

The Bill, its position  
and prospects.

# The Common Cause.

The Organ of the Women's Movement for Reform.

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ONE PENNY.



John Bull "On Compromise."

Mrs. Bull: "So like John to try and do business in that position."

Mr. Annan Bryce (House of Commons Debate, 11th July): "We here in Parliament breathe a continual atmosphere of compromise."

Mr. A. Chamberlain: "God forbid that women should assimilate the qualities of men!"



## The News of the Week.

## The Country and the Bill.

Agitation is going on all over the country in support of the Bill. No other political question is exciting any interest whatever. Popular interest in the Veto Bill is at a standstill, and Women's Suffrage holds the field. The great demonstration in Hyde Park last Saturday, with its forty platforms and half a million of people was the best of commentaries on the funny little effort of the Anti-Suffragists the week before, by which they succeeded in summoning to Trafalgar Square some 2,000 people, of whom about half were convinced and eager opponents. The Anti-Suffragists could not even carry their resolution at all their platforms, and of their speakers not one had a name that carried any weight.

## The Uncompromising Politician.

Mr. Lloyd George has been figuring during the past week as the arch-enemy of the Bill. He has somehow convinced himself that this Bill would injure his party, and he therefore opposes it. We are not disposed to enter into any argument whatever on the question whether women occupiers would vote Liberal or Tory, but we should like to remind Mr. George that a "democratic" electorate does not always vote "Liberal," and that, if he fears the chance of losing votes on a new register containing about a million women, he should fear much more the certainty of losing many votes should he prove a lasting obstruction to justice.

He is reported to fear also any diversion of interest from the Veto question. But the Cabinet itself has diverted interest from the Veto question, and the question of Votes for Women will be much more troublesome unsettled than settled. Our cartoon very truly represents the position of John Bull so long as he stands precariously perched with a leg on each of the two shaky stones, and does not recognize that there is only steadiness and security on the middle stone of "Compromise," which he is at present so convinced belongs to him alone, and which somehow he has not learned to use.

## The Substance or the Shadow.

There is an all-sufficing answer to the proposal that the Bill should be widened so as to enfranchise more women. Those who voted for the Bill were 299; the official pairs were 25, but there were a considerable number of unofficial pairs. Counting only those which were made officially, 324 voted and paired for the Bill, and 134 voted and paired against. Nearly half the whole House is therefore known to be favourable to this Bill. There is no other Bill which could command anything like this support, and women would be fools to drop the substance for the shadow, even though the shadow looks double the size.

## Who Gives the Money?

The two great Pro-Consuls, Lords Cromer and Curzon, having laid down the white man's burden of governing subject races are now eagerly shouldering a burden which they will find still heavier—that of governing a subject sex. They have issued an appeal to Anti-Suffragists for money, and they report that they have already £13,000 of the £100,000 they require. We should imagine they will have little difficulty in getting what they want. There are plenty of vested interests which stand to lose by the enfranchisement of women, and very few will gain. But we should like to see some names given to the donors of these thousands. Suffragists publish their subscription lists, and anyone may see by what touching efforts their money is subscribed. Are the Anti-Suffragists ashamed of the source of their supplies?

In the list are thirty-three Peers, and the "Times" points out that politicians, administrators, and civil servants, churchmen, the army, law and medicine, academic learning and letters, the stage, and "the great interests of society and property" are represented. The working people are not mentioned. We quite concede that "society and property" are well represented, but if any of our readers are impressed by the list of learned or distinguished men, we recommend them to compare it with the list made by the Men's League for Women's

Suffrage. Weight for weight, we think the distinguished Suffragists beat the Anti's, and we have yet to learn what there is in the experience of Lords Milner, Cromer, and Curzon which gives their views upon English women any special weight at all.

## Them as Don't Ask, Don't Want.

Colonel Seely has been addressing his constituents near Derby, and is reported to have said that if a poll of women were taken, and a majority voted for the suffrage, he would vote for the measure, and he took a vote of the women present who are said to have formed "a considerable proportion" of his audience, and only five held up their hands. We have two comments to make on this. One is that there is no intimidation of the male voter to the equal the intimidation of the female non-voter. The other is that keen Suffragists have been largely driven out of party altogether. Colonel Seely is quite safe. Women who put "suffrage first" are not to be found in his party. He and his like have driven them out into opposition. Colonel Seely reminds us of the fatuous newspaper correspondent who congratulated Mr. Asquith on the indifference to Women's Suffrage exhibited by an audience from which Suffragists had been excluded.

## Woman, the Invalid.

Dr. Leonard Williams, of Harley Street, has been explaining in the "Times" that women should not be given the vote because it will interfere with their health. "The whole of the physiological life of woman during the reproductive period—say, from 17 to 50—is wholly and entirely given over to reproduction or to the preparation for a physiological expectancy of that function." Then we have the "physiological argument" stated and developed in its crudest and least scientific form. We know this argument. We have heard it developed by very young men, and we are not a bit afraid of it. But if, really, "la femme c'est une malade"—how is it that the doctors have all agreed in calling upon women to perform that most arduous and exacting work of nursing the sick in the great hospitals? Does Dr. Williams propose to have all the cooking and cleaning, the sewing and scrubbing done by men? No, by no means. It is only intellectual work which so injures the female system as to make her a "physiological bankrupt," and we are given to understand that the voting for a Member of Parliament is so severe an intellectual strain that "any ordinary female nervous system would inevitably succumb to it." Oh, New Zealanders and Australians! Think of it!

This gentleman has really proved a little too much, and his letter will doubtless raise a good laugh among more enlightened folk. We are well supported by the women doctors at any rate, who have specially studied female physiology; only fifteen out of 553 refused to sign the medical women's petition for Women's Suffrage, and one of their number has a very pertinent answer in the "Times" of the 25th, in which she points out—"what every woman knows,"—that a concentration of thought and energy on the sex function alone is disastrous to health of body and mind. Really, the Anti-Suffragists if they had their way would make all women into hysterical invalids!

## Dr. Mary Murdoch.

We are very glad indeed to be able to tell her many friends and admirers that Dr. Murdoch is back at work. We wish her increase of health and strength, and we hope that she may spare herself enough in the cause of humanity long to remain an effective soldier in that cause.

## The Demise of "Women Folk."

"Women Folk" is dead. It began well about two years ago as "The Woman Worker," but it did not go on well. Mr. Robert Blatchford, in his farewell article, maintains that it was a good paper. Perhaps so. He says he doesn't know why it failed. We think we do. It may have been a very good man's paper; but it professed to be a woman's, and that it wasn't. The subjects were subjects that interest women, but the point of view was mainly a man's notion of a woman's point of view, and that isn't the same as a woman's.

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to The Manager, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester.

ADVERTISEMENTS should reach the office by first post on Tuesday.

LONDON AGENT.—Communications referring to advertisements may now be addressed to our London agent, Mrs. H. A. Evans, 10, Adelphi Terrace, London, W.C. Friends in London desirous of helping to get advertisements will kindly communicate with her.

THE PAPER WILL BE POSTED to any address in England or abroad for the following prepaid payments:—

3 MONTHS	...	1 9
6 MONTHS	...	3 3
12 MONTHS	...	6 6

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

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

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

## Holiday Notice.

Readers of "The Common Cause" are reminded to leave stamped addressed wrappers with their newsagents, so that the paper may be sent on to them during the holidays. The postage is 3d. per copy. Or the paper will be sent direct from this office to any address, for any period, for 1½d. per copy.

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## The Wrecker.

It has been our fate for some weeks past to be writing a review of the political situation at the critical moment, when it was actually changing. Again this week we write before Mr. Asquith's decision is known. This is a piquant position to be in, and, honestly, we congratulate ourselves and our fellow-Suffragists on the accuracy, in the main, of our forecasts. The Suffragists were not very far out, as events have proved, when two and a half years ago they found Mr. Churchill too vague and sentimental to rely upon; they were not very far out when they saw through Mr. Lloyd George's attempt to capture the enormous driving force of the movement for Women's Suffrage and harness it to a movement so far singularly lacking in driving force—we mean the Adult Suffrage movement. It was a clever politician's trick, it showed a certain amount of ingenuity in wire-pulling; but it showed a total lack of insight, a really amazing denseness of sympathetic perception.

It was amazing because one had heard that Mr. Lloyd George's temperament was a quick and a sensitive one, and it was difficult to conceive a man with such a temperament going so very far wrong in his calculation of forces that really count. One sat in the Albert Hall watching Mr. George's plot fail, and seeing in his face the mortification of failure and the determination to have his revenge. One reflected on the tactical foolishness of the cleverly concerted interruptions. Poetic justice required that the little man who tried to use a great cause for his personal ends should himself be made into a tool

for that great cause, and one thought then, and events have amply borne out the thought, that it was not only morally unjustifiable but politically stupid not to use him.

Well, the movement of affairs has driven people on, and it has not been very difficult for those who had a great and immovable principle to forecast what would happen. Mr. Lloyd George thought he could turn the vote on the second reading against us, and he put all his passion into doing so. Those who were present in the House said he worked his hardest to defeat us—and he failed. The majority of 109 was given in spite of his warning that the vote would be more than "an affirmation of the principle of Woman Suffrage"; in spite of Mr. Churchill's statement that a vote on the second reading of this Bill meant "except in minor details, a vote for the third reading of an ordinary Bill."

That vote has been taken, and now what is the position? Mr. George went to a meeting of the Liberal Members of the Conciliation Committee, held on Wednesday, 20th, and made another "impassioned appeal" to them to wreck this Bill. With a majority of 109 for this Bill (and no other), he has the temerity to come and suggest that he will be so generous as to support with his own vote (and probably the mercurial Mr. Churchill's) a measure which would certainly secure no majority at all. Mr. George may be a very important person indeed, but unless he can do something with the Government as a Government, unless he can persuade Mr. Asquith to introduce and press forward a wider Women's Suffrage Bill as a Government measure, his own vote would only count two on a division, and the few men he could take with him would be more than counter-balanced by the defection of the whole Conservative and a large number of the Liberal party.

Mr. George did not put the question before the country at the last General Election; nor did Mr. Asquith; nor did Mr. Churchill. We did, and we know a good deal more about the feeling in the country among the male electors than any other body of people; we know that the male elector everywhere understands a household qualification, and likes it; that the head of the house, male or female, should have the Parliamentary franchise is a familiar and approved idea, and he is ready to put it into practice. We have nothing to say against the enfranchisement of wives; on the contrary. But there is no question whatever in the minds of those who have studied the electors, that a considerable amount of support would be lost if the Bill were enlarged so as to enfranchise wives on their husbands' qualification. If the chances of enfranchising wives in the future were to be jeopardised by the passing of this Bill, there might be some sense in Mr. George's contention. But if you give the vote now mainly (though not only) to widows and spinsters, you do not in any way prejudice the future consideration of the claims of wives. It will still be just as possible to enfranchise more women, should the country desire it, or to refuse further enfranchisement should the country not desire it. The wives will not be in a worse position because some women have the vote, and it will be open to Mr. George or any other politician to propose further extensions. Why does Mr. George abandon, on this occasion only, the policy of the "thin end" which he found so useful in passing the Old-Age Pensions Act?

There are only two possible solutions: the one is that Mr. George is not really an honest "Adultist"; the other that he thinks any action whatever will be disastrous to his party, because it will dissipate the forces against the veto.

We desire to express no opinion whatever upon the merits of the Adult Suffrage controversy. The granting of a moderate measure of Women's Suffrage does not in any way settle the question whether all men and women shall or shall not have the vote, and it is quite reasonable to support Mr. Shackleton's Bill while opposing or while advocating Adult Suffrage. What is unreasonable is to pose as an Adultist and oppose Mr. Shackleton's Bill. The honest Adultist knows that an Adult Suffrage Bill would not have the ghost of a chance now. Emphatically such a Bill has not been "before the country." The honest Adultist knows that the House of Commons would pass Mr. Shackleton's Bill, and would not pass a wider



one. The honest Adultist knows that the House of Lords would certainly throw out a wider Bill. The honest Adultist knows that the electors would consider it lunacy to introduce six millions of new voters at one stroke, as would be done if wives were to be given the vote on their husbands' qualifications. If Mr. Lloyd George proceeds with his attempt to substitute a wider Bill for this one, let it be clearly understood that his is not a constructive policy, but a policy of wrecking.

And now for the second motive. We believe that Mr. George is in reality crudely indifferent to the women's claim, but that he is nervously anxious about the results of the Veto Conference. And well he may be. Upon this question, also, we express no opinion. Suffragists are of all parties, and it is quite outside the scope of this paper to express any views upon party questions. But this we know—that principle has not only its spiritual but its practical value; that an attempt to substitute for the will of the people, the tactics of politicians playing for position will not strengthen the politicians when they go to the country; that a Cabinet which has itself smothered the voice and conscience of the Commons will make a very poor show when it tries to rouse the indignation of the electors against the Lords on the charge of doing that same thing.

Men are apt to look for a leader, and there is no leader of men in this great cause. There is a large army, and no man of flesh and blood to lead it in the House. What hope, then, is there for us? The greatest of all hope, the conviction of right. We cannot be defeated—our march is irresistible. Women have been jeered at in the House for having principles and sticking to them. Our critics will find the time come when they will wish they had had something approaching a principle. Men come and go, and shift and lie and change, but justice is everlasting; leaders rise and fall, and are broken or bent, but judgment is the Lord's.

## The Debate on the Second Reading.

### I.

#### The Prime Minister.

After forty years discussion of Women's Enfranchisement, after statesmen of the rank of Lord Salisbury, Mr. Disraeli, and Mr. Balfour, his predecessors in office, have spoken and decided in favour of the women's claim, after a powerful speech by the last Premier on his own side, in which Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman promised his vote, and declared the exclusion of women from the exercise of the Parliamentary franchise "neither expedient, justifiable, nor politically right," Mr. Asquith inquires at the outset of his speech on Mr. Shackleton's Women Occupiers' Bill, "What is the principle at stake?" He evidently cares nothing for the opinions of statesmen, but "trusts the people."

Thus interrogated, we answer. It is that sex alone does not disqualify for freedom, nullify rights, debar from privileges. The right honourable gentleman knows that when he was born the claim from manhood, even from citizenship, was denied. "A stake in the country" was required. At that date women were in the same category with millions of men, who were ratepayers, husbands, fathers of families, taxpayers.

The extension of voting power from 700,000 men to 7,000,000 of men tends to leave men free and women bound and servile. With every extension of the franchise the injustice increases, and the principle at stake is—Woman bond or free.

Mr. Asquith asks what is the principle of conciliation? "It is certainly not the political equality of women with men." He is right; the principle of agreement is: Women are human beings, and not necessary animals.

The Bill proceeds as the reformers of 1832, of 1868, and of 1884 proceeded. They selected certain classes, so that men should be gradually educated in political principles and accustomed to exercise judgment, and the Bill follows the lines upon which every statesman has extended the electorate; it confers the Parliamentary franchise on the

possessors of other and ancient franchises first of all, and in largest numbers.

The right honourable gentleman asks how is the Bill conciliatory or a compromise, and why a compromise is made? He well knows that the Unionist party, only in units a minority compared with the Liberal party, do not intend to surrender the owners' vote, nor even the plural vote, and that no such proposal can be made to the House of Lords with any chance of success. Yet Mr. Balfour's friends have not asked for the property or the plural vote for women; and, on the other hand, Mr. Shackleton, Mr. Barnes, and Mr. Snowden accept this, and have made no wide claims, the low occupancy qualification being in fact a concession to Mr. Asquith himself, and his views on "democratic lines." His contentions would exclude all voters, if applied to men, for the Radicals would not grant an owners' qualification, nor the Tories manhood suffrage. Fortunately the Bill follows Lord Grey, Lord Russell, Mr. Bright, Mr. Disraeli, and Mr. Gladstone. To follow their precedents by taking a moderate course means no defeat; to depart wholly from them would be approved by no reasonable man. Mr. Asquith says "you must go at least as far as you are prepared to go in the case of men." Why so? Our great queens were not chosen in preference to the male descendants of our kings, but on failure of them, and logic does but demand that when competent male candidates fail, a woman should be eligible, and that if a Parliament finds no man competent to be Speaker of that House or Prime Minister, a woman more competent might be selected.

Are men so degenerate that these things are possible? Sensible men and women recognise the distinctions of sex and the fitness of things as Mr. Asquith wishes they should do. To say that women Speakers of the House and Prime Ministers "must follow, and ought to follow," if logic at all is logic run mad.

The tools to the workman is a good proverb; a woman will dig a trench when excavators die out, and not till then. Mr. Asquith might as well say there "ought to be, and must be" women blacksmiths, because their trade is not by statute limited to men.

It is pleasant to agree with the Prime Minister at the close. He says, "You might have a nominal paper majority which exists only so long as it is not asserted, and reposes in the last degree on the tolerance of a minority, of all political fabrics the most fragile and the most insecure." This is the existing position, and when the principles of Liberalism are applied to half the nation by the leader of a powerful minority and denied to them by the leader of a precarious and unstable majority, we can only raise an old Liberal cry, "Measures, not men."

## The Bill—Its Position and Prospects.

### THE TITLE.

The title of the Bill is:—"A Bill to extend the Parliamentary Franchise to Women Occupiers."

### THE TEXT.

The following is the text of the Bill which passed its second reading on Tuesday, July 12th, by a majority of 109:—

Be it enacted:—

1. Every woman possessed of a household qualification, or of a ten pound occupation qualification, within the meaning of The Representation of the People Act (1884) shall be entitled to be registered as a voter, and, when registered, to vote for the county or borough in which the qualifying premises are situate.

2. For the purposes of this Act, a woman shall not be disqualified by marriage for being registered as a voter, provided that a husband and wife shall not both be qualified in respect of the same property.

3. This Act may be cited as "The Representation of the People Act, 1910."

### WHAT THE BILL WOULD DO.

If this Bill becomes law, the Parliamentary vote will be granted—

- (1) To any woman who "occupies," either as residence or place of business, premises of the annual value of £10 (*i.e.*, about 3s. 10d. a week). (Two women living together could qualify as joint occupiers if the rent were as much as £20, but it is provided that a man and his wife should not so qualify; one or other of them only could vote.)
- (2) To any woman who owns or rents, and lives in a house, or dwelling-place of any value, however small. (In this way a woman paying as little as 2s. 6d. or less a week for a house or premises over which she had full control could qualify.)

This Bill does not give the vote to women on the same terms as men, for it does not give the vote to owners of property (unless they also occupy the property) nor to lodgers nor to servants nor to graduates, and it specially provides that husband and wife shall not qualify as joint occupiers.

### WHAT CLASS OF WOMEN WOULD BE ENFRANCHISED

The women who would have the Parliamentary vote under this Bill are mainly those who now possess the municipal vote, and we know those women. They are of all classes.

It is calculated that about 1,000,000 women would be enfranchised under this Bill, and that 82 out of every hundred of these would be working women. That is to say, of the 1,000,000 new electors, 820,000 would be of the working classes and only 180,000 would not.

### PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE.

A Bill before it becomes law has to pass through the following stages in the House of Commons:—First Reading, Second Reading, Committee, Report, and Third Reading.

This Bill was introduced by Mr. Shackleton, and passed its first reading without a division on Tuesday, June 14th. It was debated for two days on the 11th and 12th July, and passed its second reading on the 12th July by a majority of 109. There were two alternatives before the House after this. It might have been referred to a "Grand Committee (often alluded to as a "committee upstairs"), to which only certain Members belong; had this been done, there is no doubt that this Committee would have had time to pass this stage. The House decided, however, that this question was far too important to go to a Grand Committee, and ought to be considered by the whole House; ought, as some put it, to be kept "on the floor of the House." Accordingly, the motion for referring the Bill to a Committee of the whole House was passed on the 12th by a majority of 145.

### THE BILL IS NOT DEAD.

On July 20th the House actually "went into Committee" on the Bill, but as it was after 11 o'clock, the obstructionists in the House were able to prevent business from proceeding. This illustrates clearly what will happen unless the Government will give time for the Committee stage. One obstructor can stop all progress unless the Government gives Government time to proceed with the Bill, and this, we say, the Government is bound to do in view of the large majority on the second reading, of Mr. Asquith's pledge that the House should be allowed to "deal effectively with the whole question"; and the further fact that there is no other urgent question to take the time of the House. Either before the House rises for the summer recess or when it meets again for the autumn session there will be time to take the remaining stages, and to refuse time will show quite plainly that the Cabinet is afraid of the House of Commons, and is prepared to act in direct opposition to the expressed will of a large majority,—a majority larger than those it could command for its own measures!

### SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS.

Two lines of amendments have been suggested, one of which has been at once met by Mr. Shackleton himself, and the other which will be strenuously resisted. It has been suggested that men might create what are called "faggot votes" by dividing their occupancy and giving a vote to their wives. Mr. Shackleton's amendment meets

this by providing that a husband and wife shall not be registered in the same constituency. The second suggestion comes from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who proposes that the Bill should be "recommitted in respect of its title" (that is to say, it should not be categorically stated that it is to enfranchise *Women Occupiers* only), so that amendments could be moved to admit a larger number of women, and especially wives. Since this would nearly double the present register and lose the support of most of the Conservatives and many of the Liberals who voted for this Bill, the Conciliation Committee will not accept this suggestion.

## The Conciliation Committee.

The Liberal Members of the Conciliation Committee met again on Wednesday, 20th, and Mr. Lloyd George is reported to have made an impassioned appeal to them to drop this Bill and concentrate on a "wider one." Many of the Liberal Members who have been working for this Bill did so because this was a measure which could command a majority in the House, not because it did all they wished at once. The situation has not changed; the Bill has commanded an even better majority than that which was forecast: there is not a vestige of evidence to show that a wider Bill would have any chance whatever of commanding even a small majority, and the meeting broke up without Mr. Lloyd George having attained his object.

Mr. Brailsford has had two most clear and cogent letters, one in the "Nation" of July 23rd and one in the "Daily News" of July 25th, in which the work and the position of the Conciliation Committee are stated. It is good hearing that, since the debate, the Committee has lost only one of its 60 members, and has gained one new recruit. In spite of the efforts made to split up the Committee, Mr. Brailsford reports that "its harmony is unbroken, its decisions are usually unanimous, and they are always for a bold and decided policy." The letter in the "Daily News" ends with these words:—"The first step is to remove the insulting disability of sex, and the first essential to rally for a moderate Bill all who will work for this end. In that the Conciliation Committee has succeeded. It claims the rights of a majority."

## In Parliament.

### The Women's Franchise Bill.

On July 18th it was reported that the following instructions to the Women's Franchise Bill had been put on the paper:—

Mr. Holt.—On order for Committee on Parliamentary Franchise (Women) Bill being read, to move that it be an instruction to the Committee that they may amend the Bill so as to provide that the wife of any man registered as a voter in respect of a household qualification shall also be registered as a voter in respect of that qualification.

Mr. King.—That it be an instruction to the Committee that they may amend the Bill so as to provide that no woman be registered as a Parliamentary voter until she has first signified in writing that she desires to be so registered.

Mr. Rea.—That it be an instruction to the Committee that they may amend the Bill so as to provide for the enfranchisement of husband and wife occupying a house of less than £20 annual value.

On July 20th the Speaker ruled out of order these amendments, and the House went into Committee.

Sir F. Banbury and others objected, and as it was after eleven o'clock the objections held good.

### Married Women's Incomes.

Questioned on the anomalies with regard to the taxing of married women's incomes, Mr. Lloyd George said that the whole position was unsatisfactory, and that it would be necessary to make an alteration in the law.



### The Care and Feeding of Infants.

On Tuesday, July 19th, Dr. Addison (L., Hoxton) introduced, under the ten-minutes rule, a Bill to require that in public elementary schools instruction should be given in hygiene; and to girls in the care and feeding of infants.

### Feeding of School Children.

Mr. Parker (Lab., Halifax) introduced, under the ten-minutes rule, a Bill to amend the Education (Provision of Meals) Act, 1906, by empowering local education authorities to provide meals for school children during the holidays as well as during school days.

## NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

**OBJECT:** To obtain the Parliamentary franchise for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.  
**METHODS:** (a) The promotion of the claim of women to Parliamentary vote by united action in Parliament and by all constitutional methods of agitation in the country. (b) The organisation of Women's Suffrage Societies on a non-party basis.

**Hon. Secretaries:** MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D. (President); MISS EDITH DIMOCK; MISS BERTHA MASON (Parliamentary).  
**Hon. Treasurer:** MISS BERTHA MASON (Pro Tem.).  
**Secretary:** MISS T. G. WHITEHEAD, M.A.  
**Telegrams:** "Voiceless, London."  
**Offices:** Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.  
**Telephone:** 1900 Victoria.

### The Executive Committee.

In answer to inquirers, the Committee have instructed me to ask you to insert the resolution passed by them with regard to the W.S.P.U. demonstration of July 23rd, and forwarded to Mrs. Pethick Lawrence. It was as follows: "That the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies accept the invitation of the Women's Social and Political Union to a united and peaceful demonstration in Hyde Park on the 23rd inst., on the definite understanding that militant tactics are not resumed until after that date; and that the resolution to be submitted is one which our Union can endorse."

Mrs. Lawrence, whilst heartily welcoming the co-operation of the National Union, replied that it would be impossible for them to give any undertaking that militant tactics would not be resumed before July 23rd, and she gave no answer about the resolution to be moved in Hyde Park. Under these circumstances it was decided not to take part officially in the demonstration, though the Committee wished it every success.

The whole correspondence between Mrs. Fawcett and Mrs. Lawrence can be seen by any member of the Union at the offices, Parliament Chambers, or a summary of it on application to the hon. secretary of the local Society.

Miss Francis Sterling has been co-opted a member of the Executive Committee to fill Mrs. Philip Snowden's place. Miss Ray Costelloe has resigned from the Committee on account of her continued absence from England. She had hoped to attend regularly after June, but finds now she will not be able to do so—for which we are all very sorry.

The following Societies have been admitted to the Union during July:—Barnard Castle, Blackpool and Fylde, Bury, Hyde, Marple, Oswestry, Wakefield, Wolverhampton, Dunbar and East Lothian, Wigan and District, and Kelso.

The Midland Federation has submitted its rules and completed its arrangements. Its area includes Shropshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Oxfordshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, the Southern and Ilkeston Divisions of Derbyshire, the Borough of Derby, the Boroughs of Wolverhampton and West Bromwich, and the Burton Division of Staffordshire.

The area and rules of the North-Eastern Federation have also been approved by the Committee. This Federation is undertaking the Counties of Northumberland and Durham, with the Boroughs included in them.

A cordial and unanimous vote of thanks was passed by the Executive Committee to the London Society for their organization of the demonstration in Trafalgar Square. It should also be mentioned that the London Society has received and handed over to the National Union over £120 towards the expenses of this demonstration.

### Women in Factories and Prisons.

An interesting discussion took place on the 20th on the Home Office Vote, during which Sir Charles Dilke pleaded for more Women Factory Inspectors, and Mr. Masterman replied it was a question of money. Mr. Pickersgill urged that women should be put on the Prisons' Board. Mr. Churchill announced that there would in future be special prison treatment for those whose offences did not involve "moral turpitude," and stated that passive resisters and Suffragettes would come under the new rule. He foreshadowed very extensive changes in prison treatment generally.

The Committee instructed the officers to send a letter of thanks to the Members of Parliament who spoke and voted for the Bill, of which the following is a copy. A letter was also to be sent at once to every Member who had voted for the Bill:—

July 22nd, 1910.

Sir,—On behalf of this Union, consisting of more than 200 Societies, we offer you our very cordial thanks for your staunch support of the Parliamentary Franchise (Women) Bill both by your speech and vote in both divisions in the House of Commons last week. We feel that the first division was a remarkable triumph for the Women's Suffrage cause, showing, as it did, a larger majority for the Bill (109) than has been secured by any other measure of first-class importance in the present Parliament.

To this result your valuable speech and your vote were important contributions, for which Women Suffragists all over the country are deeply grateful.

We earnestly beg you to use your influence to bring about the realisation of Mr. Haldane's anticipation that sending the Bill to a Committee of the whole House will not necessarily involve its delay in becoming law, and that you will do all in your power to secure time in the House for its further progress through all its stages this session.—We have the honour to be, yours obediently,

MILlicENT GARRETT FAWCETT, President.  
BERTHA MASON, Treasurer.  
EDITH DIMOCK, Hon. Secretary.

The Committee also decided that a letter be sent immediately to all the Societies in the Union urging them to keep the Bill well before the public mind by every means in their power.

I would also urge you to distribute widely amongst electors the leaflet on the Bill issued by the Manchester Society. It can be obtained from the William Morris Press, 42, Albert Street, Manchester, at 9s. per 1,000, and at rather cheaper rates for larger quantities. It is printed in the colours of the Union.

We have received two offers of volunteer organizing work during the holidays. Miss Willis will give a month's work in Taunton and the neighbourhood, and Miss Marjorie Strachey will give us six weeks.

We have also received an offer from the Stansfeld Trustees to supply our speakers with their scrutineers' reports at the reduced subscription of 6s. 6d. per year (including postage).

As these reports deal with Bills affecting women as they come before Parliament we feel sure that some of our speakers will be glad to avail themselves of this offer. Will any such write to the hon. secretary, Miss Edith C. Harvey, 16, May's Hill Road, Shortlands, Kent, who will then enclose them a specimen copy of the scrutineers' reports.  
EDITH DIMOCK.

### Treasurer's Notes.

Warm thanks for the subscriptions and contributions received during the past two weeks. At the same time may I remind all friends and supporters that the need of the hour is money—funds for demonstrating, and funds for salaries, organizing, and rent. Please do not forget the importance of these latter.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS.

June 25th to July 2nd, 1910.		£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged		1,619	19	1
Subscriptions:—				
Mrs. Hillier		0	1	0
Miss E. Maskell		0	3	0
Countess Cairns		1	1	0
Donations:—				
Assistant Mistresses in Secondary Schools (per Miss Froode)		6	3	0
Miss I. E. Woodward		1	1	0
Mrs. Alfred Hill (3d. bit savings)		1	3	0
Miss FitzSimons		1	0	0
Miss Elizabeth W. Coit (self-denial)		0	2	0
The Misses Wilson (self-denial)		0	4	0
Miss Ray Costelloe		10	0	0
Mrs. Henry Richardson		5	0	0
Affiliation Fees:—				
Newburgh-on-Tay W.S.S.		0	9	0
Oswestry W.S.S.		0	5	0
Hyde W.S.S.		0	5	0
North Herts. W.S.S. (additional)		0	12	6
Uxbridge W.S.S. (additional)		0	2	0
Election Fund:—				
Miss Milton		0	12	0
Mrs. Wilks (per Miss Milton)		0	8	0
		£1,648	10	7

#### MILLION SHILLING FUND.

	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	1,152	0
Miss E. F. McPherson	2	0
Mrs. I. D. Pearce	21	0
Miss Dixon (per Mrs. Cunliffe)	30	0
	1,205	0

#### CONTRIBUTIONS.

July 2nd to July 16th, 1910.		£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged		1,648	10	7
Subscriptions:—				
Miss A. M. Royden		1	1	0
Mrs. George Borrow		1	1	0
Miss C. M. Gordon		0	2	6
Miss E. Atkinson		0	5	0
Miss Isabel Rattray		0	1	0
Mrs. Lightbody		1	0	0
Miss R. T. Cooke		0	2	6
Mrs. Powell		0	1	0
Donations:—				
Miss Ellen A. McArthur (Conciliation Bill Campaign)		5	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. Marshall (Conciliation Bill Campaign)		20	0	0
Haslemere W.S.S.		5	0	0
Miss M. L. Fell		5	0	0
Miss Rose Lightman (percentage on sale of lavender preparations)		0	2	14
Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Dowson		10	0	0
Bath W.S.S. (part of collection, July 2nd)		1	0	0
Miss R. Christy		1	1	0
Miss J. R. Rogers		20	0	0
D. G.		5	5	0
Miss C. M. Foster		0	5	0
Miss H. S. Davies-Colley		5	0	0
Mrs. John P. Boyd-Carpenter		20	0	0
Madame Loppe		5	0	0
Affiliation Fees:—				
Bristol W.S.S. (additional)		5	3	6
Birkenhead W.S.S.		1	17	6
Glenfarg W.S.S.		0	6	6
Dunbar W.S.S.		0	7	0
Knutsford W.S.S.		1	3	0
Wigan W.S.S.		0	5	0
Scarborough W.S.S. (additional)		0	7	6
Lincoln W.S.S.		1	0	3
		£1,765	7	11½

#### MILLION SHILLING FUND.

	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	1,205	0
Miss A. M. Royden	105	0
Member of Keswick W.S.S.	1	0
	1,311	0

We gratefully acknowledge Miss M. B. Thornton's additional contribution of £15, and also her promise to give the same as a subscription in future every year. We thank all who are sending us fresh donations and raising the sinews of war in divers ways for the autumn cam-

paign, which it is necessary we carry through in support of the Bill now before the House.

Miss Frances Hardcastle writes from Newcastle:—"Dr. Ethel Williams and I have decided to give up our cottage on the Northern Moors, and send the rent quarterly as a subscription to the National Union funds. I wish it were five times as much, but we shall be able to manage donations in addition, and you may rely upon us doing our utmost to keep the central war chest full as well as our local one here."

Mrs. Jocelyn Bray, of Leith Hill, writes:—"Every year a great deal is spent on presents, birthday, wedding, etc., which money, instead of finding its way into shops, might be diverted into the coffers of the Union of every Suffragist who can spare or sacrifice any article of lace, china, jewellery, silver, books, etc. (and I am convinced there are many who cannot give money, but who could give in kind), would send the same, with a minimum price attached, to headquarters, where a locked counter would be set aside for the reception of these articles, and a list given from time to time in the "Common Cause." Of course nothing old or worn shall be sent, unless age enhances its value. Mrs. Bray offers to send some apostle spoons, a copy of Shelley, and a water-colour sketch, and thus set an example."

We gratefully make known the generous offer of Dr. Williams and Miss Hardcastle, and of Mrs. Bray in the hope that offers of a similar kind will pour in during the next few weeks.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS.

July 16th to July 23rd, 1910.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	1,765	7	11½
Subscriptions:—			
Miss G. Taylor	1	0	0
Miss A. Bauman	0	1	0
Mrs. Coombe Tennant	0	10	0
Mrs. David Limond	1	1	0
Miss M. B. Thornton (additional)	15	0	0
Miss A. Bateson	1	0	0
Miss E. Cooke	0	2	6
Mr. P. J. Ramsay	1	1	0
Mrs. C. Hervey	0	5	0
Miss A. Hervey	0	10	0
Mrs. Claydon	0	5	0
Mrs. Dryhurst	2	2	0
Donations:—			
Mr. P. Merrifield	5	0	0
Miss B. E. Rawlings	5	5	0
Mr. Lewis Thompson	0	3	7
Affiliation Fees:—			
Scarborough W.S.S. (additional)	0	2	6
Paisley and District W.S.S.	1	10	0
Stratford-on-Avon W.S.S.	0	5	0
Kelso W.S.S.	0	5	0
Haddington W.S.S.	0	5	9
Weston-super-Mare	0	8	0
	£1,801	10	3½

#### MILLION SHILLING FUND.

	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	1,311	0
Miss Noel Herbert Wright (part profits folk song entertainment)	40	0
Miss K. Marshall (collection)	10	0
Miss F. A. Pearson (collection)	12	0
"Smut," a Militant Dog (per Miss F. A. Pearson)	0	8
	1,373	6

BERTHA MASON, Treasurer.

### Helping the Paper.

It can scarcely escape the notice of Suffragists that, if they leave the education of the average Member of Parliament to the daily Press of the country, it will remain sadly neglected, so far as Suffrage is concerned. It should be possible for all the Societies in the Union (or for the Federations) to arrange for a copy of "The Common Cause" to be sent regularly to the sitting Members within their area. The National Union recently had the issues of two successive weeks sent to all Members of Parliament, but so heavy an expense cannot be regularly defrayed by the Union; it would not, however, be a very serious drain on the Societies, and we commend it to their kind consideration. The most satisfactory way of doing it would be to have the paper sent officially by the Society's secretary.



A second suggestion we have to offer is that each Society should appoint a "Common Cause" secretary, whose sole and particular duty it should be to see to the sales of the paper. It frequently happens that a penitent secretary writes to us, *after* an excellent meeting "at which I could have sold hundreds of copies of the paper, had I remembered to order it in time." Now, we know well how busy a secretary is when she has a big meeting on her hands, and we would urge this upon secretaries: appoint someone else, whose sole duty it is to see to the paper, to order it, to get stewards to sell it, and to arrange for receipts and returns.

We make a special appeal that orders should be sent in plenty of time. The train service from West to East is particularly bad, and when a demonstration or meeting is arranged a week or more beforehand there is really no excuse for wiring an order.

#### By-Election.

##### KIRKDALE DIVISION OF LIVERPOOL.

The poll was declared on the 20th, and was as follows:—  
Col. Kyffin-Taylor (U.) ..... 4,268  
Mr. A. G. Cameron (Lab.) ..... 3,427

Unionist majority..... 841

The National Union supported Mr. Cameron because he was the most thorough Suffragist, and mentioned our subject in his election address. But Col. Kyffin-Taylor had expressed his intention of voting for Mr. Shackleton's Bill, if elected, so we are not without support in the House from the Kirkdale Division. \*

From a correspondent we have the following:—

Twenty-nine open-air meetings in eight days! Not a bad record, even for a Suffrage Society, we think, and the principal speakers are sampling various lozenges in the endeavour to recover their sometime silvery or clarion tones. There was no need to advertise our meetings in Kirkdale; the audience sprang up from all sides within a minute of our appearance—and stayed and listened too.

The dinner-hour meetings at the docks were the great feature of the election, and it was quite common to have Tariff Reform, Free Trade, and Suffragist platforms separated only by a few yards, and if there wasn't enough audience to go round—well, it wasn't who went without. If looks could kill, several of us would have succumbed to the direful glances of the Tariff Reform speakers, who on several occasions saw their audiences disappear as if by magic on the arrival of the Suffragist speaker.

The dockers were more than interested; they were sympathetic, even enthusiastic, and besides sore throats some of the speakers are suffering from swelled heads, the result of many compliments. "I listened to her for fifty minutes yesterday, and I'd do it again to-day," said one man of Mrs. Merivale Mayer, who was sent by the National Union to help us. "We'll listen as long as you'll talk, missus," said another to Mrs. Cooper, and Miss Norma Smith and I were hailed by a group of men when we were returning after holding one meeting, and requested to have another there and then, which we did to an audience which rapidly increased to a hundred or so.

Our paper badges were accepted with avidity, and few men refused to pin them in their caps or coats.

The evening meetings were also wonderfully successful, considering that they were usually held in the heart of the Conservative district, and that we were supporting the Labour candidate.

A great deal of our success was, of course, due to the excellent speakers who expounded our doctrines, and besides those already mentioned, who spoke two and three times daily, we had the help of Miss Eleanor Rathbone (who, besides speaking, is of course the man who pulls the wires and makes us dance in the Liverpool Society), Miss Margaret Ashton, Miss Deakin, Miss Chubb, and Mrs. Egerton Stewart Brown.

On polling day it poured continuously—not altogether an unmixt evil, as it cleared off the bands of small boys and hooligans who would have doubtless become rowdy towards evening had it kept fine and dry.

Mrs. Mayer and Mrs. Cooper made two tours of the polling stations in a decorated waggone, and the writer used her little car to bring up some of Mr. Cameron's voters. If Mr. Jingle had wished to describe our week in Kirkdale he would probably have given vent to something like this:—Crowds—compliments—epithets—sore throats—small boys—dirty babies—queer meals at odd times—excitement—depression—enormous quantity good temper.

CICELY LEADLEY BROWN.

Miss Leadley Brown, whose imperturbable good temper helped everybody so much, was herself suffering from "swelled head" of the literal kind, which is most painful to the possessor. There was a good deal of blackguardism in Kirkdale, and Miss Brown was hard hit in the face.



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#### The Demonstration on July 9th.

In Mrs. Fawcett's article on the National Union demonstration in Trafalgar Square on July 9th, among the names of societies taking part the New Constitutional Society was inadvertently omitted.

#### In Support of the Bill.

##### EDINBURGH DEMONSTRATION

A regular July day, with heavy showers of rain, made all good Suffragists tremble for the success of our demonstration, but as the hour of assembly approached, the sky cleared and the rain ceased. Our procession formed up along Regent Road, headed by the standards of the National Union, the Women's Freedom League, and the Women's Social and Political Union, and followed by members of the different societies carrying banners, and decorated with their respective colours, each contingent headed by a large Edinburgh banner.

Members of the Conservative and Unionist F.A., the Scottish Universities W.S. Union, the British Women's Temperance Association, and the Women's Liberal Federation were also present wearing their badges, and members of the Men's League spoke from two out of the four platforms.

At 5 o'clock the procession, headed by a band, wound slowly up the hill towards the observatory, between tightly packed lines of spectators. At the top of the ascent the graduates went to the right, the W.S.P.U. and W.F.L. to the left, and the N.U. to their platform at the corner of the observatory to the north of the hill. At 5-30 speakers began on all four platforms. Miss Chrystal Macmillan, M.A., B.Sc., Professor Cargill Knott, B.Sc., Miss Louisa Innes Lumsden, Miss Katharine Scott-Moncrieff, M.A., and Miss C. M. Gordon, M.A., were the speakers for the Scottish University Women's Suffrage Union, and their audience was among the first to come and the last to go, a perfect fire of questions continuing till nearly 7 p.m.

Dr. Elsie Inglis occupied the chair for the N.U. owing to the unavoidable absence of Miss S. E. S. Mair. Miss Lumsden spoke for us as well as for the graduates, and was succeeded by Miss Mein (Newcastle), who made a very great impression as a speaker, and held her audience enthralled. Mr. Joseph Dobbie, ex-M.P., spoke vigorously and to the point, and was still speaking when the bagpipes sounded for the resolution to be put. It was carried at all four platforms with a very few dissentients.

From the time that speaking began the rain poured in torrents, but the audience, for the most part protected by

umbrellas, stood their ground nobly, and we had a splendid sale of badges and "Common Causes," both being sold out. The police estimated the crowd at about 5,000. It was a pleasant and a friendly crowd.

We think that the societies have every cause to congratulate themselves upon the success of their venture, and we have to thank all those who contributed so generously both in work and money to the success of our demonstration.

The office will be closed during August, but we hope that all our members will return with renewed energy to their work in the autumn.

#### TAIN.

On Friday evening, 15th July, Miss Lumsden, president of the Aberdeen Society of the N.U.W.S.S., addressed a most appreciative audience in the Masonic Hall, Tain, Provost Fowler occupying the chair.

Miss Lumsden carried her hearers with her in her intense earnestness, and delighted them by her occasional flashes of humour. She treated her subject broadly, making much of the principle of humanity underlying Women's Suffrage, and showing the absurdity of making false distinctions between man and woman in matters academic, patriotic, and politic. Politics, she said, are just national business, and no woman ought, and few can, stand aside from the welfare of her nation. In the Government military training of the young men and the ambulance training of the young women of New Zealand we have evidence of the enfranchised women working with the men for their country's protection.

Miss Lumsden also gave some time to Mr. Shackleton's Bill, and answered many of the objections brought forward by its opponents in its discussion in the House of Commons.

At the close of the meeting a resolution was put "calling upon the Government to give sufficient facilities for the consideration in Committee and for the passing this session of Mr. Shackleton's Bill." This was unanimously carried. Copies of the resolution were sent to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Scotland, and the local member.

#### NORTH-WESTERN FEDERATION.

The North-Western Federation and its component societies have, like everyone else, been working hard these last weeks to organize expressions of support for the Conciliation Committee's Bill. As soon as the date for the introduction of the Bill in the House of Commons was announced all the favourable M.P.s in our area were written to in the name of the Federation, urging them to do their utmost to support the Bill in all its stages, and subsequent letters have been sent to them at each successive crisis in the history of the Bill. All the six members with whom we have been in correspondence voted for the second reading, and five of them voted against the motion to keep the Bill in Committee of the whole House.

The Federation also sent letters to the leaders of the four parties in the House of Commons, laying before them evidence of the strong feeling among the electors in favour of Women's Suffrage, as tested by the National Union's work at the general election, quoting particularly from our own experience in the North-Western Counties.

The work of organizing local meetings and demonstrations was left to the individual societies. A brief account of their activities is given below.

The North-Western Federation was represented at the Trafalgar Square demonstration on July 9th by a contingent of thirteen banners representing the various societies and the results of our voters' petition work. (The highest number of signatures obtained were over 3,000 from Cockerthorpe and 2,444 from Carlisle.) Among our banner-bearers we were proud to welcome five men. One of them (a member of the Keswick Society) came all the way from York on purpose, and another arrived in England from abroad only that morning, and came straight to help us.

We are looking forward to the visit of the Provincial Council to Keswick on October 8th, and are arranging for a series of meetings throughout our district in connection with it.

The committee of the Keswick W.S.A. sent letters in support of the Bill to the four party leaders in the House of Commons. It was no use writing to our own member, who is the speaker, but a large number of electors in the neighbouring constituencies of Cockerthorpe and Whitehaven, where we have done a good deal of very successful work, were canvassed, and urged to write to their members. (Sir John Randles, M.P. for the Cockerthorpe Division, is a member of the Conciliation Committee.)

Individual members of our Society also wrote to any M.P.s they knew personally, urging them to support the Bill, and had for the most part satisfactory answers. A public meeting was held in Keswick, with an entirely masculine platform, from which a petition was sent to Parliament and a resolution to the Prime Minister. The women householders of Bassenthwaite sent up a petition to Parliament, and the Keswick Liberal Club (men) and the Keswick Women's Liberal Association sent resolutions to Mr. Asquith.

Five of our members took part in the Trafalgar Square Demonstration on July 9th, and a good many who could not go themselves sent contributions towards the railway fares of other Suffragists living nearer London. We sent all the banners and flags in our possession to help in the decorations.

Mrs. Broom's excellent picture postcards of the scene in Trafalgar Square are having a good sale at our stall in Keswick Market.

We are hoping to organize an open-air demonstration in one of the industrial towns of Cumberland to demand facilities for the further stages of the Bill. A letter on the present situation, signed by our officers, was sent to all the local papers immediately after the debate in the House of Commons, as it was felt it was very important to make our attitude known without delay.

Penrith held a garden sale of work on July 9th, at which Miss Minna Rathbone moved a resolution urging M.P.s to be in their places on the 11th and 12th to vote at the second reading of the Bill. It was seconded by Miss Varty Smith, and carried unanimously. A copy of the resolution was sent to each of the sympathising M.P.s in the area of the North-Western Federation. These were the Hon. Geoffrey Howard, Hon. R. M. Denman, Sir John S. Randles, Mr. J. A. Jackson, and Mr. Launcelot Saunderson. They all voted for the Bill. The secretary of the Penrith Society afterwards wrote thanking them, and a letter was received from Mr. Denman containing assurances of further doing his best for us. The local papers gave excellent reports of Miss Minna Rathbone's address and the proceedings generally at the sale.

As Captain Bagot, Member for S. Westmorland, is opposed to Women's Suffrage, Kendal held two meetings to draw attention to the Bill. A "Kendal" banner was sent to the Trafalgar Square Demonstration, and carried by Canon Trench, late vicar of Kendal.

Ambleside and Carlisle also sent banners to the demonstration, and six members of the Ambleside Society went up to London on purpose to be present in Trafalgar Square on the 9th.

#### DEMONSTRATION IN MANCHESTER.

Demonstrating is becoming almost routine work for the North of England Society, and we are getting heartily sick of telling people we *do* want the vote. Nevertheless they come and they come to hear us, and they stay and they stay to listen to us, and they vote for us and take our bills and buy our papers, and are most sympathetic. So we are doing good. We had about 2,000 men and women in Stevenson Square last Saturday, where, from two hurries, speeches were delivered and the resolution stating that the Government was bound to give facilities, passed nem. con, and with a pretty heavy poll, too. Councillor Margaret Ashton and Mr. Bruton were chairmen, and the speakers were Mrs. Cooper, Miss Reddish, Mrs. Tattersall (Liberal Women's Suffrage League), Mrs. F. T. Swanwick, Miss M. Robertson, and Mr. Burden.

A very effective leaflet, in the colours, was issued by the Society, giving (1) the text of the Bill, (2) an explanation of it, (3) a brief and telling description of the situation, and what we want people to do.

Another leaflet, which is having a great vogue in South Salford, invites the women on the municipal register to hear what Mr. Belloc had to say about them in the House, and concludes with the queries: "Are there no *Widows* in South Salford? Are there no *Men* whose mothers and sisters have municipal votes?" and invites them to join the Women's Suffrage Association. They are responding well.

#### Federation Notes.

##### West of England.

The first (secretaries') meeting of the proposed West of England Federation met in Bath last Tuesday, with Miss Tanner, of Bristol, in the chair. The rules will be drawn up when the area is finally decided upon. It is now hoped that all the Wiltshire societies will join this Federation, in addition to those in Somerset and Gloucestershire.

The Bath Society heartily approves of the Reigate leaflet, which will be distributed at open-air meetings. Councillor Margaret Ashton has generously consented to give us some help in August, when some open-air work will be arranged.

##### Surrey, Sussex, and Hants Federation.

Societies desiring to hold meetings for the purpose of explaining the Bill can secure Miss Margaret Ashton as a speaker during August, when she will be in our area. Some of the early dates are fixed for Hampshire and Swanage, which is, of course, "over the border." Another way of explaining the Bill is by distributing at gatherings and from house to house the handbill to be had from Mrs. Auerbach, Hethersett, Reigate (5s. 9d. per thousand, post free). The hon. secretary takes this opportunity of asking the secretaries and others to send her as soon as possible the names of local speakers, so that she may complete the list.

*Organiser's Work.*—The Brighton Society, the S.S.H. organiser, and the local Suffragists have carried on a Suffrage campaign at Lewes last week, and we expect soon a new society will be ready to join the N.U. The garden party at the Pavilion, Brighton, was another piece of our work last week. This week Slindon and Worthing are centres of our work. We should be glad of the names of sympathisers both from the Isle of Wight and from the Andover Division. On Thursday, the 4th of August, Mr. Lawrence Housman and Miss Margaret Ashton speak at Bedales Fete, near Peters-



field. Next week Miss Barbara Duncan is helping the Cuckfield Society in their division.

**Notice.**—Will Suffragists coming to Southsea, Hayling Island, or Tee-on-the-Solent for their holidays communicate with Miss N. O'Shea, Cosham. The Portsmouth Society hopes to arrange weekly open-air meetings, and would be glad of the help of speakers staying in the neighbourhood.

**West Lancashire, West Cheshire, and North Wales Federation.**

At two preliminary meetings held in Liverpool it has been decided to form a Federation, with the above name, to cover the areas indicated. The societies included in the area are those for Liverpool, Birkenhead, Wallasey and the Wirral, Southport, Blackpool, Warrington, St. Helens, Rhyl, Llandudno, Bangor, Colwyn Bay, Carnarvon, and the two newly formed societies of Widnes and Ormskirk. It was agreed that the first meeting of the committee of the Federation should, if possible, take place on September 21st, when rules should be drawn up and a scheme of organisation decided on.

## The Women's Social and Political Union.

### HYDE PARK DEMONSTRATION.

The W.S.P.U. has been conquering London—and by London I mean the people who fare through the streets—inch by inch, by sheer energy and the force of importunity. Before Saturday's demonstration its members concentrated their energies on letting London know about the demonstration; pavements were wreathed in chalky designs, women stood at windy street-corners holding aloft an attractive banner, or walked with a banner carrying their purple message into the grey heart of the city, and the message was always the same—"Come to the demonstration on Saturday." With ready wit they followed up the Coronation proclamation by making one of their own, and other women left their lunch untouched and ran out into Fleet Street to hear what was to be said, just as an hour before men had left their work to linger in the alley-ways till the gay little cavalcade of heralds went by. The organizing of so big an affair as was the demonstration in Hyde Park on Saturday involves immense thought on the part of the leaders; really there are times when one would like to see Mrs. Pankhurst holding a field marshal's baton in some very real blood-and-thunder battle, and watch the way in which she would acquit herself. Her faithful officers always back her up so admirably, and the various departments of the procession had been evidently in the hands of most capable people. Everyone knew her exact place in the throng, and the bands and the banners and the general goodwill informed the whole with a great gaiety. For that there is goodwill will be evident, but it seems to me that what Mrs. Pankhurst will soon have to consider is the "accustomedness" which creeps over the things which please a crowd, and, in the long run, makes it tire of its once new interest. London to-day is getting accustomed to Suffragist processions, accustomed indeed to Suffragists, and it does not even take the trouble to tell us to "go home and cook the dinner," but regards our gayest demonstrations always with pleasure, but with diminishing interest. Truly it would have been a crowd hard to please if it had not crowded with delight at Saturday's picturesque battalions with their varied colours and "with silver bells that tinkled, ever so charmingly" (as Henry James describes the bells of the Princess' outlandish pagoda) from the staves of the pennants. The processionists had been asked to wear white, and this they mostly did, and it gave an innocent and childlike air to these women who have proved their grit over and over again. The crowd looks to the Union for sensations, more than for ordered and beautiful processions, more indeed than for excellent speeches, such as were the rule at all the platforms in Hyde Park. This impression of a slackening of the once keen curiosity shown in the proceedings of the Suffragists is the one which stays after all the passing and pleasurable emotions raised by the pretty success of Saturday's demonstration. Now that there is no rushing of platforms and not nearly so much heckling of speakers, it is much easier for the arranged programme to be kept to; punctuality was possible, and at the time arranged, 6.30 p.m., the resolution was put and carried at all the platforms, urging the Government "to provide the necessary facilities for the Women's Enfranchisement Bill to become law this session." The "Conning Tower" was a capital place from which to get a general idea of the proceedings, the little islands of platforms each with its sea of human beings surrounding it, the colours of flags and banners, the dresses of women, and the setting of green which made the larger background of the picture. It required a little courage to leave its safe protection—one had been asked only to stay on it a few minutes, as so many people were to visit it—and launch oneself into the crowd to find one's way through trackless humanity to any special platform one wished to visit. Many things were being said at those platforms—but the gist of them all was the coming enfranchisement of women; there were the reasons why it had not come as yet, the reasons why it should come, the reiteration of women's enthusiasm and convictions; one might paraphrase an old English song which

says "Love will find out the way," and say of our cause, "It will find out the way." It has left off being a matter of curiosity to the wayfarers in our streets; it has become, as our leaders say again and again, a question of practical politics, and a great demonstration such as Saturday's proves this beyond question. The cause is now one with many others which uses Hyde Park as a meeting-house, not any more THE cause with a sporting chance of seeing women carried off to prison and rudely hustled. Is it possible that in view of the present law-abiding tactics of the W.S.P.U. the two great bodies of Suffragists may join hands? For us who differ from these ardent spirits only in our method it would be a good day, and it would be the very best answer to all and every opponent of the cause.

AGNES EVANS.

## Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

The following resolution has been unanimously passed at a special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage:—

"That, in the event of the Conciliation Bill, a general meeting of the Men's League be at once called in order to reconsider the present election policy of the League."  
(Signed) J. MALCOLM MITCHELL, Hon Secretary.

## The Importance of Being Earnest for Women's Suffrage.

"The North Star," of Darlington, has been disputing with a Radical contemporary of the same town as to whether Mr. Lincoln, who sits for Darlington, had or had not paired in favour of the Conciliation Bill. The Radical paper claimed that he had so paired. The "Star" asks (on July 23), "Was the Conservative member with whom he paired opposed to the Bill, and was this particular Bill referred to when the pair was made?"

Obviously, to have been willing to vote for the Bill is a virtue which each newspaper would like to claim for the members of the side it supports! Would that all newspapers were as those of Darlington! Might not even the "Times" and the "Westminster Gazette" take the hint?

## Foreign News.

### FRANCE.

The French W.S.A. continues to grow. Its membership amounts now to 1,200, and numerous local branches are being organized in the provinces. Its most prominent success this month was the publication in the magazine *La Revue* of the answers to the inquiry on Women's Suffrage held by the F.W.S.A. among eminent Frenchmen. The editor of the review, M. Jean Finot, declared strongly in favour of votes for women in a splendid article which preceded the publication of the inquiry and bore the title: *La Charte des Femmes et la société française au XXe siècle*. More than seventy eminent men of high position, deputies, senators, university professors, etc., sent the F.W.S.A. more or less extensive communications nearly all in favour of Woman Suffrage.  
(*Jus Suffragii*.)

## Lady Gardeners' Success at the Holland House Flower Show.

The Misses Le Lacheur and Sherris, F.R.H.S., who within the last twelve months have started a nursery garden at Henfield, Sussex, have been awarded a silver Knightian medal for a superb exhibit of English hot-house melons. At the Royal Botanic Show they also obtained a special prize for melons, first prizes for giant sweetpeas and a group of annuals, and second prize for roses.

## Workmen's Wives in Council.

### Notes on the Annual Congress of the Women's Co-operative Guild.

A Guild Congress in the South is never quite so large as in the North, co-operative societies being thickest in Lancashire and Yorkshire. But there were seven or eight hundred delegates at Oxford last week, and two days did not nearly give time for them to say all they wanted. The Congress programme is always interesting, as showing the kind of influence married working women would have in politics. The chief co-operative subject this year was women's wages. The Guild is making a gallant attempt to establish something distantly resembling a living wage for women and girls employed by co-operative societies. They ask that where trade unions exist the scale of the union shall be adopted, and, in other cases, a scale proposed by the Guild, starting with 5s. for a girl of fourteen, and increasing by 2s. a year

to 17s. for a woman of twenty. Among the stores, the adoption of the scale is spreading. There are now about 36 societies which recognise it. But the Co-operative Wholesale Society, who employ about 6,000 women and girls, have not yet adopted it, though it is stated that they pay union rates for men. The Congress paper on this subject, by Miss Llewelyn Davies, gives the text of the petition signed by over 13,000 co-operative women for the adoption of the scale, and anyone who is interested in the question of women's earnings would find in it an admirable summary of the arguments for a minimum wage. The scale itself is based on particulars of the expenses of working girls furnished by experienced members of the Guild; and it is worth noticing, by the way, that these particulars allow nothing for warm underclothing. If this scale becomes generally adopted in the co-operative movement, it may certainly be expected to have some influence outside. It is proposed to run a well-known Guildswoman, Mrs. Hodgett, of Lincoln, for the board which controls the gigantic business of the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Leaving out much interesting matter—School Clinics, Child Labour and Education, Labour Exchanges, etc.—let us come to the Suffrage resolutions:—

(1) "Seeing that the present session offers a unique opportunity for passing the Women Occupiers' Bill, this Congress most urgently calls on the Government to give facilities for its passage into law."

(2) "This Congress emphatically reaffirms that as a body mainly composed of married working women who would not obtain the vote under the Occupiers' Bill, its demand is for Adult Suffrage, because Womanhood Suffrage alone is just to all, married and single, rich and poor, and because the right to vote should be based on humanity, not on property."

Compared with last year's, the debate showed a great increase in the delegates' courage and decision in asking for the vote for themselves. Mrs. Brown (Central Committee) moved both resolutions, speaking apologetically for the Bill and enthusiastically for Adult Suffrage. Mrs. Land (Derby) and Mrs. Aldersley (Nelson), in supporting the first resolution, spoke strongly for Adult Suffrage, and were loudly applauded, while only Mrs. Radcliffe (Burslem) and Mrs. Mitchell (Keighley) took the attitude that it was dangerous to ask for Adult Suffrage. Mrs. Wilmhurst (Belvedere) spoke ably for the Occupiers' Bill, which she thought took the line of least resistance, and there were two or three other speakers for the first resolution.

In moving the second resolution, Mrs. Brown said that motherhood should be free, and freedom meant the right to express through our representatives what we thought best for the country. We were quite as capable of choosing representatives as our husbands. We must let the Government and the country know that we wanted to take our places beside the men, not only for the sake of justice, but because we wanted to help to set right many things for which women's intelligence was needed. Four speakers jumped up to second, and the honour fell to Mrs. Clark (Cleator Moor). Mrs. Territt (Brighton) made a thoughtful speech with a flavour of Socialist reading; Mrs. Gasson (Southern Section), Mrs. Barton (Hillsborough, Sheffield), and Mrs. Eddie (Prestwick) spoke strongly for Adult Suffrage; while Miss Webb (secretary of the Convalescent Fund) supported it more mildly as a matter of principle. Mrs. Bury, an ex-president of the Guild, who said she was very proud of the Occupiers' Bill, was the only speaker hostile to the resolution, on the ground that Adult Suffrage was not on the programme of either of the great political parties, and that the Conservative party, whose support was necessary, would close its ranks against women if they were to put forward such a claim. Both resolutions were carried unanimously with loud applause, and sent to Westminster, where the debate was going on at the very moment.

Your readers will not agree with the Guild policy, but if they could have heard the discussion without *arrière pensée* they would, I think, have been struck by the excellent way in which the delegates put their claim to enfranchisement. It was strongly expressed and strongly felt without being in the least aggressive or bitter, and no one could have been present through the Congress without feeling its force. On Wednesday morning the Standing Orders were suspended, and a resolution of protest against the check to the Bill was passed without debate.

Earlier in the proceedings a resolution was moved and seconded by Mrs. Harris (Central Committee, the new president of the Guild) and Mrs. Layton (Cricklewood) to the effect that the Congress "unreservedly condemned" the inequality in the law of divorce as between men and women, and desired the cheapening of divorce that it might be within reach of the poor. They would agree, Mrs. Harris said, in a quietly impressive speech, that for a man to commit adultery was cruel enough to the wife without bodily cruelty. Any woman had the right to expect from her husband the same purity that he expected from her. She defended cheaper divorce as giving the power of choice, and making it possible to live a pure and a clean life. Mrs. Layton, who is a midwife, spoke from experience of the need of poor women for these reforms, and quoted a painful case in point. No one rose to speak after the seconder sat down, but it was not from want of sympathy. The strength of the feeling on this subject, though not expressed in words, was quite evident from the delegates' demeanour. The vote was almost unanimous,

and there were some suppressed expressions of disapproval when it was seen that five hands were held up against the resolution. On Wednesday evening fifty or sixty delegates left a very attractive garden party to pursue this subject at a private meeting, which entirely confirmed the vote. Much first-hand knowledge was brought out, and those who have told the Divorce Commission that "working women do not want divorce" would have been surprised. Only one of those present, a Catholic, expressed dissent from the general opinion.

A short debate on a resolution asking for some form of economic independence for wives showed that opinion is advancing on this difficult subject. It was brought forward by Reigate branch.

A DELEGATE.

## The July Magazines.

*The World's Work* has an article entitled "A Scottish Model Prison for Women," by Charlotte Smith-Rassie. The prison described is at Glasgow, and is conducted in a manner resembling the Borstal system. An arrangement of wings radiating from a central building renders supervision easy, while not too obvious. Industries and arts of all descriptions are taught, and except in America or Japan there is no equally enlightened prison.

In *The Contemporary Review* Mrs. E. J. Putnam writes on "The Lady of the Castle," giving a very interesting account of the daily life, dress, and manners of the chateaulines of the middle ages. These ladies were often better educated than their husbands, and their acquaintance with practical arts was boundless. The marital relation in the age of chivalry, it appears, was not romantic. True romantic love, though high in standard, usually existed outside marriage.

Mrs. St. Clair Stobart in *The Fortnightly Review* deals with "The Eternal Womanly," showing by means of biological instances that all through nature the *female* is the important factor in the scheme of life. She points out that qualities of essential maleness or essential femaleness rarely exist: there is no "woman's true sphere" outside the human race.

"The Care and Control of the Feeble-minded" is Mrs. Hume Pinsent's theme in *The Nineteenth Century*. A member of the recent Royal Commission, the writer pleads eloquently for control of the mentally defective by one single authority. Power of permanent detention and continuity of control would, she says, materially reduce crime, drunkenness, prostitution, and disease.

In the same Review the Hon. Sydney Holland, chairman of the London Hospital, in "State Regulation of Nurses: A Reply," disputes Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's statements as to the results which may be anticipated from State registration. He is of opinion that only a Nurses' Who's Who, kept up to date, will be of use in ensuring efficiency.

"You Would Hardly Believe It," by Lady Pigott, deals with the colonial nursing before and after the institution of the Colonial Nursing Association, and gives a ghastly picture of the state of things existing some fifteen years ago, when no organisation for nurses existed.

## The Hearth.

### THE MAN.

Bide, Woman, by the hearth,  
For you were priestess born;  
The world is dark with thund'rous wrath,  
And chill with winds of scorn.

Plant lilies for delight,  
Press grapes for healing cheer;  
And man shall turn from spoil and fight  
To find renewal here.

### THE WOMAN.

Our sacred fires we tend,  
We mix with care the balm;  
But shrill, sad cries our house walls rend,  
And break our golden calm.

Soot falls amid the flame,  
Inside our garth there spring  
Plants, which mid lily seedlings came  
To hideous blossoming.

For cheer when you have toiled  
Not all our works are wrought,  
We needs must bless where you have spoiled,  
And bind where you have fought.

Nay, since our children fare  
From home and peaceful shrine,  
We, dedicate, must follow there  
With food and fire and wine:

Lest gentle hearts grow hard,  
Or balm should waste unshed;  
Lest, while the hearth we duly guard,  
The fire itself be dead.

MAUDE GOLDRING.



## Correspondence.

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

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

"THE ENGLISHWOMAN."

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—I beg to offer two prizes:—Prize I.: An annual subscription to "The Englishwoman," beginning October 1, 1910. Prize II.: Ditto, "The Common Cause." These prizes will be allotted to the person obtaining the highest number (exceeding six) of new annual subscribers to "The Englishwoman" by the end of August. The lists of names, with addresses of verifications attached, should reach me at Bull Farm Cottage, Beaconsfield, by September 5, and the result will be published in "The Common Cause," with the kind permission of the editor, a fortnight later.

I hear on all hands of the high position in the literary world taken by "The Englishwoman," which reaches a public not reached by the ordinary Suffrage literature, and it will prove a delightful holiday task for Suffragists to make it more widely known. "The Englishwoman" is, as most of your readers are aware, a monthly review published by Messrs. Sidgwick and Jackson at one shilling, and edited by Lady Frances Balfour, Lady Strachey, Miss Lowndes, and Miss Cicely Hamilton.—Yours,

A. HELEN WARD.

WALES AND WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—I was disappointed to find that in your account of the demonstration on July 9th no mention was made of the presence of the contingent from Wales. As both North and South Wales were represented, and each carried a banner bearing the national emblem, this omission is calculated to give an erroneous impression both of the loyalty of the Principality and of the energy of its workers, especially as the same omission seems to have been made in the public Press. May I beg you to correct it in your next issue.—Yours,

E. M. GUEST (Hon. Sec., Llandudno).

Cartrefe, Abbey Road, July 22nd, 1910.

HELPING "THE COMMON CAUSE."

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—May I suggest, following Mrs. Guest's letter in your last week's issue, that it would be a good plan for Suffragists to buy, in addition to their own copy of the "Common Cause," one or more copies extra and dispose of them each week as advantageously, from a propaganda point of view, as possible? I always get an extra copy, and see that it is regularly disposed of to a likely reader. A good plan is to obtain permission from doctors, dentists, hairdressers, restaurants, etc., to leave a copy each week, as by that means many people see our paper who would not otherwise do so. As you, madam, so often quote, "It's dogged as does it."—Yours,

WORKER.

PROPOSED FREE CHURCH SUFFRAGE LEAGUE.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—Would you allow me, through "The Common Cause," to ask for names of any men or women who would like to form a "Free Church Suffrage League"? For Church of England Suffragists there is the "Church League," which supplies a real need to those in the movement, who, feeling their cause not only political and economic, but spiritual as well, desire Suffrage services, meetings, and literature on religious lines. Those of us who are Nonconformists are entirely without any such help and satisfaction.

Then, too, there are a large number of women in our churches who hold back from the Suffrage because they have a latent feeling that religion is opposed to votes for women.

## PENSION-ASSURANCES FOR WOMEN.

### EDUCATED WOMEN

who are enjoying independence and comfort during the active years of life **SHOULD PROVIDE FOR THEIR OLD AGE.** This may be done by means of a policy securing **AN ANNUITY TO COMMENCE AT AGE 55 OR A LUMP SUM AT THAT AGE.** The scheme also makes provision for the contingencies of death or marriage.

Write for an explanatory leaflet to **Miss Ellen Walshe**, Office of "The Common Cause," 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester, Agent for the

## Scottish Equitable Life Assurance Society.

FOUNDED 1831. Funds £5,700,000.

Head Office: 28, ST. ANDREW SQUARE, EDINBURGH.

London Office: 19, KING WILLIAM STREET, E.C.

Manchester Office: 1-37, PRINCESS STREET.

Such prejudices would be likely to be dispelled by a society run on religious lines. The League would be presumably non-party, and abjure all forms of tactics, devoting itself to purely educational and devotional work.

I may say that my part in the matter is simply to collect names of sympathisers, believing that organisation will then follow. Already Free Church leaders have said they would support such a body, among them the Rev. Dr. Clifford. May I ask those wishing a reply to enclose a stamped addressed envelope?—Yours,

L. E. TURQUAND.

International Suffrage Club, Russell Square, London, W.C.

### BADGES.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—May I, through your columns, plead with all fellow-Suffragists to wear their badges at this critical time? The importance of doing so has been constantly urged; but I am astonished to find how many keen adherents are unwilling to "make themselves conspicuous" in even this innocuous way. Surely this is the very moment at which we must show our colours; and the wearing of a badge of some sort, sufficient at least to show clearly for what we stand, is a simple and very effective advertisement of the cause. Let the timid and retiring member bring herself, as in duty bound, to put on her colours, and so face the world—particularly the world of railway carriage and public gathering,—and I dare prophesy that in a very little while she will find herself not only more ardent for the cause, but actually ashamed of appearing anywhere without her badge of service.—Yours,

DOROTHY TALRANT.

53, Westover Road, Wandsworth Common, S.W., July 15th.

## Reports of Societies within the National Union.

Secretaries would simplify the work by sending in notices of FORTHCOMING MEETINGS, endorsed with those words, with time, place, and speakers legibly written, on one side of the paper only, and on a sheet of paper separate from other matter.

(The following reports were held over from last week.)

### FARNHAM.

Members of the Farnham Society are taking part in a deputation to members of the Guildford division, and are getting letters written by electors to Members of Parliament.

### LIVERPOOL.

During the last few weeks work has been carried on in the Ormskirk Division of Lancashire with such good results that it is hoped a branch of the N.U.W.S.S. will soon be started in this constituency. In Ormskirk two well-attended open-air meetings were held. Mrs. Cooper and Miss C. Leadley Brown were the speakers. A fairly large audience assembled to hear Councillor Eleanor Rathbone and Mrs. Cooper in the Institute on June 16th. In Seaforth Miss Thompson obtained permission from several ministers of religion for Suffrage speakers to address P.M.A.'s, with excellent results. Several open-air and drawing-room meetings were addressed by Miss Chubb, Mr. Trimstone, and others. In both towns much has been done in the way of personal visiting, and at all the meetings resolutions in favour of Mr. Shackleton's Bill were passed by large majorities.

### PORTSMOUTH.

Roused to indignation by the opinion expressed by the "Daily News," that Mr. Smith's oration against our Bill was the best speech of the debate, Miss N. O'Shea addressed an open-air meeting in Fratton on July 12th, and spoke for over an hour to an attentive crowd on the fallacies of the oration and the weaknesses of the enemies' arguments, and our hope in the present political situation. The audience was attentive, some good questions were asked, three women gave in their names as sympathisers and probable members, and we were asked to come again the next evening.

The other local Suffrage event of the week was a debate, by invitation, on our Bill and women's necessity for this reform, in Immanuel Chapel. Our opponents, chiefly young men, would not take a vote, as they were the promoters and had not extended the invitation to the Society, and knew the room was filled with their own supporters. But here their magnanimity stopped. "No more

room" for anything large. They thought themselves Liberals, and to a listener who had felt in concord with some of their past leaders, it was horrifying to see such little spirits in a party we must still call progressive.

### RUGBY.

We have had four outdoor meetings during the past week, at each of which a resolution was passed expressing satisfaction that an early date had been given for the second reading of the Representation of the People Bill, and urging the Premier to grant further facilities, so that it might become law this session.

The first two were held on Monday evening in different parts of the town. Miss Chrystal Macmillan kindly stopped here on her way to London, and much interested a gathering of workmen, especially at the second and much larger meeting.

The other meetings were held in the Market Place on Wednesday and Thursday evening, the first being addressed by Miss Taylor, the second by Mrs. Ring, both of Birmingham. These meetings had been advertised, and there were large gatherings, consisting chiefly of working-men. Nearly every man in the crowd held up his hand for the resolution, and no one against it.

On Saturday a party of thirteen went up to the Trafalgar Square meeting, partly owing to the kindness of the Central Executive in supplying funds for fares.

Our earnest and energetic Co-Secretary had a bicycle accident when out on Suffrage work on Wednesday morning, and it is a great loss to the Society to be without her most capable help just now and for some time to come. We are pleased to note that our Member voted for the second reading of Mr. Shackleton's Bill.

### SHREWSBURY.

A very enjoyable afternoon was spent on Thursday, the 14th inst., when Mrs. Harley was at home to the members of the Shropshire Society. Tea was served on the lawn, and then a garden meeting was held, with our hostess in the chair. Mrs. Harley spoke of the Bill, laying great stress on the fact that only two out of the five Shropshire M.P.s voted for its second reading. Miss Taylor, of Birmingham, followed with a convincing address, which was eagerly listened to by her audience. Mrs. Shields gave an interesting account of the National Union demonstration on the 9th inst., which had been attended by sixteen members of our Society.

At the close of the afternoon a comedieta entitled, "Who Got the Best of It?" was given. The chief characters were played by Mrs. Harley's daughter and niece.

### SHROPSHIRE.

Voting on the Second Reading of the Women Occupiers' Bill.—Our Shropshire M.P.s (five) voted on the second reading of Mr. Shackleton's Bill as follows:—For: W. C. Bridgeman, Esq. (Oswestry), Beville Stanier, Esq. (Newport). Against: Sir Clement Hill (Shrewsbury), Rowland Hunt, Esq. (Ludlow). C. S. Henry, Esq. (Wellington) was absent, but had paired against.

All these five M.P.s had been written to with regard to the Bill, not only by Mrs. Timpany, but also by many electors in their several constituencies, and they all had also been the recipients of telegrams

on the morning of the 12th inst. It is worthy of note that Sir Clement Hill, who had expressed in his election address his interest in the Suffrage movement, and who had also had proof from the many letters received from his constituents that Women's Suffrage was a vital question in Shrewsbury, should have recorded his vote against the second reading of the Conciliation Bill!

### WINSCOMBE.

The delegate who attended the Council meetings at Bristol was there encouraged to go further; she went to the Trafalgar Square demonstration with two keen sympathizers from Yatton. Three Winscombe members contributed fares, or sent a subscription to the London Treasurer to help to make the demonstration a success.

Unfortunately we have as yet very few active members; but on July 12th one of the very busiest women in Winscombe held a drawing-room meeting, at which some account was given of recent events. As it was impossible to arrange for future work until the fate of the Bill is decided, the meeting was adjourned until July 21st, when it is hoped some decision will be arrived at for an autumn campaign on the lines recommended by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

At the annual meeting of the Women's Liberal Association, held on July 14th, the Treasurer of the Weston Branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies gave a stirring address in favour of Women's Suffrage. This made a deep impression, and an extremely keen party woman said she was almost converted. If we could wake up our political women we could double and treble our forces even in a village.

### Other Societies.

#### THE NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

The New Constitutional Society is going ahead. During the last month much good work has been done. Resolutions have been passed supporting the Women's Suffrage Conciliation Bill, urging the Government to grant facilities for its further stages, and drawing-room and open-air meetings held.

At Mrs. Forsyth's excellent addresses were given by Mrs. Fagan and Mrs. Cameron Grant, the latter drawing special attention to the economic side of the question. They were listened to with keen attention.

Mrs. Fagan held a very successful meeting at her house, when Lady Emily Lutyns, Miss Gertrude Elliott, and Sir John Cockburn spoke to an enthusiastic audience. A large collection was taken. Resolutions were passed at both meetings and sent to the Prime Minister.

The strawberry tea and sale held in the shop in Park Mansions Arcade on June 21 proved a most enjoyable and successful undertaking. Tables were placed in the arcade, and the flowers sent by country members were massed in a bank of colour. One was reminded of some foreign café on a festa day.

The open-air meeting at Hampton, organized by Miss Raleigh, attracted a large audience.

The Society and the affiliated Society of Hastings and St. Leonards took part in the procession of the 18th, and numbered well over two hundred. The weekly meetings at the shop have been well attended, and will continue to be held till the end of July. The membership is increasing satisfactorily.

A resolution insisting that the Prime Minister shall make good his declaration made at the beginning of the present session, and enable the House of Commons to deal with the question effectively before the adjournment of the House, was passed unanimously at a large garden meeting given by Mrs. Langdon Down at Normansfield, Hampton Wick, on Wednesday afternoon, July 13, under the auspices of the New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage. Among the speakers at the meeting were Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G., Mr. Hugh A. Law, M.P., Mr. Cecil Chapman, J.P., and Miss Abadam. Mrs. Cecil Chapman presided.

The first speaker was Mr. Hugh Law, who drew attention to the fact that for the first time in the history of the movement two days had been given in Government time for the debate on a Woman Suffrage Bill, with an attendance in all parts of the House which certainly had not been given to any measure this session. For the first time the opponents of Women's Suffrage had really been put upon their mettle and had made a serious attempt to establish their opposition on grounds of policy and of philosophy; they had provided a compendium of the various objections that people bring forward against the principle. Taking the physical force argument, that might do very well if lynch law prevailed. In a civilized State, power, if it rested on anything at all, rested upon the general good sense and consent of the governed. The debate had been not so much a conflict of arguments as a conflict of different types of mind.

Sir John Cockburn, in a stirring speech, said that it was unchivalrous in the last degree that men, having fully armed themselves for entry into the industrial arena, should throw women into it without a single weapon for their protection. Women who were canvassing and "touting" for politicians loafed about on ground they had no right to be on. They were at present outsiders, and one who was not a voter should not be employed to influence voters. There was no need to be despondent about the fate of the Conciliation Bill. The cause of Woman Suffrage was on the rising tide; nothing could hold it back. If one went aground on the falling tide one was stranded, but to go aground with the incoming tide meant that in a few hours one would be afloat. A Woman Suffrage Bill must be made a Government measure.

Miss Abadam gave an invigorating address.

### LONDON—SOUTH KENSINGTON.

A very successful meeting of our members was held, by kind permission of Mrs. Hay Chapman, on the evening of July 20th. Miss Fitzgerald was in the chair. Miss I. O. Ford gave a most interesting address, first touching on the Conciliation Bill and then on the need of the vote for working women. She spoke with an intimate knowledge, which greatly impressed her hearers.

Mrs. Herringham referred to the legal position of working women, and read extracts relating to the position of women under the law.

There was a good deal of informal discussion, and most of these present left with the resolve to work harder than ever to accomplish our end.



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### LONDON—KINGSTON AND SURBITON.

We held our second open-air meeting in Kingston Market Place on Wednesday, the 20th, at 8 p.m. The meeting had not been advertised, but in spite of steady rain we collected a crowd of about 100, who stayed till the end and asked questions with keen interest. A resolution was passed by a considerable majority, calling on Mr. Asquith to give further facilities for the Conciliation Bill.

### PORTSMOUTH.

We are holding open-air meetings in the borough every week, and also in the neighbouring villages and towns, to explain the Bill and the political situation. With much regret we had to announce at Mrs. Laphorne's garden meeting that severe indisposition prevented Mr. Cameron Grant from attending and speaking on the great need that the industrial women has for the protection of the vote. It was a real loss for Southsea not to hear from the lips of an authority somewhat of the lives of these workers, from whom they are separated by space, but from whose labours so many of our own comforts come, and to better the conditions of whose lives some of our leisure might be given.

Fortunately, a young friend of Miss O'Shea's came to our rescue and described some of the conditions in English prisons for women, since a message of hope was brought to the captives, and the degradation of womanhood was condemned. And here, too, we listened to a voice speaking what it knew, for twice had the speaker not only been a prisoner, but had faced the wrath of exasperated officials, in order to draw attention to women's grievances. Mrs. Laphorne explained the political situation to a most interested audience, and Miss Norah O'Shea confuted some of the arguments used to destroy the Bill on its second reading.

We have invited Miss Margaret Ashton to help us with some of our open-air meetings after this week.

### SEAFORTH.

The newly formed Seaforth branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies was successfully inaugurated on Tuesday evening by a public meeting in the Seaforth Liberal Club, when there was a crowded and enthusiastic gathering of ladies and gentlemen belonging to all political parties. The chairman was Mr. George Oliver-Jones, who introduced Mrs. H. Le G. Solly, the temporary president of the branch. In a stirring speech, in which she dealt with arguments for and against the Suffrage movement, and her experiences in starting a Society in Cape Colony. Mrs. Solly moved a resolution calling upon the local Member, the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., to continue his support of Mr. Shackleton's Bill. The resolution was seconded by her sister, Mrs. E. Stewart Brown, who, as chairman of the Liverpool branch, welcomed the extension at Seaforth, and explained and justified the provisions of Mr. Shackleton's Bill, which she still hoped the Government might advance through its remaining stages. Rev. A. A. Lee moved, and Miss Evelyn Deakin seconded, a vote of thanks to the speakers, and at the close of the meeting new members were enrolled. The resolution was carried without a single dissident.

### SHEFFIELD.

"A spirit of superb confidence," according to one of the local papers, "pervaded the gathering" at the Montgomery Hall,

Sheffield, on Monday, July 18th, as one speaker after another, beginning with the President, Dr. Helen Wilson, expressed her belief in the ultimate triumph of Women's Suffrage.

A resolution calling upon the Government to grant facilities for all the stages necessary for the Bill now before Parliament to become law was proposed by Councillor Margaret Ashton (of Manchester) in a stirring and eloquent address, which concluded with a confident prediction that "if we all pull together we shall get the vote in the autumn session, and a sturdy band in the Conservative Liberal and Labour parties, and a sturdy band in the Conservative party." Councillor Arthur Neal (of Sheffield), who seconded, said that as a Liberal he would be glad if Liberalism should assure the Premier that the people at large realized that the Bill would take away the stigma which through their present disability rested on women. Mrs. Cooper (of Nelson) also supported the resolution, strongly urging all electors to write to Mr. Asquith to support the Bill, and mentioning that she had been instrumental in inducing four hundred men in Nelson alone to do so.

The resolution was then put and carried with acclamation. A vote of thanks to the speakers, including the Chairman, was proposed by Professor Green (of Sheffield University), and seconded by Mr. Harry Fisher, who, speaking as a Conservative, supported what Mr. Neal had said about the fitness of women for full civic responsibilities.

### TONBRIDGE.

A drawing-room meeting in support of the formation of the above Society was held on July 11th, at Dry Hill House, by kind invitation of Mrs. Burt, under the auspices of the Tunbridge Wells and District Branch, when Miss Margaret Hodge addressed the meeting. Miss Taylor, L.L.A., took the chair, and was supported by Madame Sarah Grand (President Tunbridge Wells Branch), and by Miss Lucy Deane (President Sevenoaks Branch).

A meeting of intending members was held on July 22nd for the election of officers, etc. The election of President was waived for the present. Mrs. Earl, Mrs. Helges, and Miss Taylor were elected vice-presidents. Mrs. Macpherson, hon. treasurer; Miss Pratt and Miss Glynn Williams, joint hon. secretaries. A strong committee was formed, and affiliation to the National Union was resolved upon.

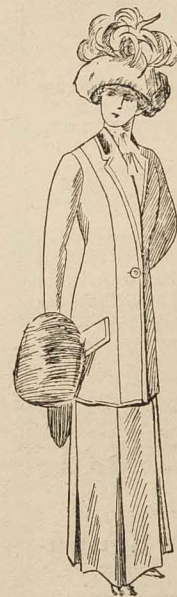
### WAKEFIELD.

Our Society has been active lately. Mrs. Atcherly very kindly entertained the members to tea at Haddon Leys on July 1st. Miss Walley had promised to read a paper on John Stuart Mill, but she was unfortunately prevented from being present. Instead a short paper on "Charlotte Brontë and Women's Emancipation" was read by Miss Beaumont; and Miss Fielden, who had kindly come over from Leeds, spoke to us on the present situation and appealed for members to go up to the demonstration in Trafalgar Square on the 9th. The Society has worked hard for Mr. Shackleton's Bill, and our Member, Mr. Brotherton, supported the Bill in both divisions.

On Saturday, the 16th of July, a garden fête was held at Hatfield Hall, Wakefield (by the kind permission of Mr. Beaumont). Fortunately the weather was delightful, and a goodly number of members and friends assembled to support Miss I. O. Ford, who most kindly came over to open the fête, and who gave a most interesting speech on the present state of affairs and the outlook for the Bill. A resolution asking the Prime Minister to give further facilities for the Conciliation Bill was carried unanimously. After the speeches, a play, "Lady Geraldine's Speech," was acted twice. There were also waxworks, a shooting gallery, and other attractions. A considerable sum will be realized for the funds of the Society.

### YORK.

Miss le Clerc Phillips' visit to us came to an end on Monday. She extended her visit in order to speak at the Hon. Mrs. Wilkinson's garden party on the 16th. This proved the most effective piece of Suffrage work, for the party was largely composed of Anti-Suffragists, some of the most influential Anti-Suffragists in the neighbourhood being present. Everyone listened attentively throughout Miss Phillips' address; even a tennis tournament was delayed by ardent tennis players who wished to hear. After the address Mrs. Wilkinson invited questions, and Major Jardine, acting as spokesman for the Anti-Suffragists, asked some very terse questions. Miss Phillips



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replied to all in a way that gained the admiration of everyone, whilst the Suffragists present were delighted with the good-humoured way in which Major Jardine took his defeat. A magistrate present announced to his friends that he was now quite converted to the Suffragist cause.

By kind permission of Mrs. Morrell, the Monk Ward Liberal Women's Association were addressed by Miss Phillips in the grounds at West Mount, which resulted in four new Suffrage members.

Open-air meetings were continued throughout the week.  
(We have again to hold over some reports of societies.)

## Forthcoming Meetings.

JULY 28.		
London (Hampstead Heath)—Open-air Meeting, near Flagstaff—	8.0	
Mrs. Stanbury, Miss A. Dawson.	8.0	
Nairn, N.B.—Public Hall—Miss Helen Fraser, Mrs. Hunter.	5.0	
Liverpool—Annual Meeting—27, Lecece Street.	4.15	
Gateshead—Dewick Hall—Formation of Society.	8.30	
London—Central Finsbury—Open-air Meeting.		
JULY 29.		
Elgin—Y.W.C.A.—Miss Helen Fraser.	3.30	
Newcastle-on-Tyne—Hunstanworth—Workers' Meeting.	7.30	
Watwick and Leamington—Summer Outing to Kenilworth Castle, meet Castle Gates.	3.30	
AUGUST 20.		
Huddersfield—Blackrock, Linthwaite—Miss Fielden.		
AUGUST 29.		
London—Windsor—At Home—Miss M. Hodge.		

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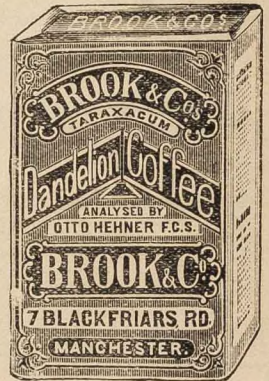
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