dear, for I swear it was a good one!

[CURTAIN.]

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

* * Letters intended for publication must be written on one side of the paper only, and authenticated by the name and address of the writer. It must be clearly understood that we do not necessarily identify ourselves with the opinions expressed.

"FALSE PRUDERY MUST GO."

To the Editor.

Dear Madam,—I should be most grateful if you could grant me a small space in the columns of your valued paper, to make an earnest appeal to all those people who to-day are pluckily fighting for the interests and the advancement of the womanhood of the world. Is it not possible through the medium of your speakers and meetings to bring more strenuously, more forcibly, before the general public the urgent and vital question of "White Slavery"? At the present moment the apparent ignorance and indifference to the subject with which one meets among the vast majority of people is, to say the least, appalling, whilst the fact that this damnable and infamous traffic is allowed to continue and flourish in our midst, constitutes a curse and disgrace to a civilised country. But one of its greatest enemies is publicity. Why, therefore, cannot it be made a much more prominent feature of your propaganda, and incidentally become a stronger argument than ever for the furtherance of women's suffrage?

We are all aware that it is a delicate subject for public discussion, but surely here the purity, if not ultimately the lives of our women are at stake, false prudery must go and plain speaking take its place.

Further, what is the Government doing? Why is the Press, with few exceptions, so silent? What length of time must elapse before the men of this country will awake from a seeming state of apathy to a sense of their responsibilities, and demand by every power in their possession that these things shall stop, that this pestilence be stamped out, and that the womanhood of England shall receive that which is due to them, which is most dear to them, the adequate protection of their honour? It is true that there are societies doing good and noble work in this great cause, but it is hard and difficult, and is rendered more so by blind and inefficient legislation.—I am faithfully yours,
ERIC H. CHANNON.

INFANTILE MORTALITY IN MIDDLESBROUGH.

There has been much mention in *The Women's Platform* recently of the high infantile death-rate in many English towns, notably in Middlesbrough; but it seems to me that two of the writers, although women, still regard the question mostly through men's eyes, and consider principally the effects of work—whether non-wage earning or wage-earning—on the health of mother and infant. There are, however, many other causes contributing to a high infantile death-rate, and the evidence of a woman who lived in Middlesbrough and wrote on this question from a woman's point of view should be at least as interesting as the male criticisms with which we are usually favoured. "J. Y. L.," the writer of the article, "Working Mothers," says: "This is a woman's matter and requires a woman's courage . . ." but it is not solely a woman's matter, nor are women alone responsible for those results concerning which bishops and other men so often wax eloquent.

This is what Lady Bell, in her book "At the Works: A Study of a Manufacturing Town" (Middlesbrough), had to say:—

"The cause of death," she writes, "in many of the cases is given as premature birth, and is accounted for partly by the mother being physically worn out and unfit for child-bearing owing to the short interval between each birth.

"Mrs. V., whose husband was in receipt of good wages, earning from 35s. to 40s. a week, and who had started five years before as a bright and sufficiently healthy-looking girl, had four children, amongst whom no twins, before she had been married four years. She had become consumptive before the third was born, and after the fourth her condition became alarming. Three months after its birth she was still alive, but lying hopelessly ill, and cursing, literally with her dying breath, the conditions which had driven her to her death. 'It is not right,' she said desperately, 'it is wicked that a woman should be killed by having children at this rate!' She had been ailing from the first days of her married life, and had never had an interval in which to recover her strength.

"This is the story of many a woman who marries under these conditions." "It is no good shutting our eyes to the fact that there are many homes of this kind in which the mother has a history very like that recorded." "And remember that at no stage of these unrelatable experiences has the working mother such possible alleviations as would be the case if she were well-to-do. She has during these months of past and future misery to do all her housework, to do everything for herself, enduring pain when it comes as best she may, and mostly dependent for outside help and support on the friendly offices of the neighbours."

Lady Bell regarded these "experiences" as "unrelatable," and many men will be "shocked" that we no longer regard them as "unspeakable," but we owe it to the younger generation of women rising amongst us to warn them against these conditions in their turn, and this can only be done by women, especially in the class concerned, finding the courage to speak out to other women who will find the courage to record them.
LEAH ANSON.

IN A BELGIAN SUMMER RESORT.

VISITOR, buying fruit in a small shop: "How is it that so many people here and elsewhere in Belgium have two names? I see two joined by a hyphen over your shop-window; opposite there is the same thing, and over nearly every shop in the street I see these double surnames."

GREENGROECER: "That explains itself easily, mademoiselle; one is my wife's name, the other is mine. We are joined by more than a hyphen!"

VISITOR: "And madame shares with you the responsibility of your business as well as managing the house?"

GREENGROECER: "But certainly, we work together."

VISITOR: "She does not yet share the responsibilities of citizenship?"

GREENGROECER: "Not yet, but it is with us as it is with you; it comes. (Going to the door leading into the house.) Juliette, and the price of the peaches, what didst thou say?"

ON OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

"Virgin Royal," by Mrs. Donald Shaw, has all the characteristics of a good novel. The characters are well-drawn, and the situations are vivid. It is not, however, as an interesting story that I desire to draw attention to it. For it is much more than that. It deals with subjects which, to the great detriment of society, have been either not spoken of at all by the respectable, or spoken of with bated breath. There are two women in the story, both of whom represent a type—Cecil Carberry, mother of Royal, the hero, and Mary Farden, who belongs to what someone has called "the oldest profession in the world."

Cecil, brought up in the wilds of Yorkshire by an old grandfather, who died just before her marriage, was launched into the world absolutely ignorant of any of its appalling dangers. Her husband was one of those men who openly boast of their contempt for women. "In less than a year after her marriage, Cecil had ceased to shudder at oaths, she had trained her ears to listen to coarse stories; she had half-accepted the theory . . . that men are different from women, and that self-indulgence is as necessary as food to eat and a bed to sleep in." Then, when she was nineteen years of age, her son, Royal, was born. And with her motherhood came intuition. She saw the real meaning of her husband's life; she realised its effect upon herself; and, while living in the same house—for the money left by her grandfather had nothing—she refused to be his wife. A few years later he died, practically of dissipation.

In a very interesting way the story is told of how the mother devoted herself to her little son. She would not send him early to school, and, when he did go, by her love and sympathy she retained her influence over him. She determined that he should not go out into the world ignorant, as she had been, of the laws of life and of human responsibility. Royal grew up tall, strong, healthy of mind and body. When he heard bad talk at school, he told the fellows "they were a filthy, low-minded lot. Paterson went for me," he said, "and I biffed him, so they leave me alone now." We meet Royal as a fine, gallant young soldier. His mother is still as much to him as she had been when he was a child. He is not a saint, and he falls into trouble like other young men; but the teaching he has received and the atmosphere of his home make evil abhorrent to him.

In due time he falls in love with a pretty, fascinating girl. Her training has been the very opposite of that of Royal. This is a pitiful part of the story. In Dolly Transcombe, who has had what is called a history, the root of goodness is not dead. When her worldly mother urges her to capture Captain Carberry, she resists. There is something about him—his honesty, his confidence—which makes it seem brutal to deceive him. Her scruples are overcome, the engagement takes place, and there are certain startling developments.

His eyes ruthlessly opened, Royal rushes to London, ready to do anything, everything! He seeks out Mary Farden, a girl whom he had met before. He found her at her flat, "gay, insouciant, exquisitely gowned and hatted." There follows a daring scene, for which I give all credit to the author. No woman could read it without being moved. Mary Farden, child of the streets, loves, and through her love she redeems the man who has come to her really because, in a frenzied moment, he has been made, by another girl, to despise women.

How it all works out, what becomes of Cecil and Royal and Mary, I will leave to the readers of THE VOTE, to whom I recommend the story.
C. D.

"THE SOUL OF WOMAN SUFFRAGE."—The speech under the above heading, given by the Rev. Hugh Chapman, Chaplain of the Royal Chapel of the Savoy, at a meeting in the Aberdeen Hall, Dublin, under the auspices of the Irishwomen's Reform League, has been published in pamphlet form. Copies can be obtained from the hon. secretary, Irishwomen's Reform League, 29, South Anne-street, Dublin, 1d. each, or 10d. per dozen.



Particulars of Posters Printed and Published at THE SUFFRAGE ATELIER, Stanlake Villas, Shepherd's Bush.

LAW FOR MAN AND LAW FOR WOMAN. Six subjects illustrating some legal disabilities to which women are liable in England:—
"How the Law Protects the Husband."
"How the Law Protects the Widower."
"How the Law Protects the Widow."
"How the Law Protects the Wife."
"How the Law Protects the Mother."
"How the Law Protects the Daughters."

Printed in black and white, with green labels, and sold in the following forms: Poster (60 by 40), comprising six subjects, with coloured background and large label in centre, "Law for Man and Law for Woman," 2s. each complete.

Poster (20 by 30). Any one of the above subjects attached to coloured sheet with label at top. "Woman Under the Law," 3d. each, 2s. 9d. doz., 20s. 6d. 100.

Poster (18 in.) (approximately), actual size of print, with gum label, 2d. each, 2s. 9d. doz., 12s. 6d. 100.

Leaflet comprising the six subjects, as above, 11 by 9. 6d. doz., 3s. 10d. 25s. 1,000.

"ANTI-SUFFRAGE OSTRICH" Poster, in three colours, supplied in the following sizes:—

40 by 30, price 5d. each, 4s. 6d. doz., 35s. 100.

30 by 20, design in this size can be mounted, leaving sufficient space for notice of meeting, etc., price 3d. each, 2s. 9d. doz., 20s. 6d. 100.

40 by 15, price 2½d. each, 2s. 3d. doz., 16s. 6d. 100.

Small size, about 8 by 5, 2d. each, 1s. 9d. doz., 10s. 100.

"NO VOTE, NO TAX" (Mrs. Bull is taxed to pay salaries of M.P.s.), supplied in black and white or in three colours:—

Size 40 by 30, price in black and white, 3d. each, 2s. 9d. doz., 20s. 6d. 100; coloured, 4d. each, 3s. 9d. doz., 28s. 6d. 100.

"IN THE SHADOW," supplied in black and white only.

40 by 30, price 3d. each, 2s. 9d. doz., 20s. 6d. 100.

30 by 20, price 2d. each, 1s. 9d. doz., 12s. 6d. 100.

"MR. AND MRS. BULL ON HORSE," supplied in black and white; also in three colours.

One size only (30 by 20), price (black and white) 2d. each, 1s. 9d. doz., 12s. 6d. 100; (coloured) 3d. each, 2s. 9d. doz., 20s. 6d. 100.

"WHAT A WOMAN MAY BE AND YET NOT HAVE THE VOTE," "WHAT A MAN MAY HAVE BEEN AND YET NOT HAVE THE VOTE," supplied in black and white and in three colours.

30 by 20 (black and white), price 2d. each, 1s. 9d. doz., 12s. 6d. 100.

30 by 20 (coloured), price 4d. each, 3s. 9d. doz., 28s. 6d. 100.

40 by 30 (same size print as above, with wide coloured margin), 5d. each, 4s. 6d. doz., 35s. 100.

"WAITING FOR A LIVING WAGE" (The Sweated Woman), supplied in black and white only.

20 by 15, price 1½d. each, 1s. 6d. doz., 10s. 100.

30 by 20 (same size print as above, leaving wider margin), price 2d. each, 1s. 9d. doz., 12s. 6d. 100.

"CITY AND TOWN COUNCILS" (153 City and Town Councils petition Government on behalf of Woman's Suffrage), supplied in black and white; also in black, red and gold.

30 by 20 (black and white), 2d. each, 1s. 9d. doz., 12s. 6d. 100.

30 by 20 (coloured), 3d. each, 2s. 9d. doz., 20s. 6d. 100.

40 by 30 (black and white), 4d. each, 3s. 9d. doz., 28s. 6d. 100.

40 by 30 (with handsome border design in red and gold), price 5d. each, 4s. 6d. doz., 35s. 100.

"TWENTIETH CENTURY ROBBERY" (Lloyd George and Asquith as Highway Robbers taking taxes from women), supplied in black and white and three colours (one size only).

30 by 20 (black and white), price 2d. each, 1s. 9d. doz., 12s. 6d. 100.

30 by 20 (coloured), price 3d. each, 2s. 9d. doz., 20s. 6d. 100.

"IN THE DIM AND SPECULATIVE FUTURE" (Asquith and Franchise Daisy), supplied in black and white (only one size).

30 by 20, price 2d. each, 1s. 9d. doz., 12s. 6d. 100.

"ALAS! IT IS THIS YEAR," sequel to above, same size and price.

"REFORM CONTENTS BILL," with space for notice of meetings, supplied in black and white or in the colours of any Suffrage Society.

30 by 20 (black and white), price 2d. each, 1s. 9d. doz., 12s. 6d. 100; (coloured), 3d. each, 2s. 9d. doz., 20s. 6d. 100.

NEW POSTERS JUST ISSUED.

The following can be seen at the Women's Freedom League and THE VOTE Office, Robert-street, Adelphi, Strand. Returnable samples on application, postage 3d., in one size only.

"NO MORE MOONSHINE" (Vote Supplement, published April 20), 30 by 20, coloured only, price 3d. each, 2s. 9d. doz., 20s. 6d. 100.

"THE APPEAL TO WOMANHOOD" (Vote Supplement, published May 11), supplied in black and white, also coloured, one size only, 40 by 30 (black and white), 3d. each, 2s. 9d. doz., 20s. 6d. 100; (coloured) 4d. each, 3s. 9d. doz., 28s. 6d. 100.

"WHAT MAY HAPPEN" (The Servant's Tax) (Vote Supplement), published May 25, supplied in black and white and coloured, one size only, 40 by 30, price (black and white) 3d. each, 2s. 9d. doz., 20s. 6d. 100; (coloured), 4d. each, 3s. 9d. doz., 28s. 6d. 100.

"THE OLD DAME IN A HUFF" (Vote Supplement, published May 18). Sizes and prices as above.

"THE PREHISTORIC ARGUMENT," supplied in black and white and coloured. Size and prices as above.

"THE GROWING MOVEMENT," "POLITICAL CONJURING," "COMFORTABLE WOMEN," all in 30 by 40 size. Several of the above posters are coloured in water-colour, which is suitable for indoor posting only. They can be obtained in varieties of a dozen at 3s. 6d.

FORTHCOMING POSTERS.

All the Coloured Supplements which appear in THE VOTE will be issued as posters. They will be supplied in 40 by 30 size in accordance with the demand for this size.

POSTERETTES.

Sizes approximately from 15 by 10 to 20 by 15:—"The Paid Piper," "Waiting for a Living Wage," "A Bird in Hand," "Anti-Suffrage Ostrich" (coloured only), "The People's House" (black and white only). Price (black and white), 1d. each, 6d. doz., 3s. 6d. 100; (coloured), 2d. each, 1s. 9d. doz., 10s. 100.

NEW POSTCARDS.

Set of 4 "Insurance" Cards, 3d. "The Growing Movement," "Prejudice," "Light Subduing Darkness," "There was an Old Man." Prices 1d. each, four for 3d., 6d. doz., 3s. 10d. 100.

Most of the Designs issued in THE VOTE, also the Poster Designs, are issued as Postcards, price 1d. each, 6d. doz., 3s. 10d. 100; ditto (coloured), 2d. each, 1s. 6d. doz.



RAINCOATS FOR PRESENT WEAR.



The "New Valitor" Twill Rain Coat, in various shades and all colours,

21/9

Special sizes can be made in a few days.

WILLIAM OWEN, Ltd.,
WESTBOURNE GROVE, LONDON, W.

"STEAD HOSTELS."

What shall be the fitting memorial to so noble a crusader for humanity as Mr. W. T. Stead? The question is being answered in various ways, and the effort to secure the passage of the Criminal Law Amendment Act now before Parliament is regarded as a tribute to his self-sacrificing work which would be fitting. What he would have said to the emasculating of even the small measure of legislation in this much-needed direction cannot be doubted. He, in common with women, knew that the women's vote would be the only driving force sufficient to deal adequately with the evil. This fact is emphasised in the article by Mrs. Merivale Mayer, "The Sham of the White Slave Traffic Bill," to be found in another column.

Another suggestion now being brought prominently before the public, is to establish a scheme in which Mr. Stead was deeply interested, namely, Hostels for Working Women in all countries. Not only will the scheme meet a pressing need but it will emphasise the international character of Mr. Stead. He had a passion for friendship at home and abroad, and his great crusade on behalf of women included women of all countries.

A rough outline of the plan, which has the cordial approval of Mrs. W. T. Stead and other members of the family, has been embodied in a preliminary circular. It is recognised that throughout England the name "Rowton House" is now familiar as a provision for working men. The recent visitors from Germany declared that the accommodation in these Houses exceeded in comfort that of their "Workmen's Homes." But in many towns in England and also in other countries there is no properly supervised safe and sanitary hostel for women and girls. Those in charge of Labour Exchanges are confronted by the difficulty of finding suitable accommodation for women and girls for whom work is waiting.

Mr. W. T. Stead summoned a Conference on the subject at his own home, and his interest in it sustained the pioneers of the movement, which has now taken the form of "The National Association for Women's Lodging Homes."

"The International character of Mr. Stead's work is well known, and therefore it is proposed to raise an International Memorial Fund which will be available for founding Lodging Homes for Women to be called 'Stead Hostels.'

"It is intended that the funds raised in each country should be available, if desired, for establishing there the most suitable kind of Home, which would be placed under the supervision of some existing organisation.

"This proposal to raise an International Memorial Fund has the approval of a large number of influential and representative men and women, and office accommodation and secretarial work have been promised."

The preliminary notice is issued with a view of arousing general interest. A meeting will be called in the autumn to appoint a committee before issuing a public appeal.

MRS. DESPARD'S TOUR IN IRELAND.

Arrangements for Mrs. Despard's coming tour are now complete. The first few days from September 5 will be spent in Dublin, and meetings will be held at seaside resorts in the neighbourhood. The following week will be spent in Cork, and Miss Day, hon. secretary of the Munster Women's Franchise League, has organised a series of meetings. In the event of the weather continuing inclement for outdoor meetings, Miss Day has ascertained that halls can be secured at short notice in the districts which she hopes to open up with Mrs. Despard's valuable help. Mrs. Cope, of Loughgall, Co. Armagh, is organising a meeting for September 16, and on the following evening a meeting is to be held in Dundalk. From thence Mrs. Despard will travel to Sligo for a meeting on the 18th. It will be seen that by

this arrangement Mrs. Despard visits every province in Ireland. The Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation are congratulating themselves heartily upon their good fortune in having so brilliant and so much loved a speaker to help on the Cause of woman's suffrage in Ireland at this critical time. Mrs. Despard has a beautiful and inspiring influence upon all with whom she comes in contact, and hers is a personality which specially appeals to Irish people.

LOUIE BENNETT,
Hon. Sec. Irish Women's Suffrage Federation.

IN MANCHESTER.

My visit to Manchester, for all that it has fallen in the heart of the holiday season, exceeds all my expectations. I arrived on Thursday afternoon, and went with Miss Hordern to our office, which by the loving care of Miss Marie Geiler had been made ready for us. Others joined us, and we had tea together. Miss FitzSimons, one of the oldest and truest friends of the Women's Freedom League in Manchester, came in and entertained us with a delightful account of a week's visit in Belgium which she had lately made with thirty-one working girls. After tea members and friends came dropping in, and soon the room was quite full. We had some good music from Mrs. Pearce, another loyal friend of the League, one or two amusing recitations and then my address. There were brothers as well as sisters in the room, and that which struck me most was the spirit of good fellowship that prevailed. I told my friends that the first thing I felt when I stepped across the threshold had been that the office was a home-place. From the response in their faces I saw that their feeling was the same. This made me glad because I knew that the expense of the rent often sits heavily upon the heart of the treasurer. On Thursday the feeling of the members took material shape in a collection which, with the sale of the cakes that remained after our tea, amounted to no less than £3.

On Friday, under Miss Janet Heyes, we had—also in the office—a meeting of teachers. There were not so many present as on the previous day. I heard later that a large N.U.T. meeting was being held that evening; but it was exceedingly interesting, and we took the names of several who will probably become members of the League.

Saturday was full of interest and charm, a day to be long remembered. Miss Geiler, with whom I am staying, drove me over to Burnage, where we have a young and very lusty Branch. Its centre is the Levenshulme Garden Village. I have neither time nor space to tell our readers in any detail about this interesting outcome of the modern movement towards better home conditions for the people. It is sufficient to say here that Manchester's Garden Village produces a most cheerful impression upon the visitor. The houses are pretty; there are gardens everywhere. In the centre of the village there is a bowling-green, made, we hear, and kept in order by voluntary labour. There is also a village hall, towards the upkeep of which all the villagers contribute, and this forms the pleasant centre of the social activities of the community.

Here our Women's Freedom League "At Home" was held. It had been beautifully decorated for the occasion. The guests sat round small tables, each one covered with a white embroidered cloth, and set with flowers, the deep-coloured flowers of autumn. Round these, when we stepped out upon the platform, a large company had gathered. There were many children. What struck me particularly, coming from London, was the aliveness, the look of health and vigour in all these. They were distinctly a good-looking society. I do not think anyone—even the most rabid anti—would have called the women in this crowd hysterical, yet they were full of enthusiasm. And I, as I looked out on them and pictured what might be done in England if men and women of energy, will, and imagination, could only stand together, was full of hope. Again we had excellent music, led as on Thursday by our friend Mrs. Pearce. A lady, whose sweet full voice thrilled us all, sang two charming songs, "Sincerity" and "Sympathy." I hear that the "At Home" more than paid its own expenses, and that, after it was over, many new names were taken.

On Sunday I spoke before a full room at the headquarters of the Theosophical Lodge in Manchester on "The Ancient Wisdom in Modern Life." Many of our members were present, and four dozen copies of the current number of THE VOTE were sold.

This evening Miss Geiler and I are going out to Walkden, another of our Branches—young also, but moving forward well. That will end my work for the Manchester Women's Freedom League at present. I wish to express to them and to members who may not have been able to be present at our late meetings my deep satisfaction over the work that has been done, and especially the spirit that animates the Branches. Great have been the difficulties that the Manchester and District W.F.L. have had to meet. They have faced them bravely. Never once have they despaired of the issue; and the result is, as was said to me by Mrs. Dean, honorary organiser and member of the Burnage Branch—one, by the by, of our very first members—"Never has the Manchester Women's Freedom League stood on a sounder basis than it does to-day." C. D.
September 2, 1912.

WITH THE CARAVAN.

Never perhaps has Norfolk encountered such stormy weather in the month of August as during the present year. Our caravan has weathered many a storm, but the rain that broke over Cromer on Monday penetrated it and wrought much havoc. We have since been endeavouring more or less successfully to get our clothes dry. For two days we were cut off from communication with the outside world, and experienced quite a little siege. A telegraph pole close by our van was completely smashed; the rain came down the hill in floods, and the two caravansers still left had to retreat to the shelter of a house and bemoan that no meetings could be held. All our sympathy, however, was directed to Norwich in its disaster and distress.

At last, on Wednesday, the rain ceased a little, and in the evening we held an outdoor meeting on the cliff. Mrs. Hyde and I were very much encouraged by the reception given to us by our audience. An Anti in the crowd proposed a vote of thanks to the ladies who had spoken for the lucid way in which they had stated their case. In response to the request for another meeting we arranged to hold a final one on Saturday evening. It also proved most successful. The campaign is now over on account of the unpropitious weather, but we began, continued, and ended on a note of hope, and the encouragement we have received warrants our belief that good results will follow.

CONSTANCE E. ANDREWS.

WHAT WOMEN ARE DOING.

Mayorress in the Transvaal.

The first woman to hold a responsible official position in the Transvaal is Mrs. A. M. Ellis, of Johannesburg, who has been entrusted with the civic government of the city in the capacity of mayorress.

Negro B.A.s.

For the first time in its sixty years of history, the University of Iowa recently granted the degree of Bachelor of Arts to two negro girls. Both the girls have worked their way through the University without any outside help, taking positions as waitresses, domestics, clerks, or anything that came to hand in vacation terms in order to obtain their degrees.

Public Health Appointment.

Dr. Barbara M. Cunningham has been appointed assistant to the Medical Officer of Health for Manchester. A meeting of the Manchester City Council, Mr. Jackson, deputy chairman of the Sanitary Committee, said that at a previous meeting the proposal to appoint Dr. Barbara M. Cunningham to the position of assistant of the medical officer of health had been referred back to the committee on the score of sex disability. This disqualification the committee were not prepared to admit, as in their opinion, Dr. Cunningham was incomparably superior to the other applicants. Her academic qualifications were equal to those of any other applicant, and she had had peculiar experience in the matter of tuberculosis, in the diseases of children, and in administration in this country and in India.

Recorder.

Miss Clara Jess, who was recently appointed to the official position of Recorder in Daly City, California, has the distinction of also being the first woman magistrate in that State, for under the city charter the recorder exercises judiciary powers and presides over the police court. The first official duty Miss Jess was called upon to perform was the uniting in matrimony of two of California's citizens. This is the first time that a woman has tied the nuptial knot in that State.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO BE FREE.

street, 8 p.m.
Tues. Sept. 10.—THE FLAGSTAFF, Hampstead, 8.30 p.m. Chair: Mrs. Spiller. Speaker: Mrs. Watson.
Wed. Sept. 11.—HAMPSTEAD BRANCH MEETING, 63, South Hill-park, 8.15 p.m.
Thurs. Sept. 12.—THORNTON HEATH CLOCK, 8 p.m. Chair: Mrs. Terry. Speaker: Mrs. Bouvier. Highbury Corner, 8.30 p.m. Miss Preston, Miss John. HANOVER PARK, Peckham, 8 p.m. Mrs. Pickering, Mrs. Tanner.
Sun. Sept. 15.—HYDE PARK, noon. Mrs. Tanner. REGENT'S PARK, noon. Chair: Mrs. Nourse. Speaker: Mrs. Nevinson.
Fri. Sept. 20.—NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1, Robert-street, 2.30 p.m.
Sat. Sept. 21.—NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 10 a.m., 1, Robert-street. TRAFALGAR SQUARE MEETING, 3.30 p.m.
Sun. Sept. 22.—HYDE PARK, noon. Miss Anna Munro.
Wed. Sept. 25.—CAXTON HALL PUBLIC MEETING, 3.30 p.m. D. M. Mason, Esq., M.P., Mrs. Despard.
Sun. Sept. 29.—HYDE PARK, noon. Mrs. Mustard.
Sun. Oct. 6.—HYDE PARK, noon.
Sun. Oct. 13.—HYDE PARK, noon. Mrs. Despard.

PROVINCES.

Mon. Sept. 9.—Manchester. BURNAGE BRANCH MEETING.
Tues. Sept. 10.—Liverpool. AINTREE BRANCH MEETING, Aintree Institute, 8 p.m.
Wed. Sept. 25.—Sunderland, Miss Boyle.

SCOTLAND.

Sept. 8-10. Midlothian By-Election. OPEN-AIR MEETINGS daily. Miss Boyle, Mrs. Sproson, Miss Jack and others.
Thurs. Sept. 5.—Glasgow. BRANCH MEETING, 70, St. George's-road, 8 p.m.
Thurs. Sept. 19.—Kirkintilloch. Mrs. Despard, Miss Boyle.
Fri. Oct. 25.—Rothesay. Miss Munro.

BRANCH NOTES.

NATIONAL OFFICES, LONDON.—1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.

Will Branch Secretaries kindly write their reports very distinctly and briefly on ONE SIDE of a sheet of paper, leaving a margin on the left, and address them to the Editor, THE VOTE Office, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, W.C. A halfpenny stamp is sufficient; the flap of the envelope should be tucked inside. All reports must reach the office on or before the first post on Monday mornings.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.—Anerley and Crystal Palace Branch.—Miss J. FENNINGS, 149, Croydon-road, Anerley.

The usual meeting was held at the Triangle, Penge, when Mrs. Watson kindly spoke. We should be glad to receive subscriptions towards the expenses of these meetings.

Croydon.—Office: The Arcade, High-street. Hon. Sec.: Mrs. E. Terry, 9, Morland-avenue.

The office will reopen on Monday, September 9. Open-air meetings will be resumed on Thursday, September 5, at Thornton Heath Clock, at 8 p.m. It is hoped that members will try to attend these weekly meetings. Particulars of the International Suffrage Fair will constantly appear in THE VOTE.

Mid-London.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. TRITTON, 1, Northcote-avenue, Ealing.

Our quarterly Branch members' meeting will take place on Monday, September 9, at 8 p.m., at 1, Robert-street, preceded at 7.30 by a meeting of the Branch Committee. Will all members who can possibly do so be present as business has accumulated in the holidays? Among other important matters arrangements must be made about the stall representing England for which our Branch will be responsible at the International Suffrage Fair. The Fair secretary, Mrs. de Vismes, Delagoa, St. George's-road, St. Margarets, Twickenham, will give us the latest information on the subject.

Stamford Hill.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. THOMSON, 7, East Bank.

A meeting was held on Saturday at Mrs. Goodwin's house at which representatives of Tottenham, Highbury and our own Branch met to make preparatory arrangements for effective work in connection with the International Suffrage Fair. Mrs. Goodwin was unanimously elected Fair secretary, and kindly consented to act in that capacity and to communicate with Mrs. Harvey as to details. A second meeting will be held in a fortnight to make further arrangements. Our Branch held a committee meeting on September 3 to inaugurate the autumn campaign. An open-air gathering will take place on Friday evening,

September 5, at 8 o'clock, at our usual pitch, at which Miss Le Croisette will be the speaker. We hope to have Mr. Hawkins of the Men's League as our very efficient chairman.

PROVINCES.—Manchester (Central) Branch.—Hon. Sec.: Miss A. E. HORDERN, 478, Stockport-road, Longsight, Manchester. Mrs. Despard revisited her Market-street "home" on August 29. We are glad to know that our President feels an atmosphere of good comradeship pervading our little office, and hope that her encouraging and invigorating words at our opening gathering will be introductory to much strenuous and effective work in the autumn. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Pearce, Mr. and Mrs. Heath, Mr. Allen and Miss Fairfield for their share in making the "At Home" programme on August 29 so attractive, to Miss Geller for her bountiful provision of refreshments, to Councillor Sam Brooks for his helpful remarks, and to all those who so generously contributed to the funds. The treasury is enriched to the amount of nearly £3 as a result of this effort. Will members please keep in mind the jumble sale to be held this month, and also the International Suffrage Fair? Gifts or promises for the latter will be gladly received by Mrs. Nidd, Queen's Gate, Wilmslow.

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENT.

HAMPSTEAD BRANCH.—Will members kindly attend BRANCH MEETING on WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, at 8.15 p.m., at 63, South Hill Park?

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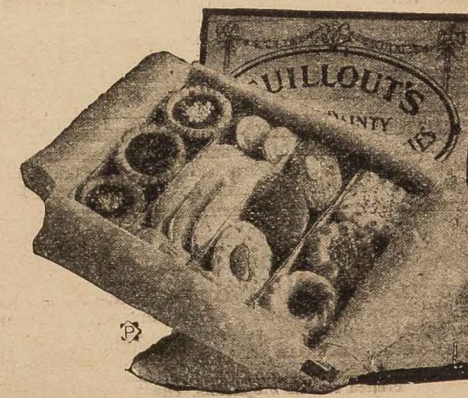
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