

The Common Cause,

The Organ of the National Union of

Women's Suffrage

Societies.

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ONE PENNY.

Notes and Comments.

Once More into the Breach.

This week the National Union begins its campaign in support of the Conciliation Bill by a great meeting in the Queen's Hall, which we hope to report next week. It is a little hard upon us to have to begin the same weary business of persuasion all over again, but we can assure our opponents that they will be tired out long before we are. Our cause is a living one, pertinent to every question that can possibly arise; theirs is as dead as yesterday and their speakers can only grind out the same wearisome platitudes and prophecies.

Whose Turn Next?

We do not find the various sections of the Liberal party so ready to apply to themselves the advice with which they so freely dose us. We are always told to wait until something else has been done before we can be attended to and after 44 years of agitation we are still told this. But we find various sections of men pressing forward their individual claims quite as if they came first. Last week the Welsh Members received a deputation of Welsh Free Churchmen who urged most strongly their equal right with Irish Members to have the question which interested them considered first. Some of them even went so far as to threaten they would vote against Home Rule rather than jeopardize Disestablishment. Finally, Mr. Ellis Griffith summed up their demand "that the Government should be asked to pass a measure of disestablishment for Wales through all its stages next session." Subsequently, the Prime Minister stated in reply to a deputation of Welsh Members that "assuming that a Parliament Bill was carried into law this year, the Government intended to give to the Welsh Disestablishment Bill such a position next year as would enable it to override the veto of the Lords during the present Parliament." If our friends who are always telling us to "trust Mr. Asquith" could extract some

such pledge from him, we would promise them to "trust it."

Tired Tyrants.

It is quite plain to everyone that the Government is trying to concentrate too much power (and therefore too much work) into the hands of a small oligarchy and the business of the country is suffering; tempers are suffering badly and health too; work is getting silted up and hurried judgments are being passed on important matters by Ministers tired to the verge of hysteria. For some time past, Mr. George and Mr. Churchill have shewn grave symptoms of want of balance and sense of proportion, and no one can wonder, when they see how their cry of "trust the people" is interpreted by them to mean "trust no one but yourself." The preposterous jumble of duties which are cast upon the Home Secretary has been further complicated by Mr. Churchill's peculiar ways of doing business and it seems to be only a matter of time when the inevitable smash must come. There is scarcely a quality vulgarly attributed to women as a whole, which has not been painfully exhibited by the Home Secretary in his recent conduct of the nation's affairs. What is it Lord Cromer says: "Extreme sentimentality, vague and undisciplined sympathies, hasty generalization based upon inexperience or on imperfect information"—who does not recognize the Home Secretary? Weariness, with this sort of temperament, leads to petulance; in the more stolid type to which Mr. Asquith belongs it leads to a dull, bored obstinacy; we scarcely know which state of mind is the more remote from what should be that of a statesman.



Photo., Elliott and Fry.

Miss Edith Palliser

Hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the National Union.

What They are Fit For.

The repudiation by the members of the Cardiff Women's Liberal Association of the action of their Executive in refusing to work for an Anti-Suffragist is deplorable and one wonders what their precious "Liberalism" is worth. The remark made by Mr. Tudor Rees, that he

"could never sacrifice his Liberalism on the altar of Suffrage, for he was a Suffragist because he was a Liberal," is really comic. Of what earthly use is a Suffragist who works to put into Parliament a man who will vote against Suffrage? Of what value is "Liberalism" which does only lip service to the great Liberal principle of representation of the people? The Cardiff Liberal Association had fair warning. It was open to them to select a candidate who should be a true Liberal. They chose to flout and insult the women in that constituency by selecting a candidate who thought women were only fit for the menial work of politics and they reaped their reward in defeating him. Now it seems, the rank and file of women Liberals in Cardiff are content with the menial position to which Sir Clarendon Hyde has relegated them. And honestly, we can say that those who wish to be menials are fit to be menials. But our sympathy goes out to those true women who refused to kiss the hand that cuffed them. When Mrs. Charles Morgan asked if the Cardiff Liberal Association, after hearing of the resolution passed by the Cardiff women, took any steps to select a candidate who was in favour of women's suffrage, Mr. Tudor Rees blandly replied "No." Let Mr. Rees ask himself how his "Liberalism" would stand the strain of working for a "Liberal" who denied *him* the vote! It is the cant of these "Liberals" that makes women so bitter against them. They may keep the sheep-like women, but the leaders and thinkers and the best workers will leave them, as they have left them all over the country. They are losing the flower of their womanhood.

How to Make Converts (or Invent Them).

Those delightful people the Anti-Suffragists have been shewing their hand in the most naïf manner in an article by Lady Simon in this month's "Review." She writes on branch work and says concerning debates, "As a general principle I should say that it is wise to refuse invitations from Suffragists to meet them in debate upon the general aspects of the Women's Suffrage question. I am convinced that Suffragists have their own ends to serve by getting up these debates." Why, of course we have! Nothing brings us more converts! "One good meeting" continues this ingenuous lady "with the speakers all on our side, is more likely to exercise a converting influence on the general public than any amount of debates with Suffragists." It is a curious and interesting fact that on the rare occasions when they are screwed up to facing a public debate and will allow the vote to be put, they very rarely publish the results in the "Review!" Perhaps they, too, have "their own ends to serve!" But their ends are the suppression of truth; ours the blazoning of truth.

At Cambridge last week Lord Cromer was asked, "Do you know that the canvass at Cambridge was incorrect?" and he replied that "he believed this was the case." In spite of this, the "Review" again publishes the misleading figures and it goes on to make the preposterous statement, concerning the 20,567 (in their total canvass) who did not reply, that "it is reasonable to suppose that these mostly—probably almost entirely—are unfavourable to Woman Suffrage. It is not to be supposed that many Woman Suffragists would fail to declare the faith that is in them, well knowing that the results of the canvass might be used against their cause!" Has it never dawned upon the Antis that we Suffragists think their vaunted canvasses not worth the paper that records them? There must be thousands of Suffragists who would not lend themselves to such transparent humbug.

Lord Selborne's Meeting and the Press.

This meeting, of which an account will be found on another page, was a truly remarkable one. "The Times" gave it seven inches and immediately below this report, it gave five inches to an account of how a young gentleman tried to break Mr. Churchill's window and failed. Two inches more for a former First Lord of the Admiralty and late High Commissioner of British South Africa! The Imperialistic "Times" is getting on! We understand the "Daily Mail" and the "Daily News" had not a

word about the meeting (but the "Daily News" said it wasn't invited). The "Morning Post" had a good report and the "Manchester Guardian" had nearly a column.

A Contrast and its Reason.

Lady Selborne, writing to "The Times," made use of the name of Lady Constance Lytton to say what Lady Constance has, on many occasions, both said and written, namely:—

"You hold a crowded meeting in the centre of London, with an ex-Cabinet Minister as chief speaker, and you get a short paragraph on a back sheet in most of the papers, and are not even mentioned in the 'Daily Mail.' Now if I threw a stone at the Prime Minister's carriage I should get a column on the front page, and perforce people's attention is directed to our cause."

This is perfectly true and enormously to the discredit of the Press; but it does not prove the efficacy of "militant methods." It only proves that the anti-suffrage Press will publish broadcast whatever it thinks will damage the suffrage cause and will do its best to suppress whatever will benefit that cause. On the same principle as Lady Simon in the "Anti-Suffrage Review" deprecates letting the Antis hear our side of the question by means of debates!

Dull, Tedious Work Essential.

Lord Robert Cecil, speaking at a meeting of the Actresses' Franchise League on March 3rd, is reported (in "Votes for Women") to have said:—

"May I just tell you what, in my opinion, is even more desirable than militant methods, from my own personal experience? I think the main and essential thing is organization, and the rather dull, tedious work known as canvassing and persuading electors to put this question before all others. If you had in each constituency even one or two hundred electors who were prepared to vote for either candidate in accordance with his views on this question, you would have such a force as even the present Government would not resist. I am convinced that that is what is most required in the Suffrage movement at the present time."

Truth Will Out!

The "Westminster Gazette," which professes to be Suffragist, last week had the following curiously illuminating juxtaposition of sentences: "All of these ladies are known for their *good works and public service*." The Duchess of Sutherland takes a special interest in the cripples of Staffordshire and the crofter workers of the Highlands. The Duchess of Montrose is a *very active opponent of Woman's Suffrage!*" Can one imagine the "Westminster" cracking up the "good works" of a Tariff Reformer? But Suffrage! That's quite another thing! "You women take things so seriously!" By the way, he evidently didn't know that the Duchess of Sutherland is in favour of Women's Suffrage.

"All Along o' Muddle! All Along o' Mess!"

Women all over England will breathe more freely now they know that Mrs. Woolmore has been released, but the scandal of her committal to prison and of the refusal of Mr. Churchill to liberate her until further pressure was brought to bear upon him remains and should urge women on to obtain that political power without which there is no security. Mr. Churchill appears to have been singularly ill-informed and singularly ready to believe the misrepresentations, since they had an official source. A lady, said to be a Suffragist, has taken charge of Mrs. Woolmore and a representative of "The Christian Commonwealth" saw her and says there is nothing "weak-witted" about her and now that she has been decently treated she has proved herself a "zealous and capable domestic worker." Perhaps she did shew herself somewhat bewildered when confronted by a court of law, all composed of men, administering our beautiful Christian laws in the accustomed manner. It *would* be a little bewildering to a woman who had "starved herself to feed the kids."

The A. B. C. of Women's Suffrage.

VOTES for WOMEN HOUSEHOLDERS

THE BILL.

- 1.—Every woman possessed of a household qualification within the meaning of The Representation of the People Act (1884) shall be entitled to be registered as a voter, and when registered to vote for the county or borough in which the qualifying premises are situate.
- 2.—For the purposes of this Act, a woman shall not be disqualified by marriage for being registered as a voter, provided that a husband and wife shall not both be registered as voters in the same Parliamentary Borough or County Division.

THAT IS TO SAY:

If this Bill becomes law, the Parliamentary Vote will be granted to any woman who owns or rents **and lives in** a house or dwelling place of any value, however small (*a woman paying 2/6 a week or less for a single, unfurnished room, separately occupied as a dwelling, could qualify*).

Of the women who are enfranchised under this Bill (about one million, whilst there are 7½ millions men voters), the greater number will be WIDOWS. In Bangor, for example, where there are 404 women who would get the vote, 288 of them are widows, and 116 are spinsters.

Also, of those 404 women, 368 either work for wages or do all their own housework.

ONLY 36 HAVE INDEPENDENT MEANS.

Altogether, it is calculated that of every 100 women who get the vote, 82 will be **working women**.

N.B.—This leaflet, printed in red and green, can be obtained from The William Morris Press, 41, Albert Street, Manchester. For Price see advert. on back page.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

This Bill has been introduced by Sir GEORGE KEMP, who **won the ballot** for private members' Bills, and will be read for the second time on **May 5th**. It is certain to pass by a large majority, as Mr. Shackleton's Bill did last year (299 M.P.s voted for it, and only 189 against).

Its fate will then depend on whether the Government will give **time** for the further stages necessary before it can become law.

Will time be given? We have a right to demand it, for hear what **Cabinet Ministers** said about the matter **last year**.

On Tuesday, Nov. 22, 1910, **Mr. ASQUITH** said:

"The Government will, if they are still in power, give facilities in the **next Parliament** for effectively proceeding with a Bill, if so framed as to permit of free amendment."

On Saturday, Nov. 12, 1910, **Sir EDWARD GREY** said:

"His personal opinion was that facilities ought to be given **next year** for the proper discussion and further progress of the Bill."

On Tuesday, Oct. 25, 1910, **Mr. WALTER RUNCIMAN** said:

"I think we are quite justified in pressing our claim **next year** for fuller facilities to be given for the discussion of the Bill **in every stage**." He added: "**Concentrate on 1911.**"

On Friday, Oct. 28, 1910, **Mr. BIRRELL** said: "Whenever Parliament meets **next year** the question will have to be definitely decided. . . . I certainly think that **the time for shuffling and delay in this matter** has gone by, and that **time will have to be given.**"

"Next Year" IS THIS YEAR, 1911, The Government is therefore **IN HONOUR BOUND** to grant the necessary time.

ELECTORS! Insist that your representatives keep their word and give **FAIR PLAY** to the women.

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to The Manager, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester. ADVERTISEMENTS should reach the office by first post on Tuesday. THE PAPER WILL BE POSTED to any address in Britain or abroad for the following prepaid payments:—

3 MONTHS	...	1	9
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LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS should be addressed to the Editor, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester, accompanied by a stamped envelope addressed if it is desired that they should be returned. The Editor accepts no responsibility, however, for matter which is offered unsolicited.

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE that this paper goes to press on Tuesday. The latest news, notices, and reports should, therefore, reach the Editor by first post on Monday. The Editor reminds correspondents, however, that the work is made much easier if news is sent in as long beforehand as possible. Monday is only mentioned as the last possible day, not as the one upon which all news should arrive.

NOTICE.—This paper should be obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by mid-day on Thursday. If people have any difficulty in getting it locally they should write to the Manager, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester, giving the name and address of the newsagent or bookstall from which they wish to be supplied.

Contents.

	Page
Miss Edith Palliser	793
Notes and Comments	793
The A. B. C. of Women's Suffrage	795
Vicarious Virtue	796
Great Speech by Lord Selborne	797
In Parliament	798
The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies—	
Queen's Hall Meeting	798
The Immediate Future	799
Treasurer's Notes	799
The Common Cause	799
By-election	799
Federation Notes	799
Women's Suffrage and the Press	800
Leicester Town Council	800
Cardiff Women's Liberal Association	801
Friends' Social Purity Conference	802
Foreign News	802
Letters to the Editor	803
Work of Societies	804
Forthcoming Meetings	806

Vicarious Virtue.

Liverpool Licensing Justices last week proposed a number of conditions to be imposed upon publicans with respect to the serving of drink to women. They are:—

- (1) It is necessary that the strictest vigilance should be exercised in serving women at all.
- (2) That any woman of known bad character, or of drunken habits, or whose appearance is not respectable, should be refused altogether.
- (3) That when women are served they shall only be served once, and shall not be allowed to treat each other to drinks.
- (4) That women shall not be allowed to remain an undue length of time upon premises.
- (5) Licensees shall refuse to supply a messenger known to be sent by any person who has been refused drink on the premises.

Sir Thomas Hughes, chairman of the Bench, said that, with respect to the problem of women drunkards, they intended in future to use their powers under the Licensing Act principally upon the houses that were encouraging women to drink.

There is one objection to the enfranchisement of women which is sometimes honestly uttered and which is, as a matter of fact, at the bottom of nearly all the real objection which men feel. It is expressed in the remark made recently to a speaker by a man who admitted the rightness of her plea for representation,—“You women,” he said, “would screw up the pitch altogether beyond what we could bear.” Another objector said, “You would legislate us out of existence,” and a third commented cynically, “You women know too much —.”

These men were honest. Mistaken or not, such thoughts as these are really at the bottom of all the so-called “arguments.” Men who strongly object to the enfranchisement of women are convinced that women would make the world a less comfortable place for men, that women don't understand men's “temptations”; that they would demand of men a pitch of virtue to which it is impossible to attain and that if they could, they would abolish all the “joy of life.” Is this true? If not, how is it that so many men think it?

No one can live in the world and study people without finding out that we almost always attribute our own motives to others. No one is so suspicious as your plotter; no one so free with accusations of untruth as your liar; no one so convinced as the egotist that everyone else is abominably selfish. How has dominant man treated subject woman? In the answer to that lies the answer how it comes that he is so apt to think woman would “turn the tables” if she could. There are virtues which are required in both sexes: honesty of a certain crude and strictly limited sort is not only expected from but enforced by law upon both men and women. But there is a whole range of virtues from the exercise of which men consider themselves largely absolved, which at any rate they do not attempt to impose by law upon men, but which they do endeavour to impose upon women, by legal penalties. The quotation at the head of this article shews how far the Liverpool Justices are prepared to go in differentiating between men who drink and women who drink. Our laws reflect plainly the man's opinion that unchastity in a man is a trifle, but in a woman a crime; a man is expected to resent wrong and admired for doing so, a woman is expected to forgive and condone, although her doing so may inflict the most grievous injury on the community; the recent actions of country justices and of the Home Secretary shew that men will imprison a woman because, when ill, she does not keep the house clean, while they freely allow men, by spitting on the pavements, to pollute the streets in which women have to walk.

When we ask how this comes about, it is easy to see. Men feel the injury to themselves when women are unchaste, or dirty or drunken; they do not trouble to look into women's temptations or into the causes of their faults; they proceed to compel or endeavour to compel them to be chaste, clean and sober; this seems the shortest way. When men are unchaste, dirty or drunken, women feel the injury to themselves, but they have no power to legislate and very little power to alter conditions; they are invited to consider men's “temptation” and to forgive them for yielding.

What do these men know of women's temptations? What do they care for the wrongs which men's vices inflict on women? A woman drinks, generally from misery or illness or hunger; because it is the quickest way, gentlemen justices, out of the Scotland Division; because, when the law allows a sailor to sail away from Liverpool, leaving little or no provision for his wife and family, the burden becomes too much for the woman and she drinks in order to forget. England is full of pleasant places for men, to coax and keep them from the drink, yet they drink (far more than women) because public opinion still thinks it little shame in a man. There are few pleasant places for women,—“Home is a woman's place!” Drive her home, where there is no food and no warmth and no company and where she may wait, trembling, for the heavy, stumbling step that brings her the accustomed blow, the accustomed curse and no money to keep the home! These things are not imaginary. Only last week Mr. Churchill remitted the remainder of a six weeks' sentence on a Staffordshire collier who could earn 6s. 3d. a day and who had never, during the six years of his married life, maintained his wife and family. Mr. Churchill's sympathy evidently goes out to the lazy healthy man, while he withholds it from the sick, starved woman.

In this matter of drunkenness, women are always being told that the remedy is theirs: that they must make a nice bright home for the man and always smile and never contradict him. Surely if this were so sovereign a remedy it should be in the power of men to stop women drinking! Why do men not try the smiling and not contradicting? Perhaps they do and perhaps they don't find it work. Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman, receiving a deputation on the housing question, once remarked that he pitied the men who had to sleep in the hovels provided for them. These hovels are the women's homes, where they live and work and bear the children and do the washing and if they are not pleasant for the men to return to, what must they be for the women, who are supposed never to leave them?

Men drink far more than women, yet men sit in judgment upon the women drunkards! “Yes,” they will say, “but when a woman drinks it injures the family far more than when a man drinks, because the woman is the mother.” Now, even if it were proved, which it is not, that alcoholism in a man had less injurious physiological effects upon his offspring than alcoholism in a woman, those who speak thus forget all the other effects disastrous to women and children which result from men's drunkenness. They forget that the drunken man has lost control over his other appetites of which women are the victims; they forget that man is the stronger and that when a man has battered his wife, it is a plea much entertained by the men who judge and sentence him that he was not sober at the time; they forget that a man is not only a woman's husband but her employer and that if he drinks so that he cannot even provide her miserable “keep,” she may starve and the children with her.

No. Men are not thinking of the family but of themselves. Men are lenient with drunken men because it is not they but women who suffer most from them; they are severe with drunken women because men suffer most from them. It is quite possible that women, if they had the power, would try to screw up the standard for men. Not from any malice against the “joy of life.” But because very often man's joy is woman's woe. Man snatches his short-lived joy at the expense of the woman and thinks he can keep up the average of virtue by exacting a double payment from the woman. It is a short-sighted policy. It does not pay in the end. But there is another line of action which we think women would be very apt to take. They would understand the nature of women's “temptations,” and they would endeavour to remove them. We recently heard a very young man at an Anti-Suffrage meeting inveighing against the wickedness of infanticide and urging that women should not be given the vote because they would use it to modify the present law. His line of argument was that the temptation to put an unwanted child out of the way was so tremendous that nothing short of hanging unmarried mothers who were guilty of this crime would “deter” them. It never appeared to have dawned on him that to abolish the double standard might be a far more effective remedy.

Punishment! Prohibition! Regulation! Oh the sorry remedies! Why not try helping them?

Great Speech by Lord Selborne.

CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST WOMEN'S FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION.

The meeting in the Grand Hall of the Hotel Cecil on the evening of March 9th, was a brilliant success. The beautiful hall was filled with charming people beautifully dressed and there was an unusually large number of men among them. It was a great feat on the part of the Association to get so distinguished a statesman as Lord Selborne to address their meeting and his weighty and considered oration went to the very root of the matter, and provided far sounder footing than Lord Cromer's vague prophecies.

LORD LYTON, who was in the chair, said that this question was one which would cause anxiety and difficulty to every ministry until it was settled. There were times when resistance to change and refusal of reform were more dangerous than the reform itself. Women had the right to vote, not because they had special interests, but because they have an equal right with men to choose the government of their country.

STABILITY AND GOOD ORDER.

LORD SELBORNE, who was very well received, said that he did not approach this great question from the point of view of theory. When you are dealing with constitutions what you have to decide is whether a given proposal will be for the advantage of the country or not. He believed, from his experience and not on *a priori* grounds at all, that women would be an addition to stability and to good order. We have abandoned autocrats; we have a democracy. This has plenty of disadvantages; weaknesses and failures stare us in the face;

but it is based on the knowledge that A, B and C can be trusted to do justice to a disfranchised class, D, only so long as there is no clash of interests; when there is, it is inevitable that D should be neglected. The burden of proof rests on those who offer an inexorable “No” to women's claim for the franchise.

ELEMENTAL RUBBISH.

Lord Selborne then dealt with a considerable number of so-called arguments advanced by the Anti-Suffragists. With regard to the statement that “it is an elemental fact that no woman can in the last resort make law effective,” he asked “What makes law effective? Being a man? Or is a man with a rifle more effective than a man without a rifle? Or is a man without a rifle more than a match for a woman with a rifle? Mr. Winston Churchill (hisses) has to make law effective; does his power to do this depend upon his physical stature? The power of making law effective depends on the character and brain of the ruler. I have seen savage races where a woman swayed the whole tribe by force of character. This elemental fact is nothing but elemental rubbish.”

MEN AS EMOTIONAL AS WOMEN.

He then proceeded to make fun of those who said that the franchise would degrade the true womanly nature. “One says the constitution will destroy women and the other that women will destroy the constitution.” Did men have the franchise because they were “fit”? They were not all intelligent. They got it as human beings. “We bring into the sphere of government as large a number as possible; we want the general opinion of the average man in the street, even if he is not the best, wisest and most intelligent.” He held that men were quite as emotional as women.

A CRUSTED TORY ARGUMENT.

Referring to the statement that women do not want the vote, he said this was a “good, old, crusted Tory argument. Turn up old files and you will see they said it about other Reform Bills. Is it any reason to disfranchise a large class because an unknown proportion don't want the vote?” And he proceeded to give figures shewing how women voted in Australia. In answer to the statement that men represented women and looked after their interests, he said he did not think so ill of men as to suppose they never did anything for women. They would continue to look after women's interests, as men understand women, and when their interests don't clash. But in matters such as education, divorce, home life and children, women were entitled to make their voice heard and who would say that, in industry, the interests of men who are represented were always the same as those of women who are not represented?

MY COUNTRY AND MY HOME.

But the one reason which outweighed all others with him was this: “What I care for most is my country and my home—(we are not talking here of religion) the welfare of my country and the sacredness of my home; and I believe that not only ought women to be heard on these matters, but they care more deeply for them than men. My experience is not only in England, but overseas. I trust women's instinct more than men's. Their feelings are deeper and less susceptible of change and of fluctuating emotion. I want to strengthen my country in world competition. The strength and solidity of the home is at the bottom of the country's strength. Women may take a different view from what I do of the country's honour, but by giving the vote to women I believe we are establishing bulwarks of strength for my country and my home.” (Loud applause).

The resolution, which was carried *nem. con.*, ran as follows:—

“That this meeting urges the Government to grant facilities for the passage of a Women's Enfranchisement Bill through the House of Commons this session.”

UNCTUOUS RECTITUDE.

Lord Selborne said, in reference to the Bill, that he could understand those who were opposed to any franchise bill, but he could not understand those who posed as supporters of this movement and who did their best to oppose this bill. “What I do object to is when they

assume moral indignation and lecture us as traitors to the democracy, because we want to add one million votes to the democracy. Has not every other extension been from stage to stage? What would they have said if it had been objected to the great Reform Bill of 1832 that it was undemocratic because it enfranchised less than one million? What right have they to assume this air of unctuous rectitude? The real reason is a matter of calculation. If the majority of women would vote for their party we should have heard nothing of the 'undemocratic' nature of the bill! Some politicians take no pride in honouring their own checks on the bank of consistency."

MENTAL INSINCERITY.

MR. ROWLAND PROTHERO in seconding, spoke of the great changes in women's life, which required this change in their political status. This grievance was sometimes called a sentimental grievance and he would have them know that sentimental grievances were often the hardest to bear. But this was a practical grievance as well. Women were more temperate than men, but they suffered most from men's intemperance. In industry men by their votes forced on women restrictions which favour their male competitors. He characterized all the Anti-Suffrage arguments as afflicted with "mental insincerity." The wife of the agricultural labourer was more intelligent than her husband and far more patriotic; women were more dutiful than men and a large body of voters who vote from a sense of duty would be an enormous gain.

IGNORANCE OF THE ANTI-SUFFRAGISTS.

MISS RUTH YOUNG, Secretary of the Women Shorthand Clerks' and Typists' Association, said that the Anti-Suffragists wore rose-coloured spectacles and "their ignorance is a disgrace to themselves and a danger to the community." Lord Cromer should talk to Mrs. Higgs, of Oldham, to Mrs. Bramwell Booth, to the Postmaster General, to hear what women's lives were like. The rate of pay for typists in Government employ was a disgrace. "About one per cent. of the typists rises to a position worth having. The rest of us have to forget old age, forget that someone else will have to pay for our funeral. Paternal government and fraternal trade unions are anxious we should not kill ourselves with overwork and overpay." She related how Mr. Cameron Grant wanted to teach women to work a machine at which they could earn treble their present wage and a Trade Union official threatened that, if he did, a "sympathetic" strike of the whole trade would be called; so the women were not taught, and that Trade Union official had been a Labour "representative" in the House. They say women are the worst sweaters of women but "we are paid so badly that in each step of the social scale women are compelled to sweat each other."

VICTORY NEAR.

LADY BETTY BALFOUR AND LORD ROBERT CECIL also spoke, the latter attributing opposition to "pure, unadulterated, barbarous sex prejudice," or to "that type of conservatism which is against all change, whether good or bad." He believed victory was much nearer than some people thought; the common-sense of the country could not refuse a reform which was so manifestly for the good of the women themselves and of the country.

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

OBJECT: To obtain the Parliamentary franchise for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.

METHODS: (a) The promotion of the claim of women to the Parliamentary vote by united action in Parliament and by all constitutional methods of agitation in this country. (b) The organisation of Women's Suffrage Societies on a non-party basis.

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Secretary: Miss T. G. WHITEHEAD, M.A. Telephone: 1960 Victoria.
Telegrams: "Voiceless, London."
Offices: Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

Queen's Hall Meeting.

Mrs. Fawcett sends the following message to the meeting:—"My thoughts and best wishes are with the National Union for their meeting on March 15th. Our

In Parliament.

THE CASE OF MRS. WOOLMORE.

On Monday 7th, in reply to Mr. J. O'Grady (Lab.—Leeds),

Mr. Churchill said a lady who had interested herself in the case of Mrs. Woolmore had very kindly offered to receive her into her home and to do her best for her. He had therefore felt justified in recommending the remission of what remained of her sentence. Mrs. Woolmore was released on Friday last to the care of this lady, who would, he trusted, be able with the help of others to prevent the family again falling into the terrible condition in which they were found.

THE UMTALI REPRIEVE.

On Wednesday 8th, in reply to Mr. L. F. Scott, Mr. L. Harcourt said:—

I am informed by the Governor General and High Commissioner that as regards the Union of South Africa he is advised by his Ministers that there has been no recrudescence of the cases in question so far as is known to them, that the cases which have occurred since the commutation of the Umtali sentence are not appreciably in excess of the ordinary average of such cases in the various provinces of the Union, and that Ministers are confident that in not a single one of the reported cases can any connection be traced with the Umtali decision. The Minister of Justice, in speaking in the House of Assembly on the 7th of February, stated that newspaper reports of such assaults on the Rand were exaggerated. As regards Rhodesia, the newspapers have referred to two cases of alleged attempts since the Umtali decision, but neither has been reported officially to the High Commissioner. No cases have occurred in the native territories during Lord Gladstone's tenure of office.

SUFFRAGISTS AND THE POLICE.

On the same day Mr. W. G. A. Ormsby-Gore (U.—Denbigh District) asked whether any information with regard to the conduct of the police or others towards a deputation of women suffragists on the 18th November last was communicated to the Home Office from Mr. Mansell-Moullin, Dr. Ede, Dr. Flora Murray, or Miss M. McGregor soon after the event, or whether the first complaints of rough treatment which reached the Home Office were contained in the memorandum submitted by Mr. H. N. Brailsford.

Mr. Churchill: One of the persons named called at the Home Office, and, in reply to general complaints, was told that if any specific charge were made it would be inquired into, but no further communication was received from her. A letter to a newspaper by another of these persons was sent to me, and some other vague and general complaints against the police reached me about the same time, but none of them were of such a character as to afford any ground for special inquiry. I would refer the hon. member to the reply which I made to the hon. member for Blackburn (Mr. Snowden) last Wednesday.

The Revenue Bill occupied most of the time of the House of Commons and on Thursday there was an exceedingly tedious all-night sitting, when Mr. Churchill, in temporary leadership of the House, had a bad time of it.

splendid luck in the ballot gives Mr. Asquith an opportunity of redeeming this session the promise he gave on Nov. 23rd that he would 'afford facilities during this Parliament to the House of Commons for effectively proceeding with a Women's Suffrage Bill.' Full suffrage

was given to the women of the Commonwealth of Australia in the Coronation Year of King Edward; it will be singularly appropriate if the disability of sex is broken in the Mother Country in the Coronation Year of King George."

The Immediate Future.

There is much to be accomplished by the National Union in the ensuing months. We worked hard for the Conciliation Bill last year and must do as much, if not more, for the Bill in its new form this year. It is easy to explain, as it simply provides for the enfranchisement of women householders. Mr. Brailsford's excellent leaflet, "The Conciliation Bill Explained," should be widely distributed by every society. Members of the National Union know by experience that the electors of the country are in favour of "giving votes to the women who pay rates and taxes." Let them know that it is precisely these women that the Conciliation Bill proposes to enfranchise and get them to help us to ensure an overwhelming majority for the second reading on May 5th. That is our first duty and it is an important one; we must convert neutral Members of Parliament into supporters and must induce Anti-Suffragists to abstain from voting against the bill. A declaration as to the feeling of their constituents on the subject would be useful in these cases.

At the same time we must press the Government to grant facilities for the passage of the Bill into law this session, undeterred by the fact that we all did so *ad nauseam* last year. "It is dogged as does it" and we cannot afford to slacken our efforts for a moment. We shall win by hope and faith and by steady hard work.

K. D. COURTNEY.

Treasurer's Notes.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO GENERAL FUND.		
	£	s. d.
Already acknowledged	406	3 4½
Subscriptions:—		
Miss M. Holland	25	0 0
Miss B. S. Sackville	0	2 6
Mrs. Roger Clark	5	0 0
Lady Onslow	1	0 0
Miss Mollett	0	2 6
Miss Eeles	0	2 0
Miss E. A. Sharpley	0	1 0
Affiliation Fees:—		
Street W.S.S.	0	6 0
Penzance W.S.S.	0	10 9
Guildford W.S.S.	0	12 9
Falmouth W.S.S. (additional)	0	2 0
St. Hugh's College W.S.S.	0	5 0
	£439	7 10½

HELENA AUERBACH.

The Common Cause.

"COMMON CAUSE WEEK" IN MANCHESTER.

At their last committee meeting the Manchester Society decided to hold a Common Cause Week, and it is now being organized for the districts of Withington and Didsbury. It was thought desirable not to attempt the whole of Manchester, but to do the thing thoroughly in a smaller area, at any rate for the first time. The week's campaign at Oldham recently resulted in increasing the circulation in that district at least fivefold, and it is hoped that the result in Manchester will be up to the same standard. But besides the new subscribers we intend to have local advertisements that week, and above all, we do not intend that a single inhabitant of Withington or Didsbury shall be without an opportunity of seeing our paper and knowing what it stands for. The National Union's great strip posters will be on the hoardings, blazoning forth the National Union colours, red, white and green, and bearing the words "Read The Common Cause." There will be special contents bills for the local newsgazettes and special articles of interest to local people. The advertisements will be in a special place. The experiment will be watched with great interest by the other societies who intend to have a Common Cause Week later on and we want them to see the result of the Manchester effort in the paper itself.

BACK NUMBERS.

Owing to the constant demand for back numbers of The Common Cause, some issues are now very scarce and it has been found necessary to charge 2d. each, plus postage, for numbers more than three months old.

Secretaries are reminded that back numbers a few weeks old can be had from the office on payment of carriage. They may also be had from the National Union offices on application to Miss Tiner.

By-election.

NORTH-EAST LANARK.

Result of the Poll:	
J. Duncan Millar (Lib.)	7,976
Park Goff (U.)	6,776
J. Robertson (Lab.)	2,879
Majority	1,200

The result of the poll is eminently satisfactory to the National Union, Mr. Duncan Millar having pledged himself to our complete satisfaction.

Mr. Goff, the defeated Unionist candidate, with vigorous agents and a strong party behind him, stated that his seventy meetings in a fortnight were a record for a N.E. Lanark election. With our improvised organization we managed fifty-one—forty out of doors, the rest in halls. Everywhere our reception was kindly and audiences interested, though on Saturday nights we were occasionally interrupted by drunken men. The day before the poll Miss C. M. Gordon, with a helper, toured the whole constituency in a motor-car bedecked with red and white, leaving parcels of literature at each of the polling stations. So great was the distance covered that no time could be spared for holding meetings from the car. On the day of the poll the sun shone brightly upon us, and despite a biting wind all went well. "Ye deserve the vote from the way ye've conducted this contest," said an old man in Motherwell, and many were the signs of sympathy shown us. We have secured a list of the names and addresses of a hundred or so of supporters, and trust that ere long a strong Society may be organized in N.E. Lanark, so that some permanent results may come of our campaign. Mr. Duncan Millar, the successful Liberal candidate, visited our Committee Rooms, gave satisfactory answers when heckled at his meetings, and promises to support the Conciliation Bill, even if its widening amendments be lost.

ALICE CROMPTON.

Dr. Elsie Inglis writes to say how admirably Miss Crompton did the work from the very beginning. She knew how to place her workers. "It was really a very successful piece of work." One is glad to think the National Union made a good impression here, because this will be reflected in the new Member.

Federation Notes.

Scottish.

The Federation has suffered severely lately in its official staff. The marriage of the principal organiser was such an unexpected blow that congratulations to "Mrs. Abbot" were forgotten in the universal regret over losing "Miss Lamond." The sudden loss of such a worker—as organiser, as secretary, and as speaker, equally invaluable—seemed for the moment irreparable. Miss Lamond had just been appointed organising secretary, and it was hoped that the heavy secretarial work which Dr. Inglis, the hon. secretary, has nobly sustained for so long would be materially lightened.

Another heavy blow fell the same week in the illness of Miss Henderson, who had just completed so successfully her first month's work as organiser, a position which she has now unfortunately been forced to resign.

The Federation, in wishing all happiness to Mrs. Abbot, and renewed strength to Miss Henderson, hopes that such invaluable workers will be able to give their Suffrage help to another sphere of Suffrage labour.

GLASGOW SOCIETY.

RESIGNATION OF MRS. HUNTER.

The Glasgow Society is sustaining a very great loss in the resignation of its secretary, Mrs. J. T. Hunter. The Glasgow Society was practically started at a meeting held in Mrs. Hunter's drawing-room nine years ago. Mrs. Hunter will still remain on the Executive Committee of the Scottish Federation. She has been appointed secretary of the Vigilance Association, and this work makes it impossible for her to do as well the hard work which must fall upon the secretary of such a flourishing society as that of Glasgow. The new secretary of the Glasgow Society is Miss R. Lindsay, and all communications should, in future, be addressed to her at the office, 58, Renfield Street.

South Western.

The Committee of the Three Towns Society passed a resolution *nem. con.* recommending to their members the policy of

census resistance, and a good number of names of intending resistors have already been received. Topsham is also organising resistance to the census.

West of England.

A satisfactory reply, and promise to vote again for the Conciliation Bill, has been received from Mr. George Terrell (Glos.).

A deputation has been arranged to wait upon Mr. Bathurst (Anti-Suffragist, Wilton) on April 7th.

Another deputation is being worked up by Mrs. Davies in Weston-super-Mare, and the Federation secretary has approached several other M.P.s with the same object.

Manchester and District.

A great effort is being made by the Societies in this Federation to raise funds for Federation work. In Manchester an "American tea" has been held by Mrs. T. M. Young and Mrs. Chapman. Each guest was asked to bring an article value 5s. and spend 5s., and the profits, handed over to the Federation treasurer, amounted to £14 12s. Oldham has arranged for a lecture by Mrs. Leo Grindon, the proceeds of which are to go to the funds, and is also organising an entertainment in April for the same purpose. Knutsford has started a special fund in aid of the Federation, and we hear rumours of sales of work and "white elephant" teas in various quarters. On Wednesday, March 8th, the Federation held what it is hoped will be the first of a series of monthly At Homes in the Deansgate Arcade Café. All arrangements were made by the Knutsford Society, one of the most active and efficient organisations in the Federation. The attendance was very large, and the experiment proved in every way successful. A special piece of luck was the unexpected presence of Miss I. O. Ford, whose inimitably humorous and inspiring speech gave the keenest delight.

A meeting was held at Stalybridge on March 7th, Mr. Barnes taking the chair, and Miss I. O. Ford and Miss Robertson speaking. A fair number of members joined, and it is hoped that at the annual meeting of the Ashton Society it will extend its scope to include Stalybridge, and a joint committee will be formed.

Women's Suffrage and the Press.

We are making great efforts to get the papers to publish fuller and more accurate Suffrage news. There is one piece of work which I should like to recommend to all our societies in this connection—the training of some of their members as amateur reporters. It often happens that a paper cannot, or will not, send a reporter to a meeting, but will print a report if it is sent in ready for publication. Such reports must be of suitable length, and must contain matter of interest to the general public, and news that is news, not two or three days old. It takes some experience to make a good reporter. Girls fresh from school or college, who are accustomed to taking notes of lectures, etc., ought to be able to acquire the art with practice, and it would be extremely useful to have a corps of amateur reporters, who could be called upon at need. The great thing to bear in mind is that newspapers want news and not opinions. It is as well to find out beforehand, if possible, how much space can be given to the report, and to know the politics and general style of the paper for which one is writing. One must learn to write a strictly impartial report, a simple statement of facts or summary of arguments used, without comment or criticism.

Societies wishing to train their members to do this work might organize reporters' classes, and these could be worked very well in conjunction with classes for speakers. The reporters would attend the speakers' class and report and criticize the speeches. At the next meeting their reports would be read, and the speakers would criticize them. If there were any experienced journalist in the society, of course he or she could give most useful help. Each reporter should choose in imagination a particular paper to write for, practising in turn with papers of different party views, and different attitudes towards Women's Suffrage (pro, anti, anti-militant, adultist, etc.). The critics ought to be able to guess from the report the kind of paper for which it was intended.

CATHERINE E. MARSHALL (Hon. Press Secretary).

Leicester Town Council.

At a meeting of the Leicester Town Council on February 28th, Councillor Gimson moved: "That a petition be presented to Parliament praying that the Parliamentary Franchise (Women's) Bill be afforded facilities for passing through its various stages, with a view to its receiving due and full consideration." He said he thought it right the Town Council should consider such a resolution, because Town Councils were among the few representative bodies for which women had votes. He pointed out that thirty-six boroughs had already passed resolutions similar to the one he had submitted, and that as Bills for the enfranchisement of women had six times passed their second reading in the House of Commons, it seemed reasonable that the present Bill should have facilities for being considered right to the end. The laws passed bore quite as heavily on women as on men, and

that being the case, the only possible reason that they should not give a vote to women was that they thought might be right.

The resolution was seconded by Councillor J. Russell Frears, and supported by Councillor Yearby.

Councillor Lovell moved that the Council proceed to the next business. He said that he was in favour of the principle of the Conciliation Bill, but did not consider it a suitable subject for a resolution by the Town Council.

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Dr. Crossley, but on being put to the meeting was lost by a large majority. As the voting was by show of hands, the numbers were not announced.

Councillor Gimson's resolution was then put, and carried *nem. con.*

A Parish Council Supports the Bill.

The small Parish Council of Adel-cum-Eccup has led the way, I believe, as regards Parish Councils, and sent up a resolution in favour of our Bill to Mr. Asquith and to our Member, Mr. Lane Fox, an opponent. Our chairman, Mr. Jackson, is chairman of the large Rural District Council of Wharfedale, and is a friend to our cause. We feel proud of ourselves! Parish Councils, please copy!

ISABELLA O. FORD.

The Church League for Women's Suffrage.

Offices: 11, St. Mark's Crescent, Regent's Park, London, N.W.

Forthcoming meetings will be held as follows:—March 20th, at 48, Leam Terrace, Leamington, at 3 p.m.; Rev. W. C. Roberts and Rev. Athelstan Corbet. March 21st, at the Council Offices, Hendon; a free meeting at 8 p.m.; subject, "Sweated Industries, and the Remedy"; Miss Constance Smith and Rev. C. Hinscliff. March 30th, at Mrs. Shewell Cooper's house, 8, Warwick Avenue, Paddington; speaker, Mrs. A. J. Webbe. The subjects of the remaining Lenten addresses at St. Mary's, Paddington Green, by the Rev. C. Hinscliff are:—March 16th, "Business"; March 23rd, "The Poor"; March 30th, "The Unfit"; April 6th, "The Profligate." On April 4th a League service will be held at St. Mary's Church, Warwick, at 8 p.m., when the sermon will be preached by Ven. Archdeacon Escreet. On Thursday, April 6th, Rev. Claude Hinscliff will conduct a Quiet Day at St. Sepulchre's, Holborn. Holy Communion, 7.30 and 8; addresses at 11 a.m., 1.15, 3, and 6 p.m.

NEW SPRING BLOUSES



Our stock in this department is exceptionally large and well assorted, and contains copies of all the Paris models made by our own workers at very moderate prices.

VOILE SLIP (as sketch), in plain colours, also in black and white, trimmed with tucks and hand veining, and finished with white lawn puritan collar and cuffs. **12/9**

Debenham & Freebody.

Wigmore St., London, W.

Last week Rev. C. Hinscliff addressed a private meeting of matrons and nurses at the Park Hospital, Hither Green. Chairman, Dr. Drummond, chaplain of the hospital. The same evening a successful meeting was held in the small Borough Hall, Greenwich, at which speeches were made which in the opinion of the local Press call for episcopal censure.

Free Church League for Women's Suffrage.

Hon. Organizing Secretary: Rev. E. Clark, 1, Burn's Road, Harlesden, N.

Hon. Correspondence Secretary: Miss Hatty Baker, 25, Hartington Villas, Hove.

Two functions are now being considered by the Executive Committee. One is a devotional service—we hope with a sermon—at some central London church, near the eventual 5th May. The other is a large meeting in a church in North London, and this will be the first time that the Free Church League has been able to plead its sacred cause of human justice in a building held to be specially sacred. Two ministers have, however, secured for us their schoolrooms. The Rev. Kaye Dunn, B.A., of Bermondsey, was the first, and now the Rev. A. Johnson, Primitive Methodist minister, of Penge, is lending his room for the inaugural meeting of the Penge Branch on the 29th inst. He will himself preside, and the speakers will be the Rev. Ernest J. Basson and Mrs. Sambrook. The meeting will be at 3 o'clock. Will not other ministers or trustees induce their committees to lend their churches or rooms? This is the best way of securing an audience of Free Church men and women, and they hear Suffrage among associations and in a dialect which is their own.

The organizing secretary made every effort to secure a Suffrage meeting at the Free Church Council at Portsmouth. But as we had so recently formed our League, the programme was already full before he applied. We hope that at its next session the Free Church Council will discuss, among its other political question, this, the most vital of all.

Women's Tax Resistance League.

The following letter has been sent to every Member of Parliament:—

Dear Sir,—My Committee desire me to call your attention to the provisions in the Revenue Bill dealing with the Wife's Super Tax, which will shortly come up for discussion in the House.

For the first time in history a wife is called upon to pay taxes, and this League protests against any increase in the liability of women to taxation until they have the Parliamentary vote.

We earnestly hope that you will vote against this clause in the Bill.

I am, yours faithfully,

MARGARET KINNETON PARKES,

Secretary.

10, Talbot House, 98, St. Martin's Lane, W.C.

Men's Committee for Justice to Women.

THE WOOLMORE CASE.

The following resolution was unanimously passed by the Executive of the Men's Committee for Justice to Women at its last meeting on the 7th inst.:—

This Committee expresses its hearty appreciation of the humane and public spirited action of Mrs. Wyatt in the case of Mrs. Annie Woolmore, who was so improperly sentenced by the Epping magistrates, and places on record its profound regret that the occurrence of such flagrant injustice and harsh treatment should be possible in a civilised country.

The Cardiff Women's Liberal Association and its Executive.

(Taken from the Report in the "South Wales Daily News.")

On Friday, March 10th, the Cardiff Women's Liberal Association met at the demand of a certain section of the members to consider the action of the Executive at the time of the last general election, when they refused to work for Sir Clarendon Hyde on the ground that he was an avowed Anti-Suffragist.

The resolution was moved by Mr. Tudor Rees: "That this Association regrets the action taken by its Executive Committee in not working for the party at the general election." As originally announced, the following words followed—"and calls upon them not to refuse to work for a Parliamentary election again on the ground of Suffrage only."

In support of this resolution Mr. Tudor Rees said he could never sacrifice his Liberalism on the altar of Suffrage, for he was a Suffragist because he was a Liberal. He maintained that in consequence of the resolution of the Executive Committee the women Liberals of Cardiff had not supported Sir

Clarendon Hyde, and consequently they had materially influenced the success of the Tory candidate.

Mr. George Roblin, in seconding the above resolution, said the Executive had bartered away for mere petulance and spite a seat they ought to have held. He further stated that their action had been treacherous to the Liberal party, from whom they had received money.

With reference to this last statement, it is instructive that Mrs. Lester Jones, who occupied the chair, is reported to have said that about three years ago the Liberal women of Cardiff organized a Free Trade bazaar, which realized £1,000, and all they received in return was a grant of £50.

Mr. Brailsford moved an amendment approving the action of the Executive Committee in adhering to its decision to work for no Liberal candidate or member who had failed to give satisfactory proofs of his fidelity to the principle of Women's Suffrage as embodied in the Conciliation Bill. In supporting this amendment he pointed out that the only policy the women had was to withhold support. Their action in Cardiff was the best stroke of work done for the cause of women in the country.

Mr. Walter Roch, M.P., had consented to second the above amendment. In his absence it was seconded by Mrs. Viriamu Jones.

The amendment on being put to the vote was lost by a large majority, and Mr. Tudor Rees' resolution adopted.

The "South Wales Daily News," a Liberal paper, has hitherto lent no support to the Liberal women in refusing to work for Sir Clarendon Hyde, but in a leading article on March 11th it said: "The resolution passed last night by the Cardiff Women's Liberal Association is bound to result in loss of prestige. The decision of the Executive was overridden by a majority of members last night, and we take it that the Liberal forces in the constituency have therefore been very considerably augmented. But the whole power of Cardiff Liberalism will not be exerted until there is a real and effective co-operation between all the present conflicting elements."

ERIE EVANS,

"Common Cause" Correspondent for the South Wales Federation.

23, Dumfries Place, Cardiff.

Death of Colonel John Pennycuik.

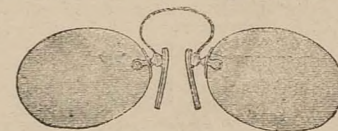
The Suffrage cause has lost a firm friend through the death of Colonel John Pennycuik, C.S.I., late R.E., at Camberley on March 9th. Colonel Pennycuik had a long and distinguished career in India. By his advice and under his direction the diversion of the great Perigar river in Travancore territory was carried out in face of numerous difficulties, and with lasting benefit to the country. In recognition of this he received the distinction of the Telford medal. He shewed the same energy in all he undertook, whether it was cricket or local administration, and he was a staunch Suffragist all his life, helping the Southern societies which greatly mourn his loss. He had the greatest admiration for Mrs. Fawcett, and is reported to have said to one worker, "All my life my greatest ambition has been to take the chair for Mrs. Fawcett, and I realized my ambition the other day at Camberley."

While Colonel Pennycuik, who was a member of the Men's League, had the deepest belief in constitutional methods, he was never one of those lukewarm friends who allow militant action to deter them from giving help on any possible occasion. He was deeply distressed at Mr. Churchill's conduct with regard to the Conciliation Bill last year.

The N.U.T. and Women's Suffrage.

At the annual conference of the National Union of Teachers to be held at Aberystwyth at Easter, a motion to suspend the Standing Orders will be moved in order to allow the president, Miss Cleghorn, to bring before the conference the Suffrage

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Eyeglasses from 5/6. Spectacles from 10/6. Made in Steel, Rolled Gold, and Gold.

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question; and as that motion will be seconded by Mr. Andrew Dakers, B.A., one of the candidates for the vice-presidency, it is to be hoped that every one of the readers of "The Common Cause" who are members of the N.U.T. will record their votes in favour of Mr. Dakers, who is, by his past work and experience, entitled to the support of all Suffragists. He is a keen Suffragist and a supporter of "equal pay for equal work."

F. N. HARRISON BELL.

Conference of the Friends' Social Purity and Abolitionist Association.

On March 10th a conference was held at the Westminster Friends' Meeting House. In the morning Mrs. Bramwell Booth opened a discussion "On the Limitations of Rescue Work as a Check to Immorality." Her main points were (1) That rescue work should not be confined to women, but should reach men. Many young men had no good woman among their acquaintance.

(2) More should be done for children. Since it was impossible to keep children in ignorance, they should be instructed. (3) Children should be guarded from moral contamination in schools.

(4) The legal responsibility of parents for the moral condition of their children should be enforced. We make the parent liable if the child falls into the fire but not if she is outraged.

(5) Unmarried mothers should be better helped than they are by law. The father's responsibility should be strengthened and the allowance should bear some proportion to his income. As things are, it is often impossible to recover anything.

(6) The age of protection for girls should be raised.

(7) The law of incest should be amended.

An interesting discussion followed, in which Dr. Helen Winton pointed out that it was administration of the law that was often at fault and also the prevailing ignorance of what the law was. Resolutions were passed advocating "a great onward movement of all branches of Social Purity work"; asking the Government to provide facilities for the passing of the White Slave Traffic Bill; requiring the same energy to be pursued by the police in tracing men who cause moral injury to children as in the case of burglary or murder, and calling on the Government for the speedy enfranchisement of women. This resolution met with the heartiest applause, stating as it did that—"This meeting shares the views of the late venerated Josephine E. Butler, leader and pioneer of the Abolitionist movement, that the long years of labour and sorrow which preceded the passing of the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1885 would have been very much shortened, and further considers that more would have been accomplished since that date had women possessed the Parliamentary vote."

At the afternoon session Mr. Maurice Gregory described the state of affairs at Gibraltar, where regulation is enforced and where there are some 150 women in "tolerated houses." From 4,000 to 5,000 soldiers and about 10,000 sailors pass through Gibraltar, and a generous estimate gives 50 per cent. of these as leading "straight" lives. The whole of Gibraltar is under martial law, and it would be quite possible to exclude these women altogether. A resolution was passed calling upon the Government to make an inquiry in order that the condition might be remedied.

A general discussion took place upon "the dangers of new methods of regulation of vice," and a resolution was passed, with one dissentient, deploring the insertion of proposals in the Majority Report of the Royal Commission of 1909 on the Poor Laws which would involve compulsory detention of any poor person on a justice's order, apart from any offence whatever. The meeting was urged to inform itself of the provisions of the new bill for "The Prevention of Immorality" (4d.), and also to purchase a book entitled "Manual of Vigilance Law" (price 2s. 6d. from the National Vigilance Association). Young men were urged to join the Alliance of Honour (Hon. Secs., Mr. E. E. Bagnall and Mr. A. B. Kent, 10, Leysian Buildings, 118, City Road, London, E.C.).

At the evening session papers on Sex Education were read: "Through the home," by Mary Littleboy; "Through the school," by Mr. Badley; and "Through the gymnasium," by Mrs. Impey. It was generally expressed that frankness, knowledge, and sympathy were required, and that vague denunciations, ignorance and fear created evil. Dr. Tchikovsky and Miss Philippa Fawcett told us something of what is being done by the L.C.C. in the matter.

Foreign News.

SWITZERLAND.

One of the laws recently submitted to the electors of Zürich contained the following clause: The legislature is to decide to what extent women may be allowed to vote for and be elected to public offices. It was passed by a large majority in both the town (11,000 against 3,000) and canton (31,000 against 22,000), and is a considerable triumph for the women of Zürich, as many previous laws working in the same direction had been rejected. Even now there was a great deal of discussion before arriving at this result, and though women have

West Heath School, Hampstead.

[ESTABLISHED 1897.]

A SCHOOL where Boys and Girls are educated together, and where they learn the respect for each other and gain the wholesome and natural knowledge of one another which is a foundation for all that is best in the mutual relations of men and women.

Children are received from the ages of six to eighteen; thus obviating the disastrous break at thirteen or fourteen years of age, in the continuity of their intellectual work, which is a necessity (for moral reasons) in schools where boys and girls are educated separately.

* * * * *

At West Heath School the Boys and Girls share each other's pursuits, whether in work, games or leisure (with certain obvious exceptions). They have, in fact, in this respect the freedom of a large family, in conjunction with the help due to the supervision of a staff of experienced educationists.

At the same time, the even proportion in the staff of men and women gives ample opportunity for the association of boys with men and girls with women, which must be an inherent characteristic of any true system of co-education. Where boys and girls are thus brought up, false ideas as to predominance find no acceptance, and a standard, honest in being alike for all, is upheld. Particulars can be had from the Principal.

Reference is allowed to the

REV. CANON SCOTT HOLLAND, D.D., St. Paul's, E.C., and MISS JANE WALKER, M.D., 122, Harley Street, W.

the right to be elected, it will depend upon each individual voter how far she may be allowed to share in the legislation and work of the public authorities. On the same day it was decided that women belonging to any particular trade may be eligible for industrial law committees; this step is due to the Zürich Suffrage Society. As no law can come into force in Switzerland until it has been submitted to the electors and passed by an absolute majority, every voter has considerable power; the new law is therefore all the more important to our cause.

GERMANY.

Fraülein Hermine Maas is the first woman who has been appointed school doctor in Nürnberg. In Mecklenburg the Liberal party is strongly in favour of votes for women. Many of the most important men belong to the Suffrage society, and the leading Suffragists are on the local Liberal committees. The town of Rostock gained 31 new adherents to the cause on January 15th, when Dr. Kälthe Schirmacher addressed a crowded meeting, and aroused an extraordinary and very encouraging enthusiasm amongst her audience.

AUSTRIA.

An Austrian paper for Women's Suffrage appeared at the beginning of the year in Vienna. Its object is to help forward the political education of women, and to report on the Suffrage movement in all parts of the world. The editor, Frau Nini von Fürth, I Reichsratstrasse 7, will supply specimen copies on application, the subscription being 2 kronen for the ten yearly numbers. Austrian women are badly handicapped by not being permitted to join any political society. Thousands of them have recently sent up a petition to Parliament asking for the removal of this restriction.

ITALY.

The provisional committee for Women's Suffrage in Italy is arranging for a national congress to be held at Easter; the questions of organisation, methods of work and tactics will be discussed. At the present time the committee is actively engaged in propaganda work amongst the women who are eligible to vote for the Chamber of Commerce, and in trying to interest them in their recently won privilege.

UNITED STATES.

Both Houses of the Oregon Legislature have voted in favour of an amendment granting full suffrage to women. A Voters' Educational Association has been formed in Washington, with the object of instructing the women in their new responsibilities. The organisers of the Association have wisely decided that the

education shall not be restricted to women, but, as the Rev. Mrs. Danforth said at the inaugural meeting: "We are going to educate the men, too!"

Letters to the Editor.

Correspondents are requested to send their names and addresses, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. The Editor is not responsible for any statement made in the correspondence column.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only.

A ROMAN CATHOLIC LEAGUE.

I was glad to note in your issue of the 9th inst. that an effort is being made to form a Roman Catholic League for Women's Suffrage. The Suffrage movement is not a sectarian movement; the whole of society suffers from the want of Women's Suffrage; and the function of a Roman Catholic League will simply show that ours is a universal and unsectarian cause, because along with the Church League and Free Church League it will prove that Women's Suffrage embraces all sections of religious and political thought.

As a canvasser I have found that most Roman Catholics are favourable to the cause, but not so enthusiastic as they are in matters of a more general political character. The proposed League will, I am sure, greatly assist in the speedy accomplishment of our object.

JEANNIE COLQUITT.

68, Boswell Street, Liverpool, March 10th, 1911.

THE POLICE AND THE SUFFRAGISTS.

I am only an "irresponsible person" according to Mr. Churchill, not having a vote, but I beg leave to contradict what he said in the House last week, when refusing an inquiry into the conduct of the police during the so-called Suffragette riots of last November.

He said that "complaints should have been made immediately; too much time had been allowed to elapse," or words to that effect.

I beg to remind Mr. Churchill that I took a letter to the Home Office while the first disturbance was progressing, remonstrating and calling on the authorities to put a stop to the disgraceful scenes. I also delivered a second letter, similar in tone, early the next morning. I also wrote to and called at Scotland Yard. At the Home Office I saw only the doorkeeper, who, quite civilly, declined to let me see an official. Later I received the ordinary printed form of acknowledgment, nothing more. Mr. Churchill effectually prevented the first day's victims from bringing any charges, for he ordered their release, without allowing them to give any evidence. Mrs. Solomon on the 17th December, as soon as she was able to quit her bed, wrote to the Home Secretary describing the scandalous treatment she had received.

I understand that about a score of women complained either at the time, or when sufficiently recovered to do so.

A formal and comprehensive statement could not be drawn up till the meeting of Parliament brought the members of the Conciliation Committee to town.

I am not a Suffragette nor do I belong to any militant society, but, hearing that there was to be foul play, I was present throughout those black days, a close witness, and can testify to the brutalities and vulgarities of the police.

I may add that the ordinary roughs, who pressed on all sides on the deputation from Caxton Hall to Westminster, were polite and kind compared to the organized band who, after the uniformed men had quietly let pass on to the door of the House, threw themselves in a solid, disciplined mass upon the women, and aided the constables through that miserable afternoon to ill-treat and insult them.

Women contribute equally with men to the upkeep of the police (and I may be allowed to remind Cabinet Ministers to their upkeep also), and should receive fair consideration from them. Instead of this they were hounded and knocked about mercilessly. As a foreigner remarked, "it is like your English game of football!"

If the women were acting illegally and "obstructing" why were they not arrested straight off?

A. J. MACGREGOR.

[The prisoners on the two subsequent days were charged; why did they not make out a case? Miss MacGregor and others would have been willing, one supposes, to give evidence on oath.—Ed. "C.C."]

In addition to the ridiculous suggestion put forward by Mr. Churchill, that the charges against the police could be investigated by the police or could be preferred in a police court, it was stated in the House of Commons that not one of the two hundred women arrested made any complaint of violence or misconduct; and, further, Mr. Churchill said that the charges should have been made at the time instead of after a lapse of three months. To say that none of the women made complaints is grossly untrue. The facts are as follows:—Numerous women endeavoured to make complaints in the police court when they were arrested, but in every case the

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magistrate refused to allow them to do so. Mrs. Drummond, Miss Dorothy Pethick, and others went in person to Scotland Yard and lodged a complaint. A few days after the deputations a four-page leaflet (with photograph) was published, entitled "The Truth About the Deputation," and this was circulated extensively among the public. Following this, Mrs. Saul Solomon sent to Mr. Churchill a detailed account of the proceedings in Parliament Square. This open letter, containing charges of a most outspoken nature, was also circulated broadcast as a four-page leaflet. From these few facts we see that definite complaints were publicly made from the beginning. But it must be borne in mind that the Press has practically boycotted the question. Letters on the subject have been repeatedly refused publication, and the Press has in this way helped to suppress the complaints which the women were desirous to make. In view of the fact that some of the women who were to give evidence were in prison for two months, is it surprising that three months have elapsed before all this mass of evidence could be got together? Everyone who knows anything about the matter will agree that there has been no unnecessary delay.

RONALD H. KIDD.

21, Downside Crescent, Hampstead, March 9, 1911.

(Other letters on this subject have had to be held over.)

HESWALL REFORMATORY.

I am sorry to prolong a correspondence that has little to do with Women's Suffrage, but I should like to point out that my object in writing the letter which you kindly published last week was to make it clear that in saying "an unsatisfactory state of things had been revealed" you were voicing your own opinion and not Mr. Masterman's.

As you have specified two things which reflect on the management of the school (the third is a criticism on the Home Office), may I point out, for the benefit of those who have not read the report, two only of the many very satisfactory things which were revealed by the inquiry.

Firstly, that organised immorality which had reduced the School to a pitiable state physically and morally has been eradicated by the present superintendent. Secondly, that under his management corporal punishments have been reduced to one-third of what they were formerly.

CICELY LEADLEY BROWN.

[It certainly was our opinion, and we are sorry our correspondent should think so ill of Mr. Masterman as to suppose it was not his also.—Ed. "C.C."]

CENSUS RESISTANCE.

As one who considers census resistance too useful a form of protest against being governed without consent to be missed, and yet recognises that there can be no opportunity for a Women's Franchise Bill before the summer, may I suggest that the resisters make a private note of the census details upon April 2nd, carefully verified and signed, so that, in the event of full facilities being given for our Bill, the data can be furnished and the census made complete; while if facilities are denied the paper would be destroyed? It would then depend upon the Government whether the census returns of 1911 are vitiated or not.

H. M.

In this week's "C.C." I notice a long letter signed A. Sharp pleading for a careful consideration of taxation resistance. I wish to draw the attention of the members of the N.U.W.S.S. to the question of census resistance, as it appears to me a very logical way to make a protest immediately and without waiting for the decision of the Council in July. In pleading for its adoption I submit the following considerations:—(1) The fact that we here have a form of protest that it is possible for a number of women to use without resorting to any so-called "physical violence."

(2) The inclusion of the additional questions, especially asked of married women, in themselves call for a special protest, because it is well known that certain members of the Government wish to obtain statistical information re the effect of married women's work in factories on the question of infant mortality, with the idea of introducing fresh legislation and thereby further penalising the working-women and giving the trades unions the excuse they want to turn out the married women from the labour market.

I trace the presence of these questions to a previous inquiry which was started in 1908 in some public health areas (and which has no doubt failed). The questions then asked were of a very private nature. Leeds and other towns refused to have anything to do with this form of inquiry, because they considered it an intrusion on the private life of the working-woman that the rich woman escaped in virtue of the position that wealth gave.

I ask everyone to make this protest on April 2nd, and as far as they can vitiate the census results for the above reasons, as I consider no further legislation should be passed until the women themselves have a chance to represent their views on the subjects that most concern them, i.e., their work and their children, by means of the power a vote would give them.

In conclusion I may finally add that Mr. J. Burns would do much to prove by such respectable statistics as the decennial census returns that infant mortality is in the main due to married women being in the factory, although it has been again and again proved to him that the biggest factor is probably the effect of venereal disease in the community; this is shown by the Registrar-General's report, where one sees "wasting diseases," which account for something like 45 per cent. of the total death-rate of infants.

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For the above reasons that I have placed before the members of the N.U.W.S.S. and the readers of the "C.C.," I sign myself "A Census Resister."

MABEL L. RAMSAY, M.B.

4, Wentworth Villas, North Hill, Plymouth,
March 9th, 1911.

[We can understand advocating resistance to the census as a definite act of social warfare, but Dr. Ramsay's point of view seems to us entirely obscurantist. To refuse information because one considers it unwarrantable inquisition, or because one believes it would be so incomplete as to be misleading, is also reasonable. But to refuse information on the ground that it will prove the truth of what one wishes to deny seems to us totally indefensible on all grounds of private and public morality. Suffragists should never fear the truth.—Ed. "C.C."]

Work of Societies in the Union.

LONDON SOCIETY.

The quarterly conference took place on February 27th. Miss Palsler, succeeded by Miss Black, was in the chair. The subjects discussed were (a) The Running of Women's Suffrage Candidates and the Lessons of East St. Pancras; (b) Tax Resistance. The discussion on (a) was opened by Mr. Rogers. Several of those who had worked at East St. Pancras, as well as others, took part in it. Unfortunately, owing to special circumstances, it was not possible to allow more than about forty minutes for the discussion on Tax Resistance. The subject was introduced by Miss O'Malley, and several interesting speeches were made both for and against.

NORTH KENSINGTON.—An interesting debate was held, by kind permission of Mrs. Theodore Blake Wirgman, at her house in Dawson Place, on March 9th. Mrs. Cumming was in the chair, and there was a very good audience. Miss Cicely Corbett, B.A., opened the debate in her most brilliant vein. She touched on the indirect influence which women are always said to possess in politics, and said if this is so great and the Empire has not fallen to pieces, there is very little likelihood of it doing so when women possess the vote and are able to use direct influence. Miss Laurance, from the National League for Opposing Woman Suffrage, said that the Conciliation Bill was unfair, because it did not go far enough. She said the vote cannot improve woman's position in the labour market. We hold India by physical force—the subject race knows that each Englishman has a bayonet and can use it; whereas if women ruled India there might be a revolution.

SOUTH KENSINGTON.—A successful drawing-room meeting was held, by kind permission of Mrs. Rendel, on March 7th. Miss Keeling was in the chair, and Miss Ruth Young spoke most earnestly on the utility of women's trade unions in comparison with men's. She said it was absolutely necessary the women should be able to press for reforms, and instanced the want of lodging-houses for single women and the lack of legislation after the Commission on the Feeble Minded had sent in its report as examples of subjects on which women would have demanded a hearing if they had had the vote. There was a good discussion, and some copies of "The Common Cause" were sold.

KINGSTON AND SURBITON.—A meeting for members and friends was held at St. Andrew's House, Surbiton, on Friday, March 3rd. Mrs. Homan, of Ewell (a member of the late London School Board), gave an excellent address on "Women on Public Bodies." This was the first of a series of monthly conferences arranged by the committee, and it is hoped that they will prove useful to the members and increase the local interest in our work.

LEYTON.—An exceptionally keen debate took place at the Men's Debating Society, All Saints' Hall, Leyton, on March 6th, the Vicar in the chair. The speaker was Miss Helen Ward. Ladies were admitted by invitation, and both they and the men took part in the discussion and voting. A resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage was carried by 67 votes to 21.

NORTH AND SOUTH PADDINGTON.—A very successful social gathering was held on February 22nd in the Gymnasium of Westbourne Park Chapel. Miss Leigh Browne was in the chair. Miss Janet Thomson spoke on infant mortality and physical deterioration. Miss Sadler recited an exceedingly amusing little sketch, which was much appreciated. Mr. Goldfinch Bate, of the Men's League, said women need the protection of the vote as a consequence of their being forced out of their homes to compete with men. Miss

F. LUDICKE,

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Cicely Corbett, in a charming speech, answered many of the Anti-Suffrage arguments. Miss Leigh Browne moved that a resolution asking for facilities for the Conciliation Bill be sent to Mr. Asquith, and that a resolution be sent to Mr. Percy Harris, M.P. for South Paddington, and also to Mr. Strauss, M.P. for North Paddington. Mrs. Bertram seconded the proposal, which was carried unanimously.

SOUTH PADDINGTON.—A very good meeting took place at the Ethical Hall, Queen's Road, on Monday, March 6th. Despite the weather, there were about sixty people present. Dr. Stanton Coit was in the chair. Miss Ransom proposed a resolution asking Mr. Asquith for facilities this session for the Conciliation Bill. She spoke of the various bodies of working women who were almost unanimously in favour of the Suffrage. Miss Abadam seconded the resolution. She spoke of the announcement made by Mr. Burns that he intended to bring in a Bill to curtail the work of women—chiefly married women. Miss Abadam said if the married woman does not work herself, a special part of her husband's wages should be allotted to her. No Government has the moral right to take away a woman's right to work. A good discussion then took place. Dr. Stanton Coit spoke for a few minutes on the unsatisfactory state of the married woman's economical position. The possession of the vote is merely the tool with which to remove her other disabilities. Women should stop being amateurs, they must have a profession. The resolution was carried unanimously.

STROXY.—A lantern lecture on "The History of Women's Suffrage" was announced to be delivered by Miss Bertha Mason on February 28th, but, owing to illness, she was unfortunately prevented from giving it. Her place was taken at very short notice by Miss Helen Ward, who gave a sketch of the movement, illustrated by such photographic and hand-made slides as it had been found possible to prepare; but, owing to an unfortunate failure of lime-light, many of these could not be shown. The lecture was the final one of a course of five on "Pioneer Women," and was much appreciated by the audience.

WYBSON.—Suffrage "At Home."—A good audience gathered on Monday afternoon at the Lower Guildhall to hear an address by Mrs. Robie Uniacke of Stanninghill. She had kindly consented to take the place of the Lady Frances Balfour, the president of the London Society, at a few days' notice. The Rev. Bernard Everett was in the chair, and opened the meeting by a vote of condolence with Lady Frances. The members' annual meeting followed, when it was announced that the Society had increased its work tremendously during the past year, and in spite of that had a small balance in hand. More workers and more funds were asked for, as the work to be done grew daily. Two new members were elected to the committee.

EAST ST. PANCRAS.—Mrs. Fenton and Mrs. Clements kindly held a drawing-room meeting on Thursday, March 2nd. Mrs. Holyoake Marsh took the chair. Mrs. Stanbury, in a most interesting speech, dwelt strongly upon the English love of freedom, and briefly referred to the various phases the struggle for freedom had taken in different centuries. She gave a short history of the Conciliation Bill, and appealed to all those present to do all in their power to support it. At the conclusion of the meeting resolutions calling upon Mr. Asquith to do all in his power to reserve May 5th for our Bill, and Mr. Martin, the member, to support it, were carried unanimously. The local papers have promised to print a short report of the meeting in their forthcoming issue. Five new members joined the Society, and several "Common Causes" were sold. The Suffrage shop at 106, Camden Road, is still open, and we are holding meetings there every Thursday evening at 8 p.m.

N. AND E. RIDINGS YORKSHIRE FEDERATION.

SCARBOROUGH.—On February 15th Miss Fielden kindly came from Leeds and addressed an audience of women municipal voters at the newly opened office in Huntriss Row. In the evening she gave the history of the Woman's Movement to a keenly interested audience of girls at the Westlands.

HULL.—A couple of charming little plays were acted by several members of the Hull Society at the Lecture Hall, Kingston Square. The first was a comedietta, "Lady Geraldine's Speech," by Beatrice Harraden. With an unpretentious plot, the dialogue is entertaining and witty. A more substantial piece was "How the Vote was Won," by Miss Cicely Hamilton and Mr. Christopher St. John, in which Miss Walden acted with decided charm. Songs and recitals helped to make up a very enjoyable evening's entertainment.

DRIFFIELD.—Mrs. Philip Snowden addressed a most representative and enthusiastic audience numbering about 400 on February 25th. Dr. Pride, LL.D., rector of Bridlington, took the chair, and he spoke at length on the reasons usually advanced against the Suffrage, confuting each in turn. During Mrs. Snowden's delightful speech the attention was so rapt that not a sound could be heard, except an occasional "Hear, hear." The resolution calling on the Government to grant facilities for the Conciliation Bill was passed without a dissentient, and it has been forwarded to the Prime Minister. Sir Luke White, member for Buckrose, went on the platform, and, in moving a vote of thanks to Mrs. Snowden, spoke of the support he had given to the Conciliation Bill, and expressed a hope that during the present session time would be found for discussing the Bill again. The hon. member dwelt on the justice and need of the women's demand, and touched on the influence that they as voters would have on social legislation. The vote was seconded by Mr. Wilberforce, who referred to his personal experience of the good results of Women's Suffrage in New Zealand. Five reporters were present at the meeting, the "Yorkshire Herald" and "Eastern Morning News" having excellent accounts. "Common Causes" and pamphlets sold well, several new members joined the Society on the spot, and we are hopeful of more as a direct result of such a splendid meeting.

BRIDLINGTON.—A public meeting was held in the Temperance Hall on February 27th, when Mrs. Philip Snowden made a rousing speech. Dr. Murdoch, Hull, was in the chair. Mrs. Snowden, in moving the resolution said: it was the business of Women's Suffrage Societies to create public opinion. The question was spiritual in character, and people should take sides for or against, as it was for them to side with light as against darkness, goodness against badness, purity against impurity, education against ignorance. The vote to them was a symbol. She was willing to admit men had done the best they could for women, and then she wanted to know what the best had amounted to. She did not believe men, were they ever so willing, could do for women what women could do for themselves. The

struggle for existence was so keen, and the competitive system so hard, that men were forced to selfishness against their will. Women were just waking up. They would never have roused themselves at all if all had been well. They were going to win soon, and they were going to be helped by a large body of splendid men.

NORTH OF SCOTLAND FEDERATION.

We are busy just now arranging for meetings to be held in various places within our area in support of the Conciliation Bill, and especially for a campaign to be held within the constituency of Sir Archibald Williamson, M.P. for Moray and Nairn, who is an Anti-Suffragist, but might be influenced in the right direction. In this connection a meeting will be held at an early date in Lossiemouth, as the fishermen are there at present. This is being arranged by Mrs. Forsyth, Lossiemouth, a most enthusiastic member.

The Inverness Society has been working enthusiastically and effectively during the last two months. Our Christmas Sale, at which we realised £36, sent us forward in the New Year with fresh courage for our work. Our fortnightly meetings held in the Y.M.C.A. Hall have been very successful. In February we had a much appreciated paper from Miss Macowen on Mary Wollstonecraft, and also a Hat Night, which created a great deal of interest. A deputation of young men from the Y.M.C.A. was present, and took part in the discussion. They came, as they said, in order to get arguments to use with their friends who were not Suffragists, and they left us fully armed for the fray. Our president, Mrs. Hunter, was invited by the committee of the Y.M.C.A. to give the members an address on "The Meaning of the Women's Suffrage Movement." Her address was followed by a most interesting discussion, all the speakers avowing themselves thoroughly convinced of the justice of the Woman's Cause. The annual business meeting of the Society was held on February 14th in the Queensgate Hall. There was a large attendance, presided over by the president. The secretary's and the treasurer's reports were most encouraging. During the year thirteen public meetings had been held, in addition to drawing-room meetings, etc., and forty-five new members had been added to the Society. The treasurer's report showed a balance on the right side. Ex-Provost A. D. Ross, one of our staunchest friends, congratulated the Society on the hold it had taken in Inverness. On the 9th of March Mrs. James Fraser, secretary of the Society, read a splendid paper to the B.W.T.A. on "Women's Suffrage in Relation to the Temperance Cause." In the first part of her paper she dealt with the general question of Suffrage, and all agreed that it was one of the finest, most convincing, and comprehensive statements of our cause we had ever listened to. In the second part she gave a most interesting and valuable account of how women's votes have furthered the cause of temperance in other countries. There was a large attendance, presided over by Mrs. Cook, president of the B.W.T.A. It came as a surprise to many members to learn that at their last Council the following resolution was unanimously passed:—"That this meeting of the B.W.T.A. in Council assembled is convinced that the granting of the Parliamentary vote to women would greatly further the cause of temperance, and pledges itself to use all constitutional means to secure this end." The Society is at present arranging for deputations to the members of the Town Council. It is hoped that they may be induced to petition the Government for facilities for the Conciliation Bill. A canvass of the women householders in the wards of refractory members is also being arranged for.

WEST LANCASHIRE, WEST CHESHIRE, AND NORTH WALES FEDERATION.

February has certainly been a month of activities as far as our Federation is concerned, and nearly every Society has had a long and interesting report to make.

Some enthusiastic members of the COLWYN BAY Society got up "How the Vote was Won," which they performed on February 8th for the benefit of their own Society, and on February 11th at Llandudno. Both performances were a great success financially and artistically. This Society held its annual meeting on February 20th, when Miss Hovey presided. The hon. secretary gave an interesting account of the year's work, followed by an address from Miss Esgrigge on the "Present Political Situation."

BAYOR held a large meeting on February 18th at the Queen's Head Café, at which Miss Price White presided. Miss Esgrigge was the principal speaker on this occasion, and also at a drawing-room meeting on February 17th, when the hostess was Mrs. Pugh Jones. As a result of the meetings fifteen new members were added to the Society.

The RHYL Society held a whist drive and dance in the Town Hall on February 14th. About 250 persons were present, and in the interval Miss C. Leadley Brown gave a short address on the Suffrage Movement.

The LLANGOLLEN Society, which is a little Suffrage oasis in the midst of a desert of indifference, has started a fortnightly study class,

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at which "The Result of the Enfranchisement of Women in Australia and New Zealand" and "The Economic Aspect of Women's Suffrage" have been discussed. Miss Esckridge spent two days in Llangollen at the end of February, and a large and interested audience assembled to hear her on the 28th, after which several new members joined.

Since her Welsh tour Miss Esckridge has been in Southport, where, through the kindness of Mrs. Molyneux, she spoke at a drawing-room meeting, and at a cottage meeting through the kindness of Mrs. Halsall. Work in Southport is very difficult, as there is a strong militant Society, which has absorbed a good many, but of course scandalised others, and the Liberal women are particularly angry at the opposition to their candidate organised by the W.S.F.U. The week's work resulted, however, in fifteen new members joining the Society and in a considerable advertisement to the cause.

In WARRINGTON Miss Waring reports that the Society is trying to induce the Town Council to pass a Suffrage resolution. The majority of the Councillors are in favour of doing so, but the Town Clerk, in spite of the example of Manchester and Liverpool, declares it to be outside the Council's province, and there seems to be some fear that the Councillors will allow themselves to be overruled. The Society has had permission from all the wards of the Women's Liberal Federation to send a speaker to their meetings, and much useful propaganda is being done in this way. Miss Waring suggests that when a new Society is being formed subscribers to "The Common Cause" should send on their copies to possible members for a few weeks to encourage them to join the Society, and also to subscribe to the paper when the free copy stops.

The WALLASEY AND WIRRAL Society has been continuing its efforts in West Kirby and Hoylake, and a capital meeting was held on February 3rd, when Mrs. Alan Bright and Miss Gregson addressed a large and interested audience. Other activities of this Society have been a social afternoon for girls, at which the speaker was Miss Dora Mason, two meetings of the Social Study Circle, and a good deal of preparation for the forthcoming sale of work.

In LIVERPOOL Miss Colquhitt has been doing excellent work, visiting all the members with the object of inducing them to subscribe to "The Common Cause." This Society is also engaged in work in Ormskirk with the object of converting Mr. Arthur Stanley, the member, before Sir George Kemp's Bill comes before the House of Commons.

Will secretaries please note that reports should be sent to Miss C. Leadley Brown, and not Miss Leadley Brown?

Other Societies.

NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. 8, Park Mansions Arcade (opposite Knightsbridge Tube Station). The campaign in Mid-Norfolk has begun. Miss Alexandra Wright and Miss Ogston left for East Dereham on Monday last. The expenses of a campaign in the country, where communication is difficult and friends have yet to be made, are necessarily heavy, and the committee earnestly appeal for funds to carry on the work. Names and addresses of sympathisers in the district would be most useful.

The office At Homes continue to be well attended. On Tuesday, March 7th, Mr. Nevinson spoke on the Poor Law from personal experience as a Guardian, and many in the audience were glad to have this opportunity of hearing evidence at first hand of the workings of the Poor Law. The Rev. Herbert Williams followed with his ex-

perience in Berronidsey. On Tuesday, March 21st, Mr. Cecil Chapman will speak on Children's Courts, and Miss Nina Boyle, president of the Johannesburg League for the Enfranchisement of Women, will also speak.

IRISH WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION.

The committee met at 35, Molesworth Street, on the 9th inst., Miss Hayden, M.A., in the chair. Mrs. Haslam reported that the educative meeting, held on the 7th, had been a great success. Mrs. Gotto delivered a most painfully interesting address, illustrated by a series of appalling diagrams, on "The Problem of the Feeble-minded," and Miss Hayden, M.A., Miss Buchanan, P.L.G., Miss Promer, M.D., Professor Barrett, W. Geoghegan, Esq., B.L., Mr. Haslam, Mrs. Murray, etc., took part in the subsequent discussion. There could hardly be a more convincing illustration of the necessity for the free co-operation of men and women in dealing with these social problems. The committee have made considerable progress in the arrangements for Miss Ashton's projected visit to Dublin and the South of Ireland in April, which is being looked forward to with unqualified pleasure. The committee have decided to take no part in the refusal to fill up the papers at the coming census, which, if persisted in, will, in their judgment, vitiate several important returns affecting the interests of women, as well as men, for the next ten years.

Forthcoming Meetings.

- MARCH 16. Oxford—Assembly Room—Debate—Mrs. Rackham, Miss Mabel Smith. 8.0
- MARCH 17. Birmingham—King's Heath Council Schools—Mrs. Roxburgh (chair), Lady Isabel Margesson, Mrs. Osler. 8.0
- Bristol—8, Belgrave Villas—Mrs. Senington's Working Party. 3.0
- Wakefield—Wesley Guild—Debate—Mrs. F. S. Barnes. 8.0
- Bournemouth—Assembly Rooms, Town Hall Avenue—Whist Drive—Speech, Mrs. Merivale Mayer. 8.0
- MARCH 18. Southbourne—St. Katharine's Hall—Mrs. Merivale Mayer, Rev. P. M. C. Johnstone, M.A. (chair). 3.0
- MARCH 20. Birmingham—Queen's College—Reading of "Pains and Penalties," by Mr. Laurence Housman, Professor de Selincourt (chair). 8.0
- Knatsford—Town Hall—Mrs. Philip Snowden. 8.0
- York—St. William's College—Annual Meeting—Mrs. Rackham. 3.0
- Leamington—43, Leam Terrace—Church League Drawing-room Meeting—Hostess, Miss Seville—Rev. W. C. Roberts, Rev. Athelstan Corbet (chair). 3.0
- MARCH 21. Scarborough—Matthew's Boarding-house—At Home—Address to Teachers—Mrs. Rackham. 8.0
- Bristol—111a, White Ladies' Road—Debate. 7.30
- MARCH 22. Newcastle-on-Tyne—27, Ridley Place—The Story of the Vote—Dr. Macgregor. 7.30
- Nottingham—Calvert's Café—Whist Drive. 7.30
- Southport—Rowntree's Café—Miss Maude Royden, Mr. Lyon Blease. 7.30
- Hull—Owen Hall, Baker Street—Mrs. Rackham. 8.0
- Darlington—Temperance Institute—Mrs. Baynes' and Mrs. Foster's At Home—Mrs. Gray. 3.0
- MARCH 23. Wallasey and Wirral Society—1, Mainwaring Road, Seacombe—Dr. Francis Ivens. 8.0
- Filey—The Grange—Mrs. Rackham, J. Clayton, Esq. 8.0
- Birmingham—Friends' Hall, King's Norton—Drawing-room Meeting—Mrs. Ring. 3.30
- MARCH 24. Leeds—Primitive Methodist Debating Society, Cardigan Road—Mrs. Parrish. 8.0
- Birkenhead—Institute Room, 2, Park Road South—At Home—Miss Cicely Corbett, Professor B. Moore (chair). 8.0
- MARCH 25. Bristol—David Thomas Memorial Hall—Debate. 8.0
- MARCH 28. Nottingham—54, Long Row—Mrs. G. S. Dowson. 7.30
- MARCH 29. Oldham—Music Room, Werneth Park—Lecture, "The Winter's Tale"—Mrs. Leo Grindon—Tickets 1s. and 6d. 7.45
- Wallasey and Wirral—Fairhaven Institute—Work Competition and Sale. 3.0
- Newcastle-on-Tyne—27, Ridley Place—"The Economic Aspect of Women's Suffrage"—Mrs. Harrison Bell. 7.30
- MARCH 30. Haslemere—Half-moon House—Drawing-room Meeting—Rev. Claude Hinscliff. 4.30
- MARCH 31. Norwich—Thatched Assembly Rooms—Annual Meeting—A. M. Langdon, Esq., K.C., Mrs. Stuart (chair). 8.0

LONDON.

- March 16: Chelsea, River House, Debate; hostess, Mrs. Westlake; Sir Ed. Busk (chair), Mrs. F. T. Swanwick, M.A., A. Maconachie, Esq. 8.45
- E. Enfield, New Church Hall, Ponder's End, Councillor John Brown (chair), Miss Ruth Young, T. Gugenheim, Esq. 8.0
- E. St. Pancras, 106, Camden Road, Mrs. Stanbury, Miss Deverall (chair). 8.0
- March 17: Highgate, Mrs. Holman's Drawing-room Meeting, "The Position of Women in the 17th Century," J. Arthur Price, Esq. 4.0
- Sutton, Miss Burdett's Drawing-room Meeting, Mrs. Corbett Ashby. 3.15

- Maylebone, 24, Sussex Place, Regent's Park, Debate, Mrs. C. Hollins (hostess), Miss I. O. Ford, Miss C. Corbett, Miss D. Lawrence, Mr. Cholmley (chair). 4.0
- March 18: Norwich, Suffrage Offices, Miss B. Harraden, Miss Abadam. 8.0
- Highgate, Corner Queen's Avenue, Muswell Hill, Open-air Meeting. 7.30
- March 21: Ealing, 37, Uxbridge Road, Miss Debae's At Home, Mrs. Vane Turner (chair), Miss Ransom. 8.15
- S. Paddington, 19, Southwick Place, W., Debating Society. 4.30
- Sutton, Mrs. Martin's Drawing-room Meeting, Mrs. Holman. 4.30
- Ealing, Miss Debae's Drawing-room Meeting, Mrs. Gimmingham. 3.15
- March 22: Highgate, Spear's Memorial Hall, Working Women's Meeting, Miss Withall (chair), Mrs. S. H. Holman, Miss R. Bisset Smith. 3.0
- Hampstead, The Library, Prince Arthur Road, Mrs. Stanbury. 4.0
- March 23: Epsom and Ewell, Oakfield Road, Ashstead, Mrs. Ruxton's Drawing-room Meeting, Miss Sheepshanks, Rev. J. A. Grant. 3.0
- March 24: Enfield, 1, The Chine, Winchmore Hill, Mrs. Bisset Smith's Drawing-room Meeting, Miss M. G. Gadsden, Rev. E. N. Conthard, M.A. 3.0
- March 25: Highgate, Corner Queen's Avenue, Muswell Hill, Open-air Meeting. 7.30
- Crouch Hill, Dr. Kate Haslem's At Home, Miss Abadam. 3.30
- March 27: Windsor, Reception Room, Guildhall, At Home. 8.30
- March 28: Sutton, Mrs. Martin's Drawing-room Meeting, Mrs. Holman. 3.30
- S. Kensington, Mrs. Curteis's Drawing-room Meeting, Mr. Cholmeley, Miss H. D. Cockle (chair). 8.30
- March 29: N. and S. Paddington, Gymnasium adjoining Westbourne Park Chapel, Social Meeting, Miss E. A. Bompas, Mrs. Spielman (chair). 8.15
- Blackheath, Offices of Blackheath Press, Annual Meeting, Mrs. Adkin (chair), Miss I. O. Ford. Evening. 8.0
- March 30: S. Paddington, 32, Hyde Park Gardens, Mrs. Franklin's Drawing-room Meeting, General Meeting for Members. 4.0

SCOTLAND.

- March 17: Edinburgh, 40, Shandwick Place, Mrs. W. P. Scott, Miss F. G. Matheson (chair). 4.30
- March 22: Edinburgh, Mrs. Pringle's Drawing-room Meeting, Miss S. E. S. Mair, Miss Alice Low. 4.0
- March 24: Edinburgh, 40, Shandwick Place, At Home. 4.30
- Edinburgh, 40, Shandwick Place, Reception to Delegates to Scottish Federation Annual Meeting. 8.30
- March 25: Edinburgh, Goolld Hall, Scottish Federation Annual Meeting. 4.0
- March 26: Edinburgh, Synod Hall, Suffrage Service, Rev. Mr. Gadd, Rev. Mr. James Black. 3.0
- March 31: Edinburgh, 40, Shandwick Place, At Home. 4.30
- Glasgow, 58, Renfield Street, At Home. 4.0

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On Sunday, March 26th, at 3-0 p.m.
The service will be conducted by the Rev. A. T. GADD, St. Vincent's. Address by the Rev. JAMES BLACK, N. F. Church, Broughton Place.
All men and women cordially invited.

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ORGANISER wanted for the Surrey, Sussex and Hants Federation of Suffrage Societies.—Application to Miss Margaret O'Shea, Cosham, Hants.

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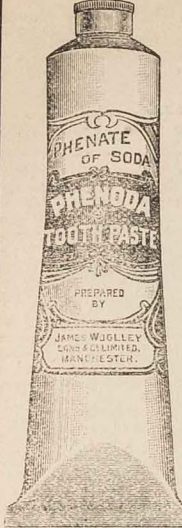
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misunderstood

by its friends, and certainly will be

misrepresented

by its enemies. It is imperative, therefore, that the public, but especially members and friends, should have the provisions and effect of the Bill clearly in mind, if they are efficiently to speak and act in its support and defence. Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A., having compiled a clear and concise statement of the case in a leaflet, the printing and publication of which have been entrusted to the William Morris Press, copies of these (demy 4to, printed in the colours of the Union, on presentable paper) are now at the disposal of branches. The prices are as follows:—

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