

# THE VOTE

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

VOL. II.—No. 50.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1910.

ONE PENNY.

## NOTICE.

Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and MANAGING DIRECTOR respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.

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## 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.

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## WHAT WE THINK.

### Suffragist Federation.

The combined Suffragist demonstrations and meetings of the last few months, and the present action of the W.F.L. in calling a conference to secure greater uniformity of policy amongst Suffragists, has led to a wide canvassing of the ideal of federation. The Freedom League has always been an advocate of co-operation among the Suffrage Societies. It has on many occasions sacrificed some temporary advantage in order to prevent an appearance of disunion, or to ensure the taking of joint action. But the day of complete Suffragist federation is still far off. The recent flood of comment in the Press is due in great measure to curiosity and the usual Press habit of guessing when the object of any important private gathering is not revealed. Our conference with other invited Suffrage Societies on October 27th has piqued curiosity. The carefully phrased statement of the purpose of the conference is regarded as at once too vague and too wide by one newspaper authority. It means more than meets the eye, suggests another. Whether all this surmise is to be crowned with justification or not time alone will show. Certain it is that the W.F.L. is seeking to secure a greater unity in action and a greater concentration of pressure in a direction which to its executive appears to promise great progress for the cause.

### The Men's League against the Government.

By a majority of 136 votes the Men's League for Women's Suffrage has adopted the policy of opposition to the Government, and has expressed its disbelief in the old method of trust in the pledges of private Members. This is a great advance. It is one of the finest things that has happened during this year of grace. It means much more to the cause than anything—except the formation of the Conciliation Committee—that has been done by men Suffragists during the militant phase of our fight, and there are some things on record that are worthy of gratitude and admiration. We of the militant school are not surprised by this decision. We have faith in the anti-Government policy. We know its soundness and its practical political nature. There is no way open for the passing of a Women's Suffrage Bill through the House of Commons until the hand of the Government is forced. Therefore, the anti-Government policy will prevail. The Men's League decision is welcomed by us, and would be so welcomed at any time, but it comes at a specially opportune moment, and is therefore thrice welcomed. The

Prime Minister has refused facilities for the Conciliation Bill, and as a reply to this illegal exercise of an unconstitutional veto the Men's League declares that henceforth its members will hold him guilty, and will take action calculated to fix his responsibility in the eyes of the nation. This is an immediate and an adequate reply. The Men's League has proved itself in earnest.

There is another special value in the decision coming at this time, when we are compiling evidence to induce the Prime Minister to remove the veto. We know that demand for evidence. It is the oldest of political evasions, and yet one that the politically powerless must constantly comply with. As always with us, the evidence is forthcoming. In every way open to them women are emphasising their demand for the right of voting. But this strengthened policy of the Men's League will take no mean place in the list of things done to supply the Cabinet with proof of the need for the withdrawal of the veto. If in spite of all we are still unenfranchised at the next General Election this change of policy among men Suffragists ought to be made use of as a stepping-stone to Suffragist co-operation in election policy. The day has gone by when we can afford to allow inconsistency and overlapping at such times of crisis. Some general agreement ought to be made.

### The Coming Conference.

At the end of October the Women's Freedom League is to hold its second Special Conference. The first such conference held by the League was convened by the N.E.C. in July, 1909, to discuss the General Election policy. The grave issues which at present lie before us make another special deliberation necessary, and members will assemble on this second occasion to give further consideration to General Election work, to discuss the serious question of the development of militancy and certain important matters of internal organisation. The branches are now in the second stage of preparation for this private parliament, and there is probably little, if any, need to emphasise the gravity of the issues involved. The future policy and prospects of the League are more than usually bound up with the nature of the decisions we shall be so soon called upon to make.

### The Canon's Ideal.

Until Canon Denton Thompson came into the field the Kaiser had it all his own way as a definer of the ideal wife. But the Canon in his best pulpit didactics perpetrated an acrostic on "wife" at the Church Congress which doubtless will make the arbiter of Germany wish he had done it himself. "Womanly, Industrial, Faithful, and Exemplary," the Canon wants her to be. "What a man wants in his wife," he says, "is that she shall be neither manly nor childish, but womanly; that she shall be industrious; that she shall be faithful, and that she shall be exemplary to her children." We would have no fault to find with these adjectival attributes if the Canon had earmarked the last three also for the husband; the possession of them would, in our opinion, at least, go some distance to producing the ideal male partner. The only difficulty would be that the ideal wife and the ideal husband would be unlikely to suit each other, for the Canon naively says that when there is an exorbitant demand on the part of the husband for industry in his wife he is frequently deficient in that quality himself. We have noticed it ourselves.

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### TRAFALGAR SQUARE MEETING.

Once again the Women's Freedom League has secured the co-operation of other sections of the Forward Movement to demonstrate the vindication of the political rights of women, and every suffragist in London is urged to be in Trafalgar Square before 3 o'clock next Saturday afternoon to take part in the Mass Meeting in support of the Conciliation Bill. From seven platforms well-known speakers will demand that a passage be made for the Conciliation Bill to become law at the earliest possible moment; and these platforms will represent not only the Suffrage Societies, whose first concern is that women shall possess the same opportunity as men have to express their will in the government of their country, but also our oldest national institutions—the Church and Universities, the varied pursuits of our people in modern professions, industry, art and literature, and those, too, whose aim is social reform. Indeed, a glance at the list of speakers will show that many of them have older reputations as reformers than some modern self-styled democrats in the House of Commons, and have a much greater right to speak on behalf of the people of England than professional politicians of the type of Mr. Winston Churchill and Mr. Lloyd George. In insisting that facilities be granted for the passage of the Conciliation Bill, which passed through the House of Commons with a bigger majority than could be obtained for any of the Government's own measures, the speakers will be upholding the cause of popular liberties as well as advocating women's suffrage. By refusing to grant further facilities for this Bill the Government will make itself directly responsible for thwarting the will of the people so emphatically expressed through their representatives. Democracy, which at present has so little meaning for women, has many definitions amongst men. Mr. Lloyd George may consider that he is a Daniel come to judgment in the matter; but the Conciliation Committee and their supporters maintain that it is more democratic to enfranchise a million women than to block the way for the enfranchisement of every woman until the Chancellor's peculiar definition has been adopted by the nation; and that a measure which proposes to give one woman one vote, which would not enable any woman as a property owner or as a University graduate to claim a vote, but which would make it possible for women householders and women occupiers (30,000 of whom in London are charwomen and more than 80 per cent. throughout the country are working women) to go to the poll, cannot be said with truth to act unfairly towards the class from which Mr. Lloyd George so often boasts that he has sprung. It is with the object of driving these facts home that we ask all suffragists to do their utmost to make next Saturday's meeting a success. A report of the speeches will appear in next week's VOTE, so that our readers may have an opportunity of knowing what has been said at each platform.

It is impossible to give an account of all of our speakers, but the following notes may be of some interest. **Platform I.**—Mrs. DESPARD.—Our President needs no introduction to Suffragists. She has recently been described as the finest woman speaker in England, and throws the whole charm and force of her personality into every subject with which she deals. Whether she addresses her audience as comrades, colleagues, sisters, or women-warriors, the effect of her opening remarks is electric, and her power over her listeners is supreme right through her speech. Mrs. Despard is herself a woman-

warrior, engaging in battle against all forms of injustice, oppression and wrong. She has been stoned by opponents and imprisoned three times for the cause she believes in, and for years has refused to pay Imperial taxes to a Government which demands women's money and persistently denies to them the chief right of citizenship. If militant action by the Women's Freedom League again becomes necessary, Mrs. Despard has offered to lead the attack, whatever form it may take.

Mrs. COBDEN SANDERSON, as is well known, is the daughter of Richard Cobden, and from early youth has been an ardent reformer and keen suffragist. Quite early in the militant agitation Mrs. Sanderson suffered imprisonment, some time after which she decided to go to America. By allowing her to enter their country Americans proved themselves to be broader-minded and of saner judgment than the responsible heads of a Liberal Government, in that they recognised the difference between a political offender and a common criminal.

MISS IRENE MILLER, the first Suffragist to be arrested in London, is a writer and lecturer, and the daughter of Mrs. Fenwick Miller, the first Treasurer of the International Women's Suffrage Committee, and editor of the *Woman's Signal*, which was well known to Suffragists.

Mr. G. E. O'DELL has been a member of the Kensington Borough Council, editor of the *Wakefield Echo*, has contributed to THE VOTE, and is now organising Secretary to the West London Ethical Society, Trustee to the National Union of Clerks, and an active supporter of Women's Suffrage.

**Platform II.**—Miss MARIE LAWSON, who has been an active member of the W.F.L. since its inception, was formerly a member of the N.E.C., from which body she resigned to promote the Minerva Publishing Co., Ltd., and to establish THE VOTE, her services to both of which are given in an honorary capacity. Miss Lawson has had a wide business experience and controls the London Branch of a large American concern. She is a keen advocate of time and labour saving methods in business.

Mrs. MORGAN DOCKRELL is President of the L.C.C. Mistresses' Union, and an earnest supporter of Women's Suffrage.

Mrs. AYRES PURDIE, A.L.A.A., auditor for the Women's Freedom League, and the only woman member of Chartered Accountants in London. An ardent worker for Votes for Women.

Mr. J. M. MITCHELL: Honorary Secretary of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage, and an enthusiastic worker and speaker on the subject. He moved the resolution by the carrying of which the Men's League decided to adopt the anti-Government policy. He is a lecturer on classics at the East London College in the University of London.

**Platform III.**—Miss NEILANS, one of the most popular of the W.F.L. speakers and workers. With great cleverness and spirit she defended her own case in Court for the part she took in the Bermondsey Ballot Box Protest, and for which she suffered three months' imprisonment. Miss Neilans has been imprisoned three times for the cause of Woman's Suffrage, and her work now lies in the League's militant department.

Miss EVA GORE-BOOTH is well known as an Irish poetess, is Secretary of the Manchester and Salford Women's Trades and Labour Council, and has had much to do with the organisation of the Textile Women's League. Miss Gore-Booth took an active part in the agitation against legislation for the removal of barmaids, and also against the restriction of the working hours of florists.

Mr. W. J. READ, editor of *The Clerk*, the organ of the Clerks' Union, is a strong advocate of equal pay for men and women in clerical work.

Mr. E. H. PICKERSGILL, M.P., has represented Bethnal Green since 1906; is a popular speaker, and keenly interested in social reform.

**Platform IV.**—Miss AMY HICKS, M.A., who studied four years at Girton, taking both parts of the Classical Tripos at Cambridge, graduated M.A. of London, spent a year in Brynmawr College, Philadelphia, in research

work and the study of American life and systems of education, and attained to the distinction of Holloway for upholding her right to a personal interview with Mr. Asquith after having presented him with a petition in Downing Street. Miss Hicks is an unwearied worker in the cause of women, and the assistance she gave to the literature department of the W.F.L. has been invaluable.

Mrs. HOW MARTYN, B.Sc., A.R.C.S., the hon. secretary of the Women's Freedom League, received, with Mrs. Cobden Sanderson and Mrs. Billington-Greig, sentence of two months' imprisonment in the second division for attempting to make a speech in the lobby of the House of Commons at the opening of the autumn session, 1906. Mrs. How Martyn is the antithesis of what a militant suffragette and a woman mathematical lecturer was supposed to be by the British public a few years ago. But her speeches are always a joy to listen to for their clearness of enunciation, lucidity of argument, and for the earnestness of conviction which breathes through them.

Surgeon-Gen. G. J. H. EVATT, C.B., M.D., R.A.M.C., is keenly interested in Woman's Suffrage, and in all questions dealing with the improvement of the race. He served in the Perak Expedition, Afghan War, and the relief of Cabul, Zhoob Valley Expedition. In 1886 he contested, as a Liberal, the Borough of Woolwich, and in 1906 the Fareham Division of Hampshire. His publications are "Travels in the Euphrates Valley and Mesopotamia," and many books on military and medical subjects.

Dr. F. A. BATHER, F.R.S., D.Sc., F.G.S., Assistant Keeper of the Department of Geology, British Museum (Natural History), since 1902. Educated at Winchester and Oxford. Best known as "Crinoid Bather." Publications: "Crinoidæ of Gotland, Stockholm," and numerous publications on geological and biological questions, fossil invertebrates, and museum technique.

**Platform V.**—The Rev. LLEWELLYN SMITH, who is known for his educational work in a college in Ceylon. His work in the East has made him see clearly the necessity of Votes for Women.

The Rev. C. HINSLIFF is the founder and honorary secretary of the Church League for Women's Suffrage, the President of which is the Bishop of Lincoln. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hinscliff are enthusiastic workers in this movement, and it is chiefly due to their untiring efforts that the membership has reached such a high number during its brief existence.

FATHER HEALEY, formerly Father of the Community of the Resurrection. He left this in order to devote himself to Social Reform, and is now organising the Church Socialist League in London.

**Platform VI.**—Mrs. H. W. NEVINSON, who is a writer and speaker for the W.F.L., in ever-increasing demand. Was educated at Oxford, in Paris and Germany, has done a good deal of social work in connection with Toynbee Hall, as a school manager, and Poor Law guardian. Accuracy of statement, sincerity of purpose, and a keen sense of humour are characteristics of Mrs. Nevinson's writings and speeches. Her "Workhouse Characters," a series of sketches appearing in the *Westminster Gazette*, met with unqualified praise on all sides, even Mr. John Burns having been moved to speak of it admiringly!

Mr. LAURENCE HOUSMAN is a brilliant author and dramatist, one of whose plays has recently had the distinction of coming under the ban of the Censor. Mr. Housman is a delightful speaker, and frequently heard on Women's Suffrage platforms. He is one of the warmest, as well as the most able, friends that we have.

Mr. JOSEPH McCABE, formerly a Franciscan monk and Professor of Scholastic Philosophy, is now a lecturer, journalist, author, and an untiring advocate of woman's enfranchisement. Is a fluent and convincing speaker.

**Platform VII.**—Dr. ETHEL BENTHAM, formerly of Newcastle-on-Tyne, and now of London, an ardent social reformer, and a member of the executive of the Fabian Society and of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. Dr. Bentham made a plucky fight in Kensington as a candidate for the L.C.C. As a member of

the medical profession she denounced the forcible feeding of women suffragists in Holloway, and the Fabian Society sent a resolution to the Home Secretary endorsing her comments on the matter. Is member of the I.L.P. and Women's Labour League.

MISS MARGARET McMILLAN has devoted her life to the whole task of elementary education. She formed the first cleansing committee in England (on the Bradford School Board). She initiated baths and voice-producing training in Bradford schools and changed the methods of elementary education in drawing, drill, and treatment of young children, and has written many informing books on the subjects. On her lies the responsibility for the far-reaching clause that gave medical inspection in the Provisions Act of 1907. She is a splendid and convincing speaker.

Dr. L. HADEN GUEST, who is an L.C.C. school doctor, and works at an experimental dispensary and school clinic in Southwark, has for some years been a member of the Fabian executive, and frequently lectures for the society. He has contributed to the *Christian Commonwealth*, written dramatic criticisms for the *New Age*, and is an enthusiastic social reformer.

Mr. A. FENNER BROCKWAY is a member of the Independent Labour Party, and sub-editor of the *Christian Commonwealth*.

#### PLATFORM.

I.—W.F.L.	Mrs. Despard. Mrs. Cobden Sanderson. Miss Irene Miller. Mr. G. E. O'Dell.
II.—Professional	Miss Marie Lawson. Mrs. Morgan Dockrell. Mrs. Ayres Purdie. Mr. J. M. Mitchell.
III.—Industrial	Miss Neilans. Miss E. Gore Booth. Mr. W. J. Read. Mr. E. H. Pickersgill, M.P.
IV.—University	Miss Hicks, M.A. Mrs. How Martyn. Dr. F. A. Bather, F.R.S. Surg.-Gen. G. J. H. Evatt, C.B., M.D., R.A.M.C.
V.—Church	Rev. Llewellyn Smith. Rev. C. Hinscliff. Rev. G. W. Thompson. Father Healey.
VI.—Art and Literature	Mrs. H. W. Nevinson. Mr. Laurence Housman. Mr. Joseph McCabe. Dr. Ethel Bentham.
VII.—Reform	Miss M. McMillan. Dr. L. Haden Guest. Mr. A. Fenner Brockway.

Girls have again been prominent in the public examinations this year. The number of the candidates has been high, and the results lists show many brilliant achievements. Girls nowadays compete with male students under equal conditions in all the exams., and they are eligible for all the prizes and other awards save one. The exception is the travelling scholarship for modern languages, given through the London Chamber of Commerce, by the Salter Company. After having been won for several years by students from the ladies' department of Pitman's School, the scholarships have now for two years been reserved for male competitors. What a great opportunity exists for some public body to display both gallantry and encouragement to an important branch of modern education, by instituting a scholarship in modern languages for girls.—From *Pitman's Business Life*.

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## MR. CECIL CHAPMAN, J.P., ON THE CHANGE OF POLICY IN THE MEN'S LEAGUE.



MR. CECIL CHAPMAN, J.P.

As announced in our last issue, the Men's League for Women's Suffrage have decided to adopt a stronger and more effective policy in future and to oppose at any by-elections and at the General Election all Government candidates with the exception of those who have rendered effective support to the Conciliation Committee, until a Woman's Suffrage Bill shall be carried into law. Hitherto it has been the policy of the Men's League to discriminate between Parliamentary candidates by a system of pledges, and the resolution, which was proposed by Mr. Malcolm Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Brailsford, and carried by a majority of 136 at a meeting held at Anderton's Hotel, has been received with great satisfaction by all the Women's Suffrage Societies. Mr. Cecil Chapman, J.P., police magistrate at Tower Bridge, one of the most important and convincing speakers to be heard on any suffrage platform, and a prominent member of the executive committee of the Men's League, gave a representative of THE VOTE his views on the recent change of policy.

"I was away when the resolution was passed," said Mr. Chapman, "but I read of it with feelings of the most profound satisfaction. If every suffrage association would adopt the anti-Government policy no Government could stand against us. They would have to give way. If a cause is to be successful it must be made the first cause by those who promote it; and if a league is desirous of gaining strength and of achieving its purpose at an early date there must be no suspicion of flabbiness about its executive. Talks about the excellence of a cause have about as much effect upon politicians as weekly sermons have upon ordinary human beings. There is nothing like the knowledge of an enemy to fight to make one bear in mind the living importance of the cause to which one is attached."

"You think, then, that the fact of concentrating their forces in a systematic attack upon the Government, and making a Woman's Suffrage Bill their insistent and definite demand, leaving aside the Lords, Tariff Reform, Free Trade, and other minor matters, is the best thing that our male supporters can do at the present time?"

"I do. The causes in which people are interested are exactly like the old coaches which desired to get through Temple Bar, and the man who always made way for a persistent driver on another coach never got through at all. Even if one approved of the destination of the other coaches and were friendly with the drivers, one's own coach should always go through first. Now that the men have adopted a definite and clear policy there is sure to be an immediate increase in the membership of the Men's League."

"But there have been some resignations?"

"Yes. The new policy is a test of the earnestness of the men's desire that justice shall be done to the women, and it will result for the moment in a weeding out of those who, while approving of women's suffrage and desiring it—probably with considerable sincerity—are unwilling to place it before other political issues. The plan of action of the League now is definite, and everyone who joins—and I can prophesy an immediate increase in membership—

knows that he must put the woman's question before everything else. Militant action has broken down the Press boycott, and similarly an anti-Governmental policy, if universally adopted, would break the Government. There is no question before the country which ought to be considered before it, as there is no question before the country in which women are not concerned. It is an immoral doctrine which declares that women shall be taxed, their Church be disestablished, their lives be decided for them without their having a voice in any of these things. Until the women are heard no question can be decided with equity, and therefore the first question with everyone who thinks this way should be that a Suffrage Bill be made law at the earliest possible date."

"But your League has made some exceptions in the event of a General Election."

"Yes, those Liberals who stood by the Conciliation Committee and gave it effective help will not be attacked in any way. We could hardly work against those who have worked so well for us."

"In what way can the women's leagues help to strengthen the Men's League in their new policy?"

"By gathering in members for us. It ought to be easy to suggest to men sympathisers that they should join the Men's League, and if every woman suffragist made up her mind to get us a new member a month our membership would presently become all that we could wish it to be. To make men who express sympathy with the cause—and the man who does not is getting rarer and rarer—practically useful ought to be easy, and the test of real sympathy would be the resolution to join the Men's League and put this matter before all others. I would like to see all the women's associations doing their best to bring in from their male acquaintances fresh recruits to the Men's League. To join now that there is this change of policy is a test of sincerity."

"But, Mr. Chapman, have you not read that in the course of an interview with a Suffrage deputation at Criccieth last week Mr. Lloyd George said that he wondered why the Prime Minister's pledge to give facilities for a democratic measure was not given a fair chance—and that all the reward that Ministers have had for fighting the cause of women was abuse and insult?"

"Bluff, and nothing else. There is not a member of the Government who has made a single sincere effort to further the women's question on any basis, democratic or otherwise."

"And in the course of the same interview Mr. Lloyd George practically promised to support the Conciliation Bill. He said: 'You may take it from me I am in favour of compromise. If I cannot get a perfect bill, I still say that if you cannot carry a solid Women's Suffrage Bill which I think is the right one I should be in favour of supporting the best I could get. But then I fight for the best.' Do you think any reliance might be placed upon this prophetic utterance?"

"I think that was a platform remark, which makes me recall with approval Sir Peter Teazle's words to Joseph Surface: 'Oh, damn your noble sentiments.'"

M. O. KENNEDY.

### Actresses' Franchise League.—Adelphi Terrace House, W.C.

The first "At Home" of the autumn season will take place in the Grand Hall of the Criterion Restaurant on Friday next, October 7th, at 3 p.m. The speakers will be Mrs. Boulnois and Miss Martin, of the Conservative Women's Franchise Association, Sir William Chance, Bart., and the Rev. Dr. Cobb. Lady Sybil Smith has kindly consented to sing on this occasion. Miss Lena Ashwell will be in the chair, and Miss Lillian Braithwaite will act as hostess. Members of all Suffrage Societies and friends are cordially invited to this "At Home."

### Sussex Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

The following resolution was passed unanimously on September 26th, 1910: "That a special campaign be instituted by the Sussex Men's League for Women's Suffrage, to secure the passage in the present session of the Conciliation Bill now before Parliament, and that, for this purpose, it is necessary at once to rent an office and engage an Organising Secretary."

### OUR TREASURY.

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3612	0	2		10	0	0	
10	0	0		10	0	0	
10	0	0		10	0	0	

ably manage to put in a certain sum weekly, and however small the amount it would mean something in a year. I wish also to say that it will be a great help to me if the Branch Treasurers will tell me when they find any

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OUR TREASURY.

Table listing donors and amounts for the treasury, including names like Knight, Dr. E., Tite, Miss C., and various branches.

A few days ago a letter was received from Miss Allan, Treasurer of the Dundee Branch, ordering some more little cardboard collecting boxes...

ably manage to put in a certain sum weekly, and however small the amount it would mean something in a year. I wish also to say that it will be a great help to me if the Branch Treasurers will tell me when they find any particular form of collecting successful.—CONSTANCE TITE.

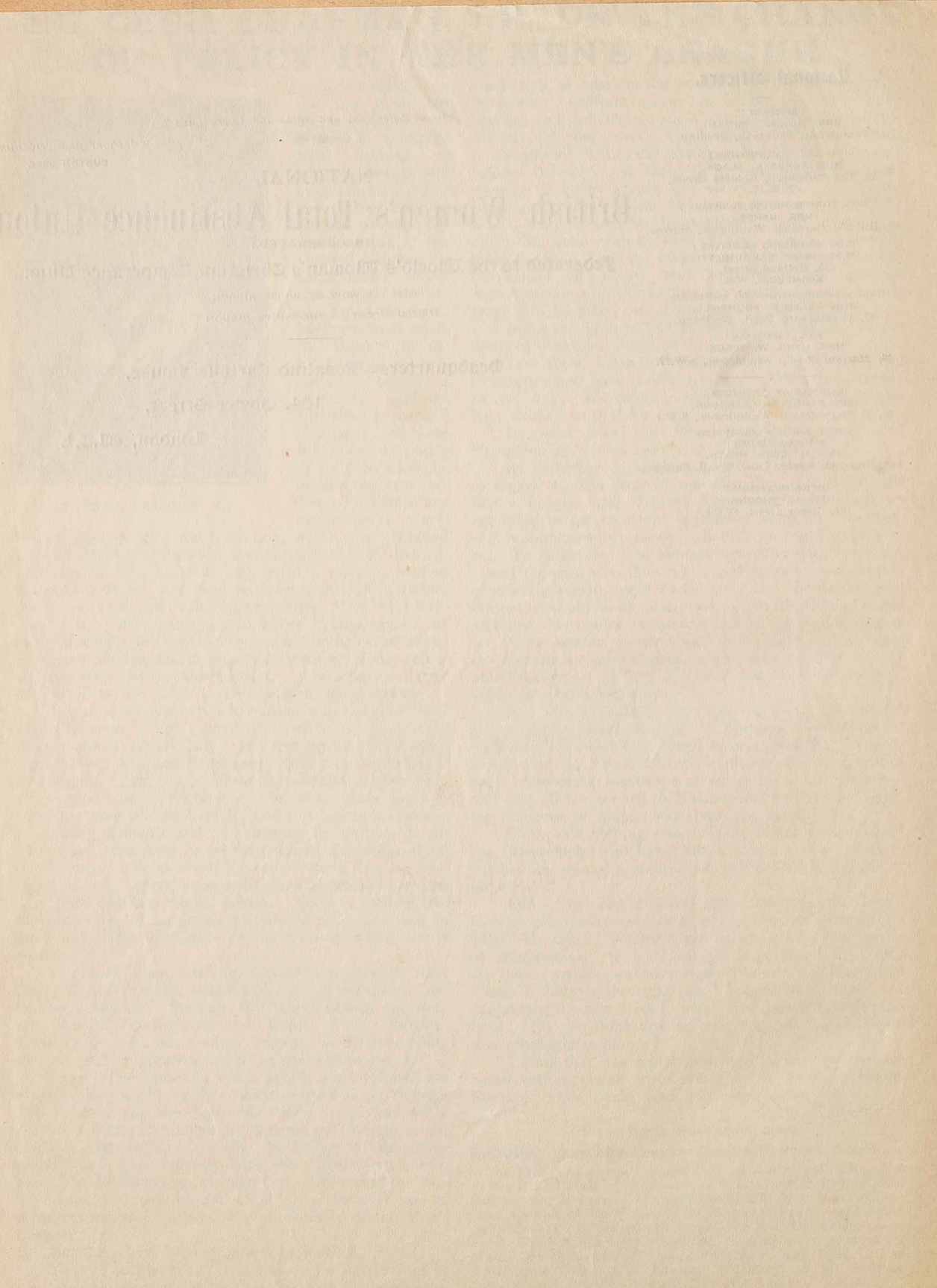
CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of THE VOTE. DEAR MADAM,—One of the stock questions of the man in the street is, "When you get the vote, will you want to sit in Parliament?" I think no better answer can be given than the news that comes to us from the State of Oklahoma...

LECTURE ON SHELLEY.

On Sunday, November 6th, Mrs. Despard will lecture on Shelley's "Prometheus Unbound," at Queen's Hall, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets, 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d., are now on sale at 1, Robert Street.

W.F.L. MEMBERS! Do not forget the first Members' Reunion, to be held on Friday, October 7th, at 1, Robert Street, at 7.30 p.m.



and it will result for the moment in a weeding out of those who, while approving of women's suffrage and desiring it—probably with considerable sincerity—are unwilling to place it before other political issues.

Sussex Men's League for Women's Suffrage. The following resolution was passed unanimously on September 26th, 1910: "That a special campaign be instituted by the Sussex Men's League for Women's Suffrage, to secure the passage in the present session of the Conciliation Bill...

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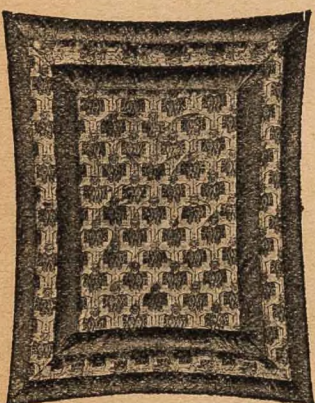


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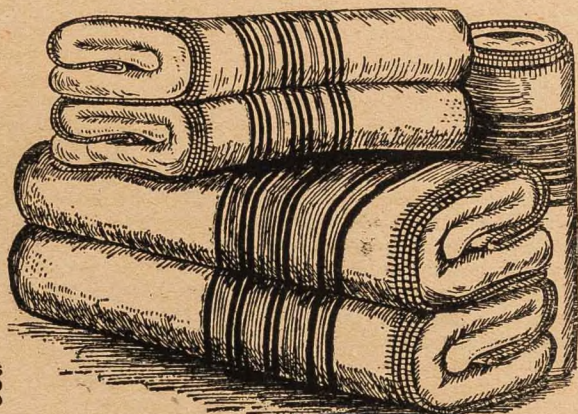
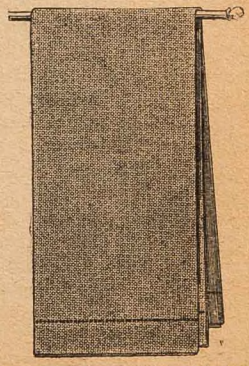


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## THE VOTE.

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1910.

### AN OPEN LETTER TO MR. LLOYD GEORGE.

SIR,—On three recent occasions you have spoken on Women's Suffrage: on the first in the House of Commons, making an attack upon the Conciliation Women's Suffrage Bill; on the second at Bodnant, defying the storm of resentment and protest which your deflection from the Suffragist ranks had aroused; and on the third at Criccieth, seeking after justification, and leaving open—in case it should prove desirable later—a way of repentance and recantation. Each of these occasions has only served to convince the watcher that your present attitude of opposition to the Conciliation Bill is neither a pleasant nor an easy one, neither dignified nor consistent. It is evident from your words, from your assertions, from your repetitions, and particularly from the persistence with which you refer to the keeping of pledges, that you are conscious of some elements of unworthiness in the political game to which you have committed yourself.

In the House of Commons you and your colleague, Mr. Winston Churchill, laboured together to kill a measure of which, without your intervention, the fate would have been certain of success. You took the popular and only remaining line of opposition—that making the profession of such a wide democracy that it will give women nothing because it cannot give them all. You rejected and condemned a Bill which had been specially drafted to remove the objections of Radicals to the older Sex Equality Bill by delivering women from all those franchises which have been questioned while in practice for men. Having during fifteen years consistently supported the Sex Equality Bill, which a section of Radicals and Labourists have condemned as retrogressive and undemocratic, you reject, with like charges, a measure which these same Radicals and Labourists have agreed to accept as a first step towards the universal Suffrage goal.

But the House of Commons speech was remarkable for something more than this right-about-face. It was remarkable for your admission that a vote in favour of the Conciliation Bill on the Second Reading would be equal to a Third Reading vote on any ordinary Bill. This means that in your opinion—the opinion of a Cabinet Minister and a lawyer—the House would commit itself to the Bill becoming law by endorsing its Second Reading. Now Democrats—and this should especially apply to those who make the phrases of democracy their footstool to power—must always regard the inner circle of Government as finally subject to the will of the House. If the Representative House wills, the Cabinet must yield. If the Representative House censures, the Government must resign. This is clear and incontrovertible. Admitting this, you sought to dissuade the House from expressing a favourable verdict. But the House decided against you. Then surely, while the terms of democracy are upon your lips, it would be more fitting on your part to accept the democratic will of the House, and, instead of providing the Prime Minister with excuses and the means of evasion, to counsel him to remove his undemocratic veto in the interests of liberty and true Liberalism. There can be no escape from the admission you made in the House. You proved that you considered the verdict on the Second Reading a conclusive one. You made it too plain that you refused to support the Bill for this reason. You offered, if the Bill were made into a mere advertising dodge—as Mr. Stanger's Bill was—if it were changed from a serious legislative proposal to a meaningless resolution without potency or power—to vote for it. This was your sole condition. You would not vote for the law in the making. You offered to vote for the pretentiousness of empty words. This offer does not only make clear your opinion as to

what the Second Reading vote involved; it also raises the suspicion that your support of Women's Suffrage in the past was of the same value that you yourself set upon it now.

Speaking at Bodnant, you dealt first in foolish sentimentalities, and concluded with a callous revelation of your indifference to the democracy involved in women's freedom.

To an audience of women who had once believed in you you dared to say that, so far as you were concerned, the right of the British woman to vote—the inalienable right of political liberty—must come after the settlement of such questions as Home Rule and Welsh Disestablishment. Home Rule may be within reach of this generation—though many well-informed people doubt it—but Welsh Disestablishment is still afar off. In any case, the talk of priority of consideration suggested in this speech is a mere heartless pretence of excuse. Women's Suffrage requires only a few days of Parliamentary time in order to become law. It can be passed into law at any time—the moment the Government opens the way, or stands out of the way of the Suffragists in the House.

Your reference to your Albert Hall pledge on the same occasion, and also at Criccieth, is amusing. Your pledge on that occasion and on subsequent ones was entirely without conditions. The only member of the Cabinet who has indulged in pledges hedged round with conditions—which were obviously so many doors of escape—was the Prime Minister. To a statesman with your ambition it may be natural for the hopes of future dignities to cast their shadows before, and it may account for the confusion between your own pledges and those of Mr. Asquith which exists in your mind; but this can scarcely be accepted by us as a satisfactory explanation of your imposition of conditions now instead of at the time the pledges were made. It should be clear to a man of law that there is no way of escape along these lines.

At Criccieth, after attempting vainly to find personal justification upon the old lines by condemning the Bill and adding conditions to your previous promises, you went on to utter some words dictated by the politician's wisdom—the wisdom of the serpent. You said that you desired the House of Commons to have opportunities of considering alternative schemes of settlement, without stating how the generous allowance of time could be secured. You professed to believe that a wider measure of Women's Suffrage would pass the House, though you failed to indicate how the Conservatives were to be won to bless it, how the Government was to be won to grant time for it, or how the House of Lords could be constrained to pass it into law. But, having thus made wise provision for the using up of more Parliamentary time than we are ever likely to have offered us, you state that if ultimately this Bill is proved to be the only one likely to pass into law you would reconsider your position.

This last pronouncement is distinctly on Asquithian lines. It is a vague and indefinite statement contingent upon a series of improbabilities, and of absolutely no value to Suffragists. We protest against it. It stands for nothing. It commits you to nothing. It leaves us still so placed that a certainty is to be abandoned if our enemies are to be persuaded to stand out of the way. We must put aside the Conciliation Bill in order to please you and to win your tardy admission of its practical nature. We must destroy its chances that you may be won to make a tardy admission that it ought to have passed. But of what value will those admissions be when the Bill is killed? This is surely the crucial point.

We reply to you in these terms. We say it is your duty as a responsible legislator to be sure of your facts. We say it is your duty to examine and decide upon the reasoned statement of policy adopted for the overcoming of the Parliamentary difficulties by the Conciliation Committee. We are sure of our grounds. It is your duty to be sure of yours. Unless the historian is in the future to write down your attitude to women's enfranchisement in terms uncomplimentary to your memory, it is essential that you should, even at this late hour, recognise your duty to women and to yourself, and withdraw your opposition from the Conciliation Bill.—Yours faithfully,

TERESA BILLINGTON GREIG.

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### BRANCH NOTES.

LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL.—I, Robert Street Adelphi,

Battersea.—37, Park Road, St. John's Hill, Wandsworth.

Mrs. Cunningham took the chair on Tuesday, September 27th, at Mossbury Road. She was listened to with attention while she showered home-truths upon the electors of Battersea. She dealt chiefly with the need of the Vote for the betterment of the women workers. Dr. Macpherson spoke next and gave many examples from life where the Vote would benefit the women. We disposed of our stock of papers. On Friday, September 30th, we met at Winders Road. Mrs. Reader presided, and Dr. Macpherson and Mr. Duval spoke. Both answered many questions and had a most friendly reception. Threatening clouds made a meeting on Clapham Common doubtful on Sunday, October 2nd. We started at 5.30, Mrs. Duval taking the chair, and there was the prospect of a big crowd. Mrs. Tanner then addressed the meeting for a few minutes, when a terrific down-pour of rain drove people to shelter and cleared the common, in addition to which the common keeper announced sunset, when vans must be cleared off the common. Nothing daunted, we all jumped into the cart and drove to Mossbury Road. Here, as it was still raining, we commenced with a miserably small audience. Mrs. Tanner, however, gradually collected a crowd and drove home her Suffrage arguments. Mr. Simpson followed with a most eloquent speech, illustrated with many humorous asides. When he had finished there were only one or two questions, which he and Mrs. Tanner answered to the satisfaction of a crowd which had grown to a considerable size. A highly satisfactory meeting.—EMILY D. DUVAL, Hon. Secretary.

Herne Hill and Norwood.—32, Geneva Road, Brixton, S.W.

On Tuesday afternoon, September 27th, a very successful drawing-room meeting was held at the residence of Mrs. Jenks, 170, Peckham Rye, S.E. The speakers were Dr. Alice Vickery and Mrs. Manson. Dr. Vickery presided, and in an opening speech referred to the present aspect of the Suffrage movement. After a very pleasant interval for conversation and refreshments, Mrs. Manson gave a very interesting address on "Women's Suffrage as the basis of Social Reform." She also spoke of the results of women's votes in those countries where they have already obtained them, referring especially to New Zealand, where in a few years the rate of infant mortality has been reduced to the lowest in the world. There was a good attendance of members and friends at this very interesting and

pleasant meeting. A new member joined our branch, and some badges, copies of THE VOTE and other literature were sold.—B. SPENCER, Hon. Secretary.

Crystal Palace and Anerley District.—149, Croydon Road.

On Monday at the tram terminus Miss Fennings spoke for over an hour and a half to a gradually increasing crowd. The Lord Cromer type of objection was advanced by an anti-Suffragist who gained the applause of small boys and irresponsible youths. Our opponents seemed to be slow of comprehension, displaying an irritating stupidity which was particularly trying to the speaker, who was very tired. As THE VOTE was not going very well, Miss Fennings started selling from the box, and disposed of over a dozen, most of which were bought by an unknown man sympathiser, who distributed them amongst the crowd, and whose chivalry had evidently been stirred by the behaviour of the Antis. A fair collection was taken.—J. M. F.

Croydon.—9, Morland Avenue.

On September 30th the usual Friday evening meeting was held at South Norwood clock. Unfortunately Mr. J. Simpson, of the Men's League, was ill, and so was unable to speak as arranged. All the work fell on Miss Fennings, who spoke on the Conciliation Bill, among other aspects of the Woman's Suffrage movement. A number of questions were asked and well answered, and several of the usual objections raised by a few persistent Antis. THE VOTE was sold and a collection taken. At Morland Road on Saturday evening, October 1st, a fair crowd assembled, although the ground was very wet. Miss Sutcliffe spoke at some length, showing by historical references how great reforms had been fought for and won, and then explained the present need of the protection of the Vote for women in the industrial world. She was followed by Dr. Macpherson, who so ably and wholeheartedly supports our cause. Questions were answered by both speakers. A number of copies of THE VOTE were sold and a small collection was taken.—E. T.

Northern Heights and Tottenham.—Merok, Great North Rd., Highgate, N.

A day of brilliant sunshine made us wish that we had not decided that October 2nd should see our last open-air meeting in Finsbury Park. A large crowd listened with interest to Miss Dyer and Mr. J. Simpson. Miss Dyer dealt chiefly with Mr. Lloyd George's latest utterances, while Mr. Simpson explained the Conciliation Bill, and afterwards answered questions. A good collection was taken and VOTES sold. We should like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who have spoken in the park this summer, and also those members of the Men's League who have so staunchly supported us every Sunday.—ADA MITCHELL.

Three meetings have been held in Highgate to advertise the "Vote Girl's" coming. On Friday Miss Coyle held a dinner-hour meeting at the corner of Brunswick Road, and Mrs. Fisher kindly helped by selling VOTES. Two meetings were held on Saturday, the first at three p.m., by Mr. J. Simpson, at the corner of Geisbach Road, and the second in the evening at seven p.m., opposite the Winchester Hotel, when Miss E. Fennings and Mr. Manson spoke. Miss Fennings dealt with the Suffrage generally, and explained the "Vote Girl" scheme, while Mr. Manson gave a man's reasons for working for the enfranchisement of women, and explained the new policy of the Men's League. Miss J. Fennings kindly came over and sold VOTES.—ADA MITCHELL.

Acton.—153, St. Alban's Avenue, Chiswick, W.

A large meeting was held at Acton Market Place on Thursday, September 29th, when Miss Fennings spoke, Miss Raleigh being chairman. An alcoholic gentleman who desired to quote Josephus and generally make irrelevant remarks, merely succeeded in rousing admiration of our speaker's power of concentration, since he failed entirely to disturb her arguments. After the departure of Miss Fennings questions were dealt with by Miss Raleigh for fully half an hour, adult Suffrage being advocated by a man who had never heard of Mr. Geoffrey Howard or his Bill. A satisfactory collection was then taken, including a penny from the "Alcoholic One."—E. G. WOOD.

WALES.—Hon. Organiser: Mrs. Cleaves, Chez Nous, Sketty, S.O., Glam.

On Friday evening, September 30th, at 7.30, we held an exceedingly well attended meeting at Cory Hall, at which Mrs. Billington-Greig and Mrs. How Martyn were the speakers. Mrs. D. A. Thomas, the member's wife, in the chair. Mrs. K. Manson was to have spoken, but was unavoidably prevented, so Mrs. How Martyn very kindly came from Cheltenham at extremely short notice to take her place. Mrs. D. A. Thomas, who was excellently received, opened the meeting in her usual happy manner. Mrs. How Martyn followed with an instructive speech, into which she deftly introduced the Municipal Lodging House for Women question, a subject that is at present exciting the interest and sympathy of the "thinking" citizens of Cardiff. Her speech was listened to with evident interest. The event of the evening came with Mrs. Billington-Greig, who had just arrived from Glasgow. She spoke for over an hour on the Conciliation Bill. Her dissection of the methods of Mr. Lloyd George and the Cabinet generally was very fine, and, considering she was addressing a Welsh audience, was listened to with great patience and attention. It was most gratifying to note the composition of the audience as compared with previous meetings. Some prominent business and professional men were observed



listening with the closest attention and following with delight the many telling points the speaker made. The applause was frequent, and when Mrs. Billington-Greig closed her brilliant speech, it was a subject of general comment as to her ability, oratorical powers, and convincing earnestness. A few more such meetings, and the cause in Cardiff would be materially strengthened. The resolution for the withdrawal of the opposition to the Conciliation Bill was carried by a large majority, and a great number of post cards to the Chancellor of the Exchequer were distributed as the audience left the hall.—FLORENCE C. WOOLF, Hon. Secretary, South Glamorgan Branch.

**MANCHESTER DISTRICT.**—Hon. Organiser: Miss Manning, B.A., Harper Hill, Sale, Cheshire.

Branches: Manchester Central, Eccles, Urmston, Sale.

This week Miss Eunice Murray has been with us, and her visit has brought with it fresh enthusiasm and new opportunities of work for our members. South Salford was visited on Tuesday, and meetings were held outside Coventry and Smiths and Hulse's works in the dinner-hour. At the second meeting we caught also the employees at Gresham and Craven's and Hamilton and Woods' works, and secured a large and interested audience. From 6.30 to 8 p.m., a carriage flying the colours drove round the constituency to advertise a mass meeting on the Broadway in the evening. On our arrival we found the pitch occupied by a quack doctor, but this proved ultimately an advantage, as we quickly captured the medical gentleman's crowd, which followed our carriage across the way and increased steadily in size until 10 p.m., when we closed with a unanimous resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill. The same night Miss Neal held a meeting in the I.L.P. Rooms, Middleton, and gained new members for the Manchester Branch.

On Wednesday the Sale Branch met in the Temperance Rooms, Cross Street. A full room and a sympathetic audience awaited Miss Murray, Mrs. Nidd, and Miss Neal, and three excellent speeches were delivered. A good collection was taken, literature sold, and friends and members took away with them Pass Along Forms to fill by October 10th. Two new members gave in their names at this meeting. On Thursday we were the guests of Mrs. and Miss Daly in the afternoon at "Edenhurst," Sale, and of Mrs. Hanlin in the evening. Two delightful meetings were held, and again two new members were secured. We are most grateful to friends who so kindly put their rooms at our disposal, and wish that more would offer afternoon and evening "At Homes," by means of which many recruits can be gained for the League.

Friday morning found us at Broadheath, where a meeting was held outside Richards' works. This had been well advertised beforehand by a male sympathiser from Sale, and our post cards to Mr. Asquith were all quickly filled, so that we had to postpone a meeting outside the Linotype works until Tuesday next. The evening "At Home" at Urmston was small but most enjoyable. New members were made, and through the instrumentality of one of the gentlemen present a dinner-hour meeting was arranged for Thursday next, outside the C.W.S. works at Irlams.

On Saturday VOTE selling was the order of the day, and a phalanx of Suffragettes lined up outside the Gaiety Theatre determined to "sell out," before forming part of the house, which was being educated in Suffrage principles by Mr. Houghton's play "Independent Means." We sold out, and quickly too. THE VOTE, indeed, is in request this week. A pile lying beside one member in St. Ann's Café proved quite too seductive; we lost a VOTE, but, we hope, gained a sympathiser for the future. Miss Murray, by her wit and wide experience of the movement, is giving us a splendid opening for the autumn work. Those who heard her at Mrs. Hanlin's will long remember the tale of the London charwoman who said the whole of the movement depended on her. It depends on each one of us, and we can pass the Bill.

This week we must see to it that the big joint demonstration in Alexandra Park is a success. The following platforms have been arranged: W.F.L., W.S.P.U., Men's League, and Men's Political Union, Women Workers, Education. Among our speakers will be Mrs. Aldridge (Women's Trades Union Council), Mrs. Lawson (President of the Midwives Association), Mrs. Ann A. Robinson, Councilor Johnstone, Mrs. Maud Gordon, and others. Helpers are wanted to sell literature and collect at the Park Gate, to bill, chalk, and engage in umbrella parades during the week. Send your names to me and work will be found. Be at Alexandra Park punctually on October 8th at 3.15, and bring every friend you possess.—M. E. MANNING.

A number of Branch Notes have had to be held over until next week owing to pressure on our space.

### SCOTTISH NOTES.

Glasgow Office: 302, SAUCHIEHALL STREET, GLASGOW.

Office Secretary: Miss McARTHUR.

Hon. Treasurer: Miss BUXTEN.

Telegrams: "Tactics," Glasgow. Nat. Telephone: 495 Douglas.

**Glasgow.**  
A very successful cake and candy sale was held in the Glasgow Centre, 302, Sauchiehall Street, on Saturday, October 1st. The opening ceremony took place at 3 p.m., Baillie Guest officiating in the absence of Miss Eunice Murray. Miss Jeanie Scrymgeour proved a most efficient chairwoman, introducing in a clever and facetious speech our esteemed Baillie, and pointing out the laudable fact that twice during the week we have had prominent representatives of the Town Council presiding at our functions. In his opening address, Baillie

Guest said it afforded him great pleasure to be able to give public expression of his views on women's Suffrage, and in his capacity on the Bench it caused him food for thought when he realised that the debased criminal men who passed before him had the right to control the destinies of our nation, while the same right was denied to women who are now men's equals in all spheres of work—including literature and art. He saw no reason why every woman should not be entrusted with a vote, and as we have fought so keenly for it, he voiced the hope that we will appreciate it better than those who got it easily. Money was very necessary as the sinews of war, and trusting the sale would be very successful, he had much pleasure in declaring it open. Hearty votes of thanks were given to Baillie Guest and Miss Scrymgeour, and then the company dispersed to the various stalls attractively set out with dainty and toothsome wares.

Miss Dickie, convener of the Central Division, was responsible for all contributions and sales, and worked incessantly, being helped by a tireless committee. Mrs. Scrymgeour presided in the kitchen, supervising the tea-making, while willing assistants waited at the tables, and Miss Perritt took charge of all moneys. Upstairs Miss B. Semple was kept busy at palmistry, predicting many nice things for her clientèle, and Messrs. Scrymgeour and Carleton, of the Men's League, gave valuable service in many ways.

The outstanding features of the function were the splendid concerts undertaken by Miss Kate Evans, whose special concert party surprised everyone by its wealth of genuine talent and variety, each artist having to respond to numerous encores. By special request Miss Evans twice gave her own exceedingly humorous Suffrage reading, "How Bridget Flanagan 'Rushed' the House of Commons," her natural acting and rich brogue sending the audience into uncontrollable fits of laughter. At the close Mrs. R. Wilson, an ever-green chairwoman, called for a hearty vote of thanks to Miss Evans and party, who greatly contributed to the success of the undertaking.

"AT HOMES."—The first "At Home" of the season was held at the Suffrage Centre on Wednesday evening, September 28th, when Mrs. Scrymgeour was hostess. There was a large gathering despite the inclement weather. Miss Bessie Semple was in the chair, and in a telling speech introduced Councilor Pratt, the speaker of the evening. Mr. Pratt spoke of the remarkable success which had attended his motion in Glasgow Corporation: "That this Corporation petition Parliament in favour of the Women's Enfranchisement Bill." Carried by acclamation. He then took up the question of the issues which would result from the granting of the Suffrage, and showed that both men and women would benefit from the entrance of women into citizenship, and that only the speedy passage of this measure, as a beginning, could avert the national dangers which threatened from legislation created exclusively by one sex. Mr. Pratt's eloquent words were heartily applauded throughout. Mrs. Carmichael sang with much acceptance to Mr. Mabon's able accompaniment, and Mr. Smith played piano selections. Mr. Scrymgeour, in moving thanks to the speakers and artists, made a strong appeal to all the men present to join the Men's League, and stated that there was no political work of which they would feel in future days more honourably proud than in having helped in this crowning act of justice. The meeting was generally regarded as a very satisfactory send-off for the session.

**Edinburgh.**—Shop and headquarters, 33, Forrest Road.

Hon. Secretary, Miss A. B. JACK. Hon. Treasurer, Miss M. A. WOOD.

On Tuesday, September 27th, Miss Gillooly spoke to a good audience at the afternoon "At Home." Nothing could more forcibly bring home to us our urgent need of the Vote than the facts which Miss Gillooly, from her actual experiences as an agent of the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society, is able to put before us. We were made to realise afresh that the disabilities under which women suffer are the root of a very great deal of evil. At the same time we are glad, as Miss Munro said, to know that the sympathy and kindness extended to the female prisoners by Miss Gillooly and the ladies of the visiting committee are so often productive of good results. The appointment of this committee is undoubtedly one of the good, though indirect, results of the Suffrage agitation. Week by week the attendance at our afternoon "At Homes" grows, and we are encouraged not only by the regular presence of members, but also by the fact that nearly always we have a few strangers. That the latter are often sufficiently interested to return to us is proved by the enrolment during the past summer of thirty-three new members. Now that the winter's work is starting, with evening meetings in addition to the "At Homes," we hope that this rate of increase will be more than maintained. Come, and bring a friend! Remember that a large membership is a concrete answer to the objection that women do not really want the Vote; so are big meetings. Let Mrs. Brailsford's meeting on October 24th and Mrs. Despard's on November 6th be as big as we can possibly make them. For the sale on November 5th contributions have begun to arrive. More will be gratefully received at the shop, which is now open daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.—HELEN MCLACHLAN, Assistant Secretary.

In next week's *Vote* the Vote Girl will relate her experiences and will give the names and addresses of the prize-winners.

**Mrs. Julia Ward Howe said:**—

"In the experience of many years I have always found the advocates of woman suffrage occupying higher moral ground than that held by their opponents."

## VISIT OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO SWANSEA.

### Opening of the Campaign.

In the midst of Mr. Lloyd George's country the Women's Freedom League opened its special campaign, organised by Mrs. Cleaves, Hon. District Organiser and member of the N.E.C., to call upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer to withdraw his opposition to the Conciliation Bill and to use his influence with the Cabinet to pass it into law. At Gorseinon, a mining town, on Thursday, September 29th, the first big indoor meeting was held, and a fine audience soon gathered in the skating rink to hear Mrs. Despard and Miss Alison Neilans, every seat being paid for. Mr. Harding, a well-known local gentleman, introduced the speakers. Miss Neilans touched upon the domestic aspect of politics and the necessity for giving women the protection of the Vote. Mrs. Despard, who finds her way into the hearts of the Welsh people at once by her wonderful eloquence and magnetic personality, followed with a speech of such passionate earnestness that the audience sat spellbound until the end, and then burst into applause both loud and long. After questions had been answered, a resolution calling upon the Government for facilities for the Conciliation Bill was passed without a single dissident, and then the postcards which are to be sent to Mr. Lloyd George, asking him to withdraw his opposition to the Bill, were taken by nearly every member of the audience.

### Sketty and Gwan-cae-gurwen Meetings.

On Friday, Mrs. Hutton, the Hon. Treasurer of the Swansea Branch, gave a drawing-room meeting to members and friends, to meet Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Wood, and Mrs. Vulliamy, and again the greatest enthusiasm was aroused. Mrs. Wood (of Glasgow) introduced her two colleagues. Mrs. Vulliamy, speaking upon the Church Congress at Cambridge, from which she had come, and approaching the whole movement from rather a new standpoint, suggested that those present should examine the reasons which women gave for wanting the Vote with those given by the "Antis" for not wanting it, and to compare the outlook upon life revealed in these two points of view. Mrs. Despard, taking her listeners outside the comparatively small area of thought around votes as such, spoke of the spiritual and ethical significance of making women free—free to think and act and to express themselves. After her speech everyone was anxious to speak to and shake hands with the President of the League, whose life work has so rightly made her honoured wherever she goes. A Suffragist, however, has always to be "moving on," especially at a time like the present, and so this pleasant gathering had to be hurriedly left, and speakers and workers motored fifteen miles to Gwan-cae-gurwen, in the heart of the mining country, where again Mrs. Vulliamy, Mrs. Despard, and Miss Alison Neilans spoke to an enthusiastic meeting, presided over by Mr. Davis, passed their resolution, again without a dissident, and had postcards eagerly taken and signed for sending to Mr. Lloyd George.

### Meetings at Maesteg and Ystalyfera.

Saturday was a field day, but under Mrs. Cleaves' capable management all went well. Swansea rubbed its eyes in the morning to see a dozen well-dressed women, in brilliant sunshine, walking in the road with umbrellas up and wearing the regalia of the League. The *raison d'être* of the umbrellas became apparent as each passed when huge bills announcing the forthcoming Albert Hall meeting at Swansea were seen pinned to the outside. Before the beholders had recovered themselves the parade had passed, and so there was no unpleasantness at all, but, on the contrary, much kindly good-will shown.

Mr. Howard Hyde, one of the Associates, took the chair at night at Maesteg for Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Sproson, with the usual results of enthusiasm, resolution passed, and postcards signed. All the speakers were well received, and it is obvious that South Wales at least believes in the claims of the Suffragists.

At Ystalyfera, on the same night, Mrs. Cleaves, Mrs. Vulliamy, and Mrs. Billington-Greig held a crowded meeting in the Public Hall. The chair was taken by Mr. Davis, and after Mrs. Vulliamy had pointed out the many disadvantages of an unenfranchised section of the community Mrs. Billington-Greig dealt forcibly with the present political situation and carefully analysed the Radical opposition to the Conciliation Bill. The postcards were distributed in hundreds at the close of the meeting, the resolution was carried, and a number of women joined the League.

### Albert Hall Reception and Mass Meeting.

On Monday afternoon, October 3rd, the Lady Mayoress (Mrs. David Matthews) presided in the Albert Hall to welcome the members of the N.E.C. to Swansea. In a few courteous sentences Mrs. Matthews mentioned the object of the reception, and said that she thought it probable that when she had more time to study the question she would become a member of the Freedom League. After Mrs. Vulliamy had spoken briefly on the marvellous unity of all organised women's societies in their demand for the Vote, and the probability that they knew better what the Vote meant to women than that small negative body known as the Anti-Suffragists, Mrs. How Martyn followed with a wonderfully clear and concise speech on the change in the position of women during the last 100 years, showing how the laborious and ill-paid work of the world had always fallen upon women in spite of all the talk of chivalry of which we hear so much. Speaking of the long-drawn-out fight for enfranchisement and the continual betrayal of the woman's cause, Mrs. How Martyn said it could scarcely be wondered at if women were driven to extremes in militant tactics.

After a good collection had been taken, Mrs. Billington-Greig spoke on the weakness of the Anti-Suffragist position, and explained the Conciliation Bill. A vote of thanks to the Mayoress was moved by Mrs. Cleaves and cordially seconded by Mrs. Wood.

An enthusiastic and largely attended meeting was held on Monday night at the Albert Hall, Swansea, of which a report will appear next week.

The Men's Committee of Justice for Women hold a general meeting at the International Women's Franchise Club on Friday, 7th inst., at 8 o'clock, when Dr. Bather, Mr. H. N. Brailsford, and Captain Gonne will speak. Men sympathisers, both active and passive, are specially invited to attend.

### Robert Louis Stevenson said:—

"It is the object of a liberal education not only to obscure the knowledge of one sex by another, but to magnify the natural differences between the two. Man is a creature who lives not upon bread alone, but principally by catchwords; and the little rift between the sexes is astonishingly widened by teaching one set of catchwords to the girls and another to the boys. To the first there is shown but a very small field of experience, and taught a very trenchant principle for judgment and action; to the other, the world of life is more largely displayed, and their rule of conduct is proportionately widened. They are taught to follow different virtues, to hate different vices, to place their ideal, even for each other, in different achievements. What should be the result of such a course? When a horse has run away, and two flustered people in the gig have each possessed themselves of a rein, we know the end of that conveyance will be in the ditch. So, when I see a raw youth and a green girl, fluted and fiddled in a dancing measure into that most serious contract, and setting out upon life's journey with ideas so monstrously divergent, I am not surprised that some make shipwreck, but that any come to port."

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## THE "WOMANLY WOMAN."

By LOUISA THOMSON-PRICE.

One has heard so much during the last five years of the "unwomanly" woman, who in the minds of some people, at any rate, is personified by the "rampant, raging Suffragette," that one is led sometimes to wonder who is to be the ultimate authority as to what constitutes a "womanly" woman. In the old days, the stigma "unwomanly" was cast upon every avocation in which women were endeavouring to gain a livelihood outside the only two admissible ones for respectable young persons. To be a governess or a lady's companion was perfectly permissible, and a young woman lost none of her womanliness in following these ill-paid and ill-conditioned occupations. Education in the real sense of the word was not necessary for the old-time governess. The curriculum of the young ladies' seminary, so delightfully described for us in "Vanity Fair," included only a smattering of general information, the "use of the globes," and a "knowledge of deportment." The early Victorian young lady with adorable ringlets, sloping shoulders, and frequent fits of "the vapours" was, no doubt, from the male standpoint of that period, an embodiment of perfect womanliness. The "womanly" woman used to faint at the sight of a mouse, or was supposed to do so. She had lily-white hands, tiny feet, and a wasp-like waist. It was "womanly" to defy Nature by squeezing a twenty-seven inch waist into a twenty-inch corset, and "unwomanly" to suggest that comfort and health were higher than restriction and convention.

Florence Nightingale was an "unsexed creature" according to the general consensus of opinion of her day. The "Lady of the Lamp" was the very embodiment of unwomanliness in daring to undertake the self-imposed task of tending the wounded soldiers in the Crimea. Today the hospital nurse is no longer considered unwomanly, but the medical woman has still to fight a prejudice which dies hard.

As I have said, there are certain avocations which public opinion, or, at least, public male opinion, considers unwomanly. Strangely enough, these avocations are always the better-paid ones. It is not "unwomanly" to stand at a wash-tub all day, to scrub the stone steps and long corridors of city offices, to bathe verminous patients in infirmaries, to wash and attend to the dressing of foul wounds in hospital wards, to make chains at Cradley Heath, or to work at the pit's mouth in a mining district. It is not "unwomanly" to manufacture match boxes at 2½d. a gross (finding one's own paste and string) or to make blouses at 1s. 6d. a dozen, but it is "unwomanly" for a person of the female sex to pass the necessary examinations to qualify as a doctor, to give medical advice on women's ailments, to perform a surgical operation, or to become a university lecturer. It is not only "unwomanly" but unallowable to become a solicitor or a barrister or even to form one of a jury to decide a case, even if that case be one involving the guilt or innocence of a woman.

Why has this question of what is and what is not womanly ever arisen? It is probably because women have dared to break away from the old tradition that men are their natural guardians and protectors and have even invaded man's peculiar fields, defying him to tell the difference between their work and his. A German writer has declared the womanly virtues to be chastity, self-command, good manners, truthfulness, penetration, compassion, warm sympathy, tact, and strength of will. Surely, in that list there is not one quality which a woman engaged in business or in professional life need give up; in fact, that she does not need as a business or professional woman. She will be a greater success in her chosen profession if she possess them than if she lack them.

We are continually being told, from the Anti-suffragist platform, that the shrinking, clinging, "ivy-round-the-oak" woman is the real "womanly" woman. One is compelled to conclude that this "womanly" woman is what the male Anti-suffragist wishes woman to be. The man, in fact, has fixed the standard in the various countries of the world, and it, of course, changes with

the flight of time. The Mohammedan considers it "unwomanly" for a person of the female sex to be seen with her face uncovered. The Chinese think it "unwomanly" for a woman to leave her house or to wish to walk. The Chinese woman is therefore taught to bandage her feet. In our own country we are told that "womanly" women are contented to let their fathers, husbands, and sons decide what is politically best for them, and that if they desire to advance they must only do so within strict limits.

Fortunately, self-respecting Englishwomen and—one may gratefully add—many Englishmen are no longer content with the "ivy-round-the-oak" definition of "womanly." They no longer believe that women must continue to persuade and wheedle and hood-wink, and humbly receive as favours what are theirs by divine right. The "womanly" woman is she who holds her soul her own, who bravely claims her rightful place beside the manly man, conserving the interests of the home, the children, and the State; who seeks by direct and honourable representative power to free the industrial woman slave from sweated labour, to lead out of the paths of despair the victims of betrayal, and to bring a cleaner, purer, sweeter atmosphere into political and social life. Surely if in aiming to accomplish these things woman has sometimes to lay aside the garments of old-time respectable conventions and to adopt the attitude of revolt, she is at least earning for the word "womanly" a finer and a grander meaning than it has hitherto borne.

## 101 POINTS IN FAVOUR OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

*These points will cover the legal, social, and economic grounds on which women demand the vote, and will call attention to the glaring inconsistencies which demand a change in the present condition of the franchise.*

34.—With the gradual and steady advance of women into the lower and worst-paid grades of industrial life the question of their representation becomes acute; the interests of the woman and the interests of the home cannot be considered apart, and the home-worker and the factory-hand must be equally safeguarded from the evils of sweating.

"Women were told to stay in the house and mind the home; that was the function of a woman, and not to go looking for a vote; but how had they safeguarded the interests of the home and defended the interests of women when they allowed the wives and mothers of the citizens of Belfast to bore 380 holes for a penny and work twelve hours a day at the most laborious of all occupations for 4s. a week? He hoped that the women would get the vote, and emancipate not only their own class, but also some of the men."—Mr. JOSEPH DEVLIN, M.P. (speaking at a Women Workers' Indignation Meeting in Belfast, September 7th).

## THE WOMAN'S INTERNATIONAL REFORM UNION.

President: MRS. AUGUSTA FORRER.

*International Executive Committee: Madame Marie de Perrot, B.èsL. Fräulein Käthe Hammerschmidt, Mrs. Ada A. Roberts, Señor A. Albanesi, M.A., and Signor G. Tittoni, B.A.*

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## OUR TOUR IN AUSTRALIA.

By MURIEL MATTERS.

(Continued from page 267.)

A reception was given us later, and we met the women who are following the example of, and taking up the work commenced by, Miss Spence. We had three enthusiastic meetings in the Adelaide Town Hall, and the Press was most eulogistic. Visits were paid to the gaol, the juvenile court, the lock-up, and the free kindergartens run on the Froebel system, magnificent work which opens up a new era in the life and training of the child. Members of the Government attended our meetings, and the Premier told us that he would encourage his young daughter to take up public speaking, in order that she might espouse public causes. On our departure for Melbourne, members of the Ministry, the Press, and public institutions—showing how widespread the interest had been—came to see us off.

It was a great joy to be welcomed on the Melbourne platform by Miss Viola Goldstein. When people ask what Australian women are doing, we can point to no more conspicuous successes than those obtained by the women of Victoria under Miss Goldstein's leadership. At the reception which her Association tendered us, the Postmaster-General, the Hon. Josiah Thomas (Federal Parliament), and the Hon. Charles McDonald, Speaker of the Federal House, made most sympathetic speeches on Suffrage; they are both keen militants, too. Miss Goldstein, from the chair, welcomed us, and bouquets in their colours and ours were presented. It was a magnificent meeting, and the feeling was so strong and harmonious that we might have been at one of our own meetings in London.

The public meetings in the Princess Theatre were a great success, and it was an inspiration to have the messages sent up on floral offerings from the audience. To the lavender, purple, and green shower bouquet—the W.P.A.'s colours—was attached, "Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God." On other gifts the same spirit was expressed, and on the huge design, in the main composed of golden wattle, white chrysanthemums, and ferns (the W.F.L. colours), was "Peace in itself is generally good in itself, but it is never the highest good unless it comes as the handmaid of righteousness, and it becomes a very evil thing if it serves merely as a mask of cowardice and sloth, or as an instrument to further the ends of despotism or anarchy."—(Roosevelt before the Nobel Prize Committee.) Our Melbourne visit was an eventful one. During our stay we were delighted to see the successes made by the police matrons at the lock-ups, and to note the improvements in the City and Pentridge Gaols. At meetings of the W.P.A. we heard Miss Goldstein lecture on the "George Junior Republic"—the fine American system for dealing with delinquent children; and a special evening to discuss the sweating system was arranged. A luncheon party at Parliament House gave us the opportunity of meeting the Prime Minister (Mr. Fisher) and his Labour Ministry. Later on, in the Federal House, we heard Dr. Malony (our oldest Women's Suffrage Parliamentarian) move that the word "illegitimate" regarding children should be erased from the census. From Melbourne we went to Sydney, with letters to the politicians of that State. Here the women came forward, as in the other States, and gave us a hearty welcome. The Progressive League—also on non-party lines—entertained us on Friday, July 8th, when Mr. Holman, the deputy Leader of the Opposition (to the iniquitous Wade Government) was amongst the speakers. A vote of appreciation and sympathy with militant tactics was passed by the gathering. Besides the two public lectures in King's Hall, we attended and spoke at two in the Trades Hall. One—a memorable occasion—was the meeting of delegates from all parts of New South Wales, representing 80,000 trade unionists. I was asked to enlighten these delegates on the British movement, after which a resolution was carried with ringing cheers, and I give it to you now as directed by them: "The fullest sympathy with the Women's Suffrage movement, and recognition of what the women

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are doing in the cause of Freedom." We were entertained at Parliament House, and taken in the Government launch for a most enjoyable trip up the Port Hacking River. Whilst in Sydney we met the old pioneer of Women's Suffrage, Miss Rose Scott, and although her labours have wellnigh exhausted her, she went with us to see how the lock-up was conducted by an able matron. In other directions Miss Scott was most helpful, and we hope to get an article on her work for THE VOTE. One of our keenest supporters in New South Wales is Miss Macdonald, the head of the Women's College of the Sydney University. We were much struck with the prison system of New South Wales; it is the most humane and scientific in all the States. Particularly good is the treatment of inebriates—it is treatment, and not punishment, as in England.

(To be concluded in next issue.)

## OTHER SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

**The Church League for Women's Suffrage.**—President: The Bishop of Lincoln.

The campaign at Cambridge has been very successful in every department, i.e., committee rooms, and open-air and evening meetings. Miss Maude Royden was the principal speaker, and at Royston, Newmarket, and Cambridge there were representative audiences, including clergy, jockeys, stablemen, and navies, with their wives. The cost of such a campaign is, however, of necessity extremely heavy, and funds are urgently needed. Mrs. H. W. Nevinson and the Rev. C. Hinscliff are speaking at Hove on October 11th, and Miss Henderson has lent her drawing room at Eaton House, Dacre Park, Lee, for the inaugural meeting of the Greenwich and Lewisham Branch on October 15th, at 5 p.m., chairman, Archdeacon Escreet. A branch is being formed at Edinburgh, secretary, Miss Alice Robertson, 28, Drummond Place, Edinburgh, and drawing-room meetings are arranged for at Kenilworth, November 17th, and Leamington, November 18th. Tickets for the Anerley meeting, October 20th (price 1s. and 6d.) may be had at the Suffrage Offices, 42, Anerley Road, S.E., and for the "At Home" at Steinway Hall at C.L.W.S. Offices, 11, St. Mark's Crescent, N.W.



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

## LONDON.



**DARE TO BE FREE.**

- Thurs., Oct. 6.—Highbury Corner, 8 p.m., Miss Norris.  
Acton Market Place, 8 p.m., Mrs. Tanner.
- Fri., Oct. 7.—South Norwood Clock, 7.30 p.m. Miss Fennings and Mrs. Toyne.  
1, Robert Street, Members' Reunion, 7.30 p.m.  
Battersea, Winders Road, 7.30. Mrs. Duval, Mrs. Reader.
- Sat., Oct. 8.—Mass Meeting and Joint Demonstration, Trafalgar Square, 3 p.m. Twenty-eight speakers, including Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Surgeon-General Evatt, Mr. E. H. Pickersgill, M.P., Mr. Malcolm Mitchell.  
Finchley, opposite Church End Station, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Tanner and Mr. J. Simpson.  
Thornton Heath Clock, 7.30 p.m. Miss Fennings.
- Sun., Oct. 9.—Victoria Park, 3 p.m. Mrs. Mustard.  
Clapham Common, 5 p.m. Miss Benett.
- Mon., Oct. 10.—Hornsey Fire Station, 8 p.m. Mr. C. Yaldwyn.  
Crystal Palace Tram Terminus, 7.30 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. Duval.
- Tues., Oct. 11.—Highbury Corner, 8 p.m. Mr. J. Simpson.  
Mossbury Road, 8 p.m. Mrs. Tanner, Mrs. Duval.
- Wed., Oct. 12.—Willesden Green, 7.30. Miss Hicks, M.A.  
Vote Sellers' Reception, Gardenia Restaurant, 6.30. Mrs. Despard.
- Thurs., Oct. 13.—Acton Market Place, 8 p.m. Mr. J. Simpson.  
1, Robert Street. London Branches Council.
- Fri., Oct. 14.—Winders Road, 8 p.m. Mr. Duval, Mrs. Reader.  
South Norwood Clock, 8 p.m. Mrs. Tanner.  
1, Robert Street. Members' Reunion, 7.30.
- Sat., Oct. 15.—Morland Road, E. Croydon, 8 p.m. Miss Fennings and Mr. J. Simpson.
- Sun., Oct. 16.—Victoria Park, 3 p.m. Mr. J. Simpson.
- Mon., Oct. 17.—Crystal Palace Tram Terminus, 7.30. Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett.  
Central London Branch, 1, Robert Street, 7 p.m.
- Thurs., Oct. 20.—Acton, Market Place, 8 p.m. Miss J. E. Weir.
- Fri. and Sat., Oct. 21 and 22.—Market Fête, Suffrage Atelier, 1, Pembroke Cottages.
- Fri., Oct. 28.—Small Queen's Hall. W.F.L. Day. Tickets 1s.
- Thurs., Nov. 3.—Caxton Hall, 3 p.m. First "At Home." Mrs. Despard.
- Sun., Nov. 6.—Small Queen's Hall, 7.30. Lecture on Shelley's "Prometheus Unbound." Mrs. Despard.

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## PROVINCES.

- PORTSMOUTH.  
Mon., Oct. 10.—Town Hall Square, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Whetton.
- SHEFFIELD.  
Sat., Oct. 15.—The Pageant of Great Women.
- SUNDERLAND.  
Mon., Oct. 10.—Victoria Hall. Pageant of Great Women, 8 p.m.
- IPSWICH.  
Thurs., Oct. 20.—Public Hall. Pageant of Great Women.
- CHESTER.  
Sat., Oct. 8.—Market Square, 12 noon and 6 p.m. Miss Eunice Murray and Mrs. Gordon.  
Mon., Oct. 24.—Assembly Hall, Newgate Street. Mrs. Despard and Miss Heyes. Chair, 8 p.m., H. F. Brown, Esq., LL.B.
- MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT.  
Sat., Oct. 8.—Alexandra Park. Great Joint Demonstration, 3.30. Six platforms. Many speakers.

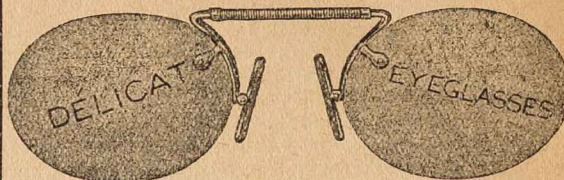
## SCOTLAND.

- EDINBURGH.  
Tues., Oct. 11.—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest Road. "At Home," 4 p.m.  
Wed., Oct. 12.—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest Road. Meeting, 8 p.m.  
"Suffragettes' Walk—Edinburgh to London." Miss Nannie Brown.
- Mon., Oct. 24.—Oddfellows' Hall, Forrest Road. Joint meeting of Suffrage Societies, 8 p.m. Mr. Brailsford. "The Conciliation Bill."
- DUNDEE.  
Fri., Oct. 21.—Gilfillan Hall, 8 p.m. Joint Meeting. Mr. Brailsford. Chair, Rev. C. M. Grant, D.D.

## SUFFRAGE FAIR.

A Suffrage Fair is to be held on October 21st and 22nd, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., in studio and ground behind 1, Pembroke Cottages, Kensington. Tickets and handbills from all Suffrage Societies. The following societies are taking part:—W.F.L., sweets, literature, and palmistry. N.U.W.S.S. (Kensington Branch). W.E.R.U. (Women's Press). New Constitutional Society, international Suffrage Press and badge stall. Men's League, cigarettes. Men's Political Union. Younger Suffragist Writers' Suffrage League, bookstall. The Suffrage Atelier; also the Suffrage Shop and Bomb Shop. Strolling players organised by Miss Edith Craig will play in the Market Place.

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