

THE VOTE

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

VOL. II.—No. 28.

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 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.

Offices: 148, HOLBORN BARS, E.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.

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WHAT WE THINK.

The Flight in the Dark.

The country has been enthusiastic over Mr. Grahame White's great flight in the dark. The courage of it, the pluck of a tired man unused to long distance flights chasing in pitchy blackness another tired man who had made a record for cross-country achievements, aroused the admiration of the nation; but whether the same enthusiasm will be aroused by the flight in the dark which Mr. Asquith is planning for the near future remains to be seen. The aviator found darkness inevitable; the Premier takes it for choice. Mr. Asquith will cross the country in a night of his own making, lest he see that the women of the country are bidding him, like the gentle climber in "Excelsior," stay and hear them. Unlike Mr. Grahame White, however, he will not pass over a country of sleepers; every town will be awake. The discontent of the women will transfer itself to the male electorate, and unpropitious currents are not unlikely to cause him to have so many "stops" that he may eventually lose the race. It may even happen that an alien policy, like the alien aviator, may win to the goal first. A flight in the dark has something splendid about it when the man who makes it has, like Mr. White, the encouragement of his womenkind behind him; but when it is made, as Mr. Asquith is about to make it, deliberately like an absconding lodger who is desirous of avoiding his landlady's bill, it is sordid and mean. Mr. Asquith and his Cabinet have called a truce for a time. During this brief space he will have time to reconsider his old determination; he can go to the country in daylight, to an electorate which he has enlarged by the addition of the women who so long and so faithfully have worked for him, and he can offer his programme of reforms to them, which they could calmly consider without any hectic feeling of grievance—or he can undertake a flight in the dark with the almost inevitable cup of bitterness to reward him at the end of it.

Sweated Industries.

At one of the Sidney Webb lectures (April 25th) Mr. Winston Churchill, who was in the chair, speaking of sweated industries, observed that the conditions which we saw in this country reproduced themselves in similar trades in other countries which had reached a similar development to our own. "These were the sort of trades which

were the resort of the weak and the broken, of the feeble and the defenceless. They were the trades which women without a protector, who were left to their own resources, and our broken-down invalids and our cripples could work at, and could, by working intolerable hours, maintain themselves on a bare pittance." He further said that there really was "no fixed or constant relation between the wages paid to the sweated workers and the ultimate price of the sweated article to the consumer." Remembering this, it would be well if women, who are, perhaps unconsciously, large buyers of sweated goods, would inquire into the conditions under which these goods were made. The shopkeeper will regard it as an impertinence and a vexation at first, but if it were done consistently he would take the trouble to find out the conditions under which the goods he sold were manufactured—conditions often unknown to him if he buys from warehousemen—and in this way something might be done. The craze for cheapness and novelty has a great deal to do with sweating, and if those who deplore the workers' conditions were to consider how they (the buyers) are liable for them, there might be a more speedy end to the evil in some, at least, of these industries.

Women Railway Clerks.

In America it has recently been asserted that women have proved a failure as railway clerks, "that they lack initiative and concentration, and could not profit by experience." But the principal complaint against them was that their presence in certain departments distracted their male colleagues from the prosaic work in hand. There is not much initiative usually required in a clerk, and the clerk who endeavours to exercise it is often a nuisance. However, we may take it that the second part of the complaint is the real one, and it is a very great hardship to a woman worker. It means that a certain type of man cannot work with a woman without constantly thinking of her sex. There is no getting away from this fact, and it owes its origin to the man-made economic conditions of the past, which have caused women to adopt marriage as a profession, and make every man, when he looks at a woman, regard her either as a possible or an impossible bride. Mr. Housman has spoken of this position on the part of women—into which they have been forced by men, as "departmentalising in sex." To it is due the annual exhibition of "Fair Women," which this year will be opened by Mrs. Roosevelt, and which is an insult to the sex as a whole. It casts a slight on those women—the drudges of the community—the mothers, the factory-workers, the business women, the servants, the charwomen, who have lost their looks in doing the world's hard and dirty work. It specialises in the silk-clad and the careless, in those who have trafficked in sex charm, and it sets a wrong standard for both women and men. The world's work has got to be done by both sexes, and it must be done by them as fellow-workers, and not with the lurking but ever-present idea of possible husbands and wives. The Baltimore and Ohio Railway—whose officials make the statements we have quoted concerning women railway clerks—by pandering to the silly sentimentality of its young men employees, is only fit to run holiday trains—its policy makes no bid for progress or serious advance.

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OUR WORK.

Our Organisers. IN our columns this week will be found a list of our organisers and the localities they are organising in. Each week we hope to give a brief account from some of these, and we want those of our members who are living in their vicinity to get into communication with them and assist them in their efforts. Mr. Asquith, like ourselves, has called a truce, but his truce will be even briefer than ours, and when it is over we, too, will have to take the field. None of us can afford to lose touch with the workers; every member should be doing something to get into full working trim. The cause, the principle for which we are fighting, must make us rise above pettiness and personality. We are all fighting for freedom, and we must join issue even with those whom we personally dislike if they, too, fight for the same cause; and we must join issue against those whom we love best if they are against liberty for both sexes. The movement has linked us up in strange fashion; it has brought the most incongruous personalities together; it has widened our outlook, broadened our sympathies, and led us to disintegrate the person from the principles behind him. We are a democratic society, and in the principle of our democracy we are all equal in our struggle for freedom. The officers are all risen from the ranks. The general respects her meanest soldier as much as her most gallant lieutenant; there is no difference between the foot soldiers and the cavalry—and why? Because they are out against a common enemy. So let the local foot soldier help the horseman who comes down from headquarters—let him tell him the lie of the land and the best method of entraining against the common enemy.

"At Home" at Queen's Hall. LAST Thursday we had the very great pleasure of entertaining the members of the Actresses' Franchise League—incidentally we may remark that they entertained us with charming performances during the second half of our meeting. Our chairman, Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett, brought a genial atmosphere into the hall. She said women now wished to achieve something and lead busy, useful lives instead of being drones or drudges; that they had unlearned the fallacy that women could not co-operate. Mrs. Sproson, in the course of her address, remarked: "I have been asked to deal with the Vote from the working woman's point of view, and as I was a half-timer at ten, I know something of how political action affects working women. I do not regard it as a bread-and-butter question only, nor for the interests of one class, but of the whole sex; and yet we must settle how women are to get bread and butter before we get to higher things. For instance, a mere fraction of the grant to the unemployed went to women. John Burns unwillingly started three workrooms and then tried to close them. He is responsible for the fact that the pauper population is higher among women than men. He put men on public works, whilst women had to apply to the Guardians for relief; not because they were less moral or less independent, but because industrial pressure was heavier upon them. Able-bodied women with children avoid the Union for the simple reason that they are placed on one side of the house

and their children the other. They will not submit to this, so we find them on the streets and their children starving. A woman may get 1s. 3d. per child from the Guardians and earn a few shillings extra; but it generally ends in her being brought before a magistrate for neglecting her children, although she may be much more self-denying in endeavouring to provide for them than most men would have been. There is going to be a strong industrial contest between men and women in the industrial world. Among the brassworkers men are turning the women out on the ground that it is a poisonous trade and not good for women. It is therefore necessary for us as suffragists to refuse to countenance any further legislation for women without their consent. Our policy must be to refuse interference, just as the barmaids forced the Government to drop legislation against them. We ought to say to the Labour Party, 'As soon as you will support our cause as a party measure we shall get votes, and then when we have this weapon of defence you will be free to follow your own interests.' I, for one, would blockade the Labour Party. The Middlesbrough decision shows how married women suffer. A woman had saved money in a co-operative society, and her husband made a will leaving this £30 and the whole of his possessions to another woman; and the decision of the Bench was that the man had a right to will away the whole of his goods, and that the £30 had been saved out of his earnings, and was therefore his. If Lady McLaren's Charter or the Poor Law reform were to get passed now, things would still be defective, because the woman's point of view would be wanting."

Mrs. Pertwee's Speech.

Mrs. PERTWEE, speaking of suffrage and the home, said: "Seventy or eighty years ago a home gave the mistress a considerable amount of dignity. It used, however, to be said, 'A woman, a cat, and a chimney should never leave the house'; 'a woman should only leave the house three times—to be christened, married, and buried'; 'A woman, a dog, and a walnut tree, the more you beat them the better they be.' The proverbs call up pictures of dull hopelessness—the woman first the chattel of her father, then of her husband. Marriage made them one, and that one was the man. She had no right to her earnings or her children, added to which he had the pleasing privilege of beating his wife with a stick 'as broad as his thumb,' and I shudder when I think of the dimensions of some men's thumbs as the measure of the stick which might be used. The position has been slightly modified since 1888. Mary Wollstonecraft headed the great revolt. Her book was received with abuse, insult, and contumely, but her suggestions were adopted, and are commonplaces to-day. Buckle ('History of Civilisation') spoke with approval of the influence women had exercised over the progress of knowledge, which he thought might with advantage be still further extended. In 1869 J. S. Mill published 'The Subjection of Women,' still not thoroughly appreciated. Steam had revolutionised industry, and women had to go out to seek work. Those who did were at first regarded by their fellow women with pity and contempt, but that prejudice has died. Wifehood and maternity to a limited extent, if the right man is married for the right cause, are the highest vocation, but there are many more women than men, and a million men are too poor to marry. Business is better than social frivolities, and the best mothers are drawn from a class who have faced the facts of life. I think that Nature made no mistake when she arranged for a preponderance of women—all are wanted," Mrs. Pertwee went on to say. "We married women cannot be too thankful for the body of fine capable women doing public work. They have

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"The Pied Piper," an operetta, was fascinating; the children, big and little, frolicked and sang, and we felt a thrill when they followed the bewitching piper into the unknown. The whole scene was very pretty and Dutch. Miss Rind's French songs were beautiful, and Miss Morris's recitation ("Disinherited," by Cicely Hamilton) was dignified and tragic. Mrs. Despard said kind words of welcome and gratitude to the friends who had come to cheer us and to bring us refreshment and inspiration. She spoke of the political situation and of the need there would no doubt be soon that we should tear the bandage from the eyes of Ministers. She also appealed for the sinews of war.

"The Vote." We would suggest to our members that a very good way of helping the cause would be to send a copy of THE VOTE each week to some Member of Parliament. The general Press has no interest in us except when we are defying the lightning and marching on Westminster, and it is just as well that the kindly gentlemen who imagine they represent us at Westminster should be reminded of our continued existence and of our constant activities. It makes no manner of difference if these gentlemen receive a duplicate copy of the paper; they can pass it on to their wives—if they happen to be married—or to their chauffeurs and men servants who have votes, whilst we, in spite of the high honours many of us have won and the important positions many of us hold in the learned and unlearned professions, have none. Send out as many copies of THE VOTE as you can.

"Vote" Week. "VOTE" week is May 29th to June 5th, and Mrs. Snow is anxious that during it everyone who can will come and help us. Further particulars will be announced next week.

Miss Seruya's "At Home."

A VERY enjoyable evening was spent at the Bijou Theatre on Friday, April 29th, when Miss Seruya was the hostess of one of the series of Mrs. Manson's one hundred drawing-room meetings. The hall was decorated in the colours, and coffee was served from a gaily decorated buffet, ably superintended by Miss Ibbotson. Mrs. Manson was a witty and capable chairman, and Mrs. Despard as the speaker aroused much enthusiasm by her impassioned speech. Members of the A.F.L. also generously contributed to the evening's entertainment. Mrs. Chapin ably accompanied the charming singer, Miss Lush, at very short notice, and also rendered a beautiful little American recitation. To Mr. Lewis Casson, a staunch supporter of our cause, we also tender our grateful thanks for his exceedingly interesting recitations, the "Henchman's speech from Hyppolytus" and the speech from "Henry V.," and as encores Henley's "De Profundis" and song from "Pippa Passes," which were all much appreciated. Some literature was sold and a good collection taken.

Open-Air Meetings.

MRS. DE VISMES, Hon. Meetings Sec., Central Branch, writes: "Mrs. Emma Sproson held another meeting at Regent's Park this (Sunday) morning from 12 till 1.30 p.m. There was a very large gathering, and after the meeting question after question was fired off and answered. Mrs. Sproson, with an appeal for funds, was presented with 10s. by a sympathiser, a gentleman who had travelled, and who gave us encouragement, saying 'Only women can remedy the social evils which exist.' Inquiries were made for the address of our office and that of the Men's League, and also for Miss Munro, who held, with Dr. Macpherson, two Sundays ago, one of the biggest meetings we have had here. It was only by a promise to send in turn our best speakers that we managed to 'tear' ourselves away. Mrs. Sproson, I regret to say, had no one to chair for her, Miss Law being prevented at the last moment keeping her appointment. Next Sunday, the 8th inst., we have Mrs. Chapin, Miss Chapin, and Mr. Theodor Gugenheim speaking for us."

Meetings.

TO-NIGHT the Men's League are our guests at the Queen's Hall, 7.30 to 10 p.m. Mrs. Hicks will be in the chair, and the speakers will be Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Goldfinch Bate, Mr. Joseph Clayton (chosen Women's Suffrage candidate for South Salford), and Mr. Malcolm Mitchell. Mrs. Nevinson and Mrs. Snow will act as hostesses, and evening dress will be optional. On Sunday, May 8th, a great mass meeting will be held at 3 p.m. at Trafalgar Square, when there will be speeches from all the platforms. The speakers will be Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett, Mrs. Alice Chapin, Mrs. M. Kineton Parkes, Mrs. Katharine Manson, Miss Anna Munro, and Mrs. Emma Sproson.

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MISS LENA CONNELL.

The fact that many of the firmest supporters of the movement for women's enfranchisement are drawn from the front ranks of successful business and professional women is one of the great proofs of the necessities for our demand. A successful woman has had always a harder fight than a successful man, for she bears the burden of her sex as well as the cares of her business, and with the State stigma of the non-citizen is liable to be undervalued and underpaid. All the more praise is then due to those that have "won forward" and hold their own in the professions that are open to both men and women, equally with male competitors. Amongst these is Miss Lena Connell, who holds what must be regarded as a unique place amongst women photographers.

She was the first woman photographer to set up as such without restricting herself to photographs of her own sex, and though only in her "teens" when she put out her sign, she found famous sitters from the start. Those who know Miss Connell's work recognise the fact that she is a force to be reckoned with in the future. Some years ago the *British Journal of Photography* observed of her that the remarkably even character of her photos was noticeable. This evenness of work, a rare quality, is one that she well maintains, and no angry sitter ever comes to her studio to denounce a libellous photo. She has a *flair* and a virility which stamp her work as sound impressions of her sitters, who appear always to have been caught unawares and made to reveal something of their personality that they ordinarily keep hidden.

"The operator is born, not made," said Miss Connell, and, in answer to a question, "No, I have had no special training. Perhaps I had better say I found a camera and started straight on the British public. This business has been in my family, but was allowed to lapse, and as photography attracts me and I had to earn my own living, I made a virtue of necessity and started it again on my own lines here fifteen years ago.

"My first well-known sitter? Miss Marie Hall came to me when she was at the beginning of her career, and the photo I did of her then is still her favourite. I took her holding her violin like this"—Miss Connell showed me a photo of Miss Hall with her chin resting on the violin held downwards, and her eyes with that curious half-frightened, half-determined look in them, looming out of the picture—"and the idea pleased other violinists, who copied the position when being taken in other studios. Fritz Kreisler, too, was one of my earliest sitters, and he also still uses that photo for his posters. He likes it better than any he has had done since."

Miss Connell's Sitters' Book was on the table, and in it was written in Kreisler's hand, "The photographs are

charming, and I am duly grateful for your kindness. (Signed) Fritz Kreisler." On another page was, "May I say how pleased I am with the progress in your work.—L. Alma-Tadema."

"Yes," said Miss Connell, "Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema has always shown a great interest in my work, and I have taken successful photos of himself, the late Lady Alma-Tadema, and Miss Alma-Tadema.

"My sitters are drawn mainly from artists, musicians, and actors, as you can see from my albums. Hegedus is amongst them and the late Miss Ellen Wright, the author of 'Violets.' Yes, I have been peculiarly successful with men sitters. The Rev. R. J. Campbell gave me a sitting recently. I am a Progressive, of course, and a great admirer of the work done in connection with the City Temple. Mr. Keir Hardie was also amongst my recent sitters, and Miss Ellen Terry."

At the Ideal Home Exhibition Miss Connell's picture of Miss Ellen Terry aroused much admiration, and also the beautiful pictures of children—pictures which could only have been taken by a great lover of children.

"The secret of my art? I have no secret, really; I have done away with all mechanical process, and my sitters do not feel they are in a dentist's chair with a vice gripping the back of their neck. No one comes into the studio while a photo is being taken save an assistant to bring new plates, and I make friends with my sitter while fixing the camera and take him or her while they are interested in talking. The deed is done almost before they realise it.

"That," said Miss Connell, in answer to a question as to how certain effects of light and shade were gained in her pictures, "is the carbon process, which I use for all my work. It is not usually used for small pictures, but I find it excellent in getting

'soft effects.'" Miss Connell employs only women in her studios for printing and finishing the photographs. Her sister is the well-known miniature painter Miss Dora Connell, who is an exhibitor of the Royal Academy and other exhibitions. Their mother is their "business manager," and the combination at 50, Grove End Road, N.W., would appear to be an entirely happy one.

"When did I first become interested in Suffrage?"—the question seemed inevitable—"Well, I am afraid that would be hard to say. Every woman who has to work for herself is an unconscious suffragist. She is fighting some principle of injustice, which she may not be able to put into words, but which she feels. I first knew I was a Suffragist about four years ago, when a girl Suffragist (Miss Gladys Keevil), who had just come out of prison after suffering a time in Holloway on one of the trumped-



[Photo Lena Connell, 50, Grove End Road. MISS LENA CONNELL.]

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WHAT WE ARE SAYING AND DOING.

"If any man is for captivity, into captivity he goeth."—
BOOK OF REVELATION, xiii. 10.
** In this column we give W.F.L. news items in tabloid form week by week.

"The Vote" Directory.

We want everyone to study THE VOTE Directory and to give our advertisers every support they can.

"Suffragette" Post Cards.

In the literature department charming post cards of some of the most popular of our series "Suffragettes at Home" may be had at rd. each. "Mrs. Snow making pastry," "Alison Neilans cleaning the stove," "Mrs. How Martyn making jam," and the prize photo "Mrs. MacCabe bathing her baby" are now ready. "Every picture tells its own tale," as the advertisements say, and we hope there will be a ready sale for this series.

Death of Rev. John Manning, M.A.

We regret to have to announce that Miss Manning has had to cancel all her engagements owing to the sudden death of her father, Rev. John E. Manning, M.A., who was a well-known and highly-respected Unitarian minister, and also a great friend to the cause of Suffrage. All members of the Women's Freedom League feel for Miss Manning in her great loss.

Walter Crane.

Mr. Walter Crane, the well-known artist, has kindly consented to deliver an address on the occasion of the John Stuart Mill celebration. He will speak at the foot of the statue, and his remarks will be listened to with profound interest.

Posers for Radicals.

Miss Alexia Jack, Hon. Sec. Edinburgh branch of the W.F.L., in the course of a trenchant letter to Mr. Lyell, the Radical candidate for South Edinburgh, who said that he was opposed to votes for women because he was not yet convinced the majority of women wanted the vote, asks, amongst other posers, "Which clause of the Constitution of our country warrants you to demand any such proof before you can be a party to the removal of an injustice perpetrated against all taxpaying women?"

Drawing Room Meeting.

Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson and Mrs. Kineton Parkes will speak on "Residence and Taxation in connection with Women's Suffrage" on May 11th, at 8.15 p.m., at 14, Endsleigh Street, W.C.

up charges, sat to me for her portrait. I can never see why there need be any 'sex-war' in the matter," went on Miss Connell. "Equal pay for equal work in all professions open to men and women ought to be a first principle. Where it does not exist there is an injustice to both sexes. The 'vote' itself is a mere symbol of the fact that the State realises one's existence and identity as a useful factor in its work as a whole. Have I professed my faith openly? Well, I walked in the N.W.S.P.U. procession in 1908, and also in the great procession of women in 'professions and trades' to the Albert Hall, carrying a lantern and banner.

"Work is good for women," were Miss Connell's concluding words, as her visitor, admiring everywhere the many delightful pictures that hung on her walls and the result of her sensitive touch, or, rather, instinct, for her sitters' individuality, passed through her pretty studios. It would seem, however, that this gifted artist translated her own words to mean, "Good work is good for women."

OUR ORGANISERS.

SCOTLAND.

Organiser for Glasgow:—Miss MARGUERITE SIDLEY.
Organiser for Edinburgh:—Miss MADGE TURNER.

ENGLAND.

Hon. Organiser for Manchester District:—Miss E. MANNING, B.A., Harper Hill, Sale, Cheshire.
Hon. Organiser for North-East Yorkshire:—Mrs. SCHOFIELD COATES, Wilstrop, Roman Road, Middlesbrough.
Organiser for Portsmouth District:—Miss E. BREMNER, 128, St. Augustine Road, Southsea.
Organiser for South Yorkshire: Mrs. GORDON, 6, Aldams Road, Dewsbury.

WALES.

Hon. Organiser for South Wales:—Mrs. CLEEVES, Chez Nous, Sketty, S.O., Glamorgan, who is also Hon. Secretary of the Swansea Branch.

IRELAND.

Organiser for Ireland:—Miss COYLE, 23, Orchard Street, Londonderry.

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THE VOTE.

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Managing Director.—Miss MARIE LAWSON.

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 1910.

ON THE SAME TERMS AS MEN.

The first act in the Political Drama, which has been for many months before the country, is over. The Budget of 1909 has passed its third reading in both Houses and, the Royal assent having been given, will become law. What is to come next?

The Houses, exhausted, we presume, by the trials to which their strength and nerves have been subjected, are taking a three weeks' rest. After the recess it will be a question of supplies; but it is not likely that any legislation involving party controversy will be attempted until the Lords have made up their minds about the Veto, and then, we are led to suppose, the decks will be cleared for action and momentous things will happen.

What we wish now to insist upon is that when the House meets again the position with regard to ourselves and our movement will not be what it was at the opening of the present session. Then everything was uncertain; now there will be, as it were, a breathing time, during which the House can take up uncontroversial questions that in the stress and passion of the weeks that immediately followed the elections were laid aside. We now demand a place in the drama, which is ours as well as theirs. The moment for that demand has come. What is the answer to be?

I wish, with all my heart, that the Government would ask themselves whether this is not really the moment to act. After all, is not the opportunity now offered to them a great and glorious one? Let them calmly consider what it means—to heal the discords which have arisen amongst us; to perform an act of justice; to consolidate the nation; to give to the democratic principle which they profess to follow a new force and a deeper meaning; to set women free to work as they have never done before for those social reforms which are so urgently needed.

Surely it would not be difficult now to carry through this act of justice! In the House and outside the question of Women's Suffrage has been discussed until nothing more remains to be said. There are clear indications of the fact that the feeling not only of a majority of the present House but also of a vast number of electors is in favour of our demand. To many in the House, including members of the Government and of the front Opposition bench, the settlement of this question would, I believe, be a great relief. Moreover, the Government which, by giving the necessary facilities, permits such a measure to be brought before the House would reap its reward in the gratitude of all right-minded people, and will go down to posterity with the proud distinction that attends those who have healed menacing discords and given strength and peace to the people.

So far generally. As to the form the measure is to take, however, I have something very definite to say. Throughout these islands, east and west, north and south, we of the Women's Freedom League have, during these last three years, been holding meetings and passing resolutions. The substance of these has been always the same. "That we call upon the Government to give the Parliamentary Franchise to women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to men." To these we are pledged. Over and over again I have repudiated the title "Limited Bill." that has been given to our proposed measure. "No," I have said, "Unlimited." For what we ask is the removal of sex disqualification in the establishment for all time of equality of rights for men and women. It is this, and nothing short of this, that the Women's Freedom League place upon their banner. It is this and nothing short of this that they demand. There are whispers of compromise. There are proposals to bring forward a

Bill acceptable to all parties in the House, which, so far as I can understand, is to be merely a property vote.

No such compromise can we accept. I wish some of our sisters would understand how great is the danger we run. Let us see how it would work out. Say that the Limited Bill, which would place women a little lower than men, were passed. There it would probably end so far as women are concerned. We shall certainly have other Reform Bills. Men who think at all are profoundly dissatisfied with the present franchise laws. How about our position, when they begin to agitate for a change? May they not turn round and say, "We have given you that for which you asked; you must be satisfied."

Some will say, "But there will be women voters then!" That is true. I ask, however, Will their numbers be such as to give the unenfranchised woman reason to hope that they will seriously affect the issue? I think not; and therefore I hope that no thought of compromise will be entertained by our supporters amongst the public, while I confidently believe that the members of our League will stand firmly by their original demand.

"On the same terms as men!" that is our ultimatum. Further, to our brave and strong members I would say a word: We have been holding our hand from action—wisely in my opinion. Now the plot begins to thicken. We are as determined as we have ever been that no thought of ourselves, no consideration for comfort, convenience, or even personal safety shall restrain us from action when the right moment comes. It may be that the moment is near. Let us be ready. C. DESPARD.

JOHN STUART MILL CELEBRATIONS.

CORTEGE OF CARRIAGES, &c., LEAVES THE W.F.L. OFFICES AT 12.45.

Wreaths from the League and various other grateful women will be placed on the statue at 1.15. Speeches will be made by Mrs. Despard, Dr. Baillie Weaver, Mr. Walter Crane, &c.

Remember May 20th, and do honour to the memory of the great man who against great odds championed and promoted the Woman's Movement.

It is a pity, some think, that this celebration is so close to the great march on the 28th. But we ask why? It can never be a mistake to honour our great leaders and our great masters, and in this case our celebration (which was arranged for long before we heard of the march) can do no more than remind the world, and especially the men in it, that ours is not a movement which has risen in a day, and is not a cause that has not been greatly championed by great minds. We are receiving encouragement on all hands from members and sympathisers who are too far away to attend, and promises of help from those in London and neighbourhood are coming in splendidly. But I remind London Branches that all should be represented either by wreaths or carriages. Entirely to cover his statue with wreaths would be but slight tribute to so noble a leader.

Those who cannot send carriages can send money to be spent on the celebrations.

And now for the evening celebration. The meeting in the open-air during dinner-hour will be followed by an indoor meeting at Queen's Hall in the evening. Chair, Mrs. Despard. Speakers: General Sir Alfred Turner (the Services), Mme. Aino Malmberg (Finland), Mrs. Ayres Purdie (Commerce), Mr. Kenneth Richmond (Education), and representatives of all the branches of human activity, to be announced in our next issue.

Mr. Pearce, of Quickly Road, Chorley Wood, whose advertisement appears on page 23 of this issue, has submitted to us samples of the Ivorine Miniature he is advertising. The work is most beautifully done; it is difficult to distinguish the Miniatures from water-colour drawings costing several guineas. It is a marvel how such beautiful, artistic work can be turned out for so low a price as 1s. 6d. We can strongly advise our readers to patronise Mr. Pearce.



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Edinburgh.—4, Fountainhall Road.

This week has seen very strenuous work on the part of Miss Turner and the more enthusiastic and energetic of our workers. A bye-election has been proceeding, and open-air meetings have been held every night. Both candidates were unsatisfactory. Mr. Glyn (Unionist) declared himself an Anti, and Mr. Lyell (the Liberal) was a delightful wobbler—at one time very much concerned about the working man's wife, at another demanding proof that a majority of women desired the vote, and in the end declaring himself "distinctly in favour of manhood suffrage." A letter asking information on a few points was sent him, but, true to his Liberal principles (*sic*), he took no notice of it. This letter was published in the *Dispatch*.

At the same time we have been hurrying up matters with regard to our new premises at 33, Forrest Road. I have the greatest pleasure in announcing that from to-day the shop is open, and our Tuesday afternoon "At Homes" will now be held under our own vine and figtree.

The formal opening will take place on May 14th, when Miss Sara Munro, our President, will give the address declaring the shop open, and thereafter a Cake and Candy Sale will be proceeded with, to help the funds needed to carry on this new enterprise. I have always found that our members, when called upon for any special effort, rise to the occasion gallantly and generously, and this time has proved no exception to that rule. We have received numerous donations—tables, chairs and cupboards, curtains, towels, tablecloths, cups and saucers, plates, teapots and kettles, floorcloth, fire-irons and ornaments. We have opened a Shop and Organiser Fund, and donations, large and small, are coming in very well.

It is our intention to have the shop open every day, and to have afternoon teas at city prices, and all this we are to endeavour to do without paid help. Will those of our members who can give any spare time, however short, be good enough to send me from time to time a p.c. stating at what hours they could help? Three things—a glorious trinity—are needed to keep us going—faith, enthusiasm, and steady purpose. The

Edinburgh Freedom Leaguers have these characteristics in abundance, and therefore I know I do not appeal in vain.

Miss Turner is gaining golden opinions from everyone. On Tuesday she gave a most interesting address to our "At Home" on "Some Reasons for Revolt." She braves in the open the keen blast and the as keen heckling so cheerily that she is awarded a vote of thanks from the crowd, and in the shop she has been putting into practice some of the menial work she learned in Holloway.

Donations in kind for the shop have already been received from Mrs. Dods, Miss Wood, Miss Roy, Mrs. Thomson, Miss Jacob, B.Sc., Miss Brown, Miss A. Marshall, and Mrs. Wilson; while goods for sale have come from Miss Clapperton, Miss Muir, Mrs. Balmorie, and Miss Roy.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO SHOP AND ORGANISER FUND.

| £ s. d. | | £ s. d. | |
|-------------------------|-------|----------------------|--------|
| Miss Alexander..... | 0 3 0 | Mrs. Pintner | 0 3 0 |
| Mrs. Bankhead | 0 1 0 | Dr. Margaret Young | 1 0 0 |
| Mrs. Collins | 0 1 0 | Miss Jack | 0 10 0 |
| Miss Craigie | 0 0 6 | Miss Roy | 0 3 6 |
| Miss Glass | 0 2 6 | Miss Hall | 0 2 6 |
| Miss Harris | 0 1 0 | Mrs. Thomson | 0 5 6 |
| Mrs. Hearn | 0 1 0 | Mrs. Gosse | 0 1 6 |
| Mrs. Irvine | 0 1 0 | Mrs. Wallace Ross .. | 0 2 6 |
| Miss Mackenzie | 0 0 6 | Mrs. Dods | 1 0 0 |
| Mrs. Selcraig Murray .. | 0 1 6 | | |
| Miss Sutherland | 0 2 0 | | £4 4 6 |
| Miss Wilson | 0 1 0 | | |

Procession of May 28th.—Miss Clapperton, because she is unable to take part in the procession, has, to mark her appreciation of the friendliness between the societies on this occasion, sent £1 towards the expenses—ALEXIA B. JACK, Hon. Secretary.

Partick.

A Jumble Sale in aid of the funds of the Suffrage Centre will be held in the Police Gymnasium Hall, Partick, on Saturday, May 14th, at 3 p.m. Contributions of old clothes, crockery, &c., will be gratefully received. Parcels may be left at the Suffrage Centre, or if necessary vans will call for parcels any day convenient to donor from now till day before sale.

SPECIAL CAMPAIGNS.

Ireland.

Slowly but surely the ground is being ploughed up in the North of Ireland, and assistance is being generously given in influential quarters. We entertain great hopes for the success of Mrs. Despard's visit in May. Two public meetings have been arranged for her in Derry, and Miss MacKillip, a leading local lady, has consented to preside. The open-air meetings are splendid—absolutely devoid of the usual inane commentary of the open-air audience. The crowds listen with deep, silent interest. We are running the open-air meetings on special educative lines which appeal to the workers—*i.e.*, dealing nightly with one or two industrial and social points which specially affect them. The misconceptions of the Suffrage agitation are gradually breaking down in Derry, and there is evidence that out of a population of 47,000 a strong number will be found to support a local Suffrage Society.

Coleraine supporters are showing their sympathy in a practical fashion, and have arranged a meeting for the first week in May, at which a local chairman will preside. It is expected that at this meeting offers of assistance will be made by many local people to work up a great meeting for Mrs. Despard.

In Bangor a public and a drawing-room meeting have been arranged for the end of May, and in the interval Mrs. O'Neill, of Florenceville, has generously offered to give a Suffrage "At Home," with a debate and recitations.

I should be grateful to hear from readers of THE VOTE the names and addresses of Irish sympathisers—Address, K. J. COYLE, 23, Orchard Street, Londonderry.

Portsmouth.

The Monday evening meeting in the Town Hall Square was again a success, questions coming thick and fast at the end, and the women particularly showing their delight when some would-be "funny man" got his deserts. On Wednesday we made our first attack upon Gosport, and our meeting on the Hard was very satisfactory, though somewhat marred by the swarms of children, who, as usual, preferred to play just in front of the speakers. We have sold a large number of VOTES. My thanks are again due to Mrs. Whetton, who has spoken at meetings and helped in many other ways; and also to Miss King, who has sold and helped at meetings.—EDITH A. BREMNER, 128, St. Augustine Road.

Glasgow.

The open-air campaign progresses smoothly. Wherever we go we find sympathy and interest in our work, and often the question "When are you coming again?" shows the eagerness of the people to hear more about Votes for Women. Saturday's meeting at Peel Street, Partick, was more enthusiastic than any held during the week, good as all have been. On this occasion all our regular working members were occupied in other branches of work, and I held the meeting alone. However, one lady in the crowd came up beside me and kept the children quiet, showing in this very practical way her sympathy with us. All my VOTES were sold, and a large stock of pamphlets and badges nearly sold out in a very few minutes.—MARGUERITE A. SIDLEY, Suffrage Centre, Glasgow.

"WHY I WANT THE VOTE."

* * * Under this heading we shall have from time to time the personal opinions of our best-known supporters, giving the reasons why they want the vote. We all know the broad reasons why we want it; but the intimate reasoning which has led others of us into the ardent fighting front ranks has a special interest. This week Miss Decima Moore one of the most gracious personalities that this great movement has brought us, who adds wit and beauty to every gift that a kindly providence is supposed to reserve for its women favourites, tells us why she desires enfranchisement. Miss Moore is a tower of strength to the Actresses' Franchise League, and is the Hon. Sec. of the Actresses' Matinée which takes place next Tuesday.



DECIMA MOORE.

I want the vote because, as "men are men and women are women," it is impossible to obtain just legislation until both points of view are taken, by both sexes having access to the ballot-box.

Because it has long been said by men that women are an enigma to them, therefore how can they alone legislate for them?

Because it is not elevating for a woman to be forced to "walk behind" a man when her place,

designed by nature, is to "walk beside" him.

Because the present position of being placed on an equal footing with man in the paying capacity, but not receiving the same return for equal money paid, is not justice or equity. That in everything but taxation equal money paid by both sexes brings equal privileges.

Because it will raise our status in our own and others' eyes, develop our interest in the welfare of our country and our Colonies, give us a stronger feeling of patriotism and our rightful position as citizens.

Because it will better help us to bring up our children and the young entrusted to our care, with the added feeling that we also are partly responsible for the laws that affect their future.

I want the vote as a safeguard, as most of the present laws dealing with women are so totally illiberal, unjust, and inadequate that it is necessary for any future laws that will be introduced that we should have the direct voice in their making to which our qualifications entitle us.

And, lastly, because to have the vote must widen and deepen our sympathies by a new feeling of responsibility towards those whom both new and old laws affect.

DECIMA MOORE.

Suffrage papers and other Suffrage literature can be read by members at W.F.L. offices, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, weekdays, between 11 and 4; Saturday, 11 to 1.

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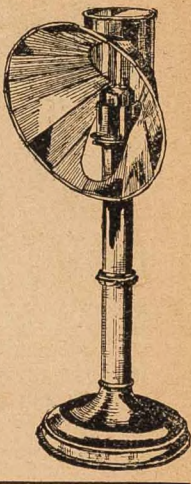
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POST OFFICE ANOMALIES.

"Association Notes," the organ of the Association of Post Office Women Clerks, which is printed for private circulation only, is admirably written, and affords ventilation for comments on Service grievances, and also for general articles. From a reasonable leader we take the following:—

"Besides the claim for equal wages for equal work and the right to equal work which forms the basis of our Association, there are other grievances calling for redress. There is, for instance, the iniquitous ruling that Women Civil Servants must leave the Service on marriage without any chance of returning to it should circumstances again make it necessary for them to maintain themselves, or inclination lead them to prefer economic independence. The specialisation of our work as Civil Servants which renders it valuable to the various Departments is no qualification for employment in ordinary business offices, so that, in marrying, the woman Civil Servant is called upon to take more than the average risks. If women Civil Servants are to be deprived by the Government of their right to work because they marry, then the Government must in reason insure their maintenance by some system of pension or insurance."



[By courtesy of Glasgow "Evening Citizen."]

W.F.L. MEMBERS SANDWICHING GLASGOW MEETING.

Miss Marguerite Sidley, Miss Edith Craig, and Miss Cicely Hamilton are the front three.

"There is one class of man who is always an anti-suffragist—the man who has a bad record with women and is proud of it. I make the anti-suffragists a present of him."—LAURENCE HOUSMAN.

SUFFRAGE CURE FOR DIVORCE.

Mrs. Gertrude Atherton, the best-known and best-looking of American novelists, has lately declared that suffrage is a cure for divorce evils. She says: "I have always been a firm believer in women's voting. And I have one reason that is, maybe, a little bit extraordinary. I firmly believe that if women were voting to-day it would do more to settle the evil of a super-high divorce rate than anything else in the world."

"Please don't think I believe in the ideal of indissoluble marriage. I think that people should be able—in time—to get a divorce for almost anything in the world. But I think that the haste of the modern proceeding is utterly indecent, and I believe firmly in a uniform divorce law. It's so absolutely silly, this continuous fitting to Reno or Sioux City to shift partners—as one takes care to make one's waltz turns at the wide ends of a college gymnasium, so that one can put on all the speed possible without danger of collision."

"I think, you know, that the best reason in the world for divorce is incompatibility. I would much rather live with a man whom I knew to be untrue to me, for example, than with one who bored me or who just couldn't be tolerated. And I think most men could forgive almost anything in a wife before disagreeableness. Only because of the haste with which modern marriages may be dissolved people often don't have a chance to find out the really agreeable qualities in each other, and to learn how to control the disagreeable ones. That's why I think divorce should be a much longer process than it is at present—time for reflection that brings repentance, you see."

"A man who marries a woman thinking her mental companionship will be of the negative order, and therefore not disturb him, often realises afterwards just how irritatingly positive that negative quality may become."

"If a woman had to vote she'd learn how to think—she'd have to! She'd be so infinitely more broad-minded and wise and deep and companionable to her husband. She'd know how to listen intelligently, not merely acquiescently. She'd learn how to talk as well as listen. She'd be a chum for her husband, not merely a silky, downy, sofa pillow."

"I believe that women would wipe out this awful graft that we know is so powerful in modern politics. Tammany Hall in New York is a perfect example of what would STOP—if women could vote!"

"There would be no more white slave trade if women were allowed a hand in fighting against the interests 'higher up' which control it. San Francisco, where women have not the franchise, is an open city. Do you know what that means? It means that girls can enter every saloon in town. It means that men who would ordinarily be content, perhaps, with a single drink stay and take several—in company. Do you suppose women, themselves

the mothers of young girls, would stand for this sort of thing for a second? They surely wouldn't, I know."

"The laws that men make invariably have something to do with business or finance. American men have created a splendid set of laws of this sort; now it is up to American women to take their chance—or rather fight for it—and make some laws to protect their homes and children."

"Child labour laws, pure food laws, a universal, seriously framed divorce law, temperance laws, governmental provision for beautifying our towns and cities and preserving our woodlands—those are some of the things the women would see put through, if they got the ballot. Is there any man that's worth while in America who will deny that these things are worthy to be striven for?"

"He lets plenty of people who will hinder instead of help share his privileges with him. I cannot vote, but some low, ignorant foreigner, scarcely able to read and write, can scratch his ballot the way the highest bidder for it tells him to, and help 'save the country,' which we women would undoubtedly imperil. It's too utterly absurd!"

"I firmly believe that women must inevitably get the suffrage, and I think they will get it in a

short time. If they do not it will be to the shame of both our manhood and our womanhood."

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.

18.—Legislation affecting women, some of it good and some of it bad, has been occupying the attention of Parliament of late. Against much of it that is cruel, women having no parliamentary representatives, cannot raise any adequate protest.

Legislation which will curtail the labour of married women is known to be in contemplation, and though private members' Bills dealing with Criminal Law Amendment, Illegitimacy, and Separation, &c., in the main satisfactory to women are to be presently brought before the House, it is yet very dangerous that any Bill affecting women should become law until the mass of those whom it concerns have been consulted in the framing of it. This would be quite impossible unless women were enfranchised.

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BRANCH NOTES.

Croydon.—9, Morland Avenue.

The weekly meeting was held on Wednesday, April 27th, at South Norwood Clock. A good crowd soon gathered round the speaker, Mrs. Sproson, who gave an excellent address, dwelling especially on the position of the woman in the industrial world, and the many disadvantages under which she suffers. The attitude of a few of the listeners emphasised the necessity of educating the general public on the urgent need of woman's enfranchisement. On the other hand, many were very attentive, one of the audience remarking that he agreed with every word the speaker had said. THE VOTE and other literature was sold by Miss J. Fennings and other members, and a collection was taken.—E. T.

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

On Sunday, April 24th, we commenced our open-air meetings in Brockwell Park. The speakers were Mrs. Cope and Mrs. Manson. The chair was taken by Mrs. Cope, who explained the object of our meeting, and said that the question of Women's Suffrage was so urgent and important that suffragists were obliged to take every opportunity of keeping it before the public. If any members of the W.F.L. living in the neighbourhood of Herne Hill, Dulwich, Tulse Hill, or Norwood will kindly assist our Branch by selling THE VOTE or taking collections, I will send them particulars of future meetings, if they will send me their names and addresses.

Mrs. Tanner will give an "At Home," at 32, Wynne Road, Brixton, S.W., on Friday, May 6th, from 4.30 to 7 p.m. Members and friends are cordially invited to attend.—B. SPENCER.

Ipswich.—160, Norwich Road.

The woman's life that especially inspires Suffragettes at the present day is that of Josephine Butler. At our meeting last Thursday Miss Andrews took the life of Mrs. Butler for her subject. Mrs. Garner presided. Special reference was made to the fact that Mrs. Butler and the women working with her felt keenly how handicapped they were by not having the weapon of the vote in their hands; and also, that then, as now, it rested with the women to work out their own salvation.

We have decided to start our out-of-door campaign on Friday, May 6th.—CONSTANCE E. ANDREWS.

West Sussex.—Eastbourne Vicarage, Midhurst.

An open-air meeting was held in Petworth last Wednesday evening. Miss M. E. Byham and myself were the speakers. As is usual in this neighbourhood, the audience were rather shy at first, and kept at a discreet distance, but as darkness came on they rapidly increased in boldness and numbers, until a somewhat large and attentive crowd rewarded our efforts.

The usual "small boy" and the "funny" heckler were, of course, in evidence, but the latter soon began to take a more serious view of the subject, and after the meeting thanked us for our speeches and bought a copy of THE VOTE.

Other literature was sold and a small collection taken. We hope to repeat the visit very shortly.—ANNIE N. ROFF.

Willesden and Maida Vale.—15, Creighton Road, Kilburn.

At our last Branch meeting Dr. Marion Thorne gave a very interesting address on "Physical Deterioration." Miss Dorothy Spencer also attended the meeting to speak on behalf of THE VOTE, and, at her instigation, it was decided to open up a pitch for selling the paper at the Edgware Road Tube Station. Four members have volunteered to sell every Thursday, but sellers are needed for Friday and Saturday afternoons and evenings. Will all who can help in this way kindly communicate with the Secretary of the Branch?

Our open-air meetings prove very popular, and each week the speakers are greeted with a large and appreciative audience. Mrs. Duval spoke on April 22nd, and the speaker last Friday was Mrs. Sproson. A good collection was taken and many copies of THE VOTE were sold.

Miss Munro, the organiser of the L.B.C., will be working in this district during the second week of May, and helpers are needed for canvassing, chalking, etc. There will be open-air meetings every evening, and an indoor meeting in Maida Vale.

Will those who have kindly sent parcels for the Jumble Sale please accept our thanks? Mrs. Gossling has still room for more, and will be pleased to receive parcels, any time before May 13th, at her residence, 147, Buchanan Gardens, Harlesden, N.W.—L. BENNETT, Hon. Secretary.

South Shields.—The Poplars, Langholme Road, E. Bolton.

A public meeting was held in the Congregational Hall on Wednesday evening, April 27th. There was a large attendance, presided over by Mr. R. E. Binks, who in his opening remarks expressed sympathy with the movement. Mrs. Schofield Coates dealt with the history of the Women's Franchise from the beginning, and said that it was their militancy and the force they had put into the movement that had brought it forward.

We had a good collection, after which Mrs. Snowball, of Sunderland, who had kindly consented to fill the place of Mrs. Amy Sanderson, spoke. After the meeting we enrolled eleven new members.—E. MILLER.

Clapham.—31, Rush Hill Road, Lavender Hill, W.

At the workers' meeting last Thursday it was decided that we should affiliate to the London Branches Council, and Miss Reeves was appointed our delegate. We also resolved to send a vehicle in the procession to John Stuart Mill's statue on May 20th, together

with some floral decoration, the expense to be pooled among the members of this Branch. We have two important meetings ahead of us, one on the afternoon of May 11th, in the drawing-room which Mrs. Yates has so kindly lent to the Freedom League, at which Mrs. Despard will speak, and the other on Saturday evening, May 21st, at the Public Library, Lavender Hill, when Miss Hicks, M.A., will be the speaker.—F. A. U.

Lewisham.—62, Inchmery Road, Catford, S.E.

Our first open-air meeting of this season was held on Sunday afternoon, May 1st, when Mrs. Emma Sproson came down to speak. Miss Henderson took the chair. We regret that no other member of the Branch turned up with the exception of Miss Garnett. However, the crowd grew in a few minutes to over 600, and the majority of those stayed to the end.

Manchester (Central Branch).—9, Albert Square.

The work in Stockport started on Monday, the 25th ult., with a meeting in Mersey Square, at which the rowdy element of the people was present in full force. By means of ugly rushes the speaker—Miss Manning—was forced from her stand, and matters looked rather serious when the police came to our aid. They suggested a change of place, escorted us there, and kept the roughs in order while Miss Manning delivered a long and eloquent speech to a large and really interested audience. This experience decided us to notify the Chief Constable of our meetings, and he has kindly given every assistance in his power, though fortunately the services of the Force have not again been required.

Meetings will be held every night this week, and we are glad to say that we have secured a large hall at the County Restaurant, St. Petersgate, for our indoor meeting on Wednesday, May 11th, when we hope to draw in a large number of members as a result of our campaign. Members, please note that we want everyone present that night. The outdoor meetings are attended by only one or two workers, and these are generally sufficient, but we must have plenty of help at our indoor meeting if we are to attain our object. At the branch meeting on Thursday the question of sending a wreath for the John Stuart Mill celebration was considered, and it was decided to join the other local branches in whatever they propose so that the district may be represented.

It was suggested that the Branch should send a delegate to London to join the Freedom League section of the great woman's procession on May 28th, and this will come up for discussion at our next meeting on May 12th. At that meeting, too, we want suggestions for a further outdoor campaign. Stockport will still no doubt want nursing, but the members will be ready after Whitsuntide for fresh fields of attack, and we shall be glad to know of accessible places where work is needed. Will members who cannot attend kindly send their suggestions to Miss Hordern?—M. I. NEAL, President.

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

The Battersea Branch held a meeting at Mossbury Road on Monday, April 18th. Owing to the absence of Miss Chapin, Mrs. Duval addressed the meeting. A large crowd soon gathered, which was very sympathetic, only two hecklers making their appearance; many questions being put, and answered satisfactorily.

On Sunday, April 24th, we held a meeting on Clapham Common at 3 p.m., Mrs. Duval in the chair.—N. DUVAL.

Sunderland.—3, Havelock Terrace.

The Branch held its first meeting in Cleadon Wesleyan Hall. Mrs. Story was in the chair, the speakers being Mrs. Schofield Coates and Miss Clarke. At this meeting four members were enrolled in the Sunderland Branch.—E. CRESSY.

Swansea.—Chez Nous, Sketty, S.O., Glam.

On Wednesday, April 20th, we held our grand Parliamentary Debate on the extension of the franchise to women on the same terms as men. After the Speaker (Mrs. E. A. Cleeves) took the chair the Bill was introduced by the Member for Swansea (Miss D. Salmon) and seconded by the Member for Blackfriars (Miss Shepherd). The result of the division gave an overwhelming majority to the "Ayes," the announcement of which was greeted with loud cheering. The audience was large, and all the speakers entered thoroughly into the spirit of the debate, uproarious interruptions being not infrequent.

At present the Pageant is all in all, and next week we hope to report a magnificent success, both in Swansea and Maesteg. In speaking of the "snapshot" biographies to be included in the programme, these were last week accidentally attributed to Miss D. Salmon, instead of to Miss M. Salmon, M.A.

Arrangements for Branch meetings are being made for May, and we hope to include an Adult Suffrage debate, a Local Government debate, and a Trial by Jury. All members are urged to attend the next meeting on Tuesday, May 10th, at 8 p.m., at the Dynevor Schools.

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GREAT WOMAN'S PROCESSION.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SECTION (Green, Gold and White).

FORM UP AT CLEOPATRA'S NEEDLE AT 2 O'CLOCK.

MEETINGS AT 4.30 IN BOTH HALLS OF KENSINGTON TOWN HALL.

MEMBERS.—The Freedom League is determined to help the N.W.S.P.U. to make this the greatest procession ever seen in this country—you must make it so. Militancy must be proved to have succeeded. The Freedom League has decided that the Green, Gold, and White contingent shall march forward beyond the Albert Hall (tickets for which are nearly sold out, although the sale is confined to members of N.W.S.P.U.) straight forward to Kensington, and there hold two simultaneous meetings in the two great halls. It must be the business of members all over the country to make a huge, triumphant entry and to fill these halls. If there are still more women (and we hope there will be) overflow meetings will be held in Hyde Park and in Kensington High Street. No section of the public but will be catered for (complete list of speakers will be announced next week). And now as to details:—

The Green, Gold, and White Section will meet at Cleopatra's Needle on the Embankment at 2 o'clock. The procession will start at 2.45 promptly. Members should wear white dresses and regalia (2s., obtainable at all our offices and shops). Members who have taken degrees must come in cap and gown, and nurses in their uniforms. Mrs. How Martyn, B.Sc., A.R.C.S., will lead the University women of our section, and it is hoped that all our Doctors and University graduates will march loyally under the Freedom League's banners, thus showing the world that they are convinced upon the matter of militant methods. It must not be thought that the Arts and Sciences are non-militant, preferring to be thought lady-like rather than to obtain their demands. By the time this is in print all members will have received the preliminary cards sent to them. These they are urged to read carefully, and to fill in with speed and to return to the London offices. As soon as this is done meeting-place tickets will be forwarded to all persons whose names have been sent in.

The great thing is the Force of Numbers. Come in thousands. We can cope with you. Remember to do your utmost for the League, for the Cause, and for the Race. Handbills are being printed by the 50,000, so do not be shy of distributing them. Don't leave everything to the last. Tickets for the great mass meetings are on sale at this office. Send for them at once, to avoid disappointment. Prices 5s., 2s. 6d., and 1s.

And now about helping. Of course we want help. One London Central Office cannot possibly do all the masses of work on hand.

Forward Volunteers!

Here are some ways of helping, quite easy to those who are in earnest in this great fight for freedom:—

1. Get at least six sympathisers to come to London and march under our banners, and send us in their names quickly.
2. Send us money towards the Procession expenses, either your own or what you can collect.
3. Get up meetings in every district you can reach and enrol processionists, and send us their names and addresses for meeting-place tickets.
4. London Members can offer hospitality to our Provincial Members.
5. Buy tickets for the meetings and sell them quickly.
6. Make the pennons which Miss Craig has ordered us to make. Patterns, &c., will be sent on application to this office.
7. Call on all possible residents in your district, give them handbills and all particulars, and enrol the women and get men to assist the funds.
8. Make rosettes to be worn on the march—patterns from the office.
9. Office work—addressing and delivering letters, handbills, enrolling members, &c., &c.

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Procession Leaders and Organisers.

Leader: Mrs. DESPARD, Leader of University section in our contingent: Mrs. HOW MARTYN.

Organisers: General Director, Miss CRAIG; Indoor Meetings, Mrs. MANSON; Outdoor Meetings, Miss SIME SERUYA; Decorations, Miss TUCKER; "VOTE" Sellers, Mrs. SNOW.

Local Organisers: London (Indoor Work), Miss LEYSON; London (Outdoor Work), Miss SPENCER; Scotland, Miss SIDLEY; Ireland, Miss COYLE; Wales, Mrs. CLEEVES; Yorkshire, Mrs. SCHOFIELD COATES; N.W. England, Miss MANNING, B.A.; Home Counties, Miss NELSON, M.A.; Southern Counties, Miss BREMNER; and all Branch Secretaries.

OTHER SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

The Suffrage Atelier.—1, Pembroke Cottages, Edwardes Sq., W. "Shall we pay taxes?" Mrs. Kineton Parkes will address the Suffrage Atelier on the above subject, on Wednesday afternoon, May 11th, at 2.30. All friends are invited to attend.

The New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage. Mrs. Rhewon Guest very kindly acted as hostess for the Society, and gave an "At Home" at 14, Bedford Square, on Friday, April 22nd.

A beginning was made on Tuesday, April 19th, with the afternoon and evening "At Home" in the Shop, 8, Park Mansions Arcade, Knightsbridge. These will be continued during the summer.

Members and sympathisers are asked to come and bring their friends.

On Thursday afternoon, April 28th, Miss Green entertained members of this Society at 14, Warwick Crescent, Maida Vale. The chair was taken by Mrs. Cecil Chapman. Mr. Baillie Weaver held his audience enthralled while he demolished the case of the Anti-Suffragists in a witty speech, and Miss Hessel gave some really valuable statistics, which must inevitably help her suffragist listeners in their work of conversion. Several new members were made.

The Actresses' Franchise Matinée on Tuesday next is the biggest and best thing this enterprising League has done yet. See advt. on page 15. Tell your friends about it and go yourself.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.



DARE TO BE FREE.

LONDON.

- WED., MAY 4TH.—Essex Hall, Strand, 8.15. Mrs. Despard, Miss Anna Munro, Miss Neilans.
Central Branch, 1, Robert Street, 7.30. Mrs. Vulliamy, 8.15.
Poplar Walk, North End, West Croydon, 8 p.m. Mrs. Manson.
Hackney, 4, Clarence Road. Mrs. Sproson.
THURS., MAY 5TH.—Queen's Hall, 7.30. Reception to Men's League. Mrs. Hicks, Mrs. Sproson, Messrs. H. Jacobs, Goldfinch Bate, H. G. Chancellor, M.P., Joseph Clayton, J. Malcolm Mitchell.
Willesden Branch Meeting, 14, Great Western Road, 8 p.m. Miss Munro.
FRI., MAY 6TH.—Speakers' Class, postponed.
SAT., MAY 7TH.—Harrow, 3 p.m. Miss Munro.
Peckham, 8 p.m., the Triangle. Mrs. Sproson.
1, Robert Street, Adelphi, National Executive Committee, 11 a.m.
Southall, 7.30.
SUN., MAY 8TH.—Regent's Park, 12. Mrs. Chapin, Mr. Theodore Gugenheim, Miss E. Chapin.
Finsbury Park, 11.30.
Trafalgar Square, 3 p.m. Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett, Mrs. Chapin, Mrs. Kinton Parkes, Mrs. Manson, Miss Munro, Mrs. Sproson, and others.
MON., MAY 9TH.—Mrs. Duval's Drawing-Room Meeting, 37, Park Road, St. John's Hill, S.W., 7.30. Mr. Duval, Mr. Gugenheim, Mrs. Clanchy.
Miss Henderson's, Eton House, Dacre Park, Lee, 8 p.m. Miss I. Tillard, Miss Chandler.
Kensington Town Hall, 8 p.m. For employees at Barker's, Derry and Tom's, Harrod's, and others. Mrs. Manson, Mrs. Sproson, Mr. Kennedy.
TUES., MAY 10TH.—Mrs. Hicks' Drawing-Room Meeting, 33, Downside Crescent, Hampstead, 4.30. Mrs. Manson.
Mrs. Railton's, 42, Campden House Court, Kensington, 3.30. Mrs. Holmes, Miss D. Spencer, Mr. Railton.
Egham. Mrs. Manson, Mr. Kennedy.
WED., MAY 11TH.—Southall. Grand Evening Concert, including the one-act play "The Pot and the Kettle," at Holy Trinity Parish Hall, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Despard.
Mrs. Montague Yates', Holmdale, 45, Bolingbroke Grove, Wandsworth Common, 3.30. Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Manson.
Croydon, 8 p.m., Thornton Hall Clock. Mrs. Nevinson.
THURS., MAY 12TH.—No "At Home."
Gillingham, Kent. Mrs. Manson.
London Branches Council, 1, Robert Street, 6.45.
FRI., MAY 13TH.—Prince of Wales, Harrow Road, 7.30 p.m. Miss Munro.
THURS., MAY 19TH.—Caxton Hall, 3 p.m. Mrs. Despard, Rev. Hugh Chapman.
FRI., MAY 20TH.—John Stuart Mill Celebrations. Cortège and Wreath-laying, 12.45-2. Mrs. Despard. (See Special Bills.)
Queen's Hall, 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard, Dr. Baillie Weaver, General Sir Alfred Turner.
SAT., MAY 21ST.—Public Meeting, Lecture Room, Battersea Free Library, Lavender Hill, 8 p.m. Miss Hicks, M.A.
THURS., MAY 26TH.—Queen's Hall, 3 p.m.
SAT., MAY 28TH.—Woman's Procession. Public Meetings, 4.30. Kensington Town Hall. Speeches.
Luncheon-hour Meetings during the next week:—Pickering Place, W.; Peckham; Charing Cross Road; Kennington. Chief speaker, Mrs. Sproson.
Mrs. Despard, when in London, is at the office on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, and will be pleased to see members of the League who wish to consult her.
Workers welcomed at Miss Connell's Studio, 50, Grove End Road, N.W.

THE PROVINCES.

- FRI., MAY 6TH.—Kingston Road, Portsmouth, 7.45.
MON., MAY 9TH.—Town Hall Square, Portsmouth, 7.45.
TUES., MAY 10TH.—Middlesbrough, Hinton's Café. Miss Cook, of West Hartlepool, on "Browning's Women."
WED., MAY 11TH.—Cosham, Portsmouth.
Northallerton. Town Hall. Mrs. Schofield Coates.
THURS., MAY 12TH.—Sunderland (Debate). Mrs. Schofield Coates.
MON., MAY 30TH.—Sheffield. Open-air Meeting. Mr. J. H. Bingham.

SCOTLAND.

- THURS., MAY 5TH.—Pollokshields. Drawing-Room Meeting, "Kelmscott," Springkell Avenue, 3 p.m. Hostess, Mrs. Mactaggart. Speaker, Miss Marguerite Sidley.
SAT., MAY 7TH.—Clydebank, 3.30. Miss Marguerite Sidley.
TUES., MAY 10TH.—"At Home," 33, Forrest Road.
St. Mungo Assembly Hall, S.S., Glasgow, 8 p.m. Speakers, Miss Bessie Semple, Miss Marguerite Sidley.
WED., MAY 11TH.—Central and Hillhead Branch.—Suffrage Centre, 302, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow. Business Meeting, 8 p.m.
SAT., MAY 14TH.—Cake and Candy Sale, at 3 p.m., at 33, Forrest Road, Edinburgh.

SAT., MAY 21ST.—Jumble Sale, at 3 p.m., in Central Halls, Nicolson Street, Edinburgh.

WALES.

- THURS., MAY 5TH.—Swansea, Albert Hall: Woman's Pageant. Miss Cicely Hamilton and Miss Edith Craig. Speaker, Mrs. Despard.
FRI., MAY 6TH.—Town Hall, Maesteg, Swansea, 7 p.m. Woman's Pageant. Miss Cicely Hamilton and Miss Edith Craig.
WED., MAY 11TH.—Dynevour Schools, 8 p.m. Adult Suffrage Debate.

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS.

MANCHESTER Branch Meeting, Thursdays, 7.30 p.m., at 9, Albert Square (Office of Women's Trades Union Council).

CLAPHAM BRANCH.—Drawing-room Meeting, Mrs. Yates', 45, Bolingbroke Grove, Wandsworth Common, May 11th, 3 p.m. Speaker, Mrs. Despard. Public Meeting, May 21st, 8 p.m., in Lecture Room, Battersea Library, Lavender Hill. Speaker, Miss Hicks, M.A.

EDINBURGH BRANCH.—Opening of Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest Road.—Cake and Candy Sale, Saturday, May 14th, 3 p.m.; Jumble Sale, May 21st, 3 p.m., in Central Halls, Nicolson Street. Gifts for these Sales will be gratefully received at the Shop, or called for on receipt of p.c.—A. B. Jack, Hon. Secretary.

COMPETITION FOR RECEIPTS.

Owing to the interest taken in last month's competitions, and as the advertising is the mainstay of the paper, we have decided to encourage the keeping of receipts for goods bought from advertisers by our readers by continuing our offer of monthly prizes for the largest number sent in.

(1) The first prize for the largest number of receipts will be 10s., or two fully-paid-up shares in the Minerva Publishing Co.

(2) The second, for the largest total amount spent, will be 6s. 6d., or a year's subscription to THE VOTE, post free.

Entries for the first competition must be sent in before Saturday, June 4th. The result will be announced in the issue dated June 11th.

"THE VOTE" DIRECTORY.

(For Addresses see Advertisements.)

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