

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE THE COMMON CAUSE OF HUMANITY.

VOL. VI., No. 265.]

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 1914.

[PRICE 1d.
Registered as a Newspaper.

LAW-ABIDING.

NON-PARTY.

CONTENTS

- Notes and Comments
- In Parliament
- International Council of Women
- Wind and Tide: By Mrs. Rentoul Esler
- Book Reviews
- Correspondence
- "One of These Little Ones"
- Equal Pay for Equal Work: By Esther G. Roper
- The Rise in the Cost of Living
- Notes from Headquarters
- News from the Societies and Federations



*"The time of life is short:
To spend that shortness basely were too long."*

**ORGAN OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES
(NUMBER OF SOCIETIES IN THE UNION 483).**

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies is a great association of men and women banded together for the single purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. It was founded in 1867, and now numbers over 52,000 annually-subscribing members, organized into 483 Societies, under the presidentship of Mrs. Henry Fawcett. The colours of the Union are SCARLET, WHITE, and GREEN. Among its members are people of all parties, and people of none. The cause that unites them is the cause of Women's Suffrage, and they work for victory by peaceful methods only. They utterly repudiate methods of violence and rely on political pressure and the education of public opinion. WILL YOU JOIN? (Membership form on p. 115.)

Telephone: BRIXTON 1852.

CEO. WEBB'S DYE WORKS,Chief Office: **254, BRIXTON HILL, S.W.**

Exhibitor at British Silk Exhibition, 1912.

Established 50 Years.

We are celebrated for Cleaning:

COURT DRESSES, DAY AND EVENING GOWNS, BLOUSES, CLOAKS, WRAPS, LACES, OSTRICH FEATHERS, FURS, :: AND GLOVES. ::

GENTLEMEN'S CLOTHING CLEANED AND PRESSED IN A SUPERIOR MANNER. HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS, WINDOW HANGINGS, CARPETS, RUGS, CHINTZES, AND CRETONNES CLEANED OR DYED.

Special attention is given to mourning orders.

TESTIMONIALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

When others are hot and ruffled

you will still look cool and dainty if your frocks are made of "Kant Krumpl Flaxzella." This wonderful new Irish Linen fabric is prepared by a special process which renders it practically uncrushable. Creases simply melt from it. The hardest game of tennis, the hottest day on the river cannot rob it of its freshness.

"Kant Krumpl Flaxzella"

The New Irish Linen Fabrics.

Smart, cool, and uncrushable, Flaxzella is just the thing for your tennis and river frocks this year. It saves you half the ironing which ordinary linen needs, and can be washed as soon as soiled.



Send for the 200 Free Patterns, and see for yourself the wide range of new designs and tasteful shades.

Hutton's, 159, Larne, Ireland.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

Lingerie and Linen Gowns.

We have made a special study of Linen and Lingerie Gowns, and have now in stock a wonderful variety in white and coloured linens, lawns, cotton voiles, &c. The Lingerie Gowns are mostly beautifully embroidered, and are invariably fashioned on the lines of the newest Paris Models. The quality of the materials employed is the best procurable, whilst the cut and fit are excellent.

LINGERIE GOWN (as Sketch) in soft crepon, made with insertions of fine lace, revers and waistband of own material in bright colourings.

Price **59/6**

Catalogue post free.

SPIDERWEB GAUZE SILK HOSE, with Lisle Tops and Feet. In Black only. 1/11
Special Value. Six Pairs for 10/6. Per Pair.

Debenham & Freebody

Wigmore Street, (Covendish Square) London, W.

Famous for over a Century, for Taste for Quality for Value

**WILLIAM OWEN**
WESTBOURNE GROVE, W.**NOTICE.**

For everything William Owen, Ltd., deal in, the price is the lowest obtainable.

HUGH OWEN,
General Manager.

GENERAL DRAPERS,
SILK MERCERS &
HOUSE FURNISHERS.

WILLIAM OWEN, Ltd., Westbourne Grove, London.

c.c.

Notes and Comments.**East and West, All of One Mind.**

"Helping each other, all of one mind," the motto emblazoned upon the Chinese Women's International Suffrage Alliance banner, comes home to us of the West. Whether in Rome, at the Council of Women now in session, or bearing the burden of the daily round, the common task during an English summer, under our own red, white and green, this message from our sisters of a land where, as yet, "girls count for nothing," strikes the right note. Diverse national customs and languages, varying degrees of progress, honourable differences of view, cannot divide women who are welded together by the white heat of a common purpose, fighting by constitutional means for the constitutional freedom of half the human race.

True Statesmanship in the Lords.

We give elsewhere a brief report of the debate in the House of Lords on Lord Selborne's Bill, the second reading of which the proposer moved in a statesmanlike speech of studied moderation in tone, and accuracy in point of fact, which might well have been imitated by some of his opponents. One slight slip he would, we feel sure, desire us to correct by stating that American enfranchised women, except in Illinois, vote exactly as men do, i.e., (1) in State elections, (2) in Federal elections, and (3) in Presidential elections.

Daughters of Empire.

Lord Curzon of Kedleston, sometime Viceroy of India, writes to the Press to beg that no one will support Lord Selborne's Women's Enfranchisement Bill lest our "world-wide Empire, whose international aspect is being challenged more seriously every year," should suffer harm. Let those who love the fair name of this Empire even more than its material security, judge between Lord Curzon and those millions of silent women-subjects of the Empire, whose personal honour is as dear to themselves as that travesty of honour misnamed Imperial honour is to Lord Curzon and his school.

Are Any Women Free While One is a Slave?

Our leader and correspondence columns deal with the Channing Arnold case, or, rather, with the intolerable wrong done to a little child of which that case is one of the consequences, though, in our opinion, far from being the gravest. The public opinion of a nation bearing Imperial responsibilities is challenged to say that these things shall not be, that lapse of time shall not always suffice to bury them in a facile oblivion. *The English Review* of June will publish a full statement from the pen of Mr. D. H. Wilson.

Is National Efficiency a Woman's Question?

In his Budget speech on Monday, Mr. Lloyd George told the House of Commons that the national contribution towards public health was under the cost of a third-class cruiser. He also told them that an immense number of men and women, through that lack of vitality and stamina which comes from unhealthy conditions, live lives that are a prolonged struggle against debility and disease, and he added that this state of things leads to inefficiency. Mr. George also stated that the working of the Insurance Act had revealed an appalling amount of sickness among married women quite unknown before.

A Convenient Season.

Mr. George propounds certain remedies, of which we shall hear more. This is well, but it will be better when the Chancellor and his colleagues make up their minds that a Government which denies citizen rights to its mothers, does them and the generations unborn an injury for which no money payments can compensate.

It is therefore with a lively interest that we read the following:—"It may be suggested that this is an inconvenient time to deal with the question. But every session is an inconvenient one for dealing with an inconvenient question."—(*Daily Telegraph*, May 5th.) It is inconvenient to give votes to voteless mothers now, it was inconvenient in 1910, in 1911, in 1913. When, we may ask, will it become less inconvenient? Happily, Mr. George has a colleague who has recently stated in public that a professedly Liberal Government cannot always continue to put Women Suffrage second or nowhere, and never first.

The Criminal Law Amendment Bill.

The Bishop of London's Criminal Law Amendment Bill came up in the House of Lords after our going to press last week, and the report therefore appeared in our Second Edition. It was astonishing to learn that the Home Office cannot yet decide how it will act with regard to the Bill, as it has not got the necessary information on which to form an opinion. Yet the demand has been made for many years. Was the information not important enough to be worth the trouble of collecting?

"Consumers in Revolt."

The Woman's Labour League has done well to summon a conference on the cost of living. *The Daily News* drily states in regard to it that, "as might be expected, women outnumbered men by about 20 to 1." We give elsewhere a report by one who was present. It would be well if men would read Mrs. Billington Greig's "Consumers in Revolt." The points of view of the Trade Unionist as producer needs the complement of the point of view of the mother as consumer. To build the house without the housewife is to build it upon sand.

The "Morning Post" and Voteless Girl Clerks.

The Morning Post, in its leader of May 2nd on "The Post Office," writes as follows:—"The real grievance, as far as we can ascertain, does not lie with the organised postal workers, who use their vote with such excellent effect in their own interests, but rather with those poor voteless and unionless girl clerks who are not on the regular strength, but are employed as supernumeraries, who have long hours, small wages, and no pensions—all the drudgery and none of the benefits of State employment. They have no political influence and no economic strength, and their case passes unconsidered." We thank the Editor for this stern, but just and manly indictment of the present electoral system, and we trust that from thenceforth he will throw his great influence on to the side of right in this matter, honouring thereby the best traditions of his Party.

Criminal Justice Administration Bill.

Mr. Nevinson has a letter in the *Manchester Guardian* of May 1st attacking Mr. McKenna's new Prison Bill. Whether we concur with his line of argument or not is of less importance than that we should give this question of prisoners and the laws and legal procedure under which they suffer our unremitting attention. It cries aloud for the trained intelligence, the continued watchfulness, and the high courage of all women.

A Mimic Commonwealth.

The Kingdom is "away," as the North Countrymen say—or, to be precise, the N.U.W.S.S. section of the Children's Welfare Exhibition at Olympia closed last week. Through it we have taught and learned much. For three weeks a world in miniature existed where woman was a human being. As mother and nurse, as motor mechanic and modiste, as artist and athlete, as musician, gardener, or needlewoman, as political and social reformer, she found herself, and worked in comradeship with her fellows. No man said her nay, or perceived in her self-realisation his own annihilation. From that mimic commonwealth we go forth with new experience, with a soberer and wider judgment, and with stronger conviction to proclaim once more to a doubting generation that perfect service and perfect freedom are one and indivisible.

£200 Worth of Injury to Humanity.

Mrs. Mary Wood has done humanity disservice in doing £200 worth of damage to Mr. Sargent's portrait of Henry James. At her act, as a contemporary observes, "immediately the fashionable throng went mad." In focussing public attention thus upon herself and her ill-judged act of violence, Mrs. Wood has done what in her lies to divert it once again from the crimes for which all who deliberately maintain our present system of Unrepresentative Government are responsible.

Miss Royden's Absence Abroad.

Miss Royden is obliged for reasons of health to take rather a long holiday, and the editorship of THE COMMON CAUSE will for some weeks be in the hands of Miss Helen Ward (member of the Executive Committee of the London Society for Women's Suffrage). Miss Royden is going abroad, and business letters will not be forwarded to her.

In Parliament.

[We make no attempt to give a full account of the week's proceedings in Parliament. Our aim is merely to show what Parliament is doing with regard to questions which we have special reason to think would be more satisfactorily dealt with if women had the vote.]

Thursday, April 30th.

THE HOLT REPORT.

The Report of the Holt Committee was considered in Committee on Supply. This is the second Select Committee set up by the House of Commons to enquire into the wages and conditions of employment of the principal classes of Post Office servants, and to report what alterations are desirable.

MR. HOBHOUSE (Postmaster-General) informed the House that the total sum conceded by the former Select Committee and the present one would ultimately rise to £1,940,000, representing increased wages of postal employes.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend, U.) expressed the opinion that most of the members present had come, in the first place, because they were anxious for the well-being, comfort, and welfare of the postal workers, but also because of the political pressure brought to bear on them, and that the Postmaster-General himself did not "represent solely the idea of benevolent and kindly consideration for the welfare of the postal servants," but Sir Gilbert Parker ventured to say that the Postmaster-General had made a concession to-day which was the result of political pressure. "I am afraid if it is not the result of political pressure that the postal servants will think very little of us in future." Sir Gilbert proceeded to call attention to the fact that women had not received any consideration whatsoever, and confessed that he was unable to say whether the argument that women not having families to support and did not, therefore, "come within the disabilities of the rise in the cost of living" was responsible for their exclusion from the benefits conferred on men.

MR. MACCALLUM SCOTT (Bridgeton, L.) asked Mr. Holt to explain why an increase of three shillings in the maximum of men telegraphists was recommended and that no alteration had been made in the maximum for women telegraphists.

MR. HOLT (Northumberland, L.) replied "that the Select Committee considered the relative value of the work of female telephone clerks and female telegraphists, and that as the telegraphists wages go up to forty shillings and the telephonists to twenty-eight shillings, it appeared to the Committee that there was more than sufficient additional pay for the telegraphists as compared with the telephonists." With this Ollendorffian reply Mr. MacCallum Scott appeared to be satisfied.

SIR ALFRED MOND (Swansea Town, L.) was not, however, impressed by Mr. Holt's defence of the Committee's treatment of women telegraphists, whose wages were not increased at all. He said that to compare the wages of the women in the telephone service with those of the telegraphists and then to say that the telegraphists were getting more than the telephonists was very inconclusive.

"The women are working at a certain salary which is not comparable to the salaries that men receive, and I submit that women telegraphists, in view of the work they do, are entitled to be paid pro rata with other employes in the Post Office, having regard to the work they do."

He hoped that the Postmaster-General would see his way "to remedy what was a very grave injustice to women who are working in the telegraph service."

May 4th.

Mr. Lloyd George's Budget speech raised many points of interest to Suffragists. The following excerpt may be commended to the consideration of Anti-suffragists. "I think Lord Beaconsfield was one of the first statesmen of front rank to realise how essential the vigorous intervention of the State in this sphere (i.e., of public health) was to the greatness and strength of the country. He realised that a race enfeebled by unhealthy environment was not fit to bear much longer the burden of a great empire like ours."

Again, that women have a place in the State appears from the statement that "any system of doctoring is hopelessly inefficient which is not supplemented by a good system of nursing."

For the rest, Suffragists will, no doubt, hold different views in regard to the proposals of the Chancellor, but all will be agreed that his attempt to deal with the public health of adults, the hungry child, and relief in maternity without women being able to express their views, not only through such influential organisations as the N.U.W.W., but directly, by means of the ballot, cannot meet with a satisfactory conclusion.

May 5th.

The debate on the Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Bill, as amended in Committee, raised several points regarding the position of parents and teachers. The addition of a clause ensuring consultation with teachers also gives recognition to the intelligence and heavy responsibilities of that profession.

LORD HUGH CECIL'S plea, that poor people are "defenceless before the law, and their attitude of mind like that of an animal in the presence of a wild beast," whether wholly true or not, tells us something of the sufferings of a mother who sees the State step in as foster-parent to her child.

The Women's Enfranchisement Bill in the House of Lords.

"Are our politics to be a noble science, in which men from different points of view are striving to make people better and happier; or are they to be a struggle for power, place, titles, and salaries?" This fine utterance gives the keynote of Lord Selborne's speech, in proposing the Second Reading by the House of Lords of his Bill to give votes to some 1,000,000 women. For the first time that reverent, almost ecclesiastical, House witnessed the introduction of a Bill dealing with the franchise. This fact greatly shocked Lord Curzon, who devoted a considerable portion of a lengthy speech in opposition to the consideration of whether it bade to totter the basis of the constitution. Indeed, as one listened to his line of argument, one wondered whether an Empire is indeed firmly based at all; whether it is not rather balanced perilously on its apex, and a careless touch may for ever upset its equilibrium. For Lord Curzon found that to admit wives and mothers, or widows and potential mothers, to any voice in the State meant the loss of stability and "serious weakness." He thought that militancy proved "qualities in the female temperament and impulses in female action which should confirm our doubts," and, in conclusion, "a disturbing influence would be introduced into our public affairs" by the enfranchisement of women. Here we are with the noble Lord; it would—and when the dust of ages rests upon a thing it is inconvenient to disturb that thing lest dust should fly. Ghosts of the dead ages seemed to fit about the lordly chamber as he uttered these solemn periods, and hardly could anyone speak above a whisper; but when Lord Newton got up we seemed back in the twentieth century. His shrewd and merry common-sense woke everyone up to real life. "Did crimes in Ireland choke off the Liberal Party from supporting Home Rule?" "No individual woman had ever been treated worse by any individual man than women collectively had been treated by the Liberal Government and the House of Commons since 1906." "Why was it more coarsening and debasing for a woman to take part in a political fight than in a Municipal fight?"

The Lord Chancellor raised the debate to a higher level still, for he spoke not as a member of a cabinet of politicians, but as a philosopher and statesman. "The magnificence of antiquity . . . was the result of the power of a small dominating section of the community. The institution of slavery enabled the people to do things which otherwise they could not have accomplished. But slowly, inevitably, the social revolution was brought about that brought down that state of things with a crash." And with an authority that held spell-bound even his unemotional audience, he pointed his moral: "We are entering upon an entirely new set of problems as regards these things which can be dealt with only by the co-operation of women."

Perhaps the most dramatic moment of all was when the Bishop of London rose to declare himself without equivocation "a convert," for truly a cause is honourable which wins such a convert, and public life would be purer if oftener public men would study evidence with impartiality, and show the true courage of admitting that they could be convinced by evidence. The Bishop depended less in his speech upon an appeal to the emotions, such as he well knows how to make, than upon the lucid statement of a mass of important and well-digested fact. Touches of "personality" crept in when, for instance, he exclaimed: "If I had a million women's votes behind me, I should carry my Criminal Law Amendment Bill!"

Dr. Gore, of Oxford, provided the perfect complement to this speech of his brother "right reverend prelate." Consumed with righteous indignation at justice delayed, he seemed to pace about the enclosed space like a caged lion, as he declared "there is no body of human beings nobler, more capable, better instructed,

and better equipped to be voters than was to be found in that body of women who were foremost in demanding the vote, and there was no system of statecraft which justified the withholding of the vote from them." Thus spoke a "spiritual lord," worthy of that honourable title, and at the close of his speech, Lord Courtney, of Penrith, moved the adjournment of the House. The debate throughout was on a high level of gravity and responsibility; the catch-phrase (for example, the "petticoat government" of Lord Amthill), the fatuous joke, were mostly absent, and when they appeared found little recognition. Whether we Suffragists dearly love academic discussion, with a division that is little better than a division *pro forma*, or not, we all owe Lord Selborne a debt of gratitude for giving to the Lords an opportunity of showing themselves more truly progressive than their brothers of the Commons. His action may suggest also to his party to show themselves more progressive than the party now in possession. In any case, a Women's Suffrage Bill in the Lords marks a step forward.

DEATH OF THE DUKE OF ARGYLL.

Members of the National Union will feel deep sympathy with Lady Frances Balfour, President of the London Society for Women's Suffrage, in the loss she has sustained by the death of her brother, the Duke of Argyll. A memorial service for the late Duke will be held in Westminster Abbey on Friday, May 8th.

GRIMSBY BY-ELECTION.

Candidates: Mr. Alf. Bannister, Liberal.
Mr. Tickler, Conservative.

Organiser for N.U.: Miss Violet Harris.

Committee Room: Victoria Street, Grimsby.

Both candidates have declared themselves in favour of Women's Suffrage in their election addresses. Mr. Tickler, the Conservative candidate, having printed his address without reference to our Cause, has undertaken to add his convictions on the subject as an amendment. Grimsby as a whole is extremely favourable to Suffrage, and both candidates agreeing on the point there should be a splendid field for further education. The fight is likely to be a very short one. Suffragists willing to help should note the date (when announced) of polling day, and offers to sell THE COMMON CAUSE and literature in Grimsby and villages outside on that date will be welcomed.

N. E. DERBYSHIRE.

Major Harland Bowden has been chosen as candidate by the Unionists. The other official candidate is Mr. James Martin; but whether he will satisfy all sections of the Progressive Party is not as yet quite clear.

IPSWICH.

Owing to the death in Canada of Mr. Silvester Horne, there will also be a by-election in Ipswich. Mr. Masterman has been invited to stand as Liberal candidate, but has declined, mainly on the grounds of health. The names now put forward are those of Mr. Frederick E. Rands and Mr. W. Rowley Elliston. The Unionist Party have to choose between Mr. B. H. Burton and Mr. F. J. C. Ganzoni.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

At the quinquennial conference of the International Council of Women, now being held at Rome, under the Presidency of Lady Aberdeen, two proposals are being considered for taking up new lines of work. France suggests the formation of a new standing committee on trades, professions, and employments for women; Denmark that the subject of temperance should also become part of the regular work of the Council.

The chief resolutions to be discussed at the business meetings were given in last week's issue of THE COMMON CAUSE. In addition to the business meetings, four large public meetings have been arranged, with a view to making the aims and programme of the Council known to the general public. "The Life of Women in Rural Districts" is dealt with by speakers from some of the foremost agricultural countries, who put forward suggestions for making life in rural districts more attractive. "Juvenile Delinquency: Its Causes and Means of Prevention" is the subject of another meeting; and at the last of the four the question of the "Economic Aspects of Women's Work" will be discussed. Among the speakers on this subject will be Mrs. Creighton, President of the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland.

WOMEN'S INSURANCE CLAIMS.

(From a Correspondent.)

Complaints are being made that the women's claims under the National Insurance Scheme are in excess of the actuarial calculations; but when these estimates are examined the reason is explained. The sickness of the "weaker sex" has actually been estimated at less per head than that of men. Taking, for example, the financial returns of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows during the nine months to October 12th, 1913. The claims of 618,857 men for sickness and maternity benefit was estimated at £275,546. Those of the 152,198 women members, if calculated in the same proportion, should have been estimated at £67,766; but only £43,529 was allowed. The sum paid out was £49,208, well within the sum that should have been allowed if the claims of men and women had been reckoned on the same basis.

Taking sickness only, the claims of 618,859 men were estimated at £213,196, and the 152,198 women at £42,292. Keeping the same proportion, they should have been £52,432; they were actually £48,303.

The fault lies, not with the women—against whom charges of malingering have been freely brought—but with our whole social system, with its widely accepted idea of the lower value of the woman.

PROTEST AGAINST SWEATING.

On May 21st a great Demonstration will be held at the Queen's Hall to demand the abolition of fines and other deductions from wages, and of the living-in system. Legislation shortly to be introduced by the Government proposes the further regulation of fines; but there is a widespread feeling among workers that they ought to receive their entire earnings in coin of the realm, without any deductions whatever. At present all sorts of ruses are employed to evade the Truck Acts, and in the Minority Report of the Departmental Committee which sat in 1908 to consider the question, Mrs. Tennant and Mr. Stephen Walsh urged that all deductions from wages should be made illegal and the living-in system abolished.

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

At the first Conference of the London Teachers' Association, held on May 2nd, a resolution was passed urging the necessity of a general rise of salaries; but a resolution in favour of equal pay for men and women teachers of the same professional status was defeated by 292 votes to 21. A resolution in favour of equal pay for men and women teaching in boys' schools was also negatived, and the Conference passed, instead, a motion deprecating the employment of women teachers in such schools.

"THE WHITE VOTE."

The result of "The White Vote," as *Le Journal* calls its experiment in Women's Suffrage, is regarded as very satisfactory to Suffragists in France. *La Française* says: "The 26th of April was a magnificent demonstration for the Cause of Woman Suffrage." *Le Journal*, writing on May 2nd—the day before the close of their poll—gives the result as 191,113 votes recorded in favour of Woman Suffrage and 35 votes against.

IRISH WORKERS' DRAMATIC SOCIETY.

The date of the performance at King's Hall, Covent Garden, organised by the Irish Workers' Dramatic League has been changed to Saturday, May 9th, at 8 p.m. Tickets can only be obtained from members of the Society, for particulars of which apply to S. Seruya, 21, Tudor Street, E.C.

£1,000 IN PRIZES.

This enormous sum is being offered in prizes in a novel Competition, promoted by the Proprietors of the Oatine preparation, full particulars of which are given on page 109.

The Competition is one in which skill and careful attention to the rules laid down are required; the prizes offered are large, and even if no competitor sends in the correct list of names, the prizes offered will be paid, as in that event they will be awarded to those competitors whose lists are nearest to the correct solutions.

OLIVE SCHREINER

Will speak at

THE PORTMAN ROOMS

THURSDAY, MAY 21st, at 8 p.m.

Tickets: Numbered and Reserved, 2s. 6d. and 1s.. Unreserved 6d., from Ticket Secretary, UNITED SUFFRAGISTS, 3, Adam Street, Strand.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

WIND AND TIDE.

By E. RENTOUL ESLER.

Author of "The Wardlaws," "The Trackless Way," "The Way they Loved at Grimpat," "A Maid of the Manse," &c.

INTRODUCTORY.

AS late as the early years of the reign of good Queen Victoria, when a genteel little girl was born into the world, unprovided with the proverbial silver spoon, only two branches of the way of life awaited her at maturity—the one was the way of wedlock, the other was the way of the wallet. If some man did not give her houseroom, because her face pleased his eye, then there was nothing for it but that her male relations should grudgingly maintain her, and take no account of all the domestic services she rendered in exchange. In those days no genteel girl would so slight her family as to let it be known that she worked for her living; when she worked and had the living grudgingly doled out to her she retained her social status, and paid the price.

When John Burnsley, farmer, asked the hand of Elizabeth Moffatt in marriage there was much heart searching at the Manse of Convoyn in an Ulster parish, and the mind of the Rev. John Moffatt was troubled. He had hoped better things for his slender, pretty little daughter, who knew a little Latin, a little Greek; who could draw some pathetic music from the old piano, and was familiar with fine stitching, as well as fine laundry. But the pastor had no money, all his savings had been expended on the education of the son, with whom it would have been a point of honour, had he lived, to take care of his sister. The son died of the privations that the quest of education sometimes entailed in those days, and his broken-hearted mother slept by his side before the year was out.

In remote places family sorrows go deep, and last long. Elizabeth faded and lost vivacity, when only she and her father occupied the house on the face of the wind-swept hill. Everyone said she was good; to her father she was all the world; but no suitor knocked at the door till she was twenty-eight, and in those days that was considered a terrible age for a spinster. Then John Burnsley presented himself, and said his say honestly, albeit roughly. He loved Elizabeth, he did not mind that she would have no dowry, he would consider it an honour to be Mr. Moffatt's son-in-law. Mr. Moffatt winced, said he would think the matter over, would consult his daughter; Mr. Burnsley could call again.

The consultation, when it took place that evening, was sad enough for tears. Burnsley was an average representative of his class, young, good-looking, in the fair, florid style that attaches to good health and an out-door life. But he was just a farmer, with no more culture than belongs to his class. His literary outlook did not extend beyond perusal of the bi-weekly newspaper, and the weekly issue of an agricultural organ, and his knowledge sought no wider range than that covered by the points of cattle and the rotation of crops.

John Moffatt was a man of culture, his daughter was a lady; but the former was now an elderly and broken man, and for penniless ladies the prospect at this period was of the gloomiest. Parent and child wept together, but the end of it was that Elizabeth moved from the Manse to the farm, bravely resolved to do her part there, and to conceal from her father, as long as he lived, how much she would have preferred the retreat her brother occupied to that provided for her by a husband's goodwill.

Her father came to live at the farm, having a room for his study, and sometimes his meals there when Burnsley's parents were unduly querulous; the Manse was let, and the rent formed Elizabeth's pin-money as long as her father lived; he, seeing things going smoothly from day to day, comforted himself with the thought that Burnsley was a good fellow, and that Elizabeth was satisfied.

The baby son at the farm was five, the baby girl was two when the minister's funeral cortège crossed the valley to the opposite hill where the churchyard lay, and somehow it seemed to Elizabeth as if a charter of freedom had been accorded her when her father's serene eyes closed. Now she could let herself go, there was no one to be made sad if she no longer pretended to like milking and butter-making, to take pride in the whiteness of her linen, and the crispness of her cakes. Oh, the bondage of it when such things were supposed to suffice for the satisfaction of a woman's heart!

Had it not been for the children she would have set herself resolutely to die when her father was no longer present to suffer in her suffering, but for their sake she must hold on to life with tired hands, till some definite direction was given to their character and aspirations.

Kitty, the girl, was ten when she lost her mother; Neil, the boy, was thirteen. Behind the boy's bright eyes were many volumes of poetic dreams, behind the girl's white forehead lay a calm, cold intelligence. The principal knowledge the little girl possessed, gathered, she could not have told how, from her mother, was that there were delightful things in the world, culture, refinement, beauty, leisure, but that in all probability these would never come within her purview, unless Neil made his way towards them and took her with him.

Everything in the house that stirred her imagination, that seemed beautiful had come to Kate from her mother and her people—her grandfather's books; the silhouettes cut out in black paper, the high lights supplied with a gold pencil, that represented the Rev. Moffatt and his parents; the sampler wrought by the needle of her grandmother, the few pieces of old china brought from the land of Sinim, the fragments of lace, not costly, but real, that had attached to her mother's trousseau. When the sights and sounds of farm life broke in on all

that these things suggested, it was like the bleating of sheep, and the lowing of cattle interrupting the sound of a distant hymn.

Through only one door could beauty and peace and refinement enter into life, and the porter to that door was money. If one had money one could travel, could see fair sights, could collect beautiful objects; without money existence meant labour, uninteresting acquaintances, and the pendulum that swung always between the production of food and its consumption, the one intertwined with the other, like the strands of a cord that kept the slaves of the soil helplessly tied in the furrow.

Similar thoughts are not uncommon in farm-houses when Board School education has entered to throw distorted lights on the actual, to introduce the ideals of the student where physical activities and a short outlook suit existing conditions, these proving in some cases a petard that may carry the dreamer in time to high latitudes and summits of success, in other cases may leave him a wreck among the wreckage he has helped to create.

A dissatisfied mind often evolves a slovenly housewife, but not necessarily when a dream lies behind the discontent. In Kate Burnsley's heart the idea burned from childhood that somehow she would attain to the desirable, that good things would be hers, not because they would fall into her lap from the clouds, but that they would be gathered by her hands as she marched through life along the difficult way.

Such expectations do not conduce to a gay childhood. Kate Burnsley had not had a happy childhood, but she had not anticipated happiness, and therefore was not conscious of any measure of resentful disappointment that she did not attain it.

BOOK I.

THE FIRST SMILE.

CHAPTER I.

IT was midday, and dinner hour at Burnsley's farm. As the raucous bell, fixed on one of the gables, clanged forth the summons to quit work, two men and a boy, who had been subsiding a piece of stony ground that afforded regular occupation when farm work was slack, struck their spades deeply into the earth, tilted their bent shoulders, wiped their hot faces, and filed slowly towards the trough adjacent to the water-but, where the cowboy was already washing his hands, and wiping them on the rough towel which Biddy Doyle, the farm servant, placed there daily for their ablutions. Burnsley's was a fine homestead, in the opinion of the district, and the washing trough was one of the superfluities less well-to-do farmers dispensed with.

Excellent houses and sheds for all the farm animals were one of the adjuncts of prosperity more thought of in the neighbourhood than a comfortable dwelling-house. But the house was comfortable too, if lacking in grace; it stood squarely in the middle of a paved yard giving ingress directly to the kitchen, whence the other rooms branched to right and left. So it had been built by John Burnsley's grandfather; so the grandson kept it, seeing, indeed, no need for improvement.

The land constituting the farm was good, and the rent was so low that the place ranked almost as a freehold, protected as it was by a long lease. Then Burnsley was not foolishly hospitable, as were so many Irish farmers a generation or two ago, keeping open house for every slacker of their acquaintance, as well as for every relative who was a financial failure. For these reasons Burnsley was reputed wealthy. Certainly no man was better at a bargain, or more capable of obtaining from those in his employment all he paid for, and sometimes a little more.

While the echoes of the harsh bell were still in the air, the farmer, in his shirt sleeves, had placed himself in front of the dish of smoking beef, prepared to apportion it liberally when all were seated.

He stood at the top of the T-shaped table that ran the length of the wide kitchen, a thick-set, sandy-haired man, with very small, very light-coloured eyes, and stubby hands as red as the round of salted meat on which he was about to operate.

The kitchen was square, with windows that gave on the yard. The long section of the table ran parallel with these, a small table traversing the end by the door. At one side of the table was a straight bench without a back; this was a fixture. At the other side were wooden chairs. The table, sand scoured, almost white, was without a cloth. Indeed, it looked better so, the plates, the gaily-coloured milk-mugs, the wooden bowls heaped high with steaming potatoes, and the cutlery, sufficing for decorative purposes. The kitchen looked very comfortable and homely. The flagged floor was spotlessly clean. From the beams that supported the loft, hams dangled, while an open door permitted a glimpse into a cool larder, where pans of milk and dishes of cream stood cheek by jowl, with bannocks of oatcake marshalled in array against the wall.

As Burnsley spread the thick slices of red meat, that looked very attractive to hungry men, on the plates in front of him, his daughter helped turnips to the same plates, and passed them to the company. By the wide hearth, where a peat fire glowed, another girl stood waiting to dish up more potatoes and turnips, as required. It was etiquette at the farm that no woman should seat herself till all the

ILLUSTRATIONS FROM OUR FASHION BOOK POST FREE ON REQUEST.

How to Dress WITH GOOD TASTE

SPRING 1914

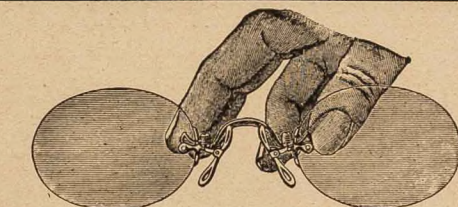


"NORD." Well-cut and tailored Suit, of new Crêpe Material in all the latest colourings. Coat made with new popular Kimono Sleeve, lined Silk. 5 1/2 Gns.
"MAURICE." Perfectly tailored Coat and Skirt, copy of French Model, in all new spring colours, in fine Twill Coating. Collar, and Revers faced Black Moire. Coat lined Silk. S.W., W., and O.S. sizes. 8 Gns.
"AUBE." Smart Visiting Tailor-made Suit, in new fancy self-coloured Worsted, in a beautiful range of colours. Also Black, Navy, and Cream. 6 1/2 Gns.

REGENT ST. and PICCADILLY, W.
Swan & Edgar Ltd.

THE SUFFRAGE CLUB, 3, YORK STREET, ST. JAMES'S SQ., S.W.


The Club has been formed for Men & Women interested in the Social Club for Suffrage Movement.
Subscription £1 11s. 6d. per annum.
Bedrooms can be reserved for Members (ladies only) for short and long periods at economical terms. TABLE D'HOTE LUNCHEONS 1s. and 1s. 6d., DINNERs 2s., also A LA CARTE and light LUNCHEONS. Residence with partial board, 2s. 6d.



As an optician of professional standing, I do not claim to be the "best on earth." But I do claim to be a good optician, that I know my business and that you can safely entrust your eyesight to my care, relying on my 20 years' experience of sight-testing and practice of fitting glasses by the latest and scientifically approved methods.

Write or call for Booklet C. free.
R. S. NEUMANN,
72, New Oxford Street, London, W.C.
Hours: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Telephone: Gold Medals: Milan (1906)
Saturdays: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 7600 Gerrard. London (1908).
I guarantee every pair of glasses for ten years.

(To be continued.)



To satisfy people of quality, the goods must be goods of quality, and the highest possible quality in frocks and fabrics is always to be found at Marshall & Snelgrove's.



Have your Soiled Dresses made fit for Smart Wear.

We will return them to you after four days looking fresh and new again and ready for immediate wear. Any spots, stains, or creases will be entirely removed without damage to the most delicate fabric. For a very moderate sum you thus secure what is, to all intents and purposes, a new dress or costume. Surely it is worth your while to take advantage of the service we offer.

Write for Price List and address of nearest Branch or Agent, who will collect and deliver free of charge. If you prefer to send direct, we will pay carriage one way.

Achille Serre Ltd.
Hackney Wick, London.
Telephone "East 3710" (four lines).
Branches and Agencies Everywhere.

B 49

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

Some New Books.

WHAT IT MEANS TO MARRY, OR YOUNG WOMEN AND MARRIAGE, by Dr. Mary Scharlieb, and PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE, by Walter Heape, M.A., F.R.S. (Cassell & Co. Ltd. Each 2s. 6d. net.)

The two books under consideration form part of the "Questions of Sex" series recently brought out by Cassell & Co. It is fitting that they should be reviewed together, because they present the question of marriage from both the feminine and the masculine point of view. And yet they have many ideas in common. They both, for example, regard with great severity the decline of the birth-rate, the one waxing scornful about "the fashionable" idea that we require quality and not quantity, and the other dwelling with some surprise on the fact that it is the comfortable classes who tend to have the smallest families, though common observation would lead one to notice that the lower vitality people possess the more freely do they breed.

Both writers seem to feel that we are standing, as it were, on shifting sands, and they both take a somewhat pessimistic view as to present-day tendencies and beliefs. But Professor Heape is, I think, right in his statement that whatever modifications of marriage laws and customs the future may have in store for us, monogamous marriage will persist, and that the greatest force in favour of it emanates from the woman herself. I remember reading a story by Mrs. Belloc Lowndes in the *Fortnightly Review* shortly after the late George Meredith had put forward some suggestion as to a seven years marriage. In it the various contingencies that might arise under such conditions were well and strikingly worked out, and always to the disadvantage of the woman. And assuredly it always would be so. A woman's love for her husband is always tempered by her love for her child. The child may, of course, be specially dear to her, because it is also the child of the man she loves; but, still, the man cannot presume that all her love is concentrated on him. It is the inability to face that fact that causes a large amount of unhappiness in married life.

Dr. Mary Scharlieb puts before her readers a high ideal of married life, and whatever may be the views held by one and another as to divorce, there can be no question that "permanence of union and indissolubility of marriage ought to be the ideal revered by Society, sanctioned by law, and inculcated by education."

Mutual discipline, painful though it may be, may, and does, "produce a fineness of character and a perfection of self-control that are invaluable assets for the race." We all know of hard cases where circumstances press very severely, but someone has pointed out the danger of legislating on "hard cases," which it stands to reason are in the minority, and this is as true of unhappy and unfortunate marriages as of anything else. This consideration apart, there can be no question in the mind of any thoughtful person that whatever may be the causes for which relief may be claimed, they should be equal for men and women.

With all that is said with regard to the education of the young in sex matters, I am agreed. I would, however, emphasise the importance of telling the plain, simple truth, and never any lies, and of giving this information early. It is probably better for them "that theory should run a little ahead of experience, i.e., that they should hear about things before they have any emotional significance for them, rather than afterwards."

To one who is well acquainted with a very large number of the women working at various professions and trades in the present day, Professor Heape's suggestion that where a man requires twelve weeks to perform an allotted task, a woman requires fifteen weeks is amusing and unconvincing. A medical friend to whom this suggestion was pointed out laughingly remarked: "Why, women would probably do in six weeks what men had devised for themselves to do in twelve." The wrecks that Professor Heape seems to have come across in the women who have spent three to four years in continuous work at the University are unknown to me, and I suspect largely exist in the region of his imaginative fancy.

It is an unfortunate circumstance that anyone should have used the phrase "bright hardness" to describe the average highly educated modern woman, because it is singularly unlike the being it attempts to describe. JANE WALKER.

PIONEER WORK FOR WOMEN. By Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell. (Price 1s., in Dent's "Everyman" Series.)

These most vivid reminiscences were first published nearly twenty years ago, but, as Mrs. Fawcett says in her very interesting preface, "the world has moved on a long way since 1895, and where it found an appreciative reader then, it should find a thousand now." All Societies which have Suffrage libraries, as well as individuals, should secure a copy from the Literature Department of the N.U.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN THE WORKING: ANSWERS FROM AMERICA (published by the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association) is a reprint of the articles which appeared a few months ago in the *Nineteenth Century*, summarising the results of the Impartial Inquiry set on foot by twelve Suffragist and Anti-suffragist ladies. The case for and against is stated respectively by the Hon. Robert Paton, and Mr. MacCallum Scott. This little volume, also, may be obtained from the Literature Department.

The *Contemporary Review*.—Interesting, particularly in regard to the status of women in regard to the Civil Service, is Mr. Vaughan Nash's paper on "The Royal Commission and the Civil Service." This number has also an illuminating article by Constance Spender on the Labour Exchanges.

In *The Fortnightly* there is an article by Frank Smith on "The Industrial Unrest from Labour's Standpoint."

Correspondence.

[Correspondents are urged to write briefly, as we receive each week a greater number of letters than we can possibly print. They are also warned to write on one side of a page only. Letters with writing on both sides must in future be consigned to the waste-paper basket.]

THE CHANNING ARNOLD CASE.

MADAM,—Here is a letter I sent to many papers on April 15th about a case deserving the attention of all the women in England:—

"There is an important omission in the reports of the delivery of judgment in the Channing Arnold case by Lord Shaw in the Privy Council Court on April 7th. The judgment reiterates as the foundation of its argument that 'all' the libels, 'so far as they were assertions of fact, were admitted to be false.'

"When Lord Shaw finished reading, I rose and begged leave to remind their lordships that neither my learned leader (Sir Robert Finlay) nor myself ever made any such admission. We only did not allege that the libels were true.

"His lordship accepted the correction, and said that if I cared to make such a distinction at that time I could do so.

"No more was said. The article in to-day's *Truth* (April 15th, 1914) and my letter in the *Spectator*, of April 11th, show how important it was. In Burma the only choice of pleas left to Mr. Arnold by the law was, guilty or not guilty. He was not allowed to 'plead' justification or anything else, and the evidence on which his counsel relied to prove it was nearly all excluded by the judge, who would not allow any argument as to the admissibility of the evidence excluded. Mr. Arnold was not allowed to give evidence on his own behalf. He might answer questions put by the Court. If a man accused makes an additional statement in Burma, the law does not require it to be recorded, and it seldom is. Thus in the court of the magistrate, Mr. Cooke, who committed Mr. Arnold for trial, Mr. Arnold, in addition to answering questions, made a long statement, which duly appeared in the newspaper reports, but not a word of it was, or by law was required to be, recorded by Mr. Cooke, or considered by their lordships.

"I hope your readers who are interested on this case, which is likely to be discussed from end to end of Asia, will read details in *Truth* and the *Spectator*. Mr. Arnold is an earnest man, incapable of making serious charges without careful inquiry, and the belief that he could justify everything said.

"Instead of holding a fresh inquiry, as they should have done, the local authorities wreaked their wrath on Mr. Arnold, at the public expense. All the money spent against him in the criminal proceedings just ended, and all the money being spent in the civil suit, still pending, comes out of the public purse.

"If only the executive authorities knew what the people are saying about them they would know that the waste of money is a small part of the mischief they are doing; and it is all futile. They 'cannot paint mud.'

"I appeal to all the honest journalists and editors in the Empire to stand by Mr. Arnold, and demand that the civil case stop at once, and that a payment of costs in the criminal case be made to him. The punishment he has already suffered cannot be justified. If his fellow-journalists fail to help him, then they will deserve to be called:—

"A servile race by folly cursed,
Who truckle most when treated worst."

To this letter I will now beg room to add that I hope to see in the *English Review* for June a short history of that case, and trust that when it appears public opinion in England will compel the India Office to desist from the further persecution of Mr. Arnold and compensate him to some extent for what he has already suffered.
DAVID ALEC WILSON.

THE N.U. AND THE WOMEN'S POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS.

MADAM,—I am a little puzzled by the editorial postscript to Mrs. Davies's letter on the above subject in your issue of April 24th. I am a member of the Liberal Women's Suffrage Union, and thereby pledge myself not to work for an Anti-suffrage candidate.

The letter and postscript would lead one to suppose that a member of this Union should not support any candidate "of a Government which refuses to support any measure of Women's Suffrage" (even a Suffrage candidate, therefore).

I never should pledge myself *not* to work for a Liberal candidate who was in favour of the Suffrage for women.—Yours, &c.,
H. M. L. ARNOLD.

[We regret that our note was not quite clear. It referred to Mrs. Davies's suggestion that it is confusing to the public mind for Suffragists to refuse to support a Liberal candidate if he is a Suffragist. The N.U. does refuse, except in the case of a "tried friend," and expects officials and members of executive committees not to work in opposition to the declared policy of the Union.—ED., C.C.]

WOMEN, LUNATICS AND DRUNKARDS.

MADAM,—The following may be of interest to your readers. Some friends of mine, travelling in Italy, went to see the great statue of Cardinal Borromée at Arona (L. Maggiore). There, however, they found the following notice: "Women, children, lunatics, and drunkards are not allowed to ascend." Poor women!—Yours, &c.,
E. PEMBERTON PIGOTT.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

Tailored Shirts for Sports Wear

AUDREY.

Well cut Shirt in white Cotton Crêpe with new shape collar and revers, trimmed large pearl buttons. In all sizes.

14/11



AUDREY.

Our brochure of NEW SUMMER FASHIONS

has just been published. A copy will be sent post free to any address on request.

Harvey Nichols
Knightsbridge London, sw

MISS L. B. EVETTS, R.H.S.,
(Trained Swanley Horticultural College, & Elmsey Nurseries—Westergate. Many years' practical experience.)
Care of Gardens undertaken by day or half-day. Gardens Designed and Laid Out. ADVISORY WORK.
SPECIALITY made of Pruning: the laying out of Herbaceous Borders, Rock and Wall Gardens, etc., etc.
Further particulars apply—
28, WATERLOW COURT, HAMPSTEAD WAY, HENDON, N.W.

Waterproofs—Oilskins
FOR FISHING, SHOOTING, GOLFING, MOTORING.
Write for our Illustrated Pocket Books.
ANDERSON, ANDERSON & ANDERSON, Ltd.
37, Queen Victoria Street, E.C. LONDON.
58-59, Charing Cross, S.W.

MISS F. H. GARLICK, R.H.S. (1st Class)
Trained Swanley College. Demonstrator 1910-11.
Undertakes Care of Gardens and Designing. Arrangement of Herbaceous Borders. Pruning of Roses and all Flowering Shrubs a speciality. Lessons given.
1, Fitzroy Road, Regent's Park, N.W.



A Special Department for Ladies and Children.
DOWIE & MARSHALL
Shoe Makers,
Founded in 1824. **455, WEST STRAND, LONDON.**

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

the responsibility of keeping others, and only eight men contributed anything to any other person's support beside their own. The staff was said to consist of rather young persons. Two things appear certain in the Government service and elsewhere:—

(1) That until equality of opportunity and equality of pay are reached as between men and women, there will be no peace in the industrial world; and

(2) There is no hope of this without Women's Suffrage.

As regards the first, it is easy to see that as women become better educated, and also are more and more thrown on their own resources, they will more and more demand the possibility of a decent reward for the work, both in the way of money and promotion; and, at the same time, as more and more women are forced into the labour market, and are forced to undercut men, as they are at present, men will in self-defence be driven to help the women to equality. But the only weapon that avails for Civil Servants is apparently the political one. The late Postmaster-General summed up the situation very well when he said to the deputation of men in the Postal Service: "In the case of the Post-Office and other State employees, the immediate employer (the Postmaster-General in this case) is not the final Court of Appeal, and those who are concerned can have recourse, if necessary, to the House of Commons, which is superior both to them and to the Postmaster-General."

To this we agree, and many years of bitter experience of appealing to Parliament on behalf of the voteless proved to us long ago, as the Holt Report and the Civil Service Commission Report have once more done, that until you go armed with the power of citizenship, the Government of the day on whom these questions depend for solution, as Lord McDonnell asserted, will ignore women every time in favour of those on whom, after all, their own political existence depends.

ESTHER G. ROPER.

THE RISE IN THE COST OF LIVING.

The exhibition arranged by the Central London Branch of the Women's Labour League to demonstrate the rise in the cost of living was a remarkable revelation. Most of us have heard a good deal recently about the rapidly decreasing purchasing power of money, but precisely what this decreased purchasing power means to the women who have to keep house on an income "round about a pound a week," it was left to the Women's Labour League to make known. The exhibition was designed to show the rise in prices in the last fifteen years; the sections being arranged to show (1) the increased cost of house-building, (2) the increased cost of house-furnishing, (3) the rise in the price of clothes, (4) the rise in the price of food.

In the first section it was shown that the bricks which cost 27s. per ton in 1899 to-day cost 33s., that the cement which could then be obtained for 28s. per ton now cost 34s., and that the price of sand had risen from 6s. per yard in 1901 to 7s. per yard at the present time. Inside the home the rise was shown to be no less serious. As for clothing, the price of flannel, for example, has risen from 1s. 3d. per yard (good quality), in 1906, to 1s. 6d. per yard (bad quality), in 1913; and sewing cotton, which in 1894 cost 2d. per reel, now costs 3d. per reel. But the most serious rise is the increased cost of food and of coal. The working-class housewife now pays £1 2s. 6d. for a ton of coals, which cost her 17s. fifteen years ago. For the 5d. which she spends in paraffin she now gets 3/4 gallon, whereas in 1899 she got 5-7 gallons. But the budget drawn up by the League to show the cost of a "week's marketing fifteen years ago and now" explains clearly the burden of the increase.

A WEEK'S MARKETING 15 YEARS AGO AND NOW.

	Then. s. d.	Now. s. d.
Bread (4 loaves)	1 8	1 10
Bacon (1 lb.)	11	1 2
Cheese	6	5 4
Flour (qtn.)	5	1 2
Butter (1 lb.)	1 0	8
Biscuits	6	10
Tea (1 lb.)	9	4
Sugar (2 lb.)	3 1/2	2 10
Meat (1 lb. joint)	2 2	9
Eggs (6)	7	9
Ham (1 lb.)	7	9
Corned beef (1 lb.)	6	3
Jam (3 lb. jar)	1 1	5
Golden syrup (2 lb. tin)	6	10 1/2
Fish (3 lb.)	6	7
Soap (2 bars)	6	1
Oil (1 gal.)	7	10
Coals (1 cwt.)	1 0	1 5
Wood (7 bundles)	5	3
Saltanas (1 lb.)	2	2 1/2
Currants (1 lb.)	4	4
Potatoes (8 lb.)	4	1
Soda (2 lb.)	1	1 1/2
Rice (1 lb.)	5	3
Blue (2 packets)	1	1 1/2
	15 2 1/2	19 5

Yet more interesting than the exhibition was the conference held in the same hall. When one listened to the clear-headed discussion which followed the brilliant address given by Miss Mabel Atkinson,

one marvelled at the social ignorance which can make politicians persuade themselves that working-women are still incapable of understanding politics. Here, then, was under discussion one of the biggest social and economic problems of our time, and here were delegates from the W.L.L., from I.L.P., the W.E.A., Women's Co-operative Guilds, Women's Guilds, the B.S.P., Trades and Labour Councils, and various miscellaneous women's guilds, eagerly discussing the effect of the increased gold currency on prices, the effect of strikes on prices, and the possibility of meeting the rise by appointing trades boards to fix a minimum wage in different trades. Many of those who took part in the discussion showed a considerable grasp of economics, but the most impressive feature in their speeches was the unanimous spirit of revolt against conditions of life in which the housewife stoops under the perpetual burden of grinding economy because there is no rise in wages to meet the increase in prices.

In the evening Mr. J. A. Hobson said, in the course of his speech, that some of his audience might be tempted to think that it might be possible to fix the price of the most ordinary commodities, such as coal, bread, and houses, by means of general fair courts, but, for his part, he doubted whether there were sufficient democratic control, either of the municipality or of the State, to make it safe to entrust it with such powers. On the other hand, the feasibility of wages boards had already been proved in a number of trades, it seemed probable that agriculture would soon be brought under this principle, and it was difficult to see why it should not soon be applied to all trades.

THE MAGIC LANTERN AND THE VOTE.

One wonders what Woman's Kingdom would have done without the hot little enclosure known as the Lantern Lecture Room. Sometimes, on the arrival of the organiser of this section, she would find it occupied by a large, solemn meeting of committee or stallholders. Several times a day it became a dressing-room for contingents of dancers and gymnasts. But at the appointed hour, the touter at the curtain-door would announce a glorious lecture about to begin, admission free, and then, like magic, all foreign accessories disappeared, and the audience poured in. Undoubtedly, much sound propaganda work was done. Messrs. Newton, of 72, Wigmore-street, had lent us a beautiful electric arc lantern, which was skilfully worked by Miss Dimock, Mr. Rayner, or by students of St. Hilda's Hall, Oxford. Three sets of lantern slides, entitled, "Women at Work," "Lands where Women have Won the Vote," and "Women's Work in the Empire" were lent us by the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association. We strongly recommend Suffrage workers to procure these slides at the low fee at which they are loaned.

If we can judge from the remarks made by people as they left the lecture-room, the daily talk on "Sweated Industries," profusely illustrated by slides, set some thinking as, perhaps, they have never thought before. Two ladies, accidentally discovered to be fresh from Australia, were at once pressed into the service, and they used with good effect the fine set of slides lent us by Mr. Inglis of the "Australian Commonwealth." Mr. McGregor entranced many audiences by lectures on Canada and India. Nature lectures were also given; that on "Birds" being followed by an amusing incident. An old gentleman, who had slept in the warm atmosphere of the room, was greatly aroused by the strange story of the cuckoo as portrayed on the sheet. He followed the lecturer outside, and inquired: "Will you kindly tell me why the cuckoo acts in this curious manner?" "Apparently because she lays her eggs at long intervals, and it would be inconvenient to place a fresh egg in a nest containing a big baby," was her ready reply, and with warm thanks the questioner went on his way. A gentleman, who overheard, struck with admiration, raised his hat, and exclaimed: "Madam, I congratulate you on the way in which you Suffragists rise to emergencies," and left before the lecturer could protest that she had given what she believed to be scientific truth! A very popular lecture was that on the "Antarctic Regions" by Mr. Joyce, who showed the original photographs taken by his brother on Sir Ernest Shackleton's expedition.

A. H.-W.

HORSEWOMEN.

Two London Suffragists found themselves, the other day, on the approach to Westminster-bridge, unexpectedly mixed up in a little affair with dray-horses.

Two great horses couldn't, or wouldn't, take their load up the slippery incline; and after much ado, and various attempts to meet the situation, two horses were unharnessed from a neighbouring lorry to assist the recalcitrant ones. Somehow the men concerned, confused in the mix up of motor-buses, taxis, and other traffic, let both horses go—and the scene culminated when, before a large, silent, and immovable crowd, the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary of the National Union was to be discerned in the middle of the road controlling an enormous strawberry roan, while her companion (the founder of the *Englishwoman*) at the side of the street hung on to the bridle of his fellow. Boadicea looked on—and a man in the crowd remarked, in a loud voice: "What I say is, women ought ter have the vote."

Upon this a few men showed signs of putting their shoulders to the wheels, and a boy remarked to the horsekeeper in the gutter: "Ee'll kill yer"—evidently desirous of creating a panic; and also, no doubt, hoping against hope that if such things were to be he might have the immense advantage of seeing the dray-horse do it.

£1,000 in PRIZES

Oatine Picture Competition

5,363 PRIZES

NO ENTRANCE FEE.

12 PICTURES ONLY.

- 1st Prize £100
- 2nd " £50
- 3rd " £25
- 10 prizes of £5
- 50 " £1
- 100 " 10/-
- 200 " 5/-
- and 5,000 2/6 Boxes of Oatine Soap.

Closing Date
MAY 20th.

The following Oatine Preparations are stocked by all chemists, but should there be any difficulty in obtaining same, they will be supplied direct by The Oatine Company post free by return.

OATINE CREAM.

The ideal skin food. By getting down into the pores, it removes dirt and grime which soap and water cannot reach. It should be used nightly before retiring. In white jars, 1/12, or larger size, holding three times as much, 2/3.

OATINE SNOW.

For whitening the skin, and for protecting it during the day. Non-greasy and absolutely pure. Makes the skin soft and velvety. Delicately perfumed and pleasant to use. 1/-.

OATINE SOAP.

Made from the finest materials. Contains the healing and cleansing properties of the oat. Gives a soft, creamy lather. 2/6 a box of 3 large tablets.

OATINE SHAVING STICK.

Ensures a clean and comfortable shave, and a free, smooth and lasting lather. Packed in special metal cylinders. 1/-.

OATINE TOOTH PASTE.

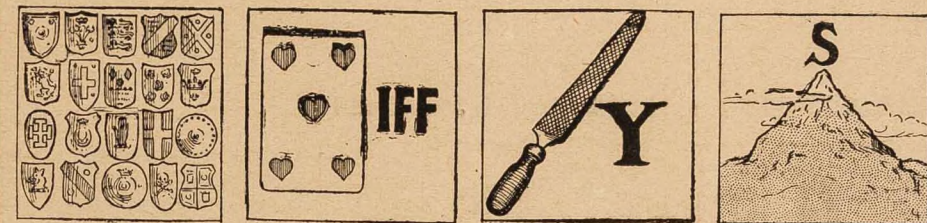
Antiseptic and germ destructive. Prevents accumulation of tartar and decay, keeps the gums healthy, and the breath sweet. 1/-.

OATINE SHAMPOO POWDERS.

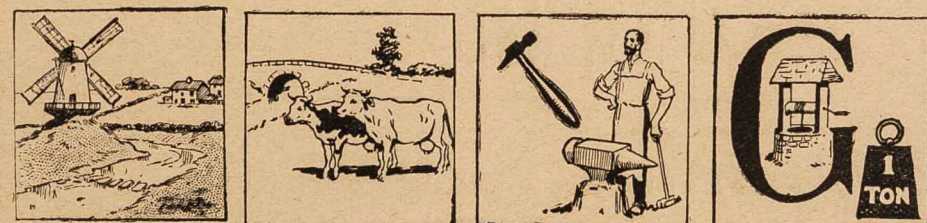
Do not injure the healthy growth of the hair, but while cleansing thoroughly leave it soft and glossy, enhancing its natural colour. Oatine Shampoo Powders are prepared in two varieties, one for dry hair, sold in red packets; the other for oily hair, sold in green packets. State which kind you require. 1/- box of 7 packets.

The Oatine Co., 652, Oatine Buildings, London, S.E.

THIS COMPETITION WILL INTEREST YOUR FRIENDS.



No. 1..... No. 2..... No. 3..... No. 4.....



No. 5..... No. 6..... No. 7..... No. 8.....



No. 9..... No. 10..... No. 11..... No. 12.....

ENTRY FORM.

Name (Mr., Mrs. or Miss).....
Address

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.



BY APPOINTMENT TO
H.M. THE QUEEN.

DERRY & TOMS

KENSINGTON · HIGH STREET · LONDON · W

60 Windows full of Hats.

We feel justified in announcing next Monday's Millinery Display as one of the events of the London Season. We have garnered for this occasion literally thousands of hats, each one a triumph of the Millinery Art and possessing the DERRY & TOMS note of distinction.

Monday, May 11, and following days

A visit to this display, which will eclipse all others for variety, style and value, will be greatly appreciated and also provide an insight into this season's Millinery Modes.

Our representative has just returned from Paris and the Longchamps Races with a host of new ideas.

