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Notes.

THE Scottish University Women's Suffrage Union (Glasgow Branch) holds its first public meeting on Thursday, May 6th, at 8 P.M., in the St. Andrews (Berkeley Hall). The principal speaker will be Mrs. Philip Snowden. Mr. Tom Jones, M.A., will take the chair, and it is expected that Miss Chrystal Macmillan, B.Sc., will also speak.

AN interesting feature in connexion with the meeting of the Alliance was the "Girl's Afternoon Tea Party," given by Miss Bertha Mason on Friday afternoon, at the Waldorf Hotel, to the Young American and Foreign delegates. Miss Mason received her guests in the ballroom, which was decorated with palms and flowers. After tea the girls gathered round Dr. Anna Shaw, who was present, for an enjoyable half hour of informal chat. About forty-five had accepted Miss Mason's invitation.

A MEETING was held at the Corn Exchange, Stratford-on-Avon, on April 29th. Though the night of the Shakespearean Ball, and a thoroughly wet night, the hall was filled with a sympathetic and attentive audience. Lady Isobel Margesson was in the chair. Mrs. C. C. Stopes was the first speaker, supported by Miss Helen Fraser, the local organizer. The audience was responsive to every point in both the speeches, and to the after remarks from the chair.

AN exhibition of pictures will be given on May 11th and 12th at 53, Broadhurst Gardens, N.W., by a member of the Artists' Suffrage Atelier, a society which we have before mentioned as doing such good and useful work for the Cause by way of cartoons, post cards, and posters.

On all purchases 25 per cent to 50 per cent will be given to any Suffrage society named by the purchaser.

WE have received from Miss M. A. R. Tucker, 11., from Miss Margaret Bache 10s., and from Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett 4s., towards the publishing expenses of this paper.

Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

Weekly Numbers, 1½d. a week post free. Quarterly Subscriptions, 1s. 8d.; half-yearly, 3s. 3d.; yearly, 6s. 6d. All Subscriptions must be paid in advance. Back Numbers can still be obtained at the Office.

Articles containing information on the subject of Women's Suffrage should be addressed to the Editor, who will return those not considered suitable as soon as possible if a stamped addressed envelope is sent with the MS. As the paper is on a voluntary basis, and all profits go to help the cause, no payments are made for contributions.

The General Editor gives the widest possible latitude to each of the Societies represented in this Paper, and is only responsible for unsigned matter occurring in the pages devoted to general items.

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80, Middle Abbey Street, Dublin.

Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association.

Lady St. Helier has kindly consented to hold a Drawing-room Meeting at her house on behalf of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, on Tuesday, May 11th. She will take the chair, and among the speakers will be Mr. G. A. Touche, Conservative candidate for North Islington.

Irish Women's Suffrage Movement.

UNDER the auspices of the Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association (Belfast Branch), a successful "At Home" was held recently in Ye Olde Castle Restaurant, the arrangements for which devolved upon the efficient Organizing Secretary, Mrs. Bennett. An attractive dramatic and musical programme was contributed.

The Rev. James Montgomery Birtill, in the course of an address, said that membership of that Association meant that wherever they went, in all relationship of their life, they should have the aim of doing all they could to influence everybody they could in the question of votes for women.

Correspondence.

[The Proprietors of 'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE' do not necessarily identify themselves in any way with the opinions expressed by their Correspondents.]

Women as Chartered Accountants.

Craven House, Kingsway, W.C., May 1st, 1909.

DEAR MADAM,—As intense amazement and resentment is being manifested in many quarters at the totally unexpected announcement that the Institute of Chartered Accountants is going to admit women on the same terms as men, I should like to relate the true inner history of the events which culminated in this unprecedented step, particularly as I understand that the Institute is endeavouring to make capital out of this incident, by posing as a virtuous body, which has made a spontaneous and gratuitous concession to women, and one which ought to be imputed to it for righteousness.

This body has always been notoriously anti-woman, and has quite distinguished itself in its desire to suppress women. I possess an interesting collection of cuttings representing its opinions (*previous to its sudden conversion*) which, for fatuous gibes and cheap humour at woman's expense, would not be unworthy of some members of the House of Commons. Only within the last few months *The Daily Telegraph* published a two-column article by a City woman, bitterly resenting the tone of the after-dinner remarks, anent women and their inherent incapacity for doing or being anything whatever, which had been bandied about at the Institute's Annual Dinner a night or two before.

This body has long been endeavouring to get a Bill for the Registration of Accountants, but has never evinced any intention of considering women's interests in relation to such a Bill.

Having done all I could, as an unattached unit, to persuade these men to listen to reason in this matter, and only got severely snubbed by them, I was more grateful than I can say when recently the National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League authorized me to address the Institute in their name, intimating in unmistakable terms that attempts to introduce a Bill ignoring women's interests, and creating a male monopoly, would be met by the uncompromising opposition of the women's party.

To this the Institute's secretary deigned to reply briefly that he "observed my remarks"; but I may say that he had never got even as far as this before.

There seems, however, to have been more substance in this commonplace than is usually the case, as the new draft of the Bill is just out, and women's interests are provided for (in a dubious manner, it is true, but that I shall have to deal with later).

The draft has been sent round to all members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, accompanied by a circular letter, in which there is a grudging and specious paragraph calling attention to the "Provision for Women" clause, and, in effect, recommending members to bow to the inevitable, and to kiss the rod, "as the Council is advised that no Bill will be allowed to pass which does not protect vested interests already existing."

Now the point I wish to make is, that this body of men could never realize that women could possess "vested interests" until the militant Suffragists officially called their attention to the fact that such is the case, whereupon they abandon their untenable position, and the walls of their Jericho fall flat as though at the sound of Joshua's trumpet.

This is, in fact, an object lesson, though quite in a small way, on the strength, the sureness, and the unflinching efficacy and success of the militant policy. Let all read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the same, and each apply it to her own particular problem, particularly those women who have to cope with similar disabilities in other professions and callings. Remember that "Triumphant" follows on "Militant here on earth," not only in the Church Service, but elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,

ETHEL AYRES PURDIE, Certified Accountant.
London Chamber of Commerce Senior Distinction.
S.O.A. Intermediate and Final.

Militant Suffragettes and Mr. Asquith.

DEAR MADAM,—It has occurred to me that my opinion as to the respective positions of the militant Suffragettes and Mr. Asquith might be of utility to my fellow men readers in forming an accurate judgment of the case before us: and I therefore beg to submit it for the use of your columns.

There appear to be two views that may be taken upon the actions of the Government: that, namely, of the Government, which is based upon the Act 13, Charles II. st. i. c. 5, of which the clause referring to "tumultuous petitionings," was retained in the Bill of Rights; and the view of the Suffragettes, which is based upon Section 5 of the Bill of Rights itself.

Now it was impossible for Mr. Asquith to legally make use of the clause that was retained from the reign of Charles II; and which empowered the Government to prevent tumultuous deputations from proceeding to the King or his ministers, because the deputations which have been sent have never proceeded in a disorderly or malignant fashion. When the first deputation proceeded in a quiet and orderly way, therefore, as every one knows, he prevented them upon a charge of obstruction. But if any orderly deputation may be withheld upon such a charge, from the exercise of the right expressed in the Bill of Rights of 1689, then clause v. therein is rendered null and void. *i.e.*, "That it is right for the subject to petition the King (or his proxies), and all commitments and prosecutions for such petitionings are illegal," because the crown will then be able to prevent upon all occasions the execution of this right, by any subject or subjects, male or female. Thus the conclusion of clause xiii. (which expresses the intent of the whole Act) is rendered futile, namely: "... To which demand of their rights they are particularly encouraged by the declaration of his Highness the Prince of Orange, as being the only means for obtaining a full redress and remedy."

But even supposing the Premier to have acted in accordance with the law, he is still upon the horns of a dilemma, because he did not stop the deputations for being of a disorderly or "tumultuous nature," and although they might, therefore, have been charged with obstruction, then or afterwards, they should have been brought before him on their errand; since while he was not violating the second half of the clause, he was acting illegally in violating the first half. However, the matter stand, therefore, he is legally liable to an impeachment for his action before the Bar of his peers.

I am, Madam, yours truly,
BACHELOR OF ARTS, CAMBRIDGE.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

OLTON (N.U.W.S.S.).—A very successful drawing-room meeting was held on April 21st by kind invitation of Mrs. T. L. Griffiths. Mrs. Green, of Birmingham, gave an excellently clear and concise account of the development of the women's movement from the middle of the eighteenth century up to the present time. There was a good percentage of the crowded audience who attended for the sake of gaining more knowledge preparatory to joining a society. These confessed themselves nearer their goal, and several new members joined.

[Owing to lack of space we are unable to report the Reigate and Redhill meeting.]

Meetings of the N.U.W.S.S.

			P.M.
MAY 6.	London (Westminster Branch), At Home	Hostess, Mrs. Carol Speakers, Sir Edward Burk, Sir Horace Plunkett	8.30
7.	Pontypridd, Meeting, Women only	Speaker, Miss Abadam	2.30
	Scottish University Women, Queen Margaret College Union, Glasgow	Speaker, Mrs. Conolan	4.30
	London (Marylebone Branch), Drawing Room Meeting	Hostess, Mrs. Eve Speaker, Lady Frances Balfour	
	Pontypridd, Meeting, Men only	Speakers, Miss Abadam Mr. Malcolm Mitchell	
17.	Newcastle, Afternoon	Speaker, Lady Frances Balfour	
	Sunderland, Evening	Speakers, Lady Frances Balfour and Miss Chrystal Macmillan	
18.	London, Chiswick Town Hall, Debate on Woman's Suffrage	Chair, Mr. T. Edwards Forster	8
		Speakers, Mrs. Rackham, N.U.W.S.S., Mrs. Arthur Somervell	
19.	Uxbridge, Meeting, Women only, Small Town Hall	Chair, Mrs. Davidson	3.15
	Uxbridge, Meeting, Men only, Small Town Hall	Speaker, Miss Abadam	
21.	Derby, Orpheus Hall, Stafford Street. Subject, 'When we have the Vote.'	Chair, Rev. J. Brady Speaker, Miss Abadam	8
		Chair, Mrs. Frank Stones	7.30
		Speaker, Miss M. Norma Smith	
JUNE 9.	Derby, Orpheus Hall, Stafford Street. Subject, 'The Woman Movement.'	Chair, Mr. T. Mawbey, J.P.	3
		Speaker, Mrs. W. Dowson	
25.	Derby, Orpheus Hall, Stafford Street. Subject, 'Woman's Suffrage.'	Chair, Miss Cook	7.30
		Speaker, Mrs. Gerard Smith	

Nottingham Special Effort Week, May 19th to 26th.

"At Home," Ball Room, Calvert's Café. Meeting, Southwell, Notts. Speaker, the Hon. Mrs. Bertrand Russell, of Oxford.

"At Home" and Garden Sale, at Felixstowe, The Park (lent for the occasion), held May 25th, 3 to 7.30. Speaker the Hon. Mrs. Bertrand Russell, 3.30 and 5.30. Recitations, Miss Norma Smith, of Derby. Songs, Mrs. Archie Wardle.

Speakers' Class, Tuesday and Wednesday, May 25th and 26th. The Hon. Mrs. B. Russell, 11 o'clock.

Ladies' Luncheon, May 26th, to meet Mrs. Russell, 1 o'clock.

"At Homes" and Concerts, May 20th, arranged by Mrs. Horsley, Miss R. Goldberg, assisted by Mrs. Thorndyke Casson (Actresses' Suffrage League), and Mr. Casson. Others arranged by Miss R. P. Hutchinson, Mrs. W. E. Dowson, and Mrs. Gerard Dowson.

Stall in the Market Place for sale of literature and articles made by members.

Concert, Actresses Franchise League, Mrs. Horsley.

If you can help by arranging or assisting at an entertainment, please send in your name to the Hon. Secs., Felixstowe, The Park, Nottingham.

Collecting cards will be sent to members in good time. Will every member (realizing that 10,000 other members are collecting also) send it back with something, if only coppers, collected from friends?

Scottish University Women's Suffrage Union.

The following Meetings have been arranged:—

			P.M.
MAY 6.	Glasgow, Public Meeting	Speaker, Mrs. Philip Snowden	8
7.	St. Andrews, Public Meeting	Speaker, Mrs. Philip Snowden	8
8.	St. Andrews, Annual Business Meeting		
14.	Cupar, Drawing-Room Meeting	Chair, Dr. Flora Butcher	3.30
	Public Meeting	Speakers, Miss F. H. Melville, M.A., Miss Belle Pagan	8

Meeting at Albert Hall (April 27).

THE Chairman, Mrs. Fawcett, said a few words of welcome, and returned thanks to the Artists' League for the way in which they had worked to make the pageant the success it had been.

Mrs. Chapman Catt, who was loudly applauded, said that only a few weeks ago she was speaking to a great granddaughter of John Stuart Mill, in New York, who was at the head of a large business, employing over two hundred men and women. This lady had said that there were no new arguments on Women's Suffrage since her great grandmother's day; but she (Mrs. Catt) had replied, "You are the new argument." One of their great men had said, "I cannot enthuse over statistics," and certainly no figures could tell the story of the number of women in trades and professions as eloquently as the pageant before them and the emblems carried. One banneret she saw bore the inscription "Taxpayers demand the vote"; another, "Taxation without representation is tyranny." These two beliefs were the cause of a slight friction between England and America, some century and a quarter ago. Since that day the principle had spread the round world over, and had now given way to another—the rights of the man behind the vote. To-day the watchword was: "Wage earners demand the vote"—women as well as men, not because they were women, but because they were human beings. She voiced greetings from the twenty-one nations composing the Alliance; and had received many sympathetic telegrams from every part of Europe. One, from Norway, she would read: "May your faith move mountains." The mountains before them were tradition, prejudice, ignorance, and fear; destined to be moved by faith, reason, and common sense. She bid their sisters, in all trades and professions, be of good cheer, the awakening of men and women was taking place all over the world.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, M.P., proposed the resolution:—"That this meeting, representative of the Women's Suffrage Movement in twenty-one countries of Europe, Australasia, and America, records its satisfaction with the progress of Women's Enfranchisement, and is confident that rapid and complete success awaits it in the future." He based a somewhat fighting speech on the present economic conditions which rendered it imperative for the welfare of the world that women should be enfranchised.

Miss Frances Sterling seconded the resolution. They had with them that night women from all parts of the world who were working for the enfranchisement of women, and women who were living proof that they were none the worse for having the vote. If an old and a great country could manage to open its eyes enough to see the desirability of granting the same rights and duties to women as to men it would forward the movement all over the world. Men, to gain the vote, had never had to work shoulder to shoulder in the fight as women were doing; women were beginning to understand what imperial politics might become, and to look forward to the day when the family would not be a family of the home or of a country, but a family of the nations.

Mrs. Philip Snowden refuted the statement, made by Mrs. Humphry Ward, that the Woman Suffrage Movement in America was approaching defeat and extinction. She emphasized the fact that, although the methods of the various societies working for the Suffrage differed, their aim and their object were one; and suggested as a watchword, "After it, follow it, follow the gleam."

Dr. Anna Shaw regretted that the first words she uttered must be in opposition to Mrs. Snowden's statement that they were engaged in the greatest struggle the world had ever known—the struggle to free one half of the human race; it was the greatest struggle the world had ever known, because it was a struggle to free the entire human race. They had sung "Britons never shall be slaves." Britons always had been and always would be slaves till they were the sons of free women. Why did men wish to vote? Was it because they could fight? Was it because of their superior intelligence?—that could be decided by standing by the ballot box on an election day. Was it because they were all honest, or good or wise? No; men wanted to vote because they were thinking human beings, trying to think out the best conditions under which they might live and be happy. If men were logical—which they were not, or could reason—which they did not, they would never have taught women the alphabet if they wished to keep them in subjection. Through education women had found themselves, and they never intended to get lost again; nothing would ever satisfy them till the women of the whole world were free. The old motto was the survival of the fittest—to-day they had before them the vision of a future when the unfit should become fit and such conditions existed as would make it impossible for the unfit to be born. Never had there been a period when the Suffrage Movement counted so many workers; in all cities were organizations of women, not only self-supporting, but supporting a movement which would lead to the freedom of the race, to the unity of the world, to the time when it would be possible to say: "One is your Father, even God, and all ye are the people of one family."

Congress of International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28TH.

THE revision of the Constitution of the Alliance occupied the attention of the Congress throughout the day, and the business was still unfinished when the afternoon session adjourned. Added to the intricacies of the methods of procedure, was the difficulty of language, which, in spite of valiant efforts on the part of the interpreters, rendered it a slow, practically an impossible, matter for the delegates from the twenty-one nations to come to a satisfactory understanding on some of the more complicated questions of the day. When it is considered that the Constitution consists of ten articles, sub-divided into innumerable sections, and that every country had some proposal, or amendment, or amendment to an amendment to make—all of which had to be translated into English, French, or German—the wonder is not that the business proceeded slowly, but that it proceeded at all. A proposal to substitute the words "enfranchisement for the women" for "enfranchisement of the women" was pronounced impossible, because "Wahbrecht" and "Stimmrecht" in German, and "affranchisement" and "le droit de vote" in French, have different meanings. After a long discussion, it was resolved to leave each country to translate the amended clause as literally as possible.

A proposal, made by Norway, that if two or more National Suffrage Societies in one country desired to join the Alliance they should form a federation, led to the most important and interesting debate of the day. The proposal was opposed on the ground that differences of opinion on religion or on methods would make the adoption of such a plan unfeasible; and that every national Women's Suffrage Society should be allowed to affiliate directly with the International Alliance. Mrs. Fawcett advocated direct representation, as she considered more useful work could be done by the societies separately; and that it would be wasting time to try to federate, for instance, the five societies in our own country. Mrs. Despard was of the same opinion—federation was a high ideal, but at the present time practically unworkable. Miss I. O. Ford proposed that the question might be left for each country to decide for itself. The iron hand of democracy made itself felt when America and Switzerland suggested that a country should be made to federate its societies, whether it wished to or not. Miss Ford's amendment was lost; and it was finally resolved that central committees should be formed from the Suffrage Societies in the various countries, in order to affiliate with the Alliance. This was afterwards amended by a clause which stated that if difficulties arose in any country which prevented a new Society forming with the old, or if the old society refused to form a committee with the new, then the new society seeking affiliation should apply directly to an international committee, which, if it found the society was formed in accordance with the rules of the Alliance, should notify the same to the society already affiliated, and oblige it to form a committee with the new society for the purpose of sending delegates to the Congress of the Alliance.

During the day visits were conducted to University College, Borough Polytechnic, Temple Church, and to workmen's model dwellings. At the close of the afternoon session a reception was held at the University Club for ladies, where, after tea, Miss Jones, the head mistress of Girton College, greeted the delegates; and Mrs. Garrett Anderson spoke a few words of encouragement, and declared her belief in the powers of women, physical as well as mental. Thanks on behalf of the delegates were eloquently returned by Dr. Anita Augspurg.

The most important social event of the week was the dinner at Prince's Restaurant, in honour of the delegates, after which a reception was held in the picture galleries. Lady Frances Balfour and Mrs. Fawcett received the guests, among whom were many well known English Suffragists.

The galleries were crowded with a gay throng of women, and all troubles of language and procedure seemed nightmare phantoms of the past. Under the direction of Madame Marie Brema, a musical entertainment was given, while Miss Cicely Hamilton's "waxworks" afforded much amusement—the Anti Suffragette lady who rocked a cradle, stirred a spoon round a saucepan, and read an Anti-Suffragette novel, all at the same time, scoring a great success.

A message from the Queen of Norway to the Congress, which was delivered by Fru Qvam, the representative of the Government of Norway at the Congress, was received with cheers. Her Majesty sent greetings to the Congress, and to the women of her native country; and hoped that the work women were doing the world over would prove for the benefit and happiness of women, the home, and the nation.

THURSDAY, APRIL 29TH.

THE official programme for this day was most interesting, consisting as it did of five minute reports from each of the auxiliary associations, and afternoon excursions to Stratford-on-Avon, Wycombe Abbey School, Windsor, and Hampton Court. But the revision of the Constitution of the Alliance was sadly in arrears, and the delegates, with heroic self-sacrifice, decided to continue the work.

At the opening of the proceedings Mrs. Fawcett reminded the Congress of the afternoon service at St. Paul's on the following Sunday, to which the delegates had been specially invited.

A question for debate arose as to the meaning of a Women's Suffrage Society. Mrs. Fawcett proposed that all societies seeking affiliation with the Alliance should have Women's Suffrage for their sole object, except in a country where women were already enfranchised, or where local conditions made it impossible. An amendment was proposed to alter the word "sole" to "chief." Miss Margaret Ashton protested against any society being admitted that aimed at education for the vote; and Mrs. Chapman Catt thought the continued extension of the Franchise to men alone tended to postpone the enfranchisement of women. Dr. Shaw said women had been side-tracked long enough, and they were determined never to pause again till they were free, whatever men might promise. In America, during a struggle of sixty years, they had been side-tracked again and again—for working men, for negroes, for every reform under the sun. They would give their energy, their time, their money for this reform, and they would never stand aside for any party or class whatsoever. Her amendment that the definition decided upon should apply only to new societies wishing to join was adopted.

A discussion then arose as to whether Adult Suffrage Societies should be admitted. Miss Furuhejm (Finland) and Mrs. Donohoe (Australia) thought it a pity that such societies should be excluded; in their countries women had been enfranchised because they worked with the men for universal Suffrage. Madame Mirovitch (Russia) pointed out that Australia and Finland were exceptional, as in those countries men and women obtained the Suffrage practically at the same time. The men had not had time to forget the suffering entailed by being voteless. Miss Ashton endorsed this opinion, and Austria said their country should prove an example. There the women had worked for the men, the men had gained the full Suffrage, and women had been forgotten. Ultimately Mrs. Fawcett's motion was triumphantly carried with only two against.

A little scene followed. Mr. Shaw, a representative of the Adult Suffrage Society, asked how this resolution would affect the affiliation of his society with the Alliance. The chair gave it as her opinion that it would be prevented, but pointed out that further amendments might be made by which the resolution would be modified. Mrs. Montefiore announced that the Adult Suffrage Society was the only one in England demanding a democratic measure, and if they were not allowed to state their case the fraternal delegates of that Society would withdraw from the Congress. Dr. Shaw moved to proceed with the business of the Constitution; and the chair suggested that the Adult Suffrage delegates should wait for an opportunity, which was bound to occur later on, of speaking on the question of Adult Suffrage. Mrs. Fawcett's motion being carried practically unanimously, Mrs. Montefiore refused to act on Mrs. Catt's suggestion, and the two fraternal delegates of the Adult Suffrage Society withdrew—as a protest against a decision which she maintained would exclude Suffrage Societies all over the world, and against the arbitrary closing of the debate.

It was proposed to substitute the word "quadrennial" for the word "quinquennial" when referring to the Conventions. The suggestion seemed exceedingly popular, and the proposal was adopted after a short discussion.

In the evening the Albert Hall was packed with an audience which was exhilarating in its enthusiasm, on the occasion of a mass meeting of women, organized by the N.W.S.P.U. The speakers were Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, in the chair, Mrs. Pankhurst, Miss Christabel Pankhurst, Miss Annie Kenney, and, by request of the meeting, Miss Mary Gawthorpe. By special invitation the boxes were occupied by delegates to the International Congress; and the speeches of the evening made it evident that the N.W.S.P.U. were determined that these ladies should not return to their own countries without having the case for the Militant Suffragettes laid before them. An interesting feature of the proceedings was the presentation of a special brooch, emblematic of the prison gate, with a broad arrow upon it in the colours of the Union, to the members who had suffered imprisonment for the Cause. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence presented the brooches, and was, in her turn, decorated by Mrs. Pankhurst. Up to the present 381 members have gained their "Holloway degree."

Mrs. Pankhurst said the time had been when she had put such resolutions as she was to move that night with a sinking heart; now she put it knowing they were going to win, and to win very soon.

They had learnt the lesson that would lead to victory. In England, the Mother of Nations—why this feminine term?—the women had had a hard struggle, and those among them who had understood they must win their freedom for themselves were called militant women. They were militant in the sense of a church militant. They were in revolt, but the revolution was a bloodless one. The militant methods had consisted in putting themselves in a position where men must do them justice or do them violence. And had they not by these means pushed on the movement as fast as any men's revolution for freedom had ever gone? They had succeeded in pushing it to the forefront of practical politics; they had shown that women could be loyal to one another, and in the movement they had swept away class distinctions. Women went on deputations to Parliament as a constitutional right which the unrepresented had always claimed in this country. Men used to go, before they had the vote, to lay their grievances before the king and his ministers; and it was for reviving this good old constitutional practice that women suffered imprisonment. In June they were all going to make one more great effort to induce the Prime Minister to receive them—if he refused again, again they would go. What was the effect of this action on that Court of Appeal—the Nation? Everywhere men, the voters, were rallying to their side, because they knew that, even without them, women could win alone; because they admired, respected, and liked women of pluck and courage. Mr. Asquith was mistaken when he thought all men, like himself, despised women. Miss Christabel Pankhurst said it was difficult to realize they were the physical force party. They were not prepared to commit themselves to the statement that violence was always wrong. Unnecessary violence was wrong; but violence to vindicate human liberty was right. But she would not defend violence, because the women had never yet used any. As for the present Liberal Government—in spirit, policy, ideal, and aim there was no essential difference between it and the Russian Government, only the Russian Government was free to work its will, which here traditions of liberty prevented. The Suffragette policy was one of defiance, revolt, rebellion, revolution. She would say to the women who were content with words without deeds, Don't appeal, don't beg, don't curry favour; remember the dignity of womanhood, and stand on the safe and certain ground of self-respect. The Suffragette policy was a victorious one; the Brawling Bill was an admission to the world that the Government was at its wits' end. They did not fear criticism. A meeting of women such as this any statesman, Lloyd George or any other, might be proud to address. Lloyd George had said he was a friend of the women, and had come to a women's meeting in that hall, with a message from the Liberal Government, and they say that women are dishonourable! Three sorts of women listened to him: those who trusted him and the Liberal Government—were they satisfied to-day?—those who knew well that the Government was playing with them, but sat making no murmur; and those who were filled with disgust, and stood up and said so. They made their protest, and did their best to howl down a politician who came to give bread, and actually offered a stone. Mr. Asquith should have been made to sign a Bill of Rights, after the manner of William and Mary, before he was permitted to become Prime Minister. To petition the King was an old constitutional right, and all prosecutions for such were illegal. The women who went on deputations were prosecuted under a trumped-up police regulation. Their weapon was public opinion, which was not to be allowed to rust on the shelf, but brought out to smite the enemy hip and thigh—at by-elections. They opposed the Government candidate every time, no matter what he said. To support the man who went about saying "I am your friend" was to put a premium on political lying. 420 members of the Liberal Government were pledged to support Women's Suffrage; but a private member was a counter in the political game, bound hand and foot to his leaders. Their policy was politically sound, remorselessly logical. If they stood together and acquitted themselves like women, nothing could stand between them and the Parliamentary vote. Miss Annie Kenney and Miss Mary Gawthorpe addressed the meeting, and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence announced that the collection taken amounted to £800. The resolution:—

"That this meeting records its profound conviction that Great Britain should take its place among those countries where men and women possess equal citizen rights, and claims from the Government the immediate enfranchisement of women. This meeting further expresses its high appreciation of the service rendered to Woman Suffrage by those women who have undergone imprisonment for the cause, and calls upon other women to stand shoulder to shoulder with them until the final victory is won," was then put to the meeting and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence declared it carried with two dissentients amid thunderous applause; and the meeting ended to the sound of hearty Suffragette cheers.

FRIDAY, APRIL 30TH.

In two large brackets, decorated with the colours of the Union, many of the delegates—having accepted an invitation from the

N.W.S.P.U. to welcome a number of Suffragette prisoners released that morning—took part in the procession from Holloway to the Criterion Restaurant.

The news that the heir to the throne of Holland was a girl met with enthusiastic applause. "Even nature is conspiring to make this week of special importance to women," said Mrs. Chapman Catt, and it was resolved to send a telegram of congratulation to the Queen from the representatives of the twenty-one nations forming the Alliance, expressing an earnest hope "that when the young princess in after years is called upon to govern the kingdom of the Netherlands, she will be the sovereign of a people whose men and women have equal political rights."

The conference work of the day began with a ballot for the election of the officers of the Alliance for a period of four years, with the following results:—

President, Mrs. Chapman Catt; first vice-president, Mrs. Fawcett, second vice-president, Miss Furuhejm (Finland); Treas., Mrs. Stanton Coit; Secretaries, Miss Martina Kramers (Holland), Frau Lindemann (Germany), and Miss Bergmann (Norway).

After this the Constitution came up for discussion, and several amendments were made. It was decided to allow non-partisan committees, to be formed, in countries where Woman Suffrage obtained, from organizations for the advancement and protection of the civil and political rights of women, to send delegates to the Conventions of the Alliance. On the motion of the chair, a resolution was adopted by which Austria and Bohemia could become affiliated to the Alliance.

Mr. van Straaten greeted the Congress on behalf of the Dutch Men's League, of which he is president, and said the question of Women's Suffrage would have a prominent place in the election campaign in June, for the Dutch Second Chamber.

In the afternoon the draft resolutions were submitted, congratulating the women of all countries where progress had been made since the Congress first met in Berlin in 1904. It was pointed out that Finland had conferred the Parliamentary vote upon women on the same terms as exercised by men, in 1906; Norway had given the Parliamentary Franchise to women in 1907, though with a slight tax-paying qualification not required of men; and the women of Denmark had received the Municipal Franchise in 1908. In France and Belgium the first recognition of women's right to the Suffrage had been made by granting them the vote for Tribunals of Commerce, and their eligibility to sit on these Tribunals; and the Government of Italy proposed to confer like powers upon their women. In Sweden last week a Bill conferring the Parliamentary Franchise upon women had passed the Lower House of Parliament by a unanimous vote; in Italy, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Hungary, and Servia, National Women's Suffrage Associations had been formed; and the women of Russia had held a large and successful Congress in December, 1908. In South Africa the women of Cape Colony and the Transvaal had received the Municipal Franchise, and there was good ground for hope that the first Parliament of a United South Africa would grant the Parliamentary vote. In the United States of America there had been such an awakening of women to the necessity of the Suffrage as never had been known; within the past two months 1,000 representative women of New York had appeared before their Legislature in behalf of the Bill for Women's Suffrage, 1,600 in the State of Illinois and 2,000 in Massachusetts; and the Legislatures of three States—Washington, Oregon, and South Dakota—had submitted the question to be voted on in 1910. In Canada the City Council of Toronto had petitioned the Dominion Parliament for the full enfranchisement of women, and 1,000 women went to the House of Parliament to support the petition. A resolution to congratulate the women of Turkey that the Young Turks had shown a disposition to grant their demand, in the general movement towards freedom, was withdrawn on the statement that the Young Turks had shown no such disposition. A resolution "that this Congress, remembering the lessons of history, urges the national societies not to be betrayed into postponing their claim for the enfranchisement of women, for any other object, whether it be the further extension of the Suffrage to men or the success of some political party," met with loud applause. A resolution, moved by Lady McLaren, in a long speech, that a Charter of Rights and Liberties should be drawn up by every country, and presented

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to their respective Parliaments, failed to meet with any support; but was afterwards adopted as a proposal for future work.

The resolution to Great Britain led to a heated discussion, with regard to the passage, "we record with satisfaction that Women's Suffrage in Great Britain is now a question of practical politics, as shown by the interest evinced by electors in the subject, *petitions to Parliament being signed by voters in the various divisions where elections have taken place.*" Mrs. Billington-Greig, fraternal delegate of the W.F.L., thought that if the work of the N.U.W.S.S., as shown by the words in italics, were officially recognized by the Alliance, the work of the non-affiliated militant societies at by-elections should also be noted. As a fraternal delegate, Mrs. Billington-Greig could not move a resolution to this effect, but Russia at once offered to do so. Miss Ford, on behalf of Great Britain, contended that any amendment to a resolution concerning this country must be made through the British delegation, with which the chair concurred; but the delegation in this case refused to move such an amendment as they thought the resolution as it stood was general and did not particularize. Amid great applause Russia then moved, and Germany seconded, that the Congress record with pride that 381 women in England had gone to prison for the Cause. Great Britain protested, and the chair ruled the motion out of order, as it involved the introduction of contentious matter into the debate. Miss Dangaard (Belgium) warmly defended militant tactics, and acknowledged the debt of gratitude they owed them; and Dr. Anita Augspurg made an eloquent and moving speech in their favour. The question, she said, could no longer be considered a national one, it had become international, because the women of all countries were interested. The courage and devotion of those women who had gone to prison had helped the Cause all the world over; and has done more for the movement in Germany than all their work had ever done.

Mrs. Stanton Coit proposed that the words in the resolution referring to the work of the affiliated society should be deleted. The suggestion came as a great relief, and was unanimously adopted.

In the evening Mrs. Chapman Catt presided over a public meeting at St. James's Hall. The Rev. Ivory Cripps said he did not think that he, or men who thought as he, had any claim to be called generous or chivalrous—that unfortunate word, with a by no means blameless history—because chivalry had nothing to do with political justice. Man's right to vote had never been based on any intellectual test—that he was not insane was considered sufficient—which did away with the argument, if it could be called such, of women's alleged inferiority. He had no sympathy with those who wished women to wait for an Adult Suffrage Bill which waged war against both sex and class distinctions; but believed in the wisdom of Napoleon's maxim, "Meet and defeat your enemies one by one." The Bill they were working for would break down the sex disability and establish once for all the right of some women to vote. He commended to all men the wisdom of Barak who would not go up against Sisera without an experienced woman by his side.

Miss Rosika Schwimmer spoke in German on 'The Hungarian Outlook.'

Mr. H. J. Stanger, M.P., seemed troubled because if his Bill had passed, sufficient women would not have been enfranchised, and he did not think it would have been satisfactory as a final settlement. When Mr. Asquith brought in his Reform Bill next year the supporters of women's enfranchisement would propose an amendment to put the sexes on an equality. As specimens of the arguments used by Anti-Suffragists he would quote Mr. Austen Chamberlain's reasons given at the Queen's Hall, "Man was man and woman was woman, "Nature made men and women different and Parliament could not make them the same." Reporting his speech, *The Graphic* said that he distinguished himself by his frank and fearless utterances, and showed once more that he, like his father, was a man no one could persuade to hide his convictions. As for the physical force argument it was a fallacy. If men and women made the laws, it surely would not matter whether they were carried out by women or by policemen, and he had not seen it suggested that a general strike would occur on the part of our officials if women got the vote. Samson was a strong man, but his history was not altogether encouraging in the way of associating strength with statesmanship.

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Dr. Kathe Schirmacher, the wonderful interpreter who gave her services to the Congress, said some of the foreign delegates had had to make great sacrifices in order to attend this Congress, for women were not the wealthy part of humanity. There were many professional women among them, and a certain number of married women. Dr. Schirmacher had pleasant visions of the husbands opening their war chests and saying, "Go, my wife, and do your duty." So the wives came here and the husbands stayed at home and looked after the children, a division of labour that was not so very bad. This Suffrage movement went right down into the hearts of women. They cherished it, as they cherished their children, and they were resolved to suffer and to fight for it.

Miss Margaret Ashton, a member of the Manchester Town Council; moved the resolution, "That women who are dependent on their own earnings for a livelihood have political as well as economic interests, and therefore especially need the vote to safeguard their position in the industrial world." In an able speech she pointed out that the cry of women for liberty was due to the progress of civilization and education. Women shared the common needs, aims, and ideals with men; and they wanted the same opportunities and advantages as men—which they could only obtain by having their equality as citizens recognized.

Dr. Mary Murdoch seconded the resolution, declaring that working women specially needed the vote to safeguard their position in the industrial world.

SATURDAY, MAY 1ST.

The last day of the Congress passed peacefully away amid congratulations, mutual thanks, and showers of bouquets, though work was not neglected. The programme was a heavy one. First of all came the final revision of the Constitution, that Constitution which had occupied the strenuous attention of the Congress for three days, and had yet to be endorsed. We could almost have found it in our hearts to echo Dr. Anna Shaw's hope, *sotto voce*, that we should never see or hear of it again. Miss Shaw has a great gift for repartee, and her logical and humorous contributions to the debates have considerably brightened the proceedings during the week. Then came the Auditors' Report, Proposals of New Business, Business concerning *Jus Suffragii*, Reports, Invitations, and other minor discussions.

After the reading of the minutes Dr. Kathe Schirmacher, interpreter to the Congress, announced that she could not remain in office, unless it were officially stated and entered into the minutes that she had always asked for the Suffrage on the same terms as men had or might have it. Dr. Shaw expressed the gratitude of the Convention for the services Miss Schirmacher had rendered them, and moved that her request might be acceded to—which it was with unanimous approval.

The revised Constitution was then read by Miss Ashton and further small alterations discussed and made. "What is a country?" was one embarrassing query, and Mrs. Catt did not approve of a definition "a thing under one Government." It was decided that all subscriptions were to be paid in English money, though "the sixpence that always gets put on" Mrs. Catt regarded with amused tolerance. Any National Women's Suffrage Society of over a certain membership, an auxiliary of the Alliance, pays £2 annually into the international treasury, and it was proposed that any non-partisan Society, formed for the advancement and protection of women's political and civil rights, in a country where women have equal suffrage with men, might become auxiliaries of the Alliance on payment of annual dues at the same rate as regular auxiliaries. An objection was raised that such societies have less to gain from the affiliation, and much to give in the way of encouragement, and they therefore should not be expected to pay so much. Dr. Shaw said at once "They ought to pay more," and Miss Ashton was of the same opinion; but the proposal was carried, and they were "let off" at the regular rate.

The Constitution as amended seeming at last to meet with the approval of all present, Mrs. Catt said: "Is there anything else in this Constitution that is unsatisfactory to any living mortal here?" Dr. Shaw, still undaunted, moved that a committee should be appointed to edit the grammar, without in any degree changing the meaning of a single phrase; and this motion was adopted. "Let us have the happiness to adopt this Constitution as amended,"

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said Mrs. Catt; which resolution Hungary hastened to move; Sweden, Great Britain, and Germany seconded as one, and Mrs. Catt pronounced a final benediction over it.

The Chairman said she had been much amused by the first sentence of a letter she had just received, which demonstrated that any action could be used as an argument for or against Woman's Suffrage. She had heard it applauded as a great help to the women's cause that New Zealand had promised to build two Dreadnoughts; this letter began, "Just in case the New Zealand madness to build Dreadnoughts" should be used by the Anti-Suffragists against "Votes for Women"—and so forth. There were always two points of view.

Hungary had one or two reminders to offer the Congress. In Amsterdam a Committee had been appointed to bring out a handbook on the history and progress of the women's movement in the different countries, which handbook was to be translated into the three languages used by the Alliance. "If any one thinks it is easy to compile such a handbook and bring it up to date," said Dr. Shaw, "let her try." Mrs. Catt said that in the meantime Miss Zimmern had written a little book, 'Suffrage in Many Lands.' She had only read one chapter herself—that on America—but if the other chapters were as correct, the book should prove of great use. A reminder of the decision to send letters to the Governments who had not yet enfranchised their women led to the recital of the extraordinary adventures which befel a typed draft.

Mrs. Haslam, fraternal delegate from the Irish Women's Suffrage Association, gave a brief account of the movement in Ireland, and the progress made since the founding of the Association in 1866. Mr. and Mrs. Haslam, who are two of the oldest Suffragists in the kingdom, received a great ovation.

Miss Christitch, the daughter of a distinguished Servian general and a student at the London University, said it could easily be understood that, owing to the disturbed state of Servia, the women had not had much time to devote to the furthering of their own cause. They had now formed a society, and did not anticipate a very severe struggle. Servian men knew too well what they owed to their women—the preservation of their faith and their language.

Mrs. Münch, President of the Landsforbundet, Denmark, reported the progress made by that Association.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously resolved that Miss Kramers should continue to edit and publish *Jus Suffragii*, and that the price should remain the same.

Marchesa Melia Pellicano, Italy, made one of the most charming speeches of the session when she told the story of the movement in Italy. Women, she said, never really wanted a thing, and did not get it. They now desired a vote, not for the sake of rushing into politics, as some of their opponents said, but to improve the condition of the working women, to raise social morals, and to share openly in the lives of their husbands and sons.

Mrs. Catt said that the Marchesa was a well-known author in Italy, and wrote under the name of Jane Gray; and she specially desired the press to make a note that the Marchesa was the mother of seven children. We think the children are heartily to be congratulated.

Mrs. Solomon, in an able speech, described the political situation in South Africa.

The following by-law was adopted by the Alliance, "The International Woman's Suffrage Alliance, by mutual consent of its auxiliaries, stands pledged to preserve the most strict neutrality in all questions strictly national; to respect the independence of each affiliated society, and to leave it free to act as it wishes in its own country."

On Mrs. Catt's suggestion the Alliance adopted as a motto these words of St. Augustine: "In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity."

Mrs. Chapman Catt received bouquets at recurring intervals throughout the day, and at last said if she had another one she should go into an insane asylum—she should get so vain. The ribbons with which they were tied she would have made into an "international sofa pillow," that would be a remembrance when the flowers had long since faded. In adjourning the Congress she said they had received an invitation to Austria for 1913 and to Sweden for 1911, but arrangements depended on political affairs. Nations were

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enfranchising their women so fast that she was getting afraid there would soon be no country left to go to—only the United States, and perhaps Russia.

Further reports will be found in the columns under the editorship of the Freedom League and also those under the Men's League.

On Sunday afternoon the delegates attended the afternoon service in St. Paul's Cathedral, where seats had been reserved for them under the dome. Preaching to a large congregation Canon Scott Holland, as reported by *The Morning Post*, referring to the terrible pressure of competition which necessitated women winning the bread of the household, said:—

"They can do it, charging less than the men whom they displace, and therefore every year we find heavier burdens on the bodies of women. They are swept up by swarms into workshops and factories, and the mothers are tired out before the home and the family can be considered. The English home is thus menaced. If we desire to save it we must reconsider the entire method of our competitive industry. We have got to ask ourselves the question as a nation anxious to secure its life. How much of the world's labour have we the right to lay upon the women? How are we going to secure that the man should after all be the breadwinner, and that his 'living wage' should be sufficient to keep his house? Here is the urgent and important business on which the national will must be resolutely set. It is because this is our immediate and crying task that I myself so strongly desire to influence the national will with the motive and the spirit which woman will bring into play. 'The place of woman is in the home,' so we are incessantly told. That is why we believe that the woman is the very person to demand by her vote that there should be a home secured for her in which to find her place. She will come to the rescue of what is now being lost. She will care for its preservation with an intimacy of passion of which we are now hopelessly incompetent. She will put into her demand for the preservation all her special powers of concentrated purpose, of keen insight, of indomitable pertinacity, of irresistible courage. She will know what she is fighting for; she will estimate its huge significance. She will give to it its dominant value. And she will temper and attune legislation into that mind and mood in which the home interests are seen to belong to the vital necessities of our social health. For legislation there must be. Not that legislation on such heart-issues can do everything, but till we interest legislation nothing can be done. Therefore it is in the sphere of legislation that we so earnestly require the assistance of those who know best what motherhood and home mean. If such beneficial legislation involves the withdrawal of the married woman from some opportunities of productive industry, then such a restraint can hardly be imposed on women solely on the authority of the man's vote. It could only be safely attempted if it had behind it the assent and co-operation of the women whom it affects. Surely all of us who are gathered here under the dome this day, whatever side we may take in this problem of Women's Suffrage, will be ready to own that it is no mere political question which is under discussion. Rather we are asked to look into the very depths of our social life, to dig to the very foundations on which our moral and spiritual being stands, to face the terrible peril with which it is menaced, the trouble that has already shaken the stability of our primal conscience, and then, as under the eye of God the Father, and as answering for our decision at His judgment bar, to determine how best to draw together all the forces that will rally to the cause of conscience and to the hope of the home and to the health and joy of the children. There is the challenge that is going out at this hour, not here in England alone but all over the world, as this International Conference reminds us. Everywhere men and women are being summoned to decide in what the life and the health of a nation really consists, and what is the will of God for man, and what is the true humanity which Christ died to redeem. There is the challenge that is in your ears to-day. You must take your side; you must deliver your verdict. Take it and deliver it as those who are sworn to do the will of God to the uttermost; and then, whatever your side and whatever your verdict, you will at least belong to the blessed company of whom Christ said 'The same is My brother and My sister and My mother.'

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Some Impressions of the International Suffrage Congress.

LOOKING down from the balcony of St. James's Hall on the Parliament of Women "The Federation of the World," many impressions strike us. Here are women from all countries, and the most various nationalities, from the land of the Midnight Sun and the Home of the Southern Cross, sitting in rows at tables marked by their national flags, with all the common paraphernalia of business in front of them, bound together by one common tie, the demand for freedom and equality. Though their claim is voiced in English, or Dutch, or Hungarian, the revolt in the hearts of the women is the same, the demand is the same—the right to speak and act and decide independently as conscious and responsible human beings. Of these things the vote is the symbol, and the demand for the abolition of the sex qualification is the strong link, that, in spite of many differences, binds together the women of all these nations. This we have long known; but it is something to have seen it with our own eyes.

International conferences do not always make for peace, even when miscalled Peace Conferences, and another link besides the abstract one is needed to ensure harmony and the proper "balance of power." That link was supplied by the International President, Mrs. Chapman Catt. Few assemblies, whether of men or women, can boast a better chairman. No matter how intricate the business, how numerous the amendments, how eager the would-be speakers, the President was always equal to the occasion. She directed the most intricate and contentious business with a combination of capacity and grace which enforced the willing obedience of all. It would have been well if some of the silly people who make jokes about female Cabinet Ministers as something irresistibly funny, could have attended some of the business meetings of the Congress. For here they would have found a woman with all the qualities that go to hold a Cabinet together.

Certainly our imaginary woman's Cabinet should include Dr. Anita Augspurg. In her are combined a rare grasp of her subject, and a passionate earnestness, so strong as to give the appearance of absolute calm. We feel as though she only lived and breathed for one object—the freedom of women. And a

German woman who sets this task before her has need of much faith and much determination. As for Dr. Kathe Schirmacher, another of the International officers, all the Congress members owe her a great debt of thanks for her wonderful translations. With no apparent effort she would give a French version of a speech or an argument, so clear that the speaker must often have felt that she realized better even than before her own point of view. "It is so much clearer when Miss Schirmacher puts it into French" said one lady whose own English was irreproachable, and the laughter and applause showed that this was the general opinion.

Certainly the Congress did not lack eloquent speakers, but among those who won all hearts we must mention Miss Rosika Schwimmer, the gallant leader of the woman's cause in Hungary, whose delight in her work had something infectious about it. As for Dr. Anna Shaw, every one welcomed her rising, for her kindly and gentle manner as well as her logical and persuasive eloquence. When such women as Dr. Anna Shaw and Mrs. Catt lead a movement, nothing surely but the iron-bound constitutions of the United States could have postponed the day of victory.

Of the impressions made on our visitors we hope to read before long in their own papers, but on certain matters they have already confided their views to us. "We are always told you English are cold, and we find you all so kind and hospitable," is a frequent remark. The beautiful pageant at the Albert Hall, the banners designed by the Artists' League, and the generous help given by the actresses evoked their warmest commendation; but what perhaps seemed surprising to some of us was their admiration for our democratic principles. Pit-brow women and gowned graduates walking side by side in equality—this seemed a strange and beautiful sight to our foreign guests; and especially at the reception at the University Club they spoke freely of the good impression this combination had made upon them. They understood that when all women who work combine in voicing their claim it must prove irresistible, and they resolved to go home and tell the women of their own lands what they had seen, and bid them throw aside the differences of party and class, to work as a united body for the freedom of all women.

[Space does not permit of our closing our remarks on the Congress—the meeting under the auspices of the London Shakespeare League for instance not having yet received attention. Much other matter is also held over on the same account.]

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The Editor Regrets—

THE above words will be familiar to most literary aspirants. They come, as a rule, on horrid little typewritten slips of paper, and convey nothing really, in spite of their polite phrasing, but a stony-hearted indifference to one's best literary efforts. In the sense in which they are used at the heading of this paragraph, however, the editor's "regrets" are of the most genuine and heartfelt description, and are likely to be shared by her readers without any distinction of class, creed, sex, caste, or colour—as some old shibboleth has it. All who have been regular readers of *Women's Franchise* will feel that the resignation—which it is my duty to announce—of Miss FitzHerbert from the editorial duties of the Women's Freedom League columns, will rob this portion of the paper of a special and peculiar vim and interest, not easy to replace or emulate.

I can only hope that after the rest and change ordered for Miss FitzHerbert she will be strong enough to resume the task of showing up our political shams and our sham politicians by the merciless light of her caustic wit and wisdom. She will receive a royal welcome. Meantime I will do my best.

M. H.

The Budget.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE is one of the cleverest of our politicians. His Budget establishes the fact. Women Suffragists like it or dislike it according to their personal political outlook, but they admit frankly that it is clever. Yet neither its scope nor its details interest them keenly. Why should they? Is one ever keenly interested in a bill that will have to be met, whatever its amount, whether one likes it or not? The inevitableness of it—the incapacity of voteless women to escape or alter it, makes even this provocative Budget deadly monotonous. Like the laws of the Medes and the Persians, it is an inevitable exaction, which all the king's horses and all the king's men will enforce if any attempt be made to resist it. Such a thing is never interesting.

But even in a clever Budget Mr. Lloyd George has supplied us with an additional example of how not to do things. He has established a bonus on babies. In itself this is not a thing that any woman would have done. If she had desired to recognize the responsibilities of parents she would have recognized the need for quality rather than quantity. Her bonus would have been given for good babies. No parents should be rewarded for embarrassing the State with imperfect and incapable citizens.

But under the existing circumstances, as to the taxation of married people, no woman Chancellor of the Exchequer could have brought herself to give an "abatment" on babies at all. It makes things too absurdly inconsistent. Our Income Tax Laws place a very heavy tax on marriage at the present time. And now Mr. George proposes that while taxing marriage we shall pay a bonus on babies! What is one to deduce from such Gilbertian contradictions?

Two persons living in the same house, and unmarried, men or women, or man and woman, are taxed separately, each being free below the £160 level. They can thus enjoy a joint income of £320 per annum before they pay a single penny of tax. If the man and woman marry then they must pay income tax as one person! Which means that every pound above the first £160 is taxed. In the light of this heavy penalization of marriage the paltry concession upon babies is both absurd and inadequate.

Evidently the male politician has no clear idea as to whether marriage should be encouraged or penalized. It is one of those questions upon which women voters might teach him to make up his mind.

TERESA BILLINGTON-GREIG.

Another Exposure.

WE have been assured again and again by representatives of the Government that time could not be given in the House of Commons for the passing into law of a Woman's Suffrage measure. We have been further assured by Mr. Lloyd George, and by the Prime Minister himself, that it was impossible for the great Liberal party, the inheritor of Liberal traditions, the upholder of Liberal principles, to deal with the great question of Electoral Reform by merely tinkering with one of the existing anomalies.

Such excuses, dishonest as they are, have been deemed sufficient to explain the denial of the woman's demand for enfranchisement, and to justify the policy of oppression and delay.

But the virtue of consistency is evidently not the virtue of Liberal politicians. One could scarcely expect it to be. The public has ceased to expect it. But every section of the Liberal party has the right to demand that the political game shall be played with some appearance of reasonableness and honesty. Some of those Liberal men who made themselves very hoarse and very angry at recent by-elections in demonstrating conclusively that the Government was debarred both by principle and by pressure of national business from "tinkering" in any way with the question of popular representation, must now wish that a less obvious change of front had again been made by their official leaders in the House. For the introduction of the London Elections Bill removes the two planks upon which these supporters stood, and lets them fall sprawling into the deep.

The Bill obviously deals with only one of the many existing anomalies of representation. It is admitted by its introducer, Mr. Lewis Harcourt, that it does not even deal with this one anomaly adequately. It is a petty, partial, and tinkering measure; trumpery in value, feeble in execution, and possessing only the questionable attribute of serving a party purpose.

The Government's principles, which prevent it from introducing or giving facilities for a Woman's Suffrage Bill without remembering at one and the same time with the women all their brothers, and nephews, and cousins, and sons, and husbands, can remember the men of London without even a thought of the woman. So much for principle!

The pressure of public business, of naval affairs, budgets, and town-planning, of Dreadnoughts that should never be wanted, and babies that should never be born, is always much too great to permit of any time being devoted to Votes for Women; but the rearrangement of things for men in London who already possess votes is a matter that ranks high enough to claim and obtain attention! And yet, after such shameless evasions and dishonest pretences, there are still left Liberal women who are not in rebellion! To them we appeal—though it be almost too late. Now, at the eleventh hour, there is still time. Now, at the eleventh hour, they can yet strike. They may still save us—and their party. But if these Liberal women do not assert themselves and put an end to the reign of dishonesty in high places, they themselves will have a heavy price to pay. For the women of to-morrow will call for a heavy reckoning on account of the life—the blood and brain and spirit—that is being ruthlessly sacrificed by the Liberal politicians of to-day.

TERESA BILLINGTON-GREIG.

The Women of Many Lands in Conference. Legal Robbery and International Indignation.

It may not have been exactly "roses, roses, all the way," for our guests of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance, but it has been something akin to it—between the business meetings, that is. Excursions to places of public interest, banquets, receptions, dinners, and at them all, a medley of friendly faces, and expressions of good will exchanged in a polyglot of tongues. It has been a most interesting and educative experience for us all, friends, hostesses, and guests alike and any member of the general public who has attended the meetings of the Conference must have gone away deeply impressed with the extent, deep gravity and importance of this world-wide woman's movement.

At the purely business meetings all sorts of intricate questions relating to constitution and procedure were safely steered to a successful conclusion by the skilled generalship of Mrs. Chapman Catt. A little friction was inevitable at times, particularly in the "storm centre" of the movement, and in the country where "methods" and "tactics" are matters on which such different opinions are held, but on the whole, satisfactory resolutions were passed. The two large Albert Hall meetings in one week must have given the "Anti" pause; we want to see the "Antis" fill the Albert Hall twice in one week, with a *unanimously* sympathetic audience before he gives himself airs.

Undoubtedly, the two most picturesque and interesting figures at the Conference have been the president, Mrs. Chapman Catt, a gracious silver-haired lady, with a most amazing knowledge of "procedure," and the Rev. Anna Shaw, the witty, eloquent "clergyman," who drew such enormous congregations to hear her whenever she was announced to preach.

At the reception given by the Men's League on Saturday last, Mrs. Billington-Greig, the only representative of the militant societies who appeared on the platform, was accorded a rousing reception. It would seem that the balance of the sympathies of the international delegates—like most other people—is with the rebels, for they applauded with tremendous enthusiasm Mrs. Billington-Greig's advice not to be over-patient, but to remember that patience carried too far becomes not a virtue but akin to a vice.

Indeed, the sentiment of the delegates on this matter was voiced quite conclusively by Mrs. Chapman Catt at the reception given by the Women's Freedom League on Monday afternoon last, when she extended to all the women who had suffered imprisonment for the cause the sympathy, reverence, and honour of the members of the International Alliance. The Caxton Hall was crowded on this occasion, and a great many of the foreign visitors expressed the liveliest satisfaction at being received in the hall that has now become historically famous in connexion with the women's movement.

Mrs. Despard acted as hostess, and though it was impossible for her to receive every one individually, by far the greater number had the pleasure of a personal greeting from her. Tremendous enthusiasm was shown at the announcement that the Women's Freedom League had applied for affiliation with the International Alliance, and Mrs. Chapman Catt assured us in her eloquent speech that we should be received with the heartiest welcome. Dr. Anna Shaw gave a most interesting account of the universal voting in Colorado, and said that the effect of the women's presence at the poll had been to quell disorder, and to eliminate in a most extraordinary way sex-consciousness.

Dr. Aletta Jacobs, Miss Martina Kramers, Mrs. Billington-Greig and Mrs. Fenwick Miller also spoke, the last being amusingly sarcastic anent Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's statements at the Albert Hall last week as to the necessity for patience on our part, and the danger of pulling up a plant to examine its root to see if it is growing. After half a century of strenuous work, Mrs. Fenwick Miller thought this was rather absurd and uncalled-for advice, and, judging from the applause her remarks elicited, the audience agreed with her.

Caxton Hall was very prettily decorated with flags for the occasion, and the prisoners' special banners came in for a large share of admiring attention. M. H.

TUFNELL PARK district woke up on Monday evening and rubbed its eyes in astonishment at the sight of quite a considerable body of women, speaking in strange tongues, wending their way to Hard's Committee Rooms, with banners flying bearing the device, "We demand the vote." We had come from the Reception at Caxton Hall to protest against the sale of Dr. Winifred Patch's goods, which had been seized by the Government because of her refusal to pay taxes levied upon her without her consent. Mrs. Billington-Greig's appeal for members and sympathizers to accompany Mrs. Holmes, was responded to generously, and Dr. Winifred Patch had the satisfaction of knowing that Holland, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, South Africa, the United States, and Scotland supported her in her action, for delegates from all these countries were there. Protests against the sale of the goods from members of the Men's League were handed up to the auctioneer, and two large meetings were held in the neighbourhood.

Miss Irene Miller, Mrs. Holmes, Miss Eunice Murray, and many of the foreign delegates spoke, to the great delight and amid the enthusiastic sympathy of the audiences. America was so inspired by the occasion that she was induced to make her maiden speech, and gave quite an eloquent little homily. She claimed, too, the privilege of carrying a banner, and, I think, rather hoped in her heart that she would be arrested for doing it! Denmark spoke, with quite unnecessary apologies and qualms as to the intelligibility and clearness of her English, for her speech was most interesting and instructive. All the delegates drove home the lesson as to the iniquity of taxation minus representation, and the London crowd that gathered gave most courteous and attentive hearing. I think the fact that women of so many countries were taking the part of the Suffragettes, and were coming out with them to speak at street corners, impressed them with the importance and world-wide character of our movement, in a way that I trust will bear good fruit. M. H.

Straws that Point the Way.

THE big all-absorbing truth of the moment to the Suffragette is that "we shall arrive," and many are the little incidents which occur in the daily routine of life, which serve as straws to point out the way the wind blows.

Walking through the sacred precincts of law and learning which lie behind the Strand, deeply concerned in train-catching and a mental survey of the day's work, I was aroused by a small voice at my elbow chanting the familiar war cry "Votes for Women!" My Suffragette backbone stiffened itself in order to receive the expected volley of street-child jeers and rough chaff, but — it did not come, and though the small atom of childhood was not visible, following footsteps were audible. After about two minutes of this shadowing, a small voice said tentatively, "I'm a Suffragette," and turning round I looked into a small smiling face alive with sympathy and fellow feeling. Then mental query "How?" and "Why?" flashed through my mind, and to pave the way to a better understanding, I said, over my shoulder, "I am so glad. Is your mother one?" "Yes, miss; leastways she aint exactly one herself, but she knows a lidy as is, and she tells her about it. Mother believes in 'em, and she went to the green and green, and—I forgets what it is"—"Green, white and gold fair?" I put in. "That's it miss," with enthusiasm. This was evidently meant as proof positive of a concrete belief and sympathy in "The Cause." Wishful to give something in return for that little bit of good cheer, in the hurry of the moment, I could only think of my bunch of beautiful yellow spring flowers, and hastily taking one gave it to the child, who took it with an upward glance of delight, and ran as hard as she knew how up a side street, probably to show it to the mother that "believed in 'em."

I caught my train and that night took back with me a little of the hope and promise of the future. The medium was only a little atom of humanity and yet it is of such that the future is built. G. M. H.

By-Elections—Organizers and Future Plans.

By the time this appears in print the results of the by-elections in Sheffield and Stratford-on-Avon will be known. We hope they will be such as to make Mr. Asquith realize that by his present attitude, he is knocking nails in the Liberal coffin as fast as he can pick them up, and drive them home. No efforts are being spared on the part of our organizers to bring about the greatly desired result of "keeping the Liberal out" in both places. The number of Freedom League postcards sent to the Prime Minister from by-election constituencies mounts up in geometrical ratio; it will soon represent such a number of definite votes turned against the Government by the women as will make the average Liberal blaspheme, and call upon his gods to remove the stumbling-block from the path of reform. To that prayer we shall most fervently say "Amen."

Sheffield By-Election.

ATTERCLIFFE, and other places where by-elections have occurred and Suffragettes have worked, are agreed that the demand for "Votes for Women" is just and must be attended to immediately. There is every indication that a large number of post cards will be signed, if only we can get sufficient workers all day on Tuesday at the numerous polling stations.

The early meetings were rough, but everywhere now there is enthusiasm for our movement. Inquirers in the crowd have asked whether we were as well received in other places as in Sheffield. It is a very usual question in the different constituencies, owing to the silence and adverse reports of certain sections of the Press.

Mrs. Billington-Greig and Mrs. Sanderson were here for a fine meeting in the Montgomery Hall, on Wednesday, Mrs. Whetton presiding. Then on Thursday and Friday we had Mrs. Despard, who spoke at several large works' meetings and to enthusiastic audiences in schoolrooms in the evenings. Miss Manning has come over occasionally from Manchester, and Miss Heyes of Manchester assisted on Saturday. The Sheffield branch members are working hard, Mrs. Whetton, Mrs. Wallis, Miss Midgley, Miss Clarke and Mrs. Whitworth helping with the speaking.

Miss Nora Vernon and Miss Irene Tillard are spending their days in advertising and doing other arduous work which falls to the lot of those who actively take a share in carrying out the by-election policy.

Besides the sympathy of the men electors we have won over the women who help us at every turn. Great indignation has been expressed at the injuries received by Mrs. Sproson who is always in the thickest of the fray. Perhaps some of you do not know that last Thursday she received a black eye at the hands of a boy in one of the roughest quarters, and even after this she addressed an enormous crowd that same evening. Had the Suffragettes not interfered on behalf of the boy his treatment at the hands of the crowd would have been of the most severe kind. Again on Wednesday Mrs. Sproson was struck by a boy with an iron bar, and I am sorry to say there was neither a manly man nor a womanly woman in the district to come to her assistance. However, there has been a change in those parts. Mrs. Sproson's pluck called out admiration, and now we have the men and the women ready to help in every way.

With four candidates—two Conservatives, one Liberal and one Socialist—in the field, in addition to Mr. Hunnabell, who arrived last Thursday, you can judge Attercliffe is in a somewhat lively state. There is still another day for speaking, then the polling and a big message for Mr. Asquith on Wednesday morning.

ALICE SCHOFIELD.

Stratford By-Election.

MISS VIOLET TILLARD, who is in charge of the election at Stratford writes that excellent meetings have been held, with appreciable effect upon the voters. Miss Muriel Matters is her principal speaker, and needless to say draws large and enthusiastic crowds to hear her. She and Miss Cicely Hamilton, held a crowded meeting in the Corn Exchange on Tuesday last, and on Friday another large audience gathered in the same hall to listen to her and Miss Edith Craig. "Every one in Stratford seems to be converted," writes Miss Tillard; "presumably there are a few 'Antis' about, but wherever we have been we have found the people most sympathetic. Miss Law is doing excellent work in the villages. Unfortunately it is impossible to visit all the villages in the constituency, although we receive many requests to do so. However, by May 4th not many of the people in the Stratford division will be in ignorance of our demand and its meaning."

Liverpool By-Election.

A LARGE political campaign is being arranged in Liverpool from May 4th to 18th. A great deal of work has been done. Influential business men, officials on the Stock Exchange and the Cotton Exchange, shipping people, editors of newspapers have been visited and asked to give their names in support of the campaign.

By the kindness of the chairman of the Birkenhead Liberal Federation, Miss Broadhurst, M.A., and Miss Farquharson were asked to address the Association at their annual business meeting. The anti-Government policy was explained and an appeal was made to these Liberal men to exert constitutional and organized pressure from within upon their Government.

On Thursday, 29th ult., a branch was formed in Bootle, at a public meeting held in the Stanley Hall. After the meeting the chairman of the Reform Club asked Miss Farquharson, M.A., to address the members of that Club. The Liberal men were very sympathetic, and seemed to understand the anti-Government policy from the Suffragist point of view.

In Liverpool during the next fortnight there is tremendous work to do. Members who can work in Liverpool might send their names to Miss Broadhurst, M.A., 25, Canning Street, Liverpool.

Future Plans.

WE are planning all kinds of activities for the summer months, and want offers of help from every member of the League. The caravan will continue the invaluable service that it initiated last year, and carry the gospel of "Votes for Women" to remote villages and country towns. We want volunteers for "duty" on the van. Then we desire to start summer centres at the four corners of the compass, or rather on the north, east, south, and west coasts. We want members of the League to spend their holidays at these places, and lend a hand selling literature, speaking, helping in every possible way for a few hours daily. They will enjoy the rest of the day all the more in consequence!

Scottish Council.

THE Hon. Treasurer of the Scottish Council of the Women's Freedom League desires to intimate that she has started a "£1,000 Fund," with the object of developing and extending the work of the League in Scotland.

A vigorous campaign is to be carried on during the summer months at various seaside resorts.

The success attending the efforts of the W.F.L. during the recent by-election in Glasgow (Central) has created the desire to be better prepared financially for similar contests, which may occur in Scotland in the future, and so relieve, to some extent, the burden which falls so heavily upon the central organization in London at such times.

Mrs. Despard in the City.

It is hoped that all members who have men-folk engaged in the City will send them to hear Mrs. Despard speak on "Women as Citizens" next Tuesday at the Great Hall, Winchester House, Old Broad Street. This is a meeting specially arranged for City men, and begins at three o'clock. Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G., who has fought hard for Women's Suffrage and had practical experience of its working, will preside.

Suffrage in its Lighter Mood.

FAIRFAX HALL, Harringay, close to Harringay Park Station, Green Lanes, is to be the scene of a Suffrage Entertainment on Friday, May 7th, arranged by those indefatigable members of the Votes for Women movement—the Actresses' Franchise League. The Northern Heights Branch will act as stewards, hostesses, &c., and Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett will speak. The doors will open at 7.30.

Branch Notes.

DUNDEE BRANCH.—The monthly "At Home" was held on Tuesday, 28th ult. There was a very gratifying turn-out of members and friends. Miss Husband presided, and introduced Miss Sharp, Perth, who gave a delightful paper—combined of wit and wisdom—on the 'Woman Question.' In her paper Miss Sharp referred to the monetary value of women, the unequal laws between men and women, and the protection the vote would give. She also dealt very ably with some of the *Anti* "reasons." A cordial vote of thanks was given Miss Sharp at the end. J. A. S.

CENTRAL BRANCH.—Open-air meetings begin on Thursday, 13th May, in Hyde Park, at 8 P.M. These meetings, conducted by the branch members, will be held every Thursday, except on the last Thursday in the month, when there will be a social meeting and address at 1, Robert Street, Adelphi. Members, please rally round the open-air speakers. P. H.

WILLESDEN AND MAIDA VALE BRANCH.—A meeting was held in Kensal Rise on Thursday, 22nd, at which Miss Bremner spoke. Owing to inclement weather it was not very well attended. The executive committee have undertaken to arrange a series of open-air meetings in the neighbourhood as soon as possible.

VIOLET JAMES, Hon. Sec.

HERNE HILL AND NORWOOD BRANCH.—On Thursday, April 22nd, Mrs. Toyne gave an address on 'Women's Franchise,' at No. 90, Norwood Road, S.E. Dr. Alice Vickery presided. Mrs. Toyne referred to some of the objections against the enfranchisement of women which were brought forward by Anti-Suffragists, and remarked that most of the people who supported the Anti-Suffrage League were living in comfortable and secluded circumstances, and did not realize the conditions of modern industrial life. She also referred to the far-reaching effect of the Women's Franchise movement, and said that when the women of England obtained the vote, it would do much to help women all over the world to gain their freedom.

At the open-air meeting on Sunday afternoon, in Brockwell Park, Mrs. Holmes gave an eloquent address on the urgent need of votes for women, and was listened to by a large and interested audience. At the close of the meeting several questions were asked, which were readily and ably answered by the speaker.

At the next open-air meeting, on Sunday, May 9th, Mrs. Toyne will speak.

On Thursday, May 6th, a drawing-room meeting will be held at 172, Tulse Hill, S.E., at 3 P.M., at which Mrs. Frances Swiney will give an address on 'Motherhood.' Visitors (ladies only) are cordially invited. BARBARA SPENCER, Hon. Sec.

SWANSEA BRANCH.—The weekly meetings of the Swansea Branch began again on Wednesday, April 28th, after a short break for Easter. It was very well attended and proved a most successful meeting. Miss Phipps, B.A. read a very clever and stirring paper on 'Our Tactics,' in which she pointed out how tremendously the women's cause had increased in popularity, in spite of the adverse criticism which is still occasionally heard, and how widespread the movement had now become, owing to the militant tactics adopted by the women a few years ago. She went on to say that after all the years of unrecognized work that had been done it was time for women to change their tactics and to show that they were in deadly earnest. The militant Suffragettes have proved that they will suffer any degradation to gain their end and must have won the respect of every right-minded and thoughtful person.

Mr. Cleaves, who was in the chair, then put the vote as to whether, in the opinion of the meeting, militant tactics were justifiable, and it was carried unanimously. MURIEL V. HUTTON.

Prizes for Competitions.

REFRESHMENT ROOM.—GREEN, WHITE, AND GOLD FAIR.

Cake.—Prize awarded for Iced and Decorated Cake....

Small Cakes.—Mrs. Hill, highly commended.

Jam.—No competition—no prize awarded.

Marmalade.—Prize awarded to Mrs. John Russell for Orange Jelly Marmalade.

Bread.—Prize awarded for wholemeal loaf to Miss Annie Thompson.

Box of Sweets.—Prize awarded to "Holloway Castle," made by Miss Elizabeth Reeves.

Butter.—No competition—1 lb. sent of most excellent quality.

Table Sweets.—No competition.

Sponge Cakes.—Prize awarded to Mrs. Hay, Red Farm, Bawdsey.

PRIZES FOR VEGETARIAN DISHES.—GREEN, WHITE, AND GOLD FAIR.

Two Prizes of Half a Guinea each, given by Mrs. C. Napier :

1. Vegetarian Dish from Eustace Miles School of Cookery.

2. Vegetarian Dish—Prize awarded to Miss Lottie Ayres, 42, Campden House Court.

Cake.—Will the winner of the Prize for an Iced Chocolate Cake be good enough to forward her name and address to Miss Neilans, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, so that the prize of 5s. may be sent to her?

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

May 6th to June 6th.

DAY	EVENT	CHAIRMAN	P.M.
Thurs. 6.	Drawing Room Meeting (Women only), 172, Tulse Hill, S.E. *Caxton Hall, Westminster	Mrs. Frances Swiney	3
Fri. 7.	Harringay, Fairfax Hall	Chair, Mme. Mirovitch Mrs. Zangwill, Mr. Charles Charrington Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett and Members of the Actresses' Franchise League	3-5 7.30
Sun. 9.	Brockwell Park Battersea Park	Mrs. Despard Miss Hicks, M.A. (W.F.L.) Miss Kaham (S.D.F.) Mrs. Holmes Mrs. Kendal Mrs. Forbes Robertson Miss Underwood Mrs. Duval Mrs. Toyne Miss Molony Mrs. Tizard Miss Semple	8 3
Mon. 10.	Glasgow, Hillhead Branch, Burgh Hall Glasgow, Shettleston Branch, Hill Street Hall	Mrs. Barton	8
Tues. 11.	Winchester House, Old Broad Street 52, Portland Place, W.	Mrs. Despard	3.15
Wed. 12.	93, Stamford Hill, N. Liverpool, Waterloo Town Hall	Mrs. Holmes Sale of Work, useful things only Miss Muriel Matters Miss M. M. Farquharson, M.A. Mr. Schanders	3 4-7 8
Thurs. 13.	Glasgow, Central Branch, Masonic Hall, 100, W. Regent Street Edinburgh Caxton Hall, Westminster Liverpool, Waterloo Town Hall	Mrs. Despard	8 3-5 8
Mon. 17.	Chester Hyde Park, Central Branch	Miss Muriel Matters Miss Farquharson, M.A. Miss Broadhurst, M.A. Miss Muriel Matters Miss M. M. Farquharson, M.A. Members	8
Tues. 18.	Bromley	Miss Muriel Matters Miss Farquharson, M.A. Mrs. Holmes	8
Wed. 19.	Manchester (?) "At Home"	Mr. Joseph McCabe Hostess, Mrs. Rose Hyland	3 8
Thurs. 20.	Caxton Hall, Westminster	Miss Matters	8
Sat. 22.	Bowdon, Cheshire, "At Home"	Hostess, Mrs. Hope Jones	8
Sun. 23.	Brockwell Park, S.E.	Miss Matters Mrs. Despard Miss Neilans	3

* Will visitors to Caxton Hall on Thursday afternoon kindly note that the time has been altered from 3.30 to 3?

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

OFFICE: 40, MUSEUM STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

Chairman of Executive Committee: HERBERT JACOBS.
Hon. Secretary: J. MALCOLM MITCHELL.

Hon. Treasurers: GOLDFINCH BATE, H. G. CHANCELLOR.
Hon. Literature Secretary: A. I. G. JAYNE.

Notes and Comments.

Members are reminded of the debate to-night, at 8 o'clock, in the Holborn Restaurant (Council Chamber), on the expediency (not on the justice) of Women's Suffrage. For the League, A. M. Langdon, Esq., K.C.; against Alex. W. Norris, Esq.; Chairman, Lyon R. S. Walcott, Esq., J.P.

Mr. Joseph Clayton is speaking at Wisbech on May 24th, and at Staines next Saturday. Mr. J. Malcolm Mitchell is at Pontypridd on Friday and Saturday. Reference to the forthcoming events in other parts of this paper will show that the League speakers are hard at work.

THE OPEN AIR CAMPAIGN proceeds satisfactorily. Last Sunday a large crowd in Hyde Park was addressed by Miss Cicely Corbett, B.A., Miss Helga Gill, Miss Ransom, and Messrs. Gugenheim, Kennedy, W. Nefydd Roberts, A. H. Barley, E. Duval, and the Hon. Sec. Next Sunday in Hyde Park at 2.30, the speakers will include Mrs. Nevinson, Mr. Gugenheim, Mr. A. W. Holland, and others.

On Sunday, May 16th, we shall have three meetings—

- (1) Hyde Park, 2.30
- (2) Finsbury Park, 2.30
- (3) Brockwell Park, 6.30

Mr. Herbert Jacobs will take the chair at (2), while Messrs. Barger, Holland, Manson, and Duval will be at (3). Will any who can speak at any of these meetings please COMMUNICATE AT ONCE with Mr. A. W. Holland at the Office of the League?

The N.W.S.P.U. has arranged to hold a huge "Woman's Exhibition" at the Princes' Skating Rink, on May 13th to 26th. The exhibition will be remarkable for the gorgeous colour scheme arranged by Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, and a great number of stalls. All who desire to help should communicate with the Hon. Sec., 4, Clement's Inn, W.C.

The W.F.L. has in hand a great Suffrage day in June. Particulars later.

Literature.

AN attractive new pamphlet, containing the Speeches delivered at the great Demonstration held by our League at the Queen's Hall in January, is now ready, price 3d. It is hoped that members of the League will not only buy and read it themselves, but assist in giving it as wide a circulation as possible. In this connexion it must be admitted that the demand for our literature among our own members has hitherto been somewhat disappointing, our sales being made almost entirely to the various women's societies. The correspondence addressed to the officials of the League indicates quite plainly that a number of our members are glad to be advised of means, other than speaking or giving donations, in which they can help to win the vote for women. They can most materially forward the interests and influence of the League by taking one or two dozen of these "speeches" on sale or return, and using them to convert *Anti-Suffragists*. All the stock *Anti-Suffrage* arguments are met and exposed in this pamphlet, and at the end of it there is a printed Form for application for membership of the League.

Annual General Meeting.

RATHER more than a hundred members were present at the Annual Meeting held at Anderton's Hotel on April 29th. Mr. Jacobs from the Chair introduced the Committee's report, and

referred specially to the fact that the membership had more than doubled during the year, to the open-air work, the proposed International Suffrage Club, and the increase in the number and efficiency of the branches. Several suggestions as to improved management, especially in relation to the sub-division of the work among sub-committees, were made by Messrs. Overy, East, Macpherson, Gugenheim, Kelly, Roney, Reginald H. Pott and others, and for the retiring Committee, Mr. Cholmeley, and the Hon. Sec. further discussed the work done during the year. The report was moved by Mr. Silas Whybrew, seconded by Mr. F. R. Cane, and unanimously adopted. A return of the attendance of the retiring members of the Committee was made in response to a requisition of Mr. Overy.

A resolution increasing the Committee from sixteen to twenty was then carried unanimously.

The meeting then proceeded to the election of the Committee, and, in the result, thirteen out of fourteen of the old Committee were re-elected, and seven new members were added. The new Committee, therefore, consists of Messrs. Herbert Jacobs, Goldfinch Bate, H. G. Chancellor, J. M. Mitchell, A. I. Jayne, T. M. Budgett, R. F. Cholmeley, C. V. Drysdale, J. E. Francis, K. G. Jayne, W. S. B. McLaren, J. A. Manson and J. E. Raphael (the above being members of the old Committee) with Messrs. Joseph Clayton, E. Duval, Laurence Housman, G. How-Martyn, A. M. Langdon, K.C., H. W. Nevinson, and Frank M. Overy.

A resolution empowering the Committee "notwithstanding any limit to its numbers" to co-opt a member of any branch numbering over one hundred members and desiring such representation was carried without discussion. Pending the announcement of the result of the election Committee several members (including Messrs. Roney, Gugenheim, Carlton-Smith and Bowden-Smith) made valuable suggestions which will be considered as soon as possible, by the Committee.

Reception to the International Delegates.

OUR reception to the Delegates to the International Conference took place on Saturday, May 1st, in the galleries of the Royal Society of British Artists, Suffolk Street. Nearly a thousand guests were present, including representatives of practically all the Suffrage societies in the world.

The guests were received between 8 o'clock and 9 by the Chairman and Mrs. Larkcom Jacobs, and the Hon. Sec., and Mrs. Eileen Mitchell, and at 9 o'clock the Chairman made a brief speech in which he welcomed the guests, and announced the despatch of a telegram of congratulation to the Queen of Holland on the birth of an heir. The Hon. Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G., then spoke on behalf of the League, and Mrs. Chapman Catt, President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, replied on behalf of the Delegates. After a brief interval for refreshments and conversation, short speeches were delivered, some in English and some in their own respective languages, by the Delegates. Among them were Dr. Anna Shaw (U.S.A.), whose dry humour delighted the audience, Mr. E. W. van Straaten (Pres. Dutch Men's League), Fraulein Rosika Schwimmer (Hungary), Signora Dobrelli (Italy), Frau Nabe (Holland), and a Swedish representative. On behalf of the League Mr. Barger in Dutch, and Mr. Gugenheim in German, made brief replies.

The speaking concluded with speeches by Miss Frances Sterling and Mrs. Billington-Greig, both of whom were very cordially received.

Among those present we noticed beside the speakers, Mrs. Fawcett and Miss Philippa Fawcett, Lady Cockburn, Lady Dockrell, Lady Russell, Mrs. Herringham, Mr. and Mrs. Haslam,

H. Y. Stanger, K.C., M.P., H. R. Lewis, H. W. Nevinson, Mr. and Mrs. John Russell, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Clayton, Mrs. Swiney, Mrs. Holmes, Miss Rosher, R. F. Cholmeley, M.A., and Miss Cholmeley, the Misses Cicely and Marjorie Corbett, and other representatives of all the British Suffragist societies.

The Party-Coloured Suffragist.

It seems impossible in this world to have wheat without tares; and if we follow the advice of Scripture we must let them grow until the harvest, when it will become comparatively easy to relegate them to their proper place in the scutch-fire. But until that time of joyful consummation arrives it is surely bad and dishonest policy to make any pretence to the tares that you regard them as wheat. The tares have entered the field in order to extract food from it for themselves and not to add to the food-supply of others; and if a well-directed blow of the spud will enable you, without damage to the wheat, to convey to one or two of those weedy ones your recognition of their true character it is well to let them have it.

Now this tare-element crops up and is sometimes very prominent where Women's Suffrage is concerned. Again and again you meet with the man, generally a Conservative, who accepts Women's Suffrage, not because he thinks it right in principle, but because he believes it will serve the purposes of his own party; or you meet with the man, generally a Liberal, who is bound by his principles to accept Women's Suffrage, but will only work to forward it in the form which he believes will benefit his own party. But if the grant of Women's Suffrage is, as every Men's Leaguer ought to believe, an act of human justice, the grant of it is bound to benefit the country, if for no other reason than because it will be educational in its effects. And whichever side in politics temporarily benefits, from a party point of view, by the enfranchisement of women, as one side possibly may, it is still to the benefit of all parties alike that a fresh educational force should have been established in our midst. General education has profoundly modified the tenets of the Conservative party, it has done the same for the tenets of the Liberal party, while for the Labour party it may almost be said to have brought it to life. No party can really deny that it is good, even from its own point of view, for the educational standard of its rivals to be raised along with its own.

What can result, then, from the admission of so great and moral a principle as the enfranchisement of women, but a marked betterment of quality in all parties alike? Each party, from its own point of view, will have its eyes more widely opened. They will not change their point of view, but they will see more broadly; and in consequence their spheres of vision will tend to overlap, and in spite of separation they will find themselves, if not exactly in harmony, at least making a survey of common ground, and agreeing that that ground has now come within the sphere of practical politics, and should be dealt with. That, I take it, especially in certain moral and sanitary directions, is likely to be the great benefit which the enfranchisement of women will bring to all parties alike. And it is a benefit so great that the man who realizes it is almost bound to rise above party and push on the one reform which makes for it. But that is just the side of the question which your Party-coloured Suffragist seems absolutely to ignore. He does not reckon how it must improve the Liberal, the Conservative, and the Labour party alike, but only reckons how it will add to the quota of his own party on election day: and could he be sure that the addition would remain permanent he would become ardent in the cause. But the Party-coloured Suffragist generally has his doubt; he is not sure that women are as he wishes them to be, or that they will always remain as he wants them to remain; he is not prepared to admit on broad humanitarian grounds that they have a right to throw their weight, whatever it may be, whether Conservative or Liberal or Socialist, into the electoral scale, and so he stops to juggle with the terms, and endeavours either to hark back to an oligarchic qualification or to hark forward to a more democratic qualification than there is yet any real demand for. Your Party-coloured Suffragist

in fact, is nearly always a supporter either of "only propertied women having the vote" or of "Adult Suffrage," never a real believer in its extension on the same terms as it is now given to men; because that is the dark horse, and he is not quite sure how it is going to run. And until he is quite sure how it is going to run he is not prepared to give it more than a formal backing.

The Party-coloured Suffragist, in fact, is still in doubt whether women are fit for the vote; and by "fit" he really means whether they will vote as he wishes them to do. So, if he be Conservative, he searches around for "safe-guards," and if he be Radical he makes a sudden and quite uncalled-for extension of the term "democratic," and unless he can have his Shibboleth included in the reform he will do nothing for it.

In the old days of slavery one of the great arguments brought forward against emancipation was that the slaves were "unfit" to be their own masters; and so for many years that very system which had unfitted them and was still keeping them unfit was perpetuated, and the stock argument continued to receive proofs which were mainly its own manufacture! It is on very much the same lines that those who admit the principle, but have their doubts of the practical result, are endeavouring now to retard or to qualify, in order to suit their own ends, the enfranchisement of women.

LAURENCE HOUSMAN.

Proposed Women's Suffrage Club.

DEAR SIR OR MADAM,—It is intended, if sufficient support is forthcoming, to found in London A CLUB FOR MEN AND WOMEN who are supporters of Women's Suffrage. It is anticipated that such a club will meet a real need.

Premises will be taken in a convenient part of London, and they will be selected with special regard to the requirements of the case. Besides the ordinary rooms for conversation, writing, smoking, there will be a room of sufficient size for debates, receptions, and the like, for the purpose of forwarding the Suffrage Cause.

Before it is possible to proceed with the preliminaries, it is necessary that the enterprise should have the support of a sufficient number of prospective members. No definite scheme has yet been formulated, but the suggestion is that the club would be formed as a limited company, and that the annual subscription should be ONE GUINEA.

The club is further to be OF AN INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER, so that it may be in a real sense a centre for Suffragists all over the world.

Those who have already expressed approval of the project are as follows: Goldfinch Bate, Esq., Miss Annie Leigh Browne, T. Mortimer Budgett, Esq., H. G. Chancellor, Esq., Cecil Chapman, Esq., J.P., Miss Cons, Mrs. Conybeare, C. A. V. Conybeare, Esq., Miss Cicely Corbett, Mrs. Despard, J. E. Francis, Esq., Mrs. Francis, Miss Cicely Hamilton, A. W. Holland, Esq., Laurence Housman, Esq., Herbert Jacobs, Esq., Mrs. Larkcom Jacobs, Miss Kilgour, Miss G. L. Mallet, J. Malcolm Mitchell, Esq., Mrs. Eileen Mitchell, Josiah Oldfield, Esq., D.C.L., Miss Otter, Miss Mildred Ransom, Mrs. Grant Richards, John Russell, Esq., M.A., Mrs. Russell, Hon. Bertrand Russell, E. W. van Straaten, LL.D. (President and Founder of the Dutch Men's League), Lady Strachey, Lady Wright, Israel Zangwill, Esq.

If the idea meets with your approval please fill up the form below and return to me at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,

J. MALCOLM MITCHELL, Hon. Sec.

If the proposed Women's Suffrage Club, as described above, is established I shall be happy to become a member at an annual subscription of one guinea.

Name.....

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Pressure on our space prevents anything but a brief mention of the most successful meeting held by the Sussex Men's League at the Hove Town Hall last Saturday. In our next issue we shall hope to publish brief reports of the speeches of Mrs. Snowden, Earl Russell, and Mr. Raphael.

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