

Women's Franchise.

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Contents.

	PAGE
NOTES	437
THE SUFFRAGE IN OTHER LANDS	438
REVIEWS OF BOOKS	438
A PLEA FOR THE SUFFRAGETTE	439
TO OUR BROTHERS	439
FURTHER ADDITIONS TO THE GUARANTEE FUND	439
CORRESPONDENCE	439
NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES (Current Topics; Peckham By-Election; By-Election Policy of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies; Women's Conservative and Franchise League; Liverpool University W.S.S.; A Women's Suffrage Play; Branch Societies; Programme of Forthcoming Events)	440-442
WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE (late W.S.P.U.) (Notes; Peckham By-Election; Conquerors at Croydon; The Bible—Women and Men; Scottish Notes; Branch Notes; Important Notice; The Views of the Author of 'The Jungle' on the Franchise for Women; To K. M. on Her Eye; Programme of Forthcoming Events)	443-445
MEN'S LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE (Notes and Comments; Stewards; Liverpool and Birkenhead; Bristol; Edinburgh; The March of the Women; Sonnet; A Vicar's "Suffrage Meeting"—and an Anonymous Postcard)	446-447

proclaimed to an applauding House that women had no physical force at all."

LADY FRANCES BALFOUR, Miss Christabel Pankhurst, Earl Russell, Lord Onslow, and Mr. Ivor Guest, M.P., are among the speakers announced to take part in the debate on Women's Suffrage at the Ladies' Night Debate of the Hardwicke Society on the 20th inst. The terms of the debate are: "That the grant of the Suffrage to women has been indefinitely postponed by the violent methods of certain of its supporters." The public are only admitted to the debates of the Hardwicke Society twice a year, and on this occasion a full attendance is anticipated, as it is a subject in which the members are keenly interested.

Notice to Contributors and Subscribers.

Articles containing information on the subject of Women's Suffrage should be addressed to the Editor, who will return those not considered suitable as soon as possible if a stamped addressed envelope is sent with the MS. As the paper is on a voluntary basis, and all profits go to help the cause, no payments are made for contributions. Subscriptions for the weekly numbers, 1½d. a week post free. Back numbers can still be obtained, but the number for January 30th is very scarce, and costs 3d.

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE,'
EDITORIAL AND PUBLISHING OFFICE,
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Notes.

AFTER Women's Suffrage, no proposed legislation will affect working women more directly than the Sweated Industries Bill, which, after passing its second reading, has been referred to a Select Committee on Home Work. This Bill has been so favourably received that there is every reason to expect it will in due course become law, in which case the position of women in the clothing trade will soon be considerably improved. The trades which will be particularly affected are the dressmaking, tailoring, and shirt-making. The Bill provides for the establishment of wages boards, whose duty it will be to fix the minimum rate of wages to be paid to workers in certain trades. The Board is to be composed of representatives of employers and employed in equal proportions, the chairman chosen by the members or nominated by the Home Secretary.

IN an excellent letter to *The Times* Lady McLaren answers the argument that Society ultimately depends upon physical force. She points out that "Society depends not only on the force of men, but on the force of women also, and without a woman's force, evidently, all things would come to a stand, and life would cease to exist upon the planet. Nothing is more curious than the blindness of men to the fact that it is the physical force of women that keeps the world moving to-day. I have heard a member of Parliament in the House of Commons declare, by a strange hallucination, that women had no physical force at all, and I believe this opinion is quite common.....From the cradle to the grave that man depended for his comforts on the physical force of women.....and yet he was blind to the fact that the greater part of all the dirty, disagreeable, monotonous, ill-paid work of the whole of this country is performed by the physical force of women, and

THAT inveterate opponent of Women's Suffrage, *The Spectator*, refers with approval to Mrs. John Massie's article on 'Woman's Plea against Women's Suffrage,' which appears in the March number of *The Nineteenth Century*, and especially applauds her "concise statement of an argument which is of peculiar significance at the present day." We quote it for the edification of our readers. "The prophets of ill are saying that the English race is degenerating, and plain truth is crying out that infant mortality is terribly high. Women (if we may say so) are the 'manufacturers' of England's sons and daughters. Is this the time to lay upon women extraneous and unnecessary burdens, which must tend to restrict and reduce their capacity for their special and particular and transcendently important function?" Do Mrs. Massie and the editor of *The Spectator* seriously think that putting a cross against a man's name in a quiet room about once in four years is to be regarded as such a burden that it will restrict and reduce women's capacity for their "transcendently important function"? We believe that the terribly high rate of infant mortality is due to the shocking conditions under which so many women live and work, and these conditions will not be remedied until women can use the weapon of the vote to improve them.

THE following resolution is being brought forward by Mr. Hunt, M.P., in the House of Commons on the 17th ult.: "That it is urgently necessary that every sound British subject should undergo sufficient naval or military training to enable him to be ready and prepared to defend his country and his country's women and children in time of national peril." *The Bath Herald* remarks on the subject that "from the wording of this motion it is clear that in Mr. Hunt's opinion either women are not to be regarded as 'sound British subjects,' or he regards them as fitting objects for naval and military training, and uses the pronoun 'him' as covering both sexes. The second alternative may be a compliment to the women of Britain. The first is an insult, and Mr. Hunt should be called upon to explain or retract."

THE HON. CLAUDE HAY, M.P., speaking at a recent meeting of the North Wiltshire Unionist Association, remarked that "It was a scandal that we should have big, burly men at all times of the day or night hustling women and practically helping to make a row, simply because the Government had not the pluck and decency to receive a deputation, which they would receive from any tag-rag and bob-tail if they thought they could get a vote from them."

AN interesting correspondence is being carried on in *The Woman Worker* on 'Should Married Women Work?' and the March number contains some excellent letters on the subject which should be read by all speakers and writers on women's questions. This paper is the official organ of the National Federation of Women Workers, and its contributors include some of the best-known names in literature, journalism, politics and social reform. Its columns are open to interesting discussions and debates, and a monthly survey is given of the work of the Women's Trade Union and the Women's Labour League.

WE have received from Mrs. M. E. Pearce 10s. for twenty more members of Parliament to receive this paper for a month, and from Miss M. C. Crosfield £1 for copies to be sent as Mrs. H. B. Taylor, in our number for February 27th, suggests. Mrs. J. Marshall has sent a subscription for the Liberal Club, Keswick, and Lady Wright for the Ladies' Common Room, Trinity College, Dublin, and to the Combination Room, Girton College, Cambridge.

The Suffrage in Other Lands.

FRANCE.—The *Journal des Femmes* announces that a Women's Suffrage Congress will be held in Paris at the end of June. It is being organized by three well-known leaders in the cause, Mesdames Vincent, 13, Rue de Paris, Asnières; Marguerite Durand, 10, Rue de Paris, Montchanin; Odde Deflou, 55, Rue de Seine, Paris. Further information may be obtained from these ladies.

In the same number Madame Maria Martin thus sums up the aims of the feminist movement: "Equality of men and women before the law. We demand the same salaries for women as for men, the means of earning an honest livelihood for themselves and also for their children, when they are responsible for any. We demand that all careers shall be open to them without restriction, well assured that they will soon abandon those for which they are not suited. We want to safeguard their fortune or their earnings against a spendthrift, idle, or drunken husband. We think that the husband should not be the undisputed master in the home of which the wife is supposed to be queen, but where, as a matter of fact, she has only such rights as her husband is willing to concede her, but that the wife's authority over the children should be equal to his. We demand that the girl mother should not be the only one to pay the penalty of a fault committed by both parents. For our children we demand moral and material protection, such as men have hitherto not been able to afford them, and the necessity for which is so well realized by women." She goes on to say: "If men in all countries recognize its utility. We think that the same applies to women; but they have been kept so long in a state of complete ignorance that they often fail to appreciate the situation fully."

UNITED STATES.—The Suffrage parade of the New York women took place on Sunday, February 16th. The effectiveness of the proceedings was somewhat marred by the choice of the day, since an antiquated regulation forbids any street processions on Sunday except funerals and religious and military parades. Neither banners nor music enlivened the march, nor was any regular formation possible. Still, about 4,000 women, wearing yellow buttons with the inscription, "Votes for Women," marched from Union Square, up Broadway, and thence to the Manhattan Trade School in East Twenty-Third Street. Here a large meeting was held and many eloquent speeches made. A large number of men joined in the march wearing the Suffrage button.

The growth of interest in the subject is shown by the large amount of attention which it now receives in the press. The papers also devote a good deal of space to the movement in England, and especially its newest developments. But surely the *Boston Sunday Herald* cannot be correct in stating that "Asquith, who is their special *bête noire*, never ventures upon the street unless accompanied by two detectives. His colleagues seek to avoid recognition in public places like undetected thieves."

A. ZIMMERN.

Reviews of Books.

Woman and the Wise. Collected and edited by G. F. Monkshood. (Greening.)

THIS is a little book which we recommend unreservedly. It is at once a treasure store of wisdom, a source of inspiration, and a spur to high endeavour. Its pages are filled by extracts from the writings of such men and women as J. S. Mill, E. Cook, Lord Brougham, Douglas Jerrold, Lecky, Canon Kingsley, F. P. Cobbe, Sir Stafford Northcote, De Tocqueville, Wendell Phillips, Emily Faithful, Ruskin, Parker, Jules Simon, and a host of other equally Catholic and arresting sources. Its subjects range from midwifery to Grecian mythology, from Florence Nightingale to John Morley on domestic service, from a comparison of our own with Eastern countries, to Jewish writings, and the depreciation of women; while striking and illuminating passages on a variety of topics abound. We can suggest but one improvement for future editions, and that is the elimination of one or two paragraphs which legal changes have rendered out of date. An anonymous message, addressed to young women of wealth and rank, begging them to rise superior to the circumstances around them and make some approach to their own ideal, continues: "I know this is asking them to martyrize themselves. But could they see the beauty and glory that will invest the future woman, when she shall have her proper place among the children of the Fathers; when she shall infuse her love, her moral perceptions, her sense of justice into the ethics and governments of the earth; when she shall be united to man in a Divine harmony, and her children shall go forth to bless all coming generations—they would regard martyrdom but dust in the balance compared with such a blessing."

With these words of inspiration and hope we close the pages of 'Woman and the Wise,' while extending our thanks to the author of this most delightful compilation.

La Femme en lutte pour ses droits. By Dr. Madeleine Pelletier. (V. Giard & E. Brière.)

"Dans l'un comme dans l'autre sexe, l'individu est fin en soi." THESE words form the keynote to this stimulating and interesting brochure. Startling it is too, but only so because, feminists though we be, it is yet difficult to realize that what we are claiming for woman, the enslaved of centuries, is just the right to arrange her life as it so pleases her. It is the evolution of this idea with which Dr. Pelletier's book deals. She shows how the inferiority with which women are reproached springs from a psychological result of environment and educational differences, and she also advises her fellow-countrywomen what course to take in order to achieve the aim of political equality which she rightly places first in her programme of reform. Her book may be read with profit by Englishwomen, though her ideas on many subjects are scarcely likely to meet with commendation, and the bare materialism on which her structure grows is chilly soil indeed. Very doubtful good and much possible harm comes of any prophetic utterance as to what women will achieve when they come into their own, and certainly the example of our colonies does not lead us to expect any such social cataclysm as Dr. Pelletier sketches.

The military problem is handled boldly. The corollary of equal rights is equal duty, and if military service is considered the duty corresponding to political rights, women must be ready to undertake it—this assertion the author follows by giving several reasons why the army should prove an excellent school for the energy, the muscular development, the spirit of discipline, the habit of subordinating their individuality to something greater than themselves, the possible eventuality of sacrificing existence, of which women stand so much in need. Criticism of the extravagance, as some will think it, of this idea is disarmed by a definition of the extravagant and ridiculous as "Ce que l'on n'a pas l'habitude de voir."

The whole "problem" seems to us imaginary. When men can undertake to bear soldiers it will be time enough for women to undertake to bear arms.

A Plea for the Suffragette.

A Woman once, in a righteous cause,
Appealed to a Judge, a dispenser of Laws,
To obtain from her tyrant immunity;
But the Judge, he merely replied: "Haw! Haw!
A dispenser of Laws may dispense with Law
When he feels that he can with impunity!"

So the Woman reflected: "This unjust Judge
From his unjust course must be made to budge,
And since he's not open to reason,
It's time that I tried some different way.
I'll give him no rest by night or by day,
My claims for redress before him I'll lay,
In season and out of season."

Now, if one thing will stir Man's resentment deep,
It is to be roused from his beauty sleep,
By repeated and clamorous dunning;
Quoth the Judge: "This woman will weary me,
Unless I give heed and accede to her plea,
And get rid of her constant coming."

So the Judge gave way to the Woman's plan,
Not from fear of God, nor regard for Man,
But to gain for himself impunity.
And the Woman reflected: "We gain our cause,
Not by Reason's appeal to the makers of Laws,
But—pressing it home without let or pause—
Because of our Importunity."

SUFFRAGISTS.

To Our Brothers.

How long will you insult your wives, your sisters?
How long refuse them liberty, O brothers?
How long crush down their hopes? How long despise
The womanhood of your mothers?

What must you pay to keep us in subjection,
To keep from us those rights that you deny?
You must pay away your self-respect, your honour,
Is not the price too high?

We ask no sacrifice of you, O brothers;
Nor is it for some favour that we sue:
We pray for justice, nothing more, and justice
Is even a woman's due.

Yours is the Power to grant this prayer, O brothers.
When shall the Will be yours? When shall we meet
As equals? Would you have us kneel for ever
Entreating at your feet?

V. M. DURAND.

FURTHER ADDITIONS TO THE GUARANTEE FUND.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.			
Crosfield, Miss M. C.	0	10	0	..	0	15	0	
Evershed, Mrs. M.	1	0	0	..	..	1	0	0
Hampstead Local Committee	5	5	0	..	..	0	10	6
Carried forward	£6	15	0			£5	5	6
Brought forward
Richards, Mrs. R. E.
Williams, Mrs. F. E.
Total

Correspondence.

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

FELLOW SUFFRAGISTS.—In this week's *Women's Franchise* it is urged upon us that we must look to the nation for the impetus which is to bring us success. The majority, nearly three to one, by which Mr. Stanger's Bill was carried, shows that the House of Commons has felt and yielded to this impetus up to a certain

point. Now the distance to which a given force can propel a body varies inversely according to the mass of the body. The House of Commons is somewhat bulky, nevertheless it has moved a considerable way. The Cabinet is, however, a much smaller body, and surely if we concentrate all our energies upon it we are bound to make an impression. Petitions have, for the most part, been disregarded in the past and little impression has been made by the thousands of signatures attached to them. If, however, each of the signatories had written personally to each Minister, the widespread desire for the vote would, I think, have been borne in upon them very forcibly. Will you try this plan now? In North London a small group have started a "Snowball" for the purpose, each person writing herself to all the Ministers and getting three friends to do the same. If this plan is carried out all over England each person asked drawing three more into the stream, a perfect deluge of letters will be the result, and it will become a serious question with the Ministry whether to get more secretarial help or to give facilities for the Bill. It may even lead to an increase of the Post Office staff, and so give work to the Unemployed! Will you help? It only costs a little trouble, and when our leaders are giving up, ungrudgingly and devotedly, time, money, health, and even liberty, surely we cannot refuse to spend ourselves to this extent. ONE OF THE RANK AND FILE.

N.B.—Letters to Cabinet Ministers need not be stamped.

Women's Title to the Franchise.

SIR,—The *Sunday-School Chronicle* says: "Many women are entitled to a vote by their position and gifts." They are not entitled to a vote on any such grounds, but because they are intelligent human beings and tax-payers. Methinks the number of men voters would be considerably lessened if their title depended on "position and gifts."

Yours faithfully,
CHARLOTTE KILBURN.

DEAR SIR,—Returning to the question of "educating the electorate," one of our great difficulties seems to be the large number of men that nothing will ever induce to attend our meetings, listen to our speakers, read our pamphlets, or even glance through *Women's Franchise*. I think some of them might be reached if the subject were brought before them in—

1. A poem by George Meredith.
2. A play by G. Bernard Shaw, produced by Granville Barker.
3. A novel by Thomas Hardy.
4. A cartoon by F. Carruthers Gould.

Should any of your readers have any influence with these gifted men, it would be the greatest help if they could stimulate them to use their talents in this way for the furtherance of Women's Suffrage. Yours faithfully,

AUGUSTA E. HARRINGTON.

DEAR SIR,—Might I suggest to the various societies advocating the cause of Women's Suffrage, that it would tend to increase their subscriptions, to some extent guarantee the successful continuance of *Women's Franchise*, and generally help the cause, if they sent to those who subscribed a certain amount to their society a copy of *Women's Franchise*.

If, for instance, every subscriber of 1l. 1s. got a copy weekly, of 10s. 6d. every fortnight one copy, and subscribers of 7s. 6d. the first week in each month a copy.

If these copies were charged to the societies at trade price plus postage, and sent from the office of the paper, the cost would not be great, and the results in increased enthusiasm, &c., amongst their members would, I think, be very satisfactory. Yours faithfully,

H. M. THEEDAM.

[Owing to lack of space, we are obliged to hold over Correspondence, Reviews, and other Articles.]

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

OBJECT.—To obtain the Parliamentary Suffrage for Women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to Men.

The Union is a Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies in Great Britain.

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D. Secretary: MISS MARGERY CORBETT, B.A. Treasurer: MISS BERTHA MASON.

Hon. Secretaries: MISS FRANCES HARDCASTLE, M.A. MISS FRANCES STERLING.

Telegrams: "VOICELESS, LONDON." Telephone: 1960 VICTORIA. OFFICES: 25, VICTORIA STREET, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.

The Union will send Organising Agents, Speakers, or Literature to any place requiring them, its desire being to form a Women's Suffrage Society in every County and Borough. All persons interested in the movement, or desiring information about it, are requested to communicate with the Secretaries. Increased Funds are needed for the growing work of the Union, and Subscriptions will be gladly received by the Treasurer.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1908.

MISS MARGARET ASHTON	MR. A. CAMERON CORBETT M.P.	MRS. PECHY PHIPSON, M.D.	LADY STRACHEY
THE LADY FRANCES BALFOUR	MISS EDITH DIMOCK	MRS. BROADLEY REID	And the Hon. Officers,
MISS FLORENCE BALGARNIE	MISS I. O. FORD	HON. BERTRAND RUSSELL	ex officio.
MRS. ALLAN BRIGHT	MISS MARTINDALE, M.B., B.S.	MRS. PHILIP SNOWDEN	

Current Topics.

It is instructive to note that the Members of Parliament who represent Shropshire and Wiltshire were to be found among the minority in the division on Mr. Stanger's Bill. Shropshire retains its pre-eminence as the most reactionary county in England. Out of its five representatives, Mr. Bridgeman, who represents the Oswestry Division, abstained from voting. Its other four members, Sir Clement Hill (Unionist) who represents Shrewsbury, Col. Kenyon Slaney (Unionist), Mr. Rowland Hunt (Unionist), and Mr. Henry (Liberal), all voted against the Bill. Nor could Wiltshire show a much better record, for Mr. J. Massie (Liberal) (North Wilts), Mr. J. M. Fuller (Liberal) (West Wilts), and Sir John Dickson-Poynder (Liberal) (North-West Wilts), were all in the minority.

We hope the women in these counties will immediately take steps and interest the electors on this question, and will start branches of the National Union as quickly and in as many places as possible; and last, but not least, that they will steadily refuse to do any political work for their members, but devote all their time to Suffrage propaganda work in the constituencies. Will not the women of Shrewsbury lead the way?

We are requested to explain the mistake by which the name of Mr. A. Dewar, M.P., was officially recorded as voting both for and against the Women's Suffrage Bill on Friday. The fact is that the hon. member voted for the Bill, and the error arose—not for the first time—owing to a somewhat close resemblance between Mr. Dewar and Mr. Chance, the member for Carlisle.

From *The Morning Advertiser*, March 3rd.

We hear that the Princess of Wales was present in the House of Commons on the 28th ult., to hear the debate on Women's Suffrage, and she afterwards had tea with Mrs. Lowther, wife of the Speaker. Her Royal Highness takes a keen interest in politics, and her presence on that occasion shows us that she realizes that the enfranchisement of women is one of the most important questions of the day and one which directly concerns every woman in the land.

Our readers will be glad to hear that Dr. Mary Gordon has been appointed an Inspector of Prisons. That women prisoners should be placed under the medical supervision of a doctor of their own sex is a reform which has long been urgently needed, and we are glad the authorities have at last consented to introduce the change, which cannot fail to be of advantage to many women.

Dr. Madeleine Pelletier, who lately started the monthly paper *La Suffragiste*, has just written a book called 'La Femme en Lutte pour ses Droits.' It is published by V. Giard et T. Brière, 16, Rue Soufflot, Paris, price 1fr. Those who know Dr. Pelletier's excellent work in her paper will welcome her book, which should prove of great value to all women in their struggle for justice. A notice of this book will be found on p. 438.

At the annual meeting of the United Carlo Gatti, Stevenson, & Slaters, Limited, at the Hotel Cecil recently, a lady shareholder, who criticised with some show of knowledge of finance several points in the balance-sheet of the company, said she was glad to see the name of a lady on the directorate, and hoped to see woman take her place in Parliament.

We are often receiving excellent contributions which we are most reluctantly obliged to return or to hold over indefinitely because they are much too long, and our space is limited. Will all those who contribute to our pages remember that 700 words is, as a rule, the limit of length for articles. Short articles of half a column in length (350 words), dealing with subjects likely to be of interest to our readers are always welcome, and gladly published. Want of space also makes it often impossible to insert at full length the contributions which we receive from our branches; and we hope our secretaries and all others who kindly send us accounts of meetings, &c., will bear this in mind when they see their interesting news considerably curtailed or only briefly recorded.

On the occasion of the Quarterly Meeting of the North of England Society for Women's Suffrage an appeal was made by Mrs. Swanwick for money to purchase a typewriter and duplicator, to which an immediate and generous response was made, and £28 has been received.

On March 10th Miss W. M. Green spoke for a short time on Women's Suffrage to the factory girls attending Miss Bishop's Club in Oozells Street, Birmingham.

Most of the girls were very young, apparently not having long left school, but a few were much older. They and a good proportion of the young ones seemed interested. They liked the cartoon of a factory girl in *Women's Franchise* for February 27th, which was handed round, and they gave a sympathetic "Oh!" when the case of a sweated woman who works sixteen hours a day for 10d. was spoken of from personal experience.

Peckham By-Election.

OUR by-election work at Peckham seems full of promise, as considerable interest has been shown already, and the Artist League posters, our giant election bills, and our placards of meetings, give a most distinguished look to the Committee Rooms. These, too, are convenient, pleasant, and central. We have received with special joy the news that Mrs. Fawcett will address a whole series of meetings during the week, as well as Mrs. Snowden. The local branch and headquarters are co-operating with the happiest results, and there is scarcely a dull moment. A meeting on Saturday night in the Oliver Goldsmith Schools, Miss Watson in the chair, was addressed by Mrs. Stanbury and Mr. George. The audience was large and just the right kind. Many respectable and thoughtful men were present; there was no youthful rowdiness, with the exception of a young man who afforded comic relief. A high level of interested, friendly debate was maintained, and several cordial promises to heckle the respective candidates at their public meetings were given. Workers will be most welcome at our

Committee Rooms, 1, Queen's Road, Peckham. There is plenty of interesting work to do. Trams from Victoria and Westminster pass the door.

By-Election Policy of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

WHEN taking part in a by-election the first thing which the National Union does is to ask the following questions of both, or all, the candidates; since upon their answers the course taken by us entirely depends.

1. If elected will you vote for a Bill to extend the Franchise to women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men?
2. Will you declare yourself in favour of Women's Suffrage on the above terms in your election address?
3. Will you sign a requisition to your party leaders asking them to take up this question at the earliest possible moment?
4. If elected will you ballot for a place for a Bill on the above terms on the opening day of the Session?
5. Will you mention Women's Suffrage in your speeches?
6. Will you oppose any further extension of the Franchise for men unless it includes the extension of the Franchise to women?

Should all the candidates reply in the affirmative to all these questions, or should the answers of all be equally unsatisfactory, the National Union would take no side in the election. Should the answers of one, however, be decidedly more favourable than those of the others, we should support that man—"He who's for us, for him are we."

We cannot emphasize too much that it is upon the candidate's views on Women's Suffrage, as expressed in answer to these six comprehensive questions, and on this alone, that our support depends. We have no party; we are neither for nor against the Government; we support the stronger supporter of Women's Suffrage, be he Liberal, Conservative, or Labour Member.

I have said that when all the candidates are equally favourable or equally unfavourable we take no side. Under these circumstances we confine ourselves to propaganda work pure and simple. We devote ourselves entirely to educating public opinion, and we choose the by-election time because it gives us an exceptional opportunity of educating the electors.

In our meetings we lay before our audiences the arguments for Women's Suffrage, and we appeal to the electors to question their candidate on the subject, to let him know their views, and to urge him to give the movement his support. Occasionally, when the election would not otherwise be contested, and the sole candidate is unfavourable to Women's Suffrage, we run a candidate ourselves—a man the chief plank of whose policy is Women's Suffrage. This, however, is rarely necessary.

Our aim in all cases is to make Women's Suffrage a living question at the election. We would educate the electors, but we would also educate the nation, men and women, that they may put pressure on the electors, that they may put pressure on the members, that they may put pressure on the Government, that the vote may be granted to women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.

MARGARET ROBERTSON.

Women's Conservative and Unionist Franchise League.

THE new Conservative League for Women's Suffrage grows apace, and we are glad to record that it is hard to keep up with the requests for information and leaflets. It cannot be put too strongly how urgent it is for all Conservative women to join and to help work up this League. Members can do so without giving up their membership of other societies. Many places are starting work, including Edinburgh, Knutsford, Marple, Chapel-en-le-Frith, and Helensburgh. A worker is wanted in or near Matlock Baths, someone able to give time and near enough to fix an hour two or three times a week to see people.

There is a good place for an office there—a tea-room kept by ladies. Matlock Baths is crowded with hydros, and we could spread and advertise the movement without

much expense. Bath and Harrogate would also be splendid fields for work. Names and addresses of those willing to join should be sent with a stamped and addressed envelope to Dame Warden, Inner Circle Offices, Grosvenor Tea Rooms, Cheltenham, who writes to us as follows:—"I have taken offices at the Grosvenor Tea Rooms, North Place, Cheltenham, kept by a lady. They are exceedingly well situated, particularly in view of the Pageant, as they abut on two of the roads leading to the Park, and I have arranged to have boards at each side of the house in the Gardens, bearing the words "Women's Conservative and Unionist Franchise League."

I hope to be able to give more detailed information about the scheme of organization shortly. Yorkshire, Durham, Norfolk, Suffolk, Rutland, Dorsetshire, Cornwall, and Northumberland are still without representation. Will readers of *Women's Franchise* try and remove these blots from our escutcheon? Leaflets to be scattered abroad in letters, in library books, in trains, and particularly in waiting rooms, are fruitful in results and may be obtained from the offices to members at 1s. 6d. per 100, including postage, 2s. 6d. per 300—non-members 3s. a hundred. DAME WARDEN.

Liverpool University W.S.S.

THERE is a strong Women's Suffrage Society at Liverpool University—the members of which are anxious to affiliate to the National Union. This would be a great gain to us, and we have gladly accepted their affiliation, but as each of the Societies in the Union is supposed to represent a Parliamentary division, which Liverpool University is not, their affiliation must be ratified formally at the next Council Meeting.

A Women's Suffrage Play.

"EXAMPLE strikes where precept fails"; and though *The Times* circulates in all the civilized countries of the world it is unlikely that Lady M'Laren's letter (*re Women's Suffrage*) will have as much influence as the charming play, 'Man and Woman,' written by Mrs. James Ward, the Hon. Secretary of the Cambridge Branch of the Women's Suffrage Society, and performed, for the second time in Cambridge, at the Victoria Assembly Room, on Monday evening. The room was crowded, and the simple little plot was listened to with the intensest interest to the end. It was an excellent object lesson that when the matter of the play is earnest and sincere and skilfully worked out by clever conversation, the scenery may be disregarded. The ironing-table, the baby and the cradle, were properties sufficiently realistic to make a splendid setting for the various characters and their missions. I hope that other Suffrage Societies will do their best to induce Mrs. Ward and her friends to perform 'Man and Woman' in other places. It is far too good to begin and end here, and it is certain that many people will go to a play who would not be moved to attend a meeting. We congratulate Mrs. Ward on her courage and enterprise, and on the great success which her play has met with."—Extract from *Cambridge Independent Press*.

Branch Societies.

BATH.—Under the auspices of the Bath Women's Suffrage Society, a meeting was held at the Guildhall this afternoon. The Banqueting Room was crowded to its utmost capacity. Mrs. Ashworth Hallett presided, and was supported by Lady Hobhouse, the Hon. Mrs. Whittuck, Mrs. Linley Blathwayt, Mrs. C. R. Tollemache, Mrs. Albert Hay, Mrs. Waller, Mrs. Latter Parsons, Mrs. Blackstone, Miss Whittaker, the Misses Walkers, Miss E. Severs, &c.

The Mayor and Mayoress wrote regretting inability to attend, and a telegram to a similar effect was sent by Dr. and Mrs. Beddoe. The latter, the Chairman said, had advocated the cause of Women's Suffrage since the time when John Stuart Mill was their leader.

Mrs. Fawcett made a splendid speech, and was ably seconded by Miss Alice Clark and Miss Severs.

CHELtenham.—A united demonstration of this Society and the Women's Freedom League took place on the 6th of March, in the Town Hall. The room, which seats 620, was

packed, with people standing round the walls, and an overflow was held in an adjoining room, which was also crowded, the audience spreading into the corridor. The chairman was Mrs. Florence Earengy, B.A., and the speakers were Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Billington-Greig, and Mr. Malcolm Mitchell (Men's League). Mrs. Frances Swiney (President, Women's Suffrage Society) moved the vote of thanks, which was seconded by Mr. MacIlquham. Front seats were charged for, and the receipts, including a collection, were largely in excess of expenses. A full account will be found in the Women's Freedom League pages.

The borough member, Mr. Sears, paired against Mr. Stanger's Bill. The Conservative candidate, Viscount Duncannon, in view of his unsatisfactory attitude, was heckled at a public meeting held on February 5th. His answer was evasive, the subject being received with ridicule by the whole audience, including his lordship. A protest was therefore made to the accompaniment of howls, cries of "shame," and laughter.

A small impromptu drawing-room meeting was held on March 7th, by kind invitation of Mrs. Swiney, to meet Miss Gardner, Secretary of the Birmingham Women's Suffrage Society, who spoke on the new by-election policy of the National Union, contrasting it with that of the militant party. There was much discussion, many of those present defending the latter policy. All the guests but one signed a memorial urging the Government to take up the Women's Enfranchisement Bill.

THEODORA MILLS.

HUDDERSFIELD.—The Huddersfield branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies held a whist drive and dance at the Temperance Hall on Wednesday evening. Though chiefly occupied in the pleasures of the popular card game, the advocates of Women's Suffrage did not forget the cause which they have so much at heart, and during the evening occasion was found to give expression to their views. The chief magistrate (Alderman O. Balmforth), though unable to remain long, showed his sympathy for the movement in an excellent address, and Alderman A. Gee, Councillor E. A. Beaumont, and Councillor Littlewood (Honley), also accorded hearty support. The guests were received by Miss Siddon (President), supported by Mrs. T. Kilner Clarke, Mrs. E. A. Beaumont (Hon. Treasurer), Mrs. Studdard (Hon. Secretary), and Miss Lowenthal. A short meeting was held under the chairmanship of Miss Siddon, who was supported by the Mayor, Mrs. Kilner Clarke, Miss Lowenthal, Mrs. E. A. Beaumont, Mrs. Studdard, Alderman A. Gee, Councillor E. A. Beaumont, and Councillor Littlewood (Honley).

HULL.—Mrs. Stanbury, of London, addressed a large meeting of Suffragists, held in the Oddfellows' Hall on Wednesday, 4th. The President, Mrs. Fred Richardson, was in the chair.

LLANDUDNO.—A largely attended meeting was held in the Town Hall on the 11th inst., under the auspices of the Women's Liberal Association, to hear an address by Miss Margaret Ashton on 'Women's Citizenship.' The chair was taken by the Rev. Irvon Davies, who strongly championed the woman's cause. Miss Ashton gave a most able and interesting address on women's work for the State. An attempt at heckling on the part of some irresponsible youths was early suppressed by the tact of the chairman, and it did not prevent Miss Ashton receiving an enthusiastic reception.

LONDON, Ealing.—A very successful drawing-room meeting was held at 41, Amherst Road, Ealing on Tuesday, March 2nd, by kind invitation of Mrs. Longden. Miss Bompas made a most interesting speech, and several new members joined.

The Committee gave a most successful At Home at Buol's Tea Rooms, Ealing, on March 9th, at which over 100 people were present. Mrs. Rackham made a short but effective speech, and afterwards questions were asked and a useful discussion followed. The result of the afternoon was most encouraging, nineteen new members joined and a great deal of interest was aroused.

Hampstead.—A drawing-room meeting was held on 9th inst. at the house of Mrs. David Singer. Mrs. Singer took the chair, and said the one argument that politicians brought against the Women's Suffrage Bill was that women did not want the vote; this was really no argument, but at the same time it would be far better for the cause if all indifference and objection to the movement among women could be overcome.

A fine address was given by Mrs. Gilliland Husband, who took a lofty ethical standpoint.

South Kensington.—The public meeting on February 25th has been followed by three drawing-room meetings. The first was given by Mrs. H. Roughton Hogg, at 2, Vicarage Gate, on the evening of March 3rd, about 120 people being present. Mr. McCabe took the chair, and Miss Sterling, Miss Grove, Mr. Malcolm Mitchell, and Mr. W. L. George were the speakers.

An afternoon meeting took place on the 5th, at Mrs. Löwy's, 76, Holland Park, when Miss Jenner took the chair, and Miss Bompas and Mr. Bentwich spoke. The audience numbered about eighty, and thirteen new members joined.

On March 12th, the South Kensington Committee met members of the North Paddington Women's Unionist and Tariff Reform Association, at 8, Queen's Gate Terrace, by kind permission of Mrs. Brinton. Mrs. Hylton Dale presided, and Miss Murrell Marris and Miss Bompas addressed the meeting. All three gatherings have been very successful.

Wandsworth.—On Tuesday afternoon, March 10th, a public meeting for women only was held at the Baptist Lecture Hall, East Hill, Wandsworth, with Mrs. Todd of Putney in the chair. The speakers were Miss Abadam on 'Woman and Work,' and Miss Bompas on 'Woman and the Vote.'

WHITBY.—The Whitby and District Women's Suffrage Society have just published a report of the year's proceedings.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

	March Meetings.	P.M.
13th	Sutton Coldfield , Branch Meeting, Binorwic, Four Oaks	3
17th	Uppminster , Drawing-Room Meeting	Speakers, Lady Frances Balfour Mrs. Bertram
18th	Darlington , Drawing-Room Meeting, 2, Elton Terrace	Hostess, Mrs. Mason
	London , Lantern Lecture on India, The Mall Hall, Notting Hill Gate	Mrs. Flora Annie Steele
	Tickets, 5s. and 2s. 6d., to be obtained from Miss Cockle, 34, De Vere Gardens, Kensington. Proceeds for London Society for Women's Suffrage.	
	Surbiton , Public Meeting, Assembly Rooms	Speakers, Lady Frances Balfour Mrs. Lethbridge
19th	Bucks , High Wycombe, First Annual Meeting, Town Hall	Chair, Lady Knightley of Fawsley Speakers, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, Miss F. J. Dove, Earl Russell Hostess, Mrs. Carl Hentschel Speaker, Lady Frances Balfour Speaker, Miss Cockle
	London , Drawing-Room Meeting, 55, Chancery Lane	
	Tonbridge , Debate, Conservative Association, S. Ward	
20th	Hull , Hesselwood, Drawing-Room Meeting	Hostess, Mrs. Pease Chair, Dr. Mary Murdoch Speaker, Mrs. Stanbury Hostess, Miss Thomas
23rd	London , Hampstead, Drawing-Room Meeting, 103, Greencroft Gardens	Speaker, Lady Frances Balfour
25th	Bristol , Band of Hope Union Rooms, St. James's Square	Meeting of Subscribers and Members of Women's Co-Operative Guild Speaker, Mrs. Jackson
	Cheltenham , Social Meeting, Grosvenor Tea Rooms	4.30
	Handsworth , Women's Unionist Association, Drawing-Room Meeting	Chair, Lady Smith Speaker, Mrs. Osler
	Llandudno , Cambridge Restaurant	Speaker, Mr. B. C. Jones
	Olton , Public Meeting, St. Margaret's Schools	Speaker, Mrs. I. K. Reid
	Whitby , Public Meeting	Speakers, Mrs. Swanwick, M.A. Miss F. Nelson Pringle
26th	London Society , At Home, 25, Victoria St., Westminster	4-6.30
	At Home , 20, Craven Terrace	Hostess, Mrs. Spencer Graves Speaker, Mrs. Percy Boulnois
	Sutton Coldfield , Drawing-Room Meeting	Speaker Mrs. Osler
31st	Birkenhead , Public Meeting, Association Hall	Chair, John Zeigler, Esq., J.P. Speakers, Mrs. Fawcett, J. Malcolm Mitchell, M. Llewellyn Davies, M.A., I. Ivory Cripps, B.A.

* * * Kindly address all communications intended for these columns to Miss Hardcastle, 25, Victoria Street, S.W.; to reach her by first post Saturday.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Women's Freedom League (late W.S.P.U.).

OFFICES: 18, BUCKINGHAM STREET, STRAND, W.C., and 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Hon. Treasurer: MRS. DESPARD.

MRS. COATES HANSEN
MISS HODGSON
MISS IRENE MILLER
MISS FITZHERBERT

Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG.

MRS. DRYSDALE
MRS. SANDERSON
MRS. BELL
MRS. HOLMES

Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.S.C.

MISS MANSELL
MRS. EILEEN MITCHELL
MRS. M. CLAYTON
MISS HAMILTON

Notes.

THE BILL.—The country is roused at last. Men have at length been persuaded to detach their minds from sporting events and turn them to politics. The male elector is awake. The latest cricket-match (or is it football?) does not tempt him to neglect his patriotic duty of declaring his will concerning the measure now stirring the emotions of the people. We refer, of course, to the Licensing Bill. If there is one thing the average Englishman thoroughly understands, it is his drink.

JUSTICE.—We have also our Bill. It is unfortunate that the Licensing Bill should have turned up in time to disturb our by-election at Peckham, for the electors are not in the habit of entertaining more than one idea at a time, and it is not to be expected that Justice will come before Drink. But in spite of this circumstance, our workers at Peckham have no need to be cast down.

The devoted work of Mrs. Manson will bear fruit in due season. That three separate Suffrage bodies are working in the constituency, and outstripping in ardour, energy, and enthusiasm, the efforts of the party politicians, and that the Suffrage meetings are attended by the more thoughtful section of the community, are facts which cannot fail to advance our cause, whatever may be the result of the election in other ways.

SHELVED.—It is to be deplored that some of our fellow Suffragists are contented to accept without protest the theory that our Bill is shelved. They appear to receive the dictum of Members of Parliament who say that it is shelved, as if that dictum was divinely inspired. Politicians are hardly to be blamed for lukewarmness who find women so meekly submissive and apparently so ready to acquiesce in a policy of indefinite procrastination. It may be inconvenient, it may be very difficult for the Government to do this act of elementary justice to women, but that surely is no concern of ours. It seems to us that the duty of all women is to press their claim in season and out of season—to press it the more insistently the more reluctant the politicians are to acknowledge it, until it becomes actually more inconvenient and more difficult for them to shelve the Bill than to pass it into law.

THE ANNUAL FARCE of the Women's Enfranchisement Bill has had a very good run despite the fact that it has been a very discreditable performance. Unlike most farces it has afforded amusement to the principal actors only. But this year there are unmistakable signs that even the House of Commons has had enough of it. The clowns and tumblers played their usual parts, but the performance fell flat, and was received with unconcealed impatience by an audience lately grown critical. The farce is played out. The curtain might be rung down upon it for ever if women would so will it. But as long as women persist in handing over their minds and consciences to the keeping of the politicians, as long as they think it unwomanly to assert their will in the matter, so long will this dreary farce be enacted. The plausible excuses for inaction made by the Government this year will be made next year, and the year after, and for ever, unless women themselves put a stop to it and demand their immediate enfranchisement, listening to no excuses and refusing to countenance any further dallying with the subject.

Peckham By-Election.

The electorate of Peckham are having what Americans would call "the time of their life." Travellers by tram through its semi-suburban streets may vainly attempt to count the almost innumerable committee rooms of the many contending organizations engaged in the fight. Owners of empty shops have found a ready means to "find in loss a gain to match." Liberals, Conservatives, and Mr. Hunnable, the Church Association, the Society for the Defence of Church Schools, the National Defence Association, the Tariff Reform League, the Free Trade Union, the United Kingdom Alliance, the Licensed Victuallers, the National Democratic Federation, the National Social and Political Union, the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and the Women's Liberal Federation, have all taken the field.

The Women's Freedom League opened its Committee Rooms at 196, High Street, Peckham, on Friday the 13th. Window-dressing being completed, we left an admiring crowd struggling to get a glimpse of Miss Cicely Hamilton's "Beware! A Warning to Suffragists," and set out sandwiching, led by Mrs. How Martyn, Mrs. Parsons, a local stalwart, acting as rear-guard and scoring effectively off the remarks of the jeering crowd.

On Saturday morning the man in the street had already begun to take us seriously—at least, while we were in our Committee Rooms. Letters, callers, reporters, and helpers now came thick and fast. We made two sallies as sandwiches, and formed three Indian file processions with flags. Each one of us carried a different handbill, and these the passers-by readily accepted and also read. At three in the afternoon we started for Peckham Rye to hold our first open-air meeting, flags flying and a bell ringing. We borrowed a chair, and as a big crowd had followed us we had an audience ready to hand. The speakers were given a most attentive hearing.

Miss Muriel Matters made a brilliant speech, illustrating her points by allusions to the effects of the Women's Vote in Australia, of which she has personal knowledge. Mrs. Sainy was able to keep the meeting interested by her speech on the conditions under which women are sweated and exploited in different industries. Mr. Simmonds made a vigorous and closely reasoned defence of Women's Suffrage in general, and of Militant Tactics in particular. Heckling followed. At last, as we were, like the time, becoming well spent, we appealed for one last question. An old man in the crowd said he should like to ask "Why women shouldn't have the vote?" and the meeting, which had assembled to scoff, dispersed with cheers.

In the evening I took the chair at College Hall, Burchell Road, Mrs. Holmes, Miss Matters, and Miss Mary Pearson were the speakers. We had been warned that we should not get an audience of twenty, and that there would probably be a disturbance by the mob who accompanied us from the Committee Rooms. However, the small hall was packed; the audience behaved admirably, and four dozen copies of *Women's Franchise* were quickly sold. A large overflow meeting, numbering about 600, was afterwards held outside the hall, at which Miss Fitzherbert and Mr. Simmonds reinforced the indoor speakers. This brought the first two exciting days of our educational campaign to a most successful close. But Peckham isn't Worcester, and it is a long while since Blake saw his first vision of Angels on Peckham Rye!

K. MANSON.

Conquerors at Croydon.

Mrs. BILLINGTON-GREIG came—was seen—and conquered! The meeting at the small Public Hall, Croydon, on March 9th, to welcome the released prisoners, Mrs. Dempsey and Miss Mary Pearson, was surely unique in the annals of militant Suffrage gatherings, for not a single dissentient note was heard. Indeed, at the end of Mrs. Billington-Greig's address on 'Militant Tactics,' the chairman, Mrs. Holmes, almost pleaded for a little opposition, but in vain. "I may take it then that you are all converted to our point of view," she said, and a hearty round of applause apparently signified assent. It was a crowded meeting too, every seat occupied and paid for. The Croydon Branch may well feel proud of its propaganda work, and Mrs. Billington-Greig may rest assured that her clear and eloquent address silenced any objections that lingered in the minds of her audience. We have heard from various sources that several people came armed with insuperable objections, and (in their estimation) unanswerable questions, but, strange to say, these were the very points that were dealt with by the lecturer, and they decided not to bring them forward.

Many disquieting rumours were afloat before the beginning of the meeting. We heard that doughty stalwarts from Sutton were coming with their usual stock of brilliant arguments—rats and tin trumpets—but with the exception of a few youths who got up and filed out in an orderly but subdued and disappointed fashion, in the middle of the meeting, there was no sign of the youthful male objector. The youths, we were told later, had intended "raising Cain," but were horrified to find, as they listened to Mrs. Billington-Greig, that they were being converted against their will, and so decided to flee from conviction while yet they were able. It may be that the imposing presence of the local inspector of police, who mounted guard at the doors, and watched over us with the most commendable assiduity, had something to do with their sudden decision; but we can afford to take a more charitable view.

The one disappointing feature of the meeting was the unavoidable absence through illness of Mrs. Dempsey. But Miss Mary Pearson was there, looking as little like an inmate of one of His Majesty's gaols as one could imagine. Indeed, the local press broke forth into poetic panegyrics on the appearance of the ladies who "graced the platform," to use a well-worn journalistic phrase.

"If these be gaol-birds,
Then to gaol with me!"

wrote one enthusiastic reporter; and we can at least feel grateful for the sentiment even if we cannot honestly discern the poetry.

There is no doubt that the sandwich brigade, which paraded all the principal streets on Saturday, and created quite a sensation, had an appreciative effect upon the attendance at the meeting. To them our grateful thanks are due, and also to the men sympathizers who "stewarded" so efficiently.

The Bible—Women and Men.

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE' of March 12th contains some excellent references to the Scriptures on p. 427, and again in the 'Women's Freedom League' columns (p. 433).

In one of the two (contradictory) accounts of the creation of mankind, woman is said to have been made of man. All of us, whatever our beliefs, can appreciate the consequent parable: In the first creation woman was made of man, and sin came into the world; in the second—spiritual—creation the new Man is made of woman, and justice and righteousness enter. Christ is not only made of woman, He is made in the image of His Mother, and represents all those qualities, those moral preferences, those forces, which the "old Adam" despised.

We hear a great deal about what men think women ought to do, how they ought to feel, and what they hold to be "womanly." Women, however, have come to the conclusion that the man-made woman is against nature.

M. A. R. T.

Scottish Notes.

THE work goes on apace in Scotland. The absolute necessity of the Scottish Office in Gordon Street, Glasgow, is demonstrated daily. Enquirers call, new members join, literature is sold, and members and sympathizers are able to keep in touch with the entire Scottish and National interests. On Tuesday a successful meeting was held in Dunfermline. Miss Roberts, Principal of the College of Hygiene, occupied the chair. Mrs. Sanderson, Miss Anna Munro, Mrs. Donaldson, and Miss Duguid addressed the meeting. The audience was most sympathetic and attentive, expressing entire approval of the militant tactics.

At Kilmarnock a large and enthusiastic meeting was held on Thursday, addressed by the Scottish prisoners. Baillie McKerron, who presided, remarked that as a general rule the prisoners were in front of him, this time they were on each side. Mrs. Sanderson, who is well known in the district, was warmly welcomed as she rose to speak. During her witty and at times pathetic address, her hearers realized very vividly what prison life really is. Much credit was due to the Secretary and members of the Kilmarnock branch for organizing such a large and successful gathering. The meeting of the week, however, was the reception held in Glasgow on Saturday evening to welcome the Scottish prisoners. The large Prince of Wales halls were overflowing with friends eager to join in the expression of appreciation. Miss Isa Hamilton very ably presided. A delightful musical programme of songs, recitation, and violin selection was arranged by Miss Soga.

Miss Husband, of Dundee, welcomed Mrs. Sanderson and Miss Munro as personal friends, and also in the name of all present.

Mrs. Sanderson, thanking the gathering for their royal reception, laid much stress on necessity for prison reform, which she considered was one of the most important questions which lay before women when they got the vote. Her quotation from a hymn which the prisoners had to sing in Holloway was much appreciated:—

The tall trees in the greenwood,
The meadows where we play,
The rushes by the water
We gather every day
In Holloway!

Mrs. Billington-Greig made a very eloquent appeal for those present to save the Bill by every means in their power. Those who could not go to prison could help in many ways—joining the League if they were not already members, and giving whatever money they could possibly afford.

The meeting very cordially responded. At all the meetings held during the week new members were gained. The sale of work is drawing near. A most successful cake and candy sale was held in Edinburgh last Saturday. Friends are reminded that Mrs. Bell wants all work to be sent to her by the 23rd to 39, Comely Bank Place. The Glasgow exhibition of work and cake and candy sale is on Saturday in the office at 30, Gordon Street, from 12 o'clock. We have already received some beautiful and useful articles, as well as pictures from lady artists, but we require much more.

A. M.

Branch Notes.

Bromley Branch.—The monthly Branch Meeting was held in the Co-operative Hall, East Street, on February 25th, Miss Boullen in the chair. The secretary read a paper on the 'History of the Suffrage Movement,' in which she emphasized the fact that we are agitating now for privileges once actually possessed by women prior to 1832.

On March 4th a crowded meeting was held at 94, College Road, to consider the steps to be taken by the Bromley Branch to further the cause of the Women's Enfranchisement Bill. It was agreed to memorialize the Cabinet, to write to Members of the Cabinet and Members of Parliament, and to do all that was possible to carry out the wishes of the Hon. Organizing Secretary.

The Views of the Author of 'The Jungle' on the Franchise for Women.

MR. UPTON SINCLAIR, the writer of 'The Jungle,' was asked lately by an interviewer for his views on the subject of Women's Franchise. "I certainly approve of it," he replied. "I am a Socialist, and every Socialist believes in Women's Franchise. Women are as capable of using the privilege as men are, and there is no doubt that they will have it before long, even in England, and when they have it they will know how to use it. The other day, you see, in Finland, directly the women got the vote they sent seven women to Parliament. Some people said that that showed that they were not fit to have a vote. I thought," said Mr. Sinclair with a quiet smile, "that it showed they were very fit."

"No," in reply to a question, "I have never been to England. I correspond with many men who are interested in social questions there. I believe that English women as a rule are more interested in public questions than women in America are. There is no doubt that if more of our women gave their minds to such things it would have a beneficial effect upon public life."

"Lotus."

To K. M. on Her Eye.

HAIL, holy Martyr-of-the-Eye
To Woman's Cause in Peckham Rye!
A woman poetaster too,
I tender thee my humble due;
And send this little votive strain
To bind upon thy brow of pain!

E. M. H.

** To all kind inquirers Mrs. Manson returns, in prose, her heartfelt thanks. Her injured left eye will soon be quite right, but she urgently requires more workers, especially for a procession on Saturday and on Monday the eve of the poll.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

From March 19th to April 2nd.

		P. M.
Meetings Daily.—	Mrs. How Martyn	12.30
Peckham By-Election	Dr. Bouchier, Mrs. Despard	3.30
	Miss Turquand, Mrs. Manson	7
	Miss Matters and others	8.30
Thurs. 19 Women Passive Resisters Meeting, 196, High Street, Peckham, S.E.	Mrs. Despard	3.30
✓ Helensburgh, Public Meeting	Miss Murray	8
	Mrs. Billington-Greig	
	Miss Cicely Hamilton	8
Sat. 21 Glasgow, 30, Gordon Street, Exhibition and Sale of Goods Reception by Miss Henderson, Eton House, Dacre Park, Lee, S.E.	Mrs. Nevinston	
	Mr. Manson	
	Mrs. Chandler	
	Mr. Simmonds	
	Mrs. Despard	8
Sun. 22 Cong. Church, Anerley	Mrs. Billington-Greig	8
Springburn Hall	Mrs. Despard	8
Mon. 23 Margate, Forester's Hall	Mrs. Holmes	8
	Mrs. Manson	8
Unitarian Church, High St., Lewisham		
Tues. 24 53, Dingwall Road, Croydon	Dr. Thornett	9.45
Wed. 25 Young Soots, Dunfermline	Miss Munro	8
Partick Burgh Hall	Miss Munro	8
	Mrs. Sanderson	
	Mr. J. McCabe	
Thurs. 26 Social, 18, Buckingham St.	Mrs. Billington-Greig	3.30
April 2 Hackney Baths	Miss Hamilton	8
	Mrs. Billington-Greig	8

March 31st and April 1st **Suffragist Bazaar, Caxton Hall.**
Admission: Afternoon, 1s.; Evening, 6d. and 3d.

** All communications intended for the Women's Freedom League columns should be addressed to The Editor, W.F.L., 18, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

A debate followed on 'Militant Tactics,' Miss Boullen presiding. Miss Warren opened, Mrs. Harris opposed. After a spirited discussion it was unanimously resolved that 'Militant Tactics' (so called) had been of the greatest service to the Suffrage Movement.

AGNES EVANS, Hon. Sec.

Central Branch.—The address on 'How the men got their Vote,' by Miss M. Bawden, on Thursday last, was one of special interest. Miss Bawden described at length the long struggle of the men for political freedom, and clearly showed that, like the history of all great achievements, it was a record of almost insuperable difficulties conquered and early failures overcome. Only by great pains and perseverance did they finally gain their end; and, considering the origin and progress of the Reform movement, it is hard to understand how the difficulties under which women are labouring to-day can fail to awaken a responsive echo in the hearts of Englishmen acquainted with the history of their own country.

Other London Branches—looking for interesting and instructive features for their Branch meetings—would do well, I think, to include this lecture in their programmes. M. L.

Dundee Branch.—An open meeting was held on March 10th, when Miss Husband presided over a large audience. Councillor Reid gave an address on 'Married Women in Factories,' a very interesting subject to us, as out of the 27,630 women workers employed in our city, 6,000 are married. Mr. Reid dealt with the causes and results of married women's labour, and drew a vivid picture of the hard lives of children whose mothers are employed in factories or mills from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. An animated discussion followed.

We are arranging for a demonstration in the Gilfillan Hall on Friday, April 10th, when the speakers are to be Mrs. Billington-Greig, Mrs. Sanderson, and Miss Munro. L. CLUNAS.

Hillhead Branch.—A most interesting meeting was held in Hillhead Burgh Halls on March 9th. Miss Hamilton, L.L.A., F.E.I.S., spoke on 'The meaning of the present agitation for the Franchise.' On Monday, March 23rd, in the same halls Mrs. Somerville will speak on 'The Elberfeldt System and Infant Mortality,' with special reference to the Cowcaddens district of Glasgow. E. S. S.

Important Notice.

BAZAAR.

If every member of the League who is doing nothing for the **Suffrage Sale of Work** will immediately send her name and address to Mrs. How Martyn, she will hear by return of post something greatly to her advantage. All members are reminded that the sale takes place in Caxton Hall on March 31st and April 1st. Some criticism has reached us concerning the choice of the latter date; but we beg to assure critics that the Committee settled on April 1st, bearing in mind the old proverb, "A fool and his money are soon parted."

A special feature will be the **Arts and Crafts Section.** Works of art of all descriptions, sketches in any medium, models, reliefs, wood-carving, metal work, enamels, art jewellery, and artistic bric-à-brac will be gratefully received for this department, which is arranged by a committee of artists. The works, labelled and priced, should be sent, on or before March 26th, to Mrs. D. Meeson Coates, 9, Trafalgar Studios, Manresa Road, Chelsea. Already a number of beautiful things have arrived, and it is to be hoped that this will be a really representative exhibition of women's art.

Second-hand Stall.—Suffragists who have too many pictures, books, ornaments, and too much old lace, china, and jewellery, are asked to send their surplus (marked with a reserve price) to 18, Buckingham Street, to be sold for the good of the cause at the forthcoming Bazaar. All friends are urged to come as buyers. Prices will be reasonable.

THE At Home to-day will be held at 196, High Street, Peckham, instead of 18, Buckingham Street.

The use of a **motor-car** is urgently required at Peckham. Will any friend respond to this appeal.

The account of the **Hampstead Meeting** at Mrs. Brindley's house arrived at the office too late for insertion.

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

OFFICE: 38, MUSEUM STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

Notes and Comments.

BEFORE our next issue copies of the Committee's First Annual Report will be in the hands of our members. It is hoped that all members will carefully read this report in order that they may come to the General Meeting on April 6th (Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, 7 p.m.) prepared to discuss the work of the future in the light of a year's experience. Notices of business which any member may desire to lay before the members on that occasion, as well as nominations to the Executive, must reach the Hon. Secs. not less than seven days before the meeting, *i.e.* must be posted not later than March 29th. It will greatly facilitate the Committee's work if members would kindly give even longer notice.

We cannot over-emphasize the importance of this general meeting. Upon its result will depend the whole of our work for the ensuing year—a year which may perhaps witness important changes in the political situation. For these we must be prepared as far as foresight can go. In the first place, it is absolutely essential that there should be a more elaborate office system. This implies more workers and more money. Without anticipating the Treasurer's Report, we may say that the income of the League has been wholly disproportionate to the responsibilities which the League has taken upon itself.

So far as workers are concerned it is, of course, difficult for men who have to earn their living to give as much time as some women can spare. If we wanted, for example, to take part in a by-election, say in North Staffordshire, how many men could give up a week or a fortnight to go and canvass a Midland constituency? Hardly any. If the Men's League does undertake such work it must do it thoroughly. If we took public action and were ineffective, we should not only fail to give the women the immediate help required; *we should actually harm the cause!*

The first year's work has been very well in its way. But the time has now arrived when the League must do its duty to the cause by coming into the battle line with a definite policy, sufficient money, and a body of workers. The name we bear is a high and honourable one, and the women's societies may well expect that we shall discharge the duties which the name implies.

The numerical strength of the League is now increasing rapidly, and on the whole the average of subscriptions is higher. It is now time, therefore, to reconsider the whole position on a business footing. The League has a great duty before it. We have to see that the women do not bear the whole burden of the fight. Their prodigal expenditure of labour, money, and enthusiasm is a standing reproach. It is the duty of men—who have the power which women have not—to see that the heroic self-sacrifice of women shall not be any longer required to win a position which men have hitherto refused to give them. The spectacle of a woman quietly selling flowers for the cause in St. Paul's Churchyard amid the jeers of City cads is one which should stir us into a new activity lest our "intelligent sympathy" become a by-word.

Stewards.

BOTH the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and the Women's Freedom League have asked for workers in the Peckham campaign. There is therefore a call on the services both of those who are pledged to work against the

Government and of those who take a different view of their duty. We call upon our members to communicate at once either with Miss Mary Smith, London Society for Women's Suffrage, 1, Queen's Road, Peckham, or with Mrs. Manson, Women's Freedom League, 196, High Street, Peckham. We have not yet been invited to send workers by the National Women's Social and Political Union, but we earnestly hope that our members who advocate its policy will lose no time in sending in their names to 4, Clement's Inn.

The various forces which are at work in this election, and the high feeling which will undoubtedly characterize the struggle, make it incumbent on all who can possibly spare time to go and help. We want no catastrophe such as that which formed the crowning scandal of the Mid-Devon election.

Liverpool and Birkenhead.

THE first Men's League meeting in Liverpool was held in the Engineers' Rooms, 48, Mount Pleasant, on Tuesday, March 17th. Unfortunately, we cannot give an account of it this week, but we hope next week to announce that a strong local society has been founded. The League is greatly indebted to Mr. A. R. Allerton for his vigorous propaganda.

A big meeting will be held on March 30th in the Picton Hall, under the auspices of the local women's society. Mrs. Fawcett and Mrs. Philip Snowden will speak, and it was hoped that Mr. J. M. Mitchell would say a few words for the Men's League, but circumstances prevent this.

On the following night a similar meeting will take place at Birkenhead (speakers Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Snowden and Mr. Mitchell). It is probable that this meeting will have among its results the formation of a local men's society affiliated to the London League.

Bristol.

A MEETING was held in Clifton to inaugurate a Bristol Branch of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage on March 5th, at 2, Kensington Villas, Royal Park.

The Rev. Donald Fraser presided, and after a few well-chosen introductory remarks, asked Mr. F. W. Rogers to speak. He described the object of the League, and expressed his regret that such a great waste of brain power occurred in the country owing to the exclusion of women from a share in the Government. He pointed out that the loss was felt by every member of the community, and he trusted that men would more and more become aware of their loss and their responsibility for that loss. He then moved the following resolution, "That a branch of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage be formed in Bristol." The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The election of officers was then proceeded with. The Rev. Canon Talbot, D.D., Bristol Cathedral, was elected President, Mr. F. W. Rogers Honorary Secretary, Mr. P. H. Thomas Assistant Secretary. A strong committee was also elected.

The Secretary then read letters of sympathy with the movement and regret at inability to attend from the following among others:—Alderman Curle, Capt. Nicholletts, R.N., the Rev. Randall-Vicars, Rev. Boynton Smith, Rev. A. S. Rasleigh, Rev. W. M. Mowbray, Rev. C. P. Wilson, Merrick Heath, Esq., Major Edwards, John Hunt, Esq., Professor Barrell, and W. H. C. Cross, Esq.

A number of local gentlemen were elected Vice-Presidents. It was decided to send a large contingent to act as stewards at Mrs. Henry Fawcett's meeting on the 11th inst.

Many men have since joined representing every shade of political opinion, and there is every hope that the League will lend active and useful support to the cause of Women's Suffrage.
F. W. ROGERS, Hon. Sec.

Edinburgh.

THE new branch of the League is holding a public meeting at the end of this month in conjunction with the Women's Freedom League. It was hoped that the Men's League would be represented by Mr. Israel Zangwill, but most unfortunately he is unable to go.

The March of the Women.

(To a well-worn tune.)

MEN of England! Fathers, husbands! Hear the women's marching-song!

Men of England! Sons and brothers! Have the valour of the strong!

Do the simple human justice that has been denied so long
To the host that's marching on.

Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah!

Sisters all, come marching on!

We are made in the same image by the same Almighty hand,
We share in all the labours, all the sorrows of the land;
We are mothers of your children, yet we bear a bitter brand—
So our host comes marching on.

Glory, glory, &c.

We are mothers, we are daughters, we are sisters, we are wives;
In the cause of life ungrudging we are yielding up our lives;
We would share the great endeavours, we would burst the bitter gyves—
So our host comes marching on.

Glory, glory, &c.

We are banished from the harvest, we who toil to sow the seed;
Stand dumb outside the temple in the hours of deepest need;
Have to bear the sight of folly rushing in to foolish deed—
So our host comes marching on.

Glory, glory, &c.

Men of England, by the heritage we share upon the earth,
Men of England, by our oneness in the miracle of birth,
In gentleness and justice set your seal upon the worth
Of the host that's marching on!

Glory, glory, &c.

JOHN RUSSELL.

Sonnet

ON HEARING MRS. WINTON EVANS SPEAK.

The Voice is Music which the living mind
Informs with its own melody and grace;
And as the soul is mirrored in the face,
'Tis echoed in our utterance. None can find
The Summer's beauty when his eyes are blind,
Or noble words to clothe ignoble thought—
Yea, though with all the skill of man he sought,
He could not veil a spirit mean or base.

Your language breathed the gospel which you teach,
And touched our hearts with purest pearls of speech:
You thrilled us with the pleading of the weak,
Soothed us with smiles and lashed us with the whips
Of withering scorn. A goddess seemed to speak,
For every phrase fell perfect from your lips.

A Vicar's "Suffrage Meeting"—and an Anonymous Post-card.

OUR attention has been called to a fascinating episode on the fringe of the movement. It appears that a London Vicar issued invitations to a "Meeting for Women on the Rights of Women—special invitation to Suffragettes." One lady who accepted the invitation found that the meeting was not of the kind which she expected. She and several other women sent letters of protest, but received no answer. A domestic servant sent a post-card with a picture of Miss Christabel Pankhurst upon it, and the words "Dear Sir, was very disappointed at Meeting, Yours truly."

To this post-card a reply was received—an unsigned post-card worded as follows:—"Get right with God. Your statement upon the very unsightly card you sent me is about the STRONGEST argument AGAINST Suffragettes that they could produce for the mind of any Christian man or woman to-day, and will have great weight in convincing all the members of my woman's service that a woman who belongs to a Social Union which imagines that the House of God is to be used for discussing political and socialistic questions, and that a minister of the Gospel is to be expected to believe and teach that the cause and conduct of Suffragettes is Scriptural or Christian, clearly proves:

I. That the cause of Suffragettes is not born of the Word of God.

II. That it is not a cause nourished and nurtured in prayer.

III. That the Suffragettes are not women led and guided by the Holy Spirit and who are saved and serving Jesus Christ."

The assumption that the Vicar himself wrote the post-card would be only an inference from the wording. We cannot believe that he did, for he would, we are convinced, not have taken refuge in anonymity. Whoever the author was, he certainly took a very exaggerated view of the lady's post-card. His views on the Suffragette tactics are no concern of anybody's; his reverence for the sanctity of a place of worship is one which all right-minded people will applaud. There are, however, three points on which we seek information. Why did so heavy a condemnation fall on the servant girl, the poorest of the ladies who protested, while the other ladies escaped? Why should the protesting post-card have raised so strong a conviction as to the moral and religious position of the writer? And what has the alleged "unsightliness" of Miss Pankhurst's portrait to do with the main contention?

To drag in such a point is in painfully bad taste, and evidences a frame of mind in which irrational hostility, is striving with a poor vocabulary for adequate terms of censure. And what a singular argument follows! I invite some women to my church. They mistake my invitation. I think they ought to have known better. Several women of good position and one servant protest through the post. I reply to none of them (or possibly only to the servant). If I do reply to the servant, I indicate to her first that her post-card is an ugly one, and second that she is obviously in danger of everlasting punishment, a thoroughly bad woman, and the friend of irreligious persons. And I do this on a post-card!

Such, we venture to think, is not the language of the New Testament. It is not peculiarly adapted to the reclamation of a lost soul. In truth, we should attach little importance to an unsigned post-card, but we publish the story as an example of what women have to meet in their struggle for the removal of a political disability.

* * All communications intended for the Men's League columns should be addressed to the Editor, 38, Museum Street, W.C.

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