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The Common Cause,

The Organ of the National Union of

Women's Suffrage

Societies.

VOL. III. No. 125.

Registered as
a Newspaper.

AUGUST 31, 1911.

ONE PENNY.



Two Johnnies.

JOHN CHINAMAN:—"I am sorry for their husbands and their sons!" (See Lady Jersey's speech, June 30, 1911).

JOHN BULL:—"You may keep your pity for those that want it. My wife and my mother are walking in that procession, and I'm proud of 'em. See!"

Notes and Comments.

The Prime Minister's Pledge.

We did not think it necessary to excite ourselves very much about Mr. Lloyd George's answer in the House to the question about the promised facilities and Mr. Asquith's short but perfectly clear reply to Lord Lytton (see p. 357) sets at rest all possible legitimate doubts that the Government pledge is for facilities in 1912 for all stages of the "Conciliation Bill," and no other. Suffragists can only work fruitfully in one way: by concentrating the whole of their forces on this, the only live Bill.

The Conciliation Committee.

Recent acquisitions to the Conciliation Committee are: J. A. M. Macdonald (Falkirk Burghs), G. H. Radford (Islington), R. Munro (Wick Burghs), J. D. Hope (W. Fife), Liberals; W. Mitchell Thomson (N. Down), Col. Burn (Torquay), Arthur Fell (Gt. Yarmouth), J. T. Agg-Gardner (Cheltenham), S. Roberts (Eccles-hall), Harry Hope (Buteshire), Lord Wolmer (Newton), Unionists; F. Goldstone (Sunderland), J. W. Taylor (Chester-le-Street), Labour; John Phillips (S. Longford), John McKean (S. Monaghan), Nationalists.

Promises have been received from 27 Members to ballot next year for the Conciliation Bill, and there are 12 more conditional promises.

Work in the Constituencies.

We hope that those Societies within whose area are any of the 124 Members who signed the letter to the Premier which we publish on p. 360, will make a note of the fact that these men are our enemies. It is not possible, of course, for this Government to adopt the Referendum, and Mr. Asquith, on July 25, in reply to a question by Captain Faber, quite plainly stated that he did not propose to submit Women's Suffrage to a Referendum. The Antis' request, therefore, is only of interest as shewing their signatures. While regarding the suggestion of a Referendum as impracticable and unjust, we do, however, most heartily support the request that the subject of women's suffrage should be prominently brought before the constituencies during the next six months by Members of Parliament, and especially by members of the Government. The conversion of the country has in the main been left to the women themselves, and they have carried it out with a vigour and thoroughness unsurpassed in the history of franchise agitations. Throughout the coming half-year the suffrage societies will be continuing their educational campaign, and we trust that Members of Parliament will take more conscientiously than they have done, their share of the work, and that at least one or two men of Cabinet rank may give a lead to the millions of men and women whose minds and wishes are favourable.

The Strikes.

On Sunday the 20th the papers announced the good news of the settlement of the railway dispute, and the railway strike was over on Tuesday. It never was universal, but it was widespread enough to cause immense discomfort and incalculable loss. One hopes the Commission may act as a real peacemaker, investigating grievances and helping to right them. There is no doubt that the possession of a monopoly like the railways should impose a peculiar moral obligation upon the directors not lightly to imperil the national service, and the same is true of the men; both obligations should be recognised. Controversy rages round the questions whether or no "peaceful" picketing should be allowed, and a very general opinion prevails that by no stretching of the language could much of the picketing that prevailed be called "peaceful." There is no doubt whatever that much of it was intimidation of a very gross kind.

Another controversial point has been the conduct of the Home Office in despatching troops not only to guard the railways, but in preparation for actually help-

ing to run them. Mr. Churchill considered that the imminent danger of starvation, of the whole population being "wiped from the book of human life," was so great as to warrant these exceptional measures. We do not desire to go into that matter, but we would point out that for the prevention of intimidation and the less criminal forms of violence (such as upsetting luries, unharnessing horses) it is not soldiers that are needed, but a far greater force of constables and far stricter orders for the apprehension of those guilty whenever possible. Innumerable cases are cited where violence of this sort was looked on at and condoned by the police. The police evidently shared the prevailing sympathy of the working men with their fellows, perhaps the most remarkable feature of the whole strike.

A Rise in Prices.

What may legitimately trouble every member of the community, from the richest to the poorest (but especially the poorest) is that the Government has promised to allow the railway companies to recoup themselves for any rise in wages that may be agreed upon by raising the railway rates. This can only end in a general rise in prices and increased difficulty in disposing of goods

A Tragic Loss.

One of the most celebrated pictures of the world, the Monna Lisa of Leonardo da Vinci, was stolen on August 21 from the Louvre, and so far has not been traced. Many theories are advanced: the picture has always been one about which writers have spun webs of words. But it does not matter who "possesses" a great picture or a great statue. The only thing that really matters is that it should be freely seen by all who delight in it, and the necessity for hiding the Monna Lisa is the only tragic thing about the theft.

Two Distinguished Scotswomen Honoured.

Next month, at the celebration of the five-hundredth anniversary of the foundation of the University of St. Andrews, two women are to receive the honorary degree of LL.D., Miss Louisa I. Lumsden, one of the three "Girton pioneers," first headmistress of St. Leonard's School, St. Andrews, and first warden of University Hall, St. Andrews, and Mrs. Henry Sidgewick, late head of Newnham College, Cambridge.

Women Teachers.

We alluded last week to the great preponderance of women teachers. It may interest our readers to know that in 1910 the teachers of all grades numbered 173,735, of whom men and boys were 24 per cent, women and girls 76 per cent. Only 54.5 per cent. of these teachers are certificated, and of these (in England and Wales) the women number 62,747, and the men 32,026. The proportion of women and men belonging to the N.U.T. is not by any means in accordance with their relative numbers. We are sorry to say the women members numbered in 1910 only 38,380, as against 30,693 men. One is struck by the large number of uncertificated women employed, and the small proportion of certificated women who join the N.U.T.

Married at Fourteen.

In last Thursday's "Times" was recorded a case to which we would draw the attention of every thinking man and woman. There was an inquest on the infant daughter of a woman who had been married in 1901 when she was 14 years old, and who had had eight children, of whom six were dead. The woman worked in the fields, the husband had no regular employment, the children were dirty and emaciated, and the room filthy. The doctor said: "It was very probable that the dull and unintelligent appearance of the mother was the result of having been married at so early an age." Some priest, some registrar, must have solemnised that marriage, and it was according to the law of the land. It makes one feel proud to be a free-born Briton, does it not?

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

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE that this paper goes to press on Tuesday. The latest news, notices, and reports should, therefore, reach the Editor by first post on Monday. The Editor reminds correspondents, however, that the work is made much easier if news is sent in as long before-hand 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.

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Surrounded with Difficulty.

"It drops and is given up; the Chancellor, like the Runic sorceress, exclaims:

'Leave me, leave me, to repose';

and all go away home, like a party of miners who have given up the attempt to dig out persons buried in the superincumbent earth. They would be very glad to do something towards amending the laws for women, but really, 'the subject is so surrounded with difficulty.'—CAROLINE NORTON.

We have already quoted these words of Mrs. Norton, written from the fulness of her heart; they seem perennially appropriate. They occur to us yearly when we read the reports of the Stansfeld trust and note the mass of legislation projected, introduced even, and then ——— dropped. All affecting women; all so "surrounded with difficulty" that it falls from nerveless hands, or is crushed out by other "more urgent" matters. Many (we do not wish to underate them) and great are the difficulties with which politicians have to deal in relation to men's affairs. Increasingly complex is the business of government and it is not being simplified by the tendency to concentrate power into the hands of a few individuals and to multiply permanent officials to carry out their commands. But where the men's side of a question is seen to be difficult or complex, the women's has been generally found impossible. Where men (with families or without) are fighting for 20s. minimum wage, women (with families or without) are fighting for 11s. minimum wage, and being told this is an extravagant ideal. The white slave traffic goes on and vigilance societies tinker at it, but the source of supply is kept steadily open—our housing conditions are such that to thousands of girls and boys decency and privacy have always been things unknown; the wages of women are such that still by far the "best trade," for a few years at least, is that which is called woman's "oldest trade" and the laws still back men up in the queer morality which holds unchastity in

woman to be the unforgivable sin, yet leaves scot-free the man who tempts the woman to commit this unforgivable sin. To remedy these wrongs, to begin even to touch the real roots of them is 'surrounded with difficulty' and the one cry is for caution, not for action.

Take again the question of lodgings for single women. In this matter we are only just emerging from the state of mind of Mr. Podsnap who, with a waive of his hand, put behind him all that he did not like to look at. "Lodgings for single women? (with an emphasis that gives to the word 'single' a suggestion of how utterly a woman has forfeited her right to live by venturing to remain 'single'). Woman's place is the HOME! What! They haven't all got homes! Queer sort of women they must be! Let them go to institutions then." We have often heard reflections of this sort upon the problem of the poor woman's lodgings. When we have suggested that there were Rowton Houses and Municipal Lodgings for men and that something of the sort might be done for women, we were met by the curt remark, "Women are different, there are reasons why such houses are impossible for women. They could not be conducted in the same way as men's houses. 'Undesirable' women could not be kept out. Women are too poor to make them pay." So because women are not men; because a women's house would have to differ from a men's house; because women who have misconducted themselves must be for ever accursed by society and because women are so much poorer than men,—for all these cogent, humane, and Christian reasons, we find the problem of providing lodgings for single women "surrounded with difficulty" and we shelve it.

Then take the married woman,—the wife and mother,—she who surely (in contradistinction to the perverse "single" monster) is fulfilling her function and filling her sphere—how do we treat her? Surely we shall see the ingenuity of politicians expended upon helping her in her national work! How about her health? Do we find her protected in her work? Do we not rather find the "difficulty" which surrounds the single woman enhanced a hundred times when she becomes a wife and are not our pleas for consideration met by the statement that "the economic position of the wife and mother is one of enormous difficulty" and so we tend always to shirk the difficulty, to leave out the wife and mother, to assume that of course her husband not only will but can do all that is needful and to go our way, helping the men, and hoping for the best.

Now we do not for a moment wish to suggest that there are no difficulties peculiar to the position of women. We think them enormous; particularly are they great now, in this period of change so rapid that adjustment would partake almost of legerdemain. But our contention is this:—if the whole position of women is such as to present great and peculiar difficulties to the reformer, this is a reason for great and peculiar effort on the part of the reformer. If, in the great industrial and social changes of the past half century, the women have been largely the victims of industry, they and their children and the whole race have suffered and will suffer increasingly and call for increasing attention and comprehension. If women, by their part in the family, are and should be treated fundamentally differently from men, it is race suicide of the most obvious and rapid kind to force women into a purely masculine scheme of society. The need is for women to learn, to know, to understand the facts of life and law, of economics and of their own bodies. The need is for men to give women freedom and scope to learn all these things and to place women everywhere where their knowledge and their point of view will help to solve the "difficulty."

A man who had got into confusion with his accounts would be deemed a crazy loon if he simply let them accumulate and get into arrears until bankruptcy stared him in the face, without his even knowing where his losses occurred. Yet this is precisely what those men are doing who regret the state of our national health and our national character, who lament over the "difficulty" of reform and refuse to ask for the help of those who know and suffer most.

The Eugenic Vote.

One of the most suggestive and bracing arguments of the anti-suffragists is their accusation that we are trying to be like men, and, if we were indeed doing anything so silly and so foredoomed to failure, we should deserve to be treated like social and political imbeciles. But it is on the essential and eternal differences between the sexes that we base our strongest claim to representation. We are so unlike—our functions, our characters, our abilities, and our views are so largely the product of our sex that the man cannot wholly realise the woman's needs, nor the woman fully appreciate those of the man.

And yet we try to row our boat with one oar, and weep like children at the vicious circle we pursue.

The constructive nature of woman—what might be called her race-instinct—is one of the peculiar sex-qualities that, allowed free play, would incalculably further the social progress that is one of the most remarkable developments of the last forty years.

To-day, society is torn in controversy on such questions as free feeding, vaccination, education, care of the feeble-minded, claims of the old, of the criminal, of the consumptive. The rights of the individual to the satisfaction of his peculiar needs are become table-talk, and demand elaborate state organisation and the whole energies of an army of paid and unpaid workers in every branch.

It is significant that this new outburst of eugenic energy is coincident with the woman's movement.

Her supreme function of motherhood—so rightly emphasised, but so wrongly interpreted by the anti-suffragists—forces woman into intimate relations with the problems of heredity and environment. Man is more destructive. From his fly-killing boyhood to his fighting manhood, his greater insensibility to pain, and more wanton disregard of death remind us that to beget is but an incident, and may be lightly entered on and speedily forgotten, while to bear, to feed, and to train in the early months, when training is moulding for life, are things too closely knit into the very existence of the mother to be easily forgotten, however lightly they may be entered on.

We are told that the political influence of women will discourage war. We agree. Women know that war, unlike nature, more heedless even than disease, weeds out not the unfit, but the flower of a race. With a birthrate declining where most its increase would benefit the nation, and not proportionately falling among the unfit, we cannot afford this drainage of our best, and it is to me incomprehensible that physical training and discipline, the value of which can scarcely be over-estimated, must necessarily be aimed at a readiness to kill wholly inoffensive and personally friendly fellow-creatures.

Havelock Ellis, in his study of criminology, accounting for the failure of our prison system by its mechanical application of rigid principles that seek to punish crime automatically, while ignoring the individual character of the criminal, with all its contributory factors of heredity, moral and physical, of education and environment, pleads for the fearless introduction into our legislation of the quality of sympathy, that will strive, by realising the personal identity of each offender, to treat him as one would a disease, by the light of his peculiar needs.

This spirit of personal interest in the individual is essentially the gift of women.

We are not unwilling to admit the possession of an emotional bias to which we owe our penetrating insight, and which some of our opponents bring up against us as a charge, and as proof of our political inaptitude. We cannot judge without feeling. We cannot, partly guided by our feelings, err so blindly as those whose eyes are dim with the dust of precedent and judgments warped by the bottomless falsity of "averages."

Among the reforms which would be the outcome of a more humane spirit working in civil and judicial matters, is one the need of which every daily paper sets

before us. It is a principle of English law that a crime against property is a more serious offence than a crime against the person. Hence we see three years' sentence following a conviction of shop-lifting or penal servitude for embezzlement, side by side with a few months' imprisonment for irreparable moral damage to a girl or brutal cruelty to a child.

Men's lives are mainly spent in the getting and transferring of money, women's largely in the producing and training of the next generation. It is logically consequent on their pre-occupation that property rights should eclipse personal in the eyes of men, and it is one of our pressing social needs that the woman's standard should correct this disproportion.

After all, the race is a great unity. No over great divergence of temperament and character is to be desired or attained, for, by the wise ordering of Nature, each generation passes through the mould of the feminine, for every man is born of a woman, and each generation receives the stamp of the masculine, for every woman is begotten of a man.

D. T. STEVENSON, Cambridge.

The Conciliation Bill and the Government.

Our readers will remember the conversation in the House concerning the Conciliation Bill which took place on the 16th August, and which was reported in our last week's issue. Our good friend Lord Lytton did not let the grass grow under his feet. On the 17th he despatched the following letter to the Prime Minister:—

17th August, 1911.

Dear Mr. Asquith,—After your very cordial and explicit letter to me of June 15 last I did not imagine that I should again have to trouble you on the subject of facilities for the Women's Enfranchisement Bill next session. But the question raised by Mr. Leif Jones in the House of Commons yesterday and the answer given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer have aroused all the doubts and misgivings which had been completely set at rest by the assurance contained in your letter to me of June 15 that "the Government are unanimous in their determination to give effect not only in the letter but in the spirit of the promise in regard to facilities made before the last general election." Ever since I received that letter I have been able to assure any of my friends who doubted the fact that whatever might be your views on the merits of women's suffrage you would abide by your pledges given as head of the Government that this question should at any rate receive straightforward treatment in the present Parliament.

May I remind you briefly of the history of these pledges? (1) You stated on behalf of the Cabinet in the House of Commons on November 22, 1910, that "the Government will if they are still in power give facilities in the next Parliament for effectively proceeding with a bill which is so framed as to admit of free amendment."

This pledge referred to no particular bill and to no particular session, and was criticised, you will remember, on that very account.

(2) On May 29 this year the Chancellor of the Exchequer, replying to a question put by Lord Wolmer, referred to the previous pledge made before the election, and added: "The Government recognised that the bill which was read a second time the other day satisfies the last-mentioned condition, and that consequently it is their duty in this Parliament to give the promised facilities." He then pointed out that owing to the conditions of business "they could not allot to the Women's Suffrage Bill this year such an amount of time as its importance demands," and concluded with these words: "They will be prepared next session, when the bill has been again read a second time, either as the result of obtaining a good place in the ballot or (if that does not happen) by the grant of a Government day for the purpose, to give a week (which they understand to be the time suggested as reasonable by the promoters) for its further stages."

This statement was quite definite on the two points which had previously been considered unsatisfactory; that is to say, it was a promise of time for the consideration of a particular Bill (the Women's Enfranchisement Bill which had already been read a second time by the House of Commons) in a particular session (next session), and it was accordingly received with much satisfaction by the advocates of women's suffrage.

Some doubts were still entertained as to the precise interpretation to be placed on the time promised, and those doubts were cleared by your letter of June 15, but neither in that letter nor in mine of June 1, to which it was an answer, was

In Parliament.

On August 22 the House of Commons adjourned until October 24. Mr. Asquith gave the names of the Commission of Inquiry into the railway disputes, and there was a debate, during which Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, Mr. Keir Hardie, Mr. J. H. Thomas, Mr. Barnes, Mr. J. Ward, and other Labour members severely criticised the Home Office for its action in sending soldiers all over the country to protect the railways and, as they implied, to provide labour to run the trains if necessary.

A long and heated controversy took place between Mr. Keir Hardie and Mr. Lloyd George, the former having stated at a meeting in Wales that "No pressure was brought to bear by the Government on the directors to see the men." It came out in the course of the debate that on Thursday, before the strike, Mr. Asquith had refused to put pressure on the directors to see the men; on Friday and Saturday, after the strike had been declared, Mr. Lloyd George did put pressure, and succeeded in inducing the directors to meet the men. We have seen no newspaper report which makes these two points clear, but it appears in the official report.

Sir A. Markham spoke of the rioting by hooligans (not railway men). Mr. Churchill justified his action by the extreme danger of the situation. Mr. Stewart, Mr. Chamberlain, and Mr. Chaplin supported the Government.

there a question of any bill other than that promoted by the Conciliation Committee, on whose behalf I had written to you.

In the House of Commons yesterday the Chancellor of the Exchequer said that the promise of facilities would apply to any bill which fulfilled the conditions originally laid down by the Government provided that it had been read a second time by the House of Commons, and this has given rise to the misgivings to which I have referred.

I do not share the misgivings, because I have implicit faith in the intention of the Government to fulfil the promise made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the House of Commons on May 29 and confirmed by you in your letter of June 15. Nothing, however, can set them at rest but a statement from you as head of the Government. May I therefore have your authority for saying that whatever other bill dealing with women's suffrage may be introduced into the House of Commons next session, nothing will relieve the Government of their undertaking to give to the bill promoted by the Conciliation Committee (a) a day for its second reading should it fail to secure a place in the ballot, (b) "a week" (as interpreted by your letter to me) for its further stages if it should pass its second reading?—Believe me, yours sincerely,
LYTTON.

To this letter, Lord Lytton received the following reply:—

August 23.

My dear Lytton,—I have no hesitation in saying that the promises made by and on behalf of the Government in regard to giving facilities for the "Conciliation Bill" will be strictly adhered to both in letter and in spirit.—Yours sincerely,
H. H. ASQUITH.

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

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

Hon. Secretaries: Miss K. D. COURTNEY. Hon. Secretary: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D. Secretary: MISS GERALDINE COOKE. Hon. Treasurer: MISS EDITH PALLISER (Parliamentary). Hon. Secretary to Press Committee: MRS. AUERBACH. Hon. Secretary to Literature Committee: MISS EMILY M. LEAF. Telegrams: "Voiceless, London." Hon. Sec. to Literature Committee: MISS I. B. O'MALLEY. Telephone: 1960 Victoria. Offices: Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

Treasurer's Notes.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GENERAL FUND. AUGUST 17TH TO AUGUST 24TH, 1911.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since Nov. 1st, 1910...	1,619	0	4½
Subscriptions—			
Miss Clara Bryan	5	0	0
Miss I. M. Blake	1	1	0
Miss Dymphna Ellis	0	2	6
Mrs. Robie Uniacke	1	0	0
Miss M. L. Cornish	0	1	0
Miss M. L. Lloyd	0	7	6
Mrs. Oliver Strachey	0	10	0
Donations—			
Miss M. Martineau	1	0	0
U. S.	10	0	0
Mrs. Alfred Hill, for additional organisers	1	5	0
Mrs. Pumphrey, for salary of organiser, N.E. Fed.	10	0	0
Mrs. Pease, for salary of organiser, N.E. Fed.	2	0	0
Miss Peile, for salary of organiser, N.E. Fed.	1	0	0
Miss F. Peile, for salary of organiser, N.E. Fed.	1	0	0
Mrs. Pease, for salary of organiser, N.E. Fed.	1	1	0
Dr. Ethel Williams and Miss Hardcastle, for salary of organiser, N.E. Fed. (quarterly)	3	0	0
Mr. David Richardson, for salary of organiser, N.E. Fed. (quarterly)	2	0	0
	£1,659	8	4½

FOR SPECIAL WORK IN SUPPORT OF THE CONCILIATION BILL.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	1,153	12	6
Madame Loppe (2nd donation)	5	0	0
	£1,158	12	6

ANNUAL RECEIPTS OF FEDERATIONS.

	£	s.	d.
North-eastern Federation	47	19	2
Scottish Federation	434	6	0
Surrey, Sussex, and Hants. Federation	90	16	4
Ditto, Organiser's Salary Fund	67	5	6

HELENA AUERBACH.

Literature Department.

Many readers will be glad to know that we can supply the Amended Clauses of the National Insurance Bill to date, price 6d. This will be especially useful to those who have hitherto been handicapped when speaking on the Bill by the absence of any easily accessible information on the amendments affecting women.

Press Department.

The *Christian Commonwealth* had almost a woman's number this week. The strike in Bermondsey, the pit-brow women, Mrs. Billington-Greig's articles in the *Daily Chronicle*, Mr. Leif-Jones' question in the House, all found a place.

The *Irish Times* of August 22nd has a report of the meeting at which it was resolved to form a Union of Women's Suffrage Societies in Ireland.

The *Hyde Reporter* is publishing a suffrage article of about 800 words each week.

M. L. MACKENZIE.

"The Common Cause."

MRS. DARLINGTON'S WORK.

Mrs. Darlington has gone to Scarborough to help in arrangements for the sale of the paper there, and in accordance with our custom we are giving a short account of the Scarborough Society within the National Union. At Portsmouth, also, special efforts are being made in connection with the British Association. After Saturday, 2nd September, Mrs. Darlington will be working in Manchester, and her address will be: c/o Manchester W.S. Society, 85, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester.

We should like to thank Mr. Kenneth Richmond and Miss Dickinson for special donations for additional expenses. We propose to continue shewing the Contents Bill at Blackpool station, and friends can often give acceptable help in defraying the cost of some advertisement in this way.

WORK IN BLACKPOOL.

Mrs. Darlington writes:—

"We sold the papers in Blackpool up to the 16th, when we were stopped by the police. I tried in vain to get permission to continue, but the Chief Constable was obdurate. Having a number of copies on hand we gave them away, and then devoted the rest of the time to calling on members of the Blackpool Suffrage Society, some of whom are very keen, and looking forward to a strong campaign in the winter. Fourteen people promised to take 'The Common Cause' every week. A great number of visitors were pleased to talk to us and hear what we could tell them; in many cases they said, 'Oh, I didn't quite know what you wanted, so I didn't want to have anything to do with you.' Miss Sheard, who was working with me, was a great help.

"The strike added considerably to our difficulties, and when Friday came it was a question how to get home. We were up at 4.30 a.m. on Saturday, looking for anything which would carry us to Manchester. At 7 p.m. the 'Manchester Evening News' motor arrived, and took pity on us, and we arrived in Manchester about midnight. It was too late for Miss Sheard to continue her journey home, and she went to Ashton House, where she was most kindly received by the matron.

By-election.

KILMARNOCK BURGHES.

By the lamented death of Dr. Rainy suffragists have lost a friend. He was one of the members who tried (and failed) to find a pair for the second reading of the Conciliation Bill on May 5th.

Kilmarnock Burghes comprises Kilmarnock, Dumbarton, Port Glasgow, Renfrew, and Rutherglen. I shall be going into the constituency in a day or two and stand in urgent need of helpers.

The electorate is over 16,000, scattered among five towns, and it is most desirable to have one responsible worker in charge of each burgh. Names and addresses of workers will find me c/o Mrs. Austin, Bank of Scotland House, Portland Street, Kilmarnock.

ALICE CROMPTON.

Organisation.

West Lancashire, West Cheshire, and North Wales Federation.

Miss Waring, assisted by Miss Truda Crossfield, has been busy in the Eddisbury Division, where the member, Mr. Barnston, is a confirmed Anti-Suffragist. They have, however, found considerably more pro-suffrage feeling than they anticipated. At Beeston Castle, where they arrived on Market Day, they aroused considerable interest by giving out Conciliation leaflets, and Miss Waring was asked to hold a meeting there and then. Tarporley, Kelsall, and Bunbury were amongst other places visited, and in all of them influential support was secured for the Suffrage cause.

On the other side of the division Miss Waring, accompanied by Miss Lucy Broadbent, visited Helsby and Frodsham, and she reports that the latter place would be a suitable one in which to form a society. The work done in this division is preparatory to a series of meetings which will be held at the beginning of September by Miss Waring and Miss C. Leadley Brown, when it is hoped that a local society will be formed.

Meeting at Pangbourne, Berkshire.

A small meeting was held at the Friends Institute, Pangbourne, on August 22nd. It was organised by Miss L. C. Jones assisted by Mrs. English and Miss Parfett, with a view to arousing interest among the village women, preparatory to starting a branch society. The audience, numbering between forty-five and fifty, listened with great attention to an excellent address by Mrs. Garrett Jones, who was introduced as the niece of Mrs. Garrett Anderson and Mrs. Fawcett. Miss Margaret Jones also spoke. Many intelligent questions were asked and were admirably answered by the speakers. A vote of thanks to the chair and the speakers was proposed and seconded from the audience, and warmly applauded. Much literature was distributed. It is felt that there is good promise for the future as many hopes were expressed by the women that further meetings may be held.

Miss Hatty Baker's Tour in the South-West.

Great interest has been aroused in Cornwall by Miss Baker's tour and we confidently predict that in the coming winter women's suffrage will be discussed in lonely farms, in the homes of miners and fishermen, and perhaps still more in the numerous homes, now voteless, where the husband is away in South Africa, and where the wife learns to her surprise that she might obtain a vote by the Conciliation Bill. In the Penzance district 6 dozen papers were sold in the week, and about 30 subscribers secured, villages were visited, and supplied with literature, and a very successful drawing-room meeting was held, by the kindness of Mrs. Bache, whose

hospitality has done so much to make the campaign effective. Miss Borlase presided; there was a good attendance and Mrs. Robin Bolitho has kindly given a donation of two guineas towards expenses. The first suffrage meeting was held at Pendeen, a mining village on the west coast, and we are told that it was the first political meeting at which there has been no disorder and no interruptions. The audience were thoroughly interested and a branch has been formed, small but with every sign of healthy life—the farthest west in England. Mrs. Bennetts has consented to act as secretary, Miss White kindly lent her conservatory for a further meeting, and Mrs. Rodda gave valuable help in bringing in recruits. At St. Just, Mrs. Richmond gave a drawing-room meeting, at which the only "Anti" present confessed herself "almost persuaded."

Miss Baker writes:—

At Mevagissey I was told by a woman "more than half the women here are suffragettes. They all believe in it." At one Cornish fishing centre I was told "If a suffragette comes here, she will be thrown into the harbour!" I hired a lorry, hung out our flags and notices on the quay (I, inwardly congratulating myself on being a good swimmer) and we had such a successful and enthusiastic meeting that we couldn't sell "The Common Cause" quickly enough and we distributed all our literature. Fisher-boys clamoured for it, and on being told we only gave it away to the men and women, they exclaimed they wanted a paper for their father, or uncle, or brother, as the case might be!

At Fowey we failed to hire a Hall, but large crowds collected on Town Quay and we addressed them from a sugar-barrel. They were very attentive and great interest was manifested in my explanatory address on the Insurance Bill. At Doublebois there was a garden fête at Mrs. Hermon's beautiful country seat, the Mayor in the chair. I spoke for an hour on the Insurance Bill.

Norfolk.

It is hoped that Miss Eva Ward will be organising work in some of the Norfolk Constituencies during part of September and October. Miss Edith L. Willis, Ipswich Road, Norwich, will be very glad to hear of any sympathisers who would lend a room for a meeting, or show interest in any other way. She will be especially glad to hear of anyone in the larger towns, Cromer, East Dereham, Diss or Wymondham.

West Riding Federation.

Mrs. Cooper has been working during August in Otley. Many open air meetings have been held.

Mrs. Renton will begin work in Selby (Barkston Ash division) on September 4th.

Sudbury and South Suffolk.

My visit to Sudbury early in August appears to be the first attempt of a non-military society to do any work there. It proved to be an extremely interesting field not only as virgin soil, but because the local member of Parliament is a backslider. Before his last election Mr. Quilter definitely pledged himself to his constituency to vote for the Conciliation Bill. On May 5th he went into the wrong lobby and has not given any subsequent public explanation of his action. Naturally this has caused considerable dissatisfaction among some of his most active workers who asked for and obtained the pledge, and a meeting has been arranged to be held in the Town Hall on the afternoon of October 4th. Mrs. Salmon, of Bury, will take the chair. Mrs. Rackham will be the principal speaker and widely representative support has been promised.

It did not take long to discover some keen and active suffragists in Sudbury and district, and with their assistance it should be possible to form an efficient local organisation and to persuade Mr. Quilter to discuss with his constituents his position with regard to the Conciliation Bill.

EVA WARD.

Campaign in S. Wilts.

Miss Chambers and I have been working the Wilton division of Wilts during the past fortnight. Some idea of the difficulty of the campaign may be gained from the fact that the division is 35-40 miles from East to West, and 25-30 miles from North to South. To many places there was no train service, and where there was a railway, there was hardly ever a train late enough to bring us back to Salisbury after an evening meeting. The National Union under the circumstances kindly made a grant for a motor-car, to which the Federation added a contribution. So it became possible during the last week to work out-of-the-way districts and to have open-air meetings every evening.

This was our programme:—
On Monday, August 21st, there was a meeting at Broadchalke. We canvassed the place during the afternoon and secured from 30-40 signatures to a petition in favour of the Conciliation Bill. At about 7.30, the time advertised for our meeting, a thunderstorm broke upon us, and we expected that we should have to abandon the fray. It was just beginning to stop raining, however, when we noticed a solid phalanx of men bearing down upon us. They were afraid to come alone, so they came en masse. We then had our meeting. Miss Chambers took the chair and I spoke, and our resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill was carried. There were about 100 people present.

On Tuesday we had meetings at Wilton, where about 200 people were addressed by Miss Baretti and Mrs. Cowmeadow, and another at Amesbury, addressed by Miss Chambers and myself, at which about 150 people were present. At Wilton political meetings often end in a riot, and at Amesbury lively times were predicted, but both meetings were peaceful, and our resolution in each case carried.

On Wednesday we had our week's best meetings at Tisbury and Mere. At each place there were about 400 people present. At Mere Miss Baretti made a brilliant speech, and her good humour proved infectious. Questions were asked which showed keen interest in the subject, and a lady in the crowd (Mrs. Brady) seconded our resolution, which was well carried. A vote of thanks was proposed by one of the unconverted, who said that people appreciated enthusiasm when they saw it, whatever might be their differences of belief. We were then given three rousing cheers. Afterwards many "Common Causes" were sold, and men trooped up to sign our petition. Several people, including the Inspector of Police, expressed a hope that we should come again. The president of the Liberal women at Mere, Mrs. Rutter, promised to join the Women's Suffrage Society which we hope to form in the Wilton division, and she said she would allow a Women's Suffrage speaker to address the Liberal women of the village. Mere is miles away from a railway station, and we had to motor about 25 miles to it, through rather a desolate country, but it seemed more keenly alive than any place we touched on.

At the same time, about 12 miles away, at Tisbury, Mrs. Cowmeadow and Miss Chambers were having another excellent meeting, at which about 400 people were present. Mrs. Peart seconded their resolution, and a member of the Conservative Executive came forward and offered to take a petition sheet to collect signatures for us. He also said he would try to bring influence to bear on Mr. Bathurst, M.P. Mr. Bathurst has hitherto voted on the Anti-Suffrage side, but seems willing to give the question further consideration if his constituents appear to wish it.

On Thursday afternoon there was a drawing-room meeting at Downton by kind invitation of Colonel and Mrs. Marriott-Smith. Captain Marriott-Smith took the chair, and I spoke in support of a resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill. This was seconded by Mrs. Egerton. There was a certain amount of anti-suffrage feeling in the room, but the resolution was carried.

In the evening we had our least successful meeting at Whiteparish, where about 150 people were present. Here no one voted either for or against our resolution, though people signed our petition afterwards, and one lady joined the Society. We heard afterwards that this was typical of Whiteparish.

On August 25th, at Wylage, a very small village, we had our last meeting. From 70-100 people were present, and our resolution was carried.

Altogether we have addressed about 1,200-1,300 people (mostly men) and we have done much house-to-house canvassing. On all our bills by which we advertised our meetings we had the following words: The "Conciliation" Bill, which passed its second reading in the House of Commons on May 5th, 1911, by a majority of 167, asks for the vote for Women Household!

We do not think there are many people left, in the parts of the division that we have touched on, who do not know the gist of the Conciliation Bill. It must be remembered that in most of the places we went to there had never been a Suffrage meeting, and the attitude of the crowd was one of astonishment and bewilderment. It was obvious that many of them intended to discuss the matter further, and put in some thinking before taking any side. In one or two of the places we went to we were told there had never been an open-air meeting of any kind. Nevertheless we have a sheaf of resolutions in favour of the Conciliation Bill to pass on to Mr. Bathurst, and a goodly number of signatures to our petition. Local newspapers, such as the "Salisbury Times," the "Western Gazette," the "Wiltshire Mirror," and the "Wiltshire Journal," are kindly publishing accounts of our campaign, and one or two of the editors seem to be taking a lively interest in it.

On Saturday afternoon we had a business meeting of sympathisers in the Wilton division, and it was decided to form a South Wilts Women's Suffrage Society. Rules were drawn up and Mrs. Peart of Fovant became the honorary secretary.

L. F. WARING.

Holiday Work.

TOUR IN THE LOUTH DIVISION OF LINCOLNSHIRE.

I regret that in the hurriedly written account I sent last week I omitted to mention our indebtedness to the superintendent of the Salvation Army Barracks at Bardney for kindly altering her arrangements so that we might have the best pitch for our meeting. We are very grateful for her kindness.

Monday, our first day in Louth, was somewhat dispiriting. The weather had broken, so that we were wet and tired, and our spirits were not raised by the repeated information from

nearly everyone on whom we called that Louth was not in the least likely to be interested in the suffrage; that party feeling ran so high that we could never find a chairman who would be acceptable to any political party but his own; that it was the worst time of year to come; that it would be madness to attempt to hold an indoor meeting with only three days to get it up; and that if we spoke in the open air we should probably not get a hearing and would possibly be pelted with rotten eggs and stones! In spite of these forebodings we had to do our best and determined on a thorough canvass of the town (whose population is between 9,000 and 10,000) and as much advertising in the villages as we could manage. In this work we were very greatly helped by the Misses Newman (W.S.P.U.) and their friends and Mrs. Seiger who between them undertook the work in half the town.

We fixed on Friday for our indoor meeting and Miss Hicks, daughter of the Bishop of Lincoln, kindly consented to come over to speak. We took the smaller room in the Town Hall—with some trepidation lest we should not fill it, as it would seat over 200. Having heard that Rev. H. H. Surgy, M.A., vicar of Muckton, was a suffragist we bicycled out to ask him to preside. He consented with alacrity because, although he had not come into close touch with the movement before, he considered it a good cause and would be glad to help it.

On Wednesday, market day, two open-air meetings were held in Louth, Miss Fawcett speaking in the afternoon, Miss Sheepshanks in the evening, while the two who were not speaking continued the house-to-house visiting and distribution of handbills and posters announcing the meeting. We experienced none of the rowdiness of which we had been warned. The open-air meetings were well attended and there was little or no heckling, though the audience crowded round afterwards to ask questions. That the speakers often made a deep impression was revealed when we visited the houses.

What we have seen in the villages and in Louth has impressed us with the great hold which the woman's movement has obtained. We were sent here because it was said to be new ground, but everywhere we have found that the majority of the men, especially the workmen, recognise the justice of our demand even before it is explained to them, while the women, to an even greater extent, are awaking to the need for the vote. It is a great pleasure to see the glad response to our message which we get from many an overworked and apathetic-seeming working-woman. Yet hitherto there has been only one suffrage worker in Louth, Miss Ancilff by name. This enthusiastic suffragist is a working dressmaker who, although obliged to walk on crutches, sells "Votes for Women" in the streets every Saturday afternoon.

On Thursday we went to Maplethorpe where Miss Fawcett and Miss Sheepshanks addressed a meeting on the beach.

Our greatest triumph was a meeting on Friday night. The hall was packed, a large number being obliged to stand, and it was soon found necessary to hold an overflow meeting outside, which became nearly as large as that in the hall. The audience at both meetings was most enthusiastic. The resolution, urging the member to support the Conciliation Bill, was passed *nec. con.* in the hall, and with one dissident (a boy) outside. Mr. Hillier, a prominent Liberal, proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman and speakers, which was seconded by Miss Longbottom. Miss Ancilff sold 28 copies of "The Common Cause" and several pamphlets and badges were sold. We should probably have sold more had there been more room to move in the hall. Our chairman and Mrs. Surgy have joined the National Union, as well as Miss Edith Sharpeley and Mrs. Clayton and her daughter, and several others are thinking it over. Mrs. Clayton is a widow and a working-woman who had not come across suffragists before, so that she regarded us as pioneers (!) in "the greatest movement there has ever been." We hope our work in Louth will be followed up and a branch formed. On Saturday we cycled to North Somercoates. We received warm support and hospitality from Dr. and Mrs. Lougheed who had a platform erected and helped to get up a meeting. We canvassed the town and held a meeting in the evening. Miss Sheepshanks and Miss Fawcett spoke and a resolution similar to that passed at Louth was proposed from the chair by Dr. Lougheed (president of the Conservative Club), seconded by Mr. West, the leading Liberal of the district, and carried with two dissentients. The Louth newspapers, especially the Liberal paper—the "Louth News"—have given us very good and accurate notices.

After Monday communications should be addressed to—
Communications should now be addressed to—White Hart Hotel, Market Rasen.

M. E. FRANKLIN.

MIDLAND CARAVAN TOUR.

After Mrs. and Miss Harley had left us, Miss Hawkes and I took the van to Burton, where all of us, the horses included, found hospitality. The new crew assembled here. Miss Collum, our coachman-cook-houseparlourmaid, got with difficulty through from London, Miss Meynell from Derby, and Miss Bury, the Newcastle secretary, who is taking part of her holiday in this way, had to cycle over from Nottingham.

We have this week been travelling in the South Derby constituency, the member of which signed the anti-suffrage letter to the Prime Minister.

Our first meeting was on Monday afternoon at Newton Solney. A thunderstorm began just as we did, but so great was the interest that the audience came back again after it was over, and asked us to start again. At Repton Miss Measham, of Brook Farm, kindly let us camp in a field next to her garden, and the whole time we were there she kept open house for us all. We had an excellent meeting in the evening at Repton Cross. Miss Meynell, who had already spoken in the afternoon, took the chair. Miss Bury made her debut, and a splendid one it was. All the speeches were received with attention and sympathy. Miss Meynell proved invaluable, as she knew everyone in this district. Her friends, the Misses Ratcliffe, housed two of us, and all the meals we did not have in Miss Measham's house we had at theirs. Monday night we were nearly swept away by a heavy thunderstorm, which went through not only the tent, but also the caravan; but we managed to survive, and went to Willington the next day, and canvassed every house. On Wednesday we went to Melbourne. To advertise our meeting we took one of our horses and clothed him in a cushion cover and a bedspread. Two Suffrage flags were fastened to his collar, and two notices of our meeting hung one from each side. And thus he was led through the town. The effect was gratifying. The whole placed turned up, and we were delighted with the meeting, as they evidently were, too. Miss Bury had by this time turned into a half-hour speaker, and took the chair, as Miss Meynell had to leave. All our "Common Causes" were sold. The next day we had an afternoon meeting at Ticknall, and an evening one at Hartshorne. The latter one was the only bad meeting we have had, but as no political meeting is ever unbroken there, I suppose we can't complain too much. The next day we went to Swadlingcote and Gresley. At our afternoon meeting we had a very lengthy argument with a prosperous resident, who evidently made a habit of heckling at meetings. He declared "property does not count, only brains," but was absolutely silenced by a remark yelled out by the local fishmonger, "Give me your property, and you may have my brains." At Gresley we were heckled by the Adultists, who declared we had forgotten "our poorer sisters." Mrs. Sadler and Mrs. Mellor, of the Burton Society, gave us splendid help at these meetings, and another lady gave us permission to sleep in her garden in the summer house, and gave the whole party tea and supper. From Gresley we worked through Dinton and Lullington into Colesworth, where we now are, prior to our going through Leicestershire into Northants.

HELGIA GILL.

Federation Notes.

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE. A SPECIAL APPEAL.

Having found it difficult to organise meetings during the latter part of July and August, the committee has used the time in making preparations for much propaganda work in the autumn.

Miss Helen Fraser has been engaged to speak during the whole month of November. We hope to see many new branches started and those partly formed put into proper working order. The field is a wide one to cover, and the greatest part of our area has been absolutely untouched. To do this work effectively, we must organise and this means money. An appeal for funds has been issued to all members within the Federation, but so far the response has not been adequate. Will any member of the National Union who can spare a donation, small or large, for this urgent work, kindly send it at once to the treasurer: Mrs. Roberts Rosser, 3, The Grove, Pontypridd? Will members also who have friends in any of the districts within the South Wales and Monmouthshire area, who they think would do a little preliminary work, kindly communicate as soon as possible with Miss Janet Price, 159, Newport Road, Cardiff?

Portsmouth Society for Women's Suffrage.

Hon. Sec.: Miss N. O'Shea, The Cottage, Cosham, Hants. The Portsmouth Women's Suffrage Society will in a few weeks enter upon its fifth birthday, and is quite a young society, having been launched into the troubled waters of political life just before the rise of the militant tactics. The work and life of the Society is strenuous and if its career has not been startling or dramatic, its steady increase of membership, the personal part many of the members take in the administrative work of the Society and the increased numbers who attend the monthly members' meeting testify to the educational work which is being carried on. During the last month a canvass of the members of the Town Council has been carried out by Mrs. Dempster and Mrs. Stobie and both report favourably of the Councilors' attitude to our question, but it is a strictly enforced law in Portsmouth that all political questions are ruled out of order at the Council meetings, so the chance of a resolution being passed is small. The Society regards with pride the Men's League and the Church League, whose existence in the town is a result of the work carried on by our branch and we hope the Free Church League will soon make its debut.

Scarborough Women's Suffrage Society.

Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Catt.

Office: 8, Falconer's Chambers, Huntriss Row.

The Scarborough Society was formed in 1908 at a meeting convened by Miss Kitson (now Lady Matthews), Mrs. A. M. Daniel, and Mrs. Catt, the first president being Lady Ida Sitwell, who was succeeded by Mrs. Alderson-Smith.

During the General Election of January, 1910, a committee room was opened, and there meetings were held, and good propaganda work done. Both candidates declared in favour of Women's Suffrage. 1,971 signatures were secured for the Voters' Petition, which was sent to the member, Mr. Walter Rea, M.P., by the Mayor (Councillor Ascough) together with a letter asking him to present it to the Prime Minister.

At the succeeding election both candidates were approached by the National Union, but only Mr. Moncton Arundell mentioned Women's Suffrage in his election address.

This year, in response to a deputation of the National Union (organised by Mrs. Merivale Mayer) the Scarborough Town Council passed by a large majority a resolution urging the Government to grant facilities for the Conciliation Bill. Eight members travelled to London to take part in the Procession of June 17th, when the banners worked and presented by Miss Fernie (Scarborough) and Mrs. Hartland (Chepstow) were carried.

It is impossible to name all the individual acts of kindness of members in lending rooms, gardens, etc., for meetings, but mention must be made of the valuable help received from such prominent citizens as the Mayor (Councillor W. S. Rowntree) the ex-Mayor (Councillor Ascough), Alderman V. Fowler, Dr. Eyre, D.D., Dr. Hancock, Mr. E. R. Cross, L.L.B., Mr. George Rowntree, Rev. J. Wain, F. Booty, Esq. Last year it was found the work required official premises, and an office was opened at 8, Falconer's Chambers, Huntriss Row, which is now the centre of activities. Mrs. Darlington is at present in the town making special efforts to increase the sale of "The Common Cause." On October 6th the Provincial Council will hold its half-yearly meeting in Scarborough.

Local Councils and the Bill.

Haltwhistle Rural District Council has passed a resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill. Copies of the resolution have been sent to the Prime Minister and to Mr. Holt, the member for the constituency, who is far from sound on the question.

Anti-suffragists and the Referendum.

The following letter, signed by 124 members of the House of Commons has been forwarded to the Prime Minister by Sir Frederick Banbury:—

We, the undersigned members of the House of Commons, desire to approach you with the earnest request that the Government may take steps to ascertain the views of the people before there is any imminent prospect of the Women's Enfranchisement Bill being passed into law.

The great change proposed in this measure has never even been considered, much less approved, by the electors, and we submit that it would be in the highest degree unconstitutional to further the passage of this Bill into law until the principle of the change has been referred to the people and accepted by them.

We desire to point out that the anxiety of the suffragists to obtain further facilities for their Bill is clearly due to the fact that they are afraid of the people, and desire to use the machinery of the Parliament Act in order to carry women's suffrage without reference to the electors.

Contending as we do that the great majority both of men and women in the United Kingdom are opposed to women's suffrage, a contention in support of which a large quantity of evidence has already been submitted to the House and the country, we confidently appeal to the Government not to commit themselves to supporting the Women's Enfranchisement Bill.

The following were the signatures attached:—

T. C. Agar-Robartes, George W. Agnew, William R. Anson, M. Archer-Shee, Josceline Bagot, H. T. Baker, Balcarras, Stanley Baldwin, F. G. Banbury, H. Barnston, John N. Barran, A. B. Bathurst, Charles Bathurst, Gertrude Beckett, Leonard Brassey, J. Annan Bryce, J. F. L. Brunner, W. Burdett-Coutts, W. R. Campion, Edward Carson, John Cator, H. S. Cautley, Evelyn Cecil, R. G. W. Chaloner, Austen Chamberlain, Henry Chaplin, H. Craik, Henry P. Croft, Dalrymple, David Davies, Charles H. Dixon, William Doris, Arthur Du Cros, J. Hastings Duncan, B. Eyres Monsell, G. D. Faber, J. P. Farrell, G. Petherstonhaugh, Val Fleming, Moreton Frewen, George A. Gibbs, J. Gilmour, John Gordon, J. L. Grant, John Gretton, Walter Guinness, Rupert Gwynne, W. Hall Walker, Angus Hambro, Claud J. Hamilton, Laurence Hardy, R. L. Harmsworth, E. Haviland Burke, Helmsley, H. G. Henderson, Ivor Herbert, T. E. Hickman, M. H. Hicks Beach, Clement Hill, J. W. Hills, Gerald F. Hohler, J. F. Hope, Rowland Hunt, Ernest Jardine, Kerry, John H. M. Kirkwood, G. R. Lane Fox, Arthur Lee, Maurice Levy, George Lloyd, Oliver Locker-Lampson, M. Lockwood, Walter Long, John B. Lonsdale, W. J. MacCaw, H. J. Mackinder, Donald Macmaster, E. J. McMordie, H. Manfield, James Mason, John T. Middlemore, Charles T. Mills,

P. A. Molteno, W. A. Mount, G. Parker, William Pearce, W. Peel, W. Frank Perkins, R. J. Price, A. Priestley, W. Pringle, Herbert H. Raphael, J. F. P. Rawlinson, M. Reddy, John Roche, Ronaldshay, Lionel de Rothschild, Edmund Roys, J. Rutherford, Stuart M. Samuel, George L. Sandys, Leslie Scott, Samuel Scott, F. E. Smith, Harold Smith, John R. Starkey, G. Stewart, Arthur W. Soames, Edmund Talbot, Alexander Thynne, Alfred A. Tobin, Tullibardine, Valentin, A. Ward, C. E. Warde, J. Cathcart Was, Archibald Weigall, R. Williams, Winterton, A. Stanley Wilson, Edward Wood, Samuel Young, William Young, and G. W. Younger.

Irish National Union.

A meeting of women suffragists from different parts of Ireland was held in Shelbourne Hotel on Monday, 21st inst., at twelve o'clock noon, to consider the formation of a Union which would bring the different Societies working for Women's Suffrage in Ireland into closer touch with one another.

Owing to the railway strike several delegates were unable to attend, including those from Cork W.S.S. and Derry and Bangor (County Down) I.W.S.S., but members were present from Belfast, Dublin, and Lisburn Societies, including Mrs. Farquhar, Miss Chemoux, Mrs. Earl, I.W.F.L., Mrs. Hobson (Marino), Miss Montgomery (Ballydrain), Mrs. Joseph Allen, Mrs. Duff, Mrs. R. H. Metge (Lisburn), Mr. Haslam, Dr. Wallington, L.L.D. (whose scheme it is), Miss Greene, Miss Bennett (Dublin). Mrs. Cope, of Drumilly (Armagh), presided. The following resolution was proposed by Dr. Wallington, seconded by Mrs. Hobson, and carried enthusiastically:—"That a Union of Women's Suffrage Societies in Ireland be formed with the object of extending the franchise to women and of furthering legislation favourable to women."

After discussion a Provisional Committee was formed. Miss Bennett, proposed by Mrs. Earl, I.W.F.L., and seconded by Mrs. Metge (Lisburn), was unanimously elected chairman pro tem.

A further meeting will be held in September to arrange details, when it is hoped delegates from more societies and individuals interested can be present.

Miss Macarthur's Marriage.

It is announced that Miss Mary Macarthur, Secretary of the Women's Trade Union League, is to be married to Mr. William C. Anderson, chairman of the I.L.P.

Foreign News.

GERMANY.

An International Congress for Care of Mothers and Sexual Reform, called by the "Deutscher Bund für Mutterschutz," will be held at Dresden, 28th-30th September, 1911. Prominent authorities of this and foreign countries will report on the efforts for the Care of Mothers in their countries. On the basis of actual experience they will discuss the prospects for future extension of the Care of Mothers and of Sexual Reform, which is closely and necessarily connected therewith. The founding of an International Association for Care of Mothers and Sexual Reform is to be considered.

RUSSIA.

The women's movement in Russia made a decided step forward when the Duma granted municipal franchise to women. The Progressives urged Parliament to make them eligible for municipal offices as well, but this was not carried. But, as Dr. P. Schischkina-Javeni said at Stockholm: "We Russian women are not going to lose courage, we are firmly convinced that the time is not far distant when women will be appointed, not only for municipal functions, but also as members of Parliament." It is only quite recently that a law, stipulating that women teachers should have the same right to the old-age pension and the same salary as the men, was confirmed by the Imperial Council. Another law has lately been carried permitting a woman, in the case of an unhappy marriage, to live separated from her husband, and to ask for a pass without his permission—without this pass she was not entitled to leave him, though he were a drunkard, a tramp, or something worse.

UNITED STATES.

On October 10th a constitutional amendment giving the suffrage to women will be voted upon in California, and suffragists are devoting all their thoughts and energies to interesting the voters in this question. In Los Angeles, those indifferent people, whom we fear most of all, and who will neither declare themselves suffragists nor "anti's," are being enrolled as "anti-anti's." The suffragists declare that these "anti-anti's" will swell the suffragist ranks at the critical moment!

PERSIA.

A lively correspondent of the "Times" in Teheran seems to have been giving a highly imaginative account of a debate

in the Persian Parliament on Women's Suffrage. According to him the question was warmly debated whether or no women had souls. A subsequent letter "from an authorized Persian source" however makes the matter far less sensational. The members are reported to have spoken as follows:

"Hadji Vakil-el-Roaya.—I beg leave to ask for what reason should women be deprived of votes; are they not human beings, and are they not entitled to have the same rights as we have? I beg the 'Ulema' (the learned Clerical members of the Mejliss) for a reply.

Sheikh Assadollah.—We must not discuss this question, for it is contrary to the etiquette of an Islamic Parliament. But the reason for excluding women is that God has not given them the capacity needed for taking part in politics and electing the representatives of the nation. They are the weaker sex, and have not the same powers of judgment as men have. However, their rights must not be trampled upon, but must be safeguarded by men as ordained in the Koran by God Almighty."

Mr. Austen Chamberlain and Mr. Lewis Harcourt would feel quite at home in the Mejliss.

AUSTRIA.

We have received from an Austrian lady an interesting account of the women's struggle in Austria. "It was hard work," she writes, "for the little group of convinced suffragists, who were fighting to obtain political rights for women, to interest the women of Austria in politics. 'That is no business of ours,' was the reply we got when we tried to rouse them to a full understanding of their humiliating situation. Even the Socialist women from a sense of party loyalty held aloof and did not help us in our work of agitating for universal suffrage for women as well as men. Now, practical, economical needs have come to our aid and have roused up larger masses of women than we had ever dreamed of."

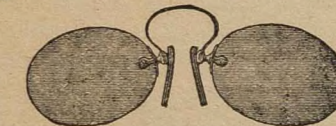
"On March 19th there was a 'Woman's Day' in nearly every town in the kingdom. In Vienna more than 3,000 Socialist women held a great meeting in which the 'Housewives' Association' and our Suffrage Committee also took part. The women asked for their rights and urged the men to support their demands. Then they walked in a solemn procession to Parliament to repeat their demands there."

"The housewives have roused themselves from their long slumber owing to the growing dearth of all food. They see that the deputies, occupied with their party interests, are either incapable of dealing with this question of dear food or unwilling to do so. They have formed themselves into a 'Housewives' Association' and they are beginning to see that to care for politics is one of their chief duties."

"Hand in hand with the economical question goes the ethical one. The women do not care to see as members of Parliament men who only care for their own interests, who desire merely money or position; they want to see their interests and those of their families represented by men of pure and high moral standard. They feel that, as they have no vote, nobody cares for their wants or their opinions and that they have no influence even in those matters which are pre-eminently a woman's business. They ask for the franchise to free them from this unbearable situation, and, as a first step, they ask for the abolition of clause 30 of the Law of Association which forbids women to take part in any political meeting or to found any political union."

"The election for Parliament this summer brought great surprises. The hitherto ruling party of Vienna and Austria, the so-called 'Christian Social' party was completely defeated and all their leaders fell. The members of this party had posed as the masses of the people with healthy and cheap food for themselves and their children. The women of Vienna may say with pride that they contributed a good deal to the overthrow of this illiberal party. Although forbidden to take part in public meetings they took part in great numbers in election work. Our women have learned to defend their wishes and rights in public but at present they have no legal means of bringing their demands before the government of

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the nation. They hope that the men who now sit in Parliament have learned to value the help of the women and will, in consequence, seek to abolish Clause 30 of the Law of Association. We have some reason for hoping so as the present Prime Minister, Baron Gautsch, said to a deputation of women that he was fully aware of the significance of women's influence in political life. Years ago, when he was Minister of Public Instruction, Baron Gautsch opened the doors of the University to the women of Austria."

Britain Overseas.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

A despatch from Belize tells us that the suffragists have triumphed in the capital of British Honduras, the city council having granted women the right to vote. At the last meeting the following resolution was unanimously adopted: "In the opinion of this council the right to vote for the election of members of the town board of Belize should be extended to such women as are possessed of the necessary qualifications by ownership or occupation of property and are only disqualified from voting by reason of their sex."

Reviews.

THE GREAT ILLUSION, by Norman Angell. (William Heinemann, pp. 335, 2s. 6d. net.)

During the recent by-election in North West Ham, a statement was circulated to the effect that Baron de Forest had given an enormous sum for the purpose of circulating widely throughout Europe this book by Mr. Norman Angell Lane. We can conceive of no better work for progressive bodies of all sorts than to take "The Great Illusion" as a text and popularize it throughout the length and breadth of all countries. First published in November, 1909, it has been considerably enlarged and is now issued in this cheap and handy edition; it is also translated into ten other languages and one sees signs on all hands of the way in which it is already permeating thought.

Briefly the writer's theme is whether it can possibly pay civilized countries in the twentieth century to go to war with one another and his conclusion is that, owing to the financial interdependence upon one another of these civilized countries, it does not pay and that the conqueror in such a war may actually come off worse in the end than the conquered. If we can only prove to nations that war, even when successful, costs far more than peace, we shall do much to quench the war fever, for "it is a fact in human nature that men will fight more readily than they will pay."

He shows how mistaken is the notion that we have one "natural enemy" in Europe and how this enemy has been supposed to be now Russia, now France, now Germany. Naturally much of his argument is, for the moment, directed at the notion that we could in any way profit by a war with Germany (since for the moment Germany is our bugbear) or Germany profit by a war with us and although he entirely admits the necessity of armaments until the minds of men are changed, he is most hopeful that their minds can be changed,—the "chancelleries of Europe" by a steady attention to the real interests of a nation and the people at large, by a more widely extended elementary education in the principles of trade and finance. He believes that a child might be taught in a very short while enough about trade and banking to cure him of any notion that war could possibly profit us.

The "real force" of the future is not brute physical force, it is "the force of work, intelligence, efficiency, which really achieves things; not the force of arms, which achieves nothing." The only function of physical force in the future will be *policing*, not *conquest*; that is to say, physical force will be controlled by the will, the conscience and the intelligently conceived interests of humanity. This is a fine gospel and Mr. Angell develops it not with rhetoric and flowers of speech but with close reasoning and biting wit. He makes very merry over the conceited journalists who say, "for ourselves . . . he preaches to the converted," but the rest of the world, including all the workers and thinkers and politicians are so crassly stupid or so brutally savage that they will never understand and it is no use talking to them! He makes very good fun too of the savage code of honour—"When an individual begins to rave about his honour, we may be pretty sure he is about to do some irrational, most likely disreputable deed"—and of the supposed necessity for war to prevent the degeneration of a nation, Mr. Angell deals boldly with the theories of the "unchangeableness of human nature" impelling men always to kill each other and of the biological law of conflict. He asserts and goes far to prove that nothing is more mutable and adaptable than human nature and that "natural laws are thrusting men irresistibly towards co-operation between communities and not towards conflict."

His brief expositions of the corruption and degradation of barrack life and of a state of militancy are so convincing that it is curious to find him apparently seeing the conquest of things by the mind of man as "unromantic." It may need a far more intellectualized singer, someone who moves

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[ESTABLISHED 1897.]

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Particulars from the Principal.

Reference is allowed to THE REV. CANON SCOTT-HOLLAND, D.D., CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD; and DR. JANE WALKER, 122, HARLEY STREET, W.

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as easily among conceptions as the older poets among sensuous things, but to us it seems that the brotherhood of man in his war against disease and vice and poverty should be at least as "romantic" as the Cain-like strife of man with his brother and that the linking up of nations by mechanical inventions which allow of the use of unseen and hitherto unguessed forces opens fresh themes enough for the poet to satisfy even the anxious apprehensions of a John Stuart Mill.

ADVENTURES IN PROSE, by Henry Noel Brailsford. (Herbert and Daniel, 5s. net, pp. 319.)

The spirit which inspires, more or less directly, all that Mr. Brailsford writes is present in his book of essays, or "Adventures in Prose." One turns with interest to the last section, the "Eastern Sketches," to find the insight into alien ways of thought—not altogether alien perhaps to the writer—the sympathy with unsuccess and baffled effort, which one has a right to expect. These things are here, and in many of the other "adventures"—"On Burns and Bacchanalian Verse," "The Goatherds," "Confessions of a Juror," and others—and perhaps it is because there is scope for them that the author's style is also at its best here. All the essays are charming, but these are little masterpieces. It is almost a pity that they come last in a volume which opens with essays on—cats.

Mr. Brailsford loves cats: but, like all cat-lovers, and unlike himself for once, he resents the patent fact that he is in a

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minority. It is customary for cat-lovers to do so. They conceal their resentment under a valiant pretence that the whole human race is with them, that all alike are in bondage to the insufferable arrogance of the cat. This they do to conceal their own abjection; for in fact most people tolerate the creatures because they are beautiful, and appreciate them because they kill mice. Yet to treat cats with the same lofty indifference with which cats treat us is not to merit—not at least to obtain—the same praise from the cat-admirer. On the contrary, such conduct is dismally exposed.

Other essays also should be read, if not for the charm of agreement, then for the delight of quarrel, mingled with suspicion. There is one on "The Country House," wherein Mr. Galsworthy is described *in contrast with Jane Austen*, as "seeing with irony, describing with malice." And Jane Austen? Does she not see with irony, describe with malice? No? The frightful suspicion arises—is Mr. Brailsford familiar with Miss Austen's writings? But stranger still, the assertion on another page that Scottish literature owes its absence of "religious emotion . . . the awe and tenderness of devotion" to the fact that the Scottish mind has been "formed on the Shorter Catechism, nourished on the Psalms"—has Mr. Brailsford perhaps not read the Psalms? A. M. R.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, by Marion Holmes (Women's Freedom League, 3d. net).

This little "cameo sketch" brings out, as is fitting, the side of Florence Nightingale which was really remarkable and which made her what she was. Sentiment has so pawed her over and so smothered the true greatness of her mind and character that the public too often thinks of her as merely strolling round with a lamp. Miss Holmes emphasises the vigour of her will and the toughness which made her discipline herself and insist on the discipline of others; she shows her as a woman who must be obeyed, because she has knowledge and power. Practical, sensible and wise, it is small wonder that Queen Victoria wished for her at the War Office and it is doubtful whether any great commander ever did so much for the army as this one woman; certain it is that not only the army but the whole human race owes to Florence Nightingale a steadily spreading amelioration which was due not only to her having "a woman's heart" but "a woman's head and will." Not only sick nursing, but hygiene, morality and the development of woman's sphere of usefulness felt the influence of her wisdom. We heartily recommend this little book to literature secretaries of Suffrage Societies. From cover to cover it is a most potent "argument" for Women's Suffrage and for the enlargement of women's lives generally.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN WORKERS. ANNUAL REPORT.

The National Federation of Women Workers has been going ahead at a great rate lately and the Fourth Annual Report (which brings its history up to June 1911) is full of thrilling matters. It is shown how the beginnings of the working of the Trade Boards Act have given a stimulus to the organization of women's labour, and how indispensable it is for the working of the Act that women should be united and instructed. The Cradley Heath agitation of last summer is briefly but tellingly described and many other struggles and victories are recorded, perhaps the most moving being the one at Mansfield which shows the appalling victimisation of women that has gone on and *will go on* until they are strong in union.

There were 10,000 members when this report was issued. Bermondsey and its neighbours are said to have added half as many again during the past month.

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Parallels.

A correspondent some time ago sent us the following verses published in the Spectator (April 15th, 1911) and quoted there as from a "schoolgirl's autograph book" nearly twenty years

TWO KINDS OF WOMEN.

I.
"She sought her 'Rights'
Robbed by some cruel chance of life's delights,
With a dissatisfied and restless soul,
With a half logic, which she counted whole;
Earnest, no doubt, and honest, not unsexed,
But hungering, and querulous, and vexed
With starving instincts in a fruitless frame
And with an itching for the sort of fame
Which comes from the mere printing of a name,
She clamoured for her 'Rights,' showed solemn craft,
And men,
Brute men,
They only laughed.

II.
"She did not seek her 'Rights,'
She dreamed not of some path to manish heights,
But followed nature's way and deemed it good,
And bloomed from flower to fruit of womanhood;
She loved the 'tyrant'; bore her noble part
In life with him, and thought with all her heart
She had her rights.
She held that something men and women meant
To be unlike, but each a supplement
Unto the other; 'twas her gentle whim
He was not more to her than she to him;
And little children gathered at her knee,
And men,
Brute men,
Would die for such as she."

ago. Our correspondent wrote two parallel verses and offered them to the Spectator. Needless to say they were not printed.

TWO OTHER KINDS OF WOMEN.

I.
She sought her Fate,
Raised by some cruel chance from low estate,
The Maid, whose Voices led her virgin soul
To heal the wounds of France and make them whole.
Earnest, few doubt, and honest, not unsexed,
Although men's ribald taunts her spirit vexed.
No longing drew her for the sort of fame
That comes from martyrdom; but her fair name
Was trampled in the dust by solemn craft,
And men,
Brute men,
They only laughed.

II.
She did not seek her Fate—
The beautiful Helen, born to high estate—
But followed "nature's" way and deemed it good,
Pursuing all the wiles of womanhood.
She loved her "tyrant," bore her noble part
In Greece with him, until her facile heart
To Paris, leant.
She held that "nature's" men and women meant
To live for pleasure, each a supplement
Unto the other; 'twas her gentle whim
To plunge two nations into warfare grim.
At Troy no children gathered at her knee,
But men,
Brute men,
Did die for such as she. C. C.

Letters to the Editor.

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

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

WOMEN AND THE INSURANCE BILL.

Can you spare space for a question as to the probable reason why the contribution of women earning over 15s. per week has been fixed, under the Insurance Bill, at a lower rate than that of men. The effect of this differentiation is to penalize the employer to the extent of one penny for every man employed, in preference to a woman, at a wage of 2s. 6d., 2s., 1s. 6d. or less a day. The inevitable result must be to thrust women into and to keep them down in the sweated trades even more than is done at the present time. Leaving the question of benefits aside, the whole economic tendency of the measure is thus seen to be most disastrous to these women engaged in industry, whom it is especially desired to help.

At first sight the general low rate of women's wages as compared with those of men might seem sufficient reason for the distinction. Since, however, the number of widows likely to re-enter insurable employment is estimated at so low a figure as 5 per cent., the majority of insured women, unlike men, will have no family dependent upon them. When earning over 15s. weekly, therefore, they might well be considered able to afford, equally with men, the 4d. contribution, thus justifying a claim to the same benefit of 10s., or to a surrender value at marriage of paid-up contributions, and at the same time establishing a useful principle.

If the case is as stated it would seem a most far-sighted policy on the part of women not to agitate for a reduction of their contribution but rather to urge that the compulsory scale of payment and benefit may be the same or equivalent for men and women.

Among the interminable discussions to which the bill has given rise I have nowhere seen this point touched on. There is possibly, however, some valid reason for the differentiation and if any of your readers with expert knowledge will enlighten me I shall be grateful.

N. S. B. ATKINSON.

[Our correspondent has not put the case very clearly. It will be best seen perhaps in table form.]

	Over 2/6 a day.	Between 2/6 and 2/-	Between 2/- and 1/7	1/6 or below.
Employer of Man weekly 3d.	4d.	5d.	6d.	6d.
" " Woman " 3d.	3d.	4d.	4d.	4d.
Employee Man " 4d.	3d.	2d.	1d.	same
" " Woman " 3d.	3d.	2d.	1d.	same

For 2s. 6d. daily or less, a woman is therefore cheaper than a man and this, for what it is worth, would tend to make

an employer prefer women's labour in the cheaper grades whereas at over 2s. 6d. the labour of a man costs the employer the same as that of a woman. At a wage of 2s. 6d. or less, the woman pays the same as the man, but gets only 7s. 6d. benefit instead of 10s. We think it is a decided hardship that women are not allowed to pay 4d. a week if they wish and get 10s. Another point to which no one seems to have drawn attention is that although we are told the employed rate is 7d. for men and 6d. for women, in the table for those earning 1s. 6d. or less, the women's sum is only 5d. This may be a misprint; it may be that the employer should pay 5d. instead of 4d. as printed.—Ed. "C.C."]

THE MASCULINE STANDPOINT.

The other day I came across so extraordinary an illustration of how men are accustomed to view everything solely from the masculine standpoint that I venture to communicate it to you. It concerns the question of the propagation of the unfit. A certain writer, Dr. Chapple, M.D., M.R.C.S., sponsored by well-known men, in dealing with the subject, advocates, as a means to prevent the present lamentable state of affairs, sterilisation, rather than segregation of defectives. So far, so good; there is nothing improper in the advocacy of that measure. I read with interest the book, expecting, of course, to find that he suggested that every "unfit" man or woman should be deprived of the power to propagate the species. Judge of my amazement and incredulity when I discovered that his remedy was to operate on all "unfit" women, and—not on unfit men themselves,—but on their "fit" wives! Thus the woman is not to be protected from any danger of contracting physical illness by consorting with her husband; he is to be left with his powers in that direction unimpaired; nor is she to be allowed to have healthy children afterwards, if her husband predeceases her, and she marries again. Dr. Chapple assigns as a reason that whereas a woman can be sterilised without detriment to her character, it "unsexes" a man, and is a violent outrage upon his "nature and sentiment." What about the violent outrage to a woman's sentiment of being operated on and deprived of all possibility of bearing children—that which we are so often told is her one and only claim to honour and respect, almost to life itself? Entirely disregarded, unless, instead, as Dr. Chapple in one place suggests, she should get a divorce. It is admitted that to sterilise the female will not prove an absolute protection, but it is "good enough for all practical purposes." I may remark that the operation suggested is in the case of a woman more of a "major" operation than in the case of a man.

Lest you should be unable to believe, on my bare word, that such tenets could be held nowadays, let alone published, I beg to state the book in which they are set forth is "The Fertility of the Unfit," published by Whitcombe and Tombs (London).

H. B. HANSON (M.D.).

15, Harlesden Gardens, N.W., August 21st, 1911.

PIT-BROW WOMEN.

I have seen it urged against the work of women at the pit brow that they have to stand at a higher level than the man, and therefore are liable to be objectionably exposed to view. This surprised me, as I have always understood that for that very reason the women habitually wore trousers and a short skirt as an essential of their occupation. If they do not wear them, surely they might well do so. It seems so strange to the average woman that men, who have our very lives in their power, can seriously argue that because there are one or two easily removable drawbacks to a trade we must be driven out of that trade altogether. The point they do not see (and it is typical of the attitude of our legislators towards many industries for women) is that we had much better live in trousers than starve in skirts!

T. M.

[Out of deference to conventions the women have in most places given up wearing the garments best suited to their work. It is only the better-to-do women who are allowed by public opinion to wear, for a sport (bathing) the costume they are forbidden to wear at work.—Ed. "C.C."]

ELECTION ADDRESSES.

I expected to see an answer in "The Common Cause" to a recent statement in the "Anti-Suffrage Review" that none of the election addresses of candidates at this year's by-elections contained references favourable to the Conciliation Bill. I have already contradicted this in the local press. At the Cheltenham by-election last April, the address of Mr. Agg-Gardner, Conservative candidate, and now M.P. for the Borough (thanks undoubtedly to our efforts), contains the following as its last paragraph but one:—"Referring to questions outside party politics, I am prepared to support the Conciliation Bill, which aims at extending to Parliamentary elections the franchise possessed by women in municipal elections. I support this on logical grounds, as well as on the constitutional principle that representation should accompany taxation."

THEODORA MILLS
(Hon. Sec., Cheltenham W.S.S.).

"ABUSE."

I notice in one of your comments in a letter headed "Abuse" (August 24th) you speak of Mr. Lloyd George not having on June 15th "received a single deputation of women," etc., and that "since then, by persistent hammering, women have secured two interviews," etc.

Can you inform your readers whether he had ever before refused to grant an interview, and how many ineffectual requests for one are represented by your words, "persistent hammering."

I fear your sentence as it stands is calculated to create a false atmosphere, and be open to the charge of misrepresentation, quite unintentional, I am sure, on your part.

SUFFRAGIST.

[It is manifestly impossible to state or even to know how many requests have been refused or ignored by Mr. Lloyd George. We give two instances for which we can vouch: On June 23rd the Women's Trade Union Council invited Mr. Lloyd George to come to Manchester and address a great meeting of women in the Free Trade Hall; they did this because, when he addressed a great meeting of men in Birmingham, he expressed himself as anxious to meet everyone. On July 13th we were informed that he had not even replied. The Manchester Midwives also asked to be allowed to state their case to him without success. As far as we know, Mr. George has received only the June deputation in which he suggested that Miss Clementina Black and Miss Mary Macarthur did not know what they were talking about and the deputation from the N.U.W.W. on July 27, to which he was much more civil.—Ed. "C.C."]

Your first leading article on the Insurance Bill (pp. 96, 97) gives a clue to the reason of your opposition. You hope that Mr. Lloyd George will see "that the success of his scheme depends on the goodwill and freedom of women," and that that depends on giving them votes; and this Bill is to be used to force home that truth. I want our enfranchisement as much as you do, but I very much doubt the wisdom of withholding the goodwill, or attempting to wreck a great scheme to alleviate distress, on account of the political capital we can make out of it.

You go aside from my point that the basis of the bill is to grant relief to wage-losers on account of sickness by saying that "it is precisely the wage-earning basis of the Insurance Bill to which we take exception." In other words, you and Mr. Lloyd George differ as to the best means to alleviate distress among the working-classes. Possibly if you were Chancellor of the Exchequer you might construct a better scheme; but you have no right to misrepresent his scheme, and put it in a false and distorted light before your readers, many of whom as you know are quite ignorant of practical politics. Further, you imply that "if women had been consulted" (that is, if the Conciliation Bill of 1910 had become law in time for the December election) Mr. Lloyd George's

scheme would have had the goodwill of women; but you cannot seriously suppose that the votes of a million widows and spinsters, given when the Insurance Bill's provisions were unknown, would have made these provisions any different from what they are. E. M. J.

[Our correspondent who is indignant because, in her opinion, we misrepresent the Insurance Bill, totally misrepresents us in the two points she here makes. She appears to consider herself a Liberal but she has not grasped the very foundation of Liberalism, which is representative government. There is no question of "wrecking a great scheme to alleviate distress on account of the political capital," etc. and we repudiate the wanton and discourteous imputation of dishonesty made in her suggestion that we present the Insurance Bill "in a false and distorted light" to gain our own ends. We thought—in common with many large and representative bodies of women—that the Bill as first drafted was a bad bill. We reasoned that it was bad because it was made from the men's standpoint only. It has been improved in so far as the women's standpoint has been partly taken. We reasoned also that any law affecting the lives of women would be bad in the working, until politicians took the trouble not only to consult but to educate the women and they will not do that till women count politically—that is till they help to elect representatives. Our correspondent's second point is merely a caricature of the arguments for representative government. We will not imitate her in attributing to her a desire to misrepresent the articles which have appeared in this paper on the subject; we assume she has not understood them.—Ed. "C.C."]

[We have received a good many expostulations for allowing our critics so much latitude. One correspondent writes "that the heated remarks of party persons" are not of interest to suffragists, and some of our friends indulge in some plain speaking which we think perfectly justified but which we will not publish as we have no wish to embitter the controversy. We propose, however, to close it with this issue.—Ed. "C.C."]

DOMESTIC SERVICE.

May I say a few words in reply to Mrs. Davidson's letter in "The Common Cause" of August 24th. I, too, had read your article entitled "Pit Brow Women and Legislation," and was quite satisfied with your remarks in the article which applied to domestic service, and this from first-hand knowledge. While Mrs. Davidson and her friends may be quite willing to treat their servants "over-indulgently and with misplaced consideration," I would point out to her that there are very many servants in England now who are treated very differently. I am not now speaking of notoriously "bad places," but I can assure your correspondent that did she know of the mansions, some of the largest houses in this land, where the servants are required to carry baths full of water long distances and buckets of coals up many flights of stairs, she would realise that domestic service is not a paradise. My sister, who has received just the same education as myself, chose to be a domestic because she liked housework better than assisting in a shop or working a sewing machine, or any of the many ways of earning a living which Manchester, one of the best towns in England for varieties of women's employments, offered, and she has always had situations in the country. On my asking her why she never took a place



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in London, she told me that it was such cruelly hard work mounting so many flights of stairs with coals, and on my asking why the lift was not used for such work, she told me that servants were not allowed to use the lifts for such purposes, only allowed to use them when they were conveying a telegram or anything of an urgent nature to anyone who might be in an upper part of the house.

I should like to say that I know servants whose standard of education is high compared with some shop assistants and even typists. I know a servant who has taught herself Esperanto, and she is going to emigrate, as she would prefer to live in a country where she can have her evenings free. The Editor's foot-note to Mrs. Davidson's letter hit the right nail on the head. "We do want domestic service to be brought up to date, to have better organisation and better training." I consider that there should be fixed hours in which servants should work, just as in any other calling, and it could be managed, with proper organisation. How would any of us like to have to ask permission each time we wished to go out to the post? Domestic service is a well-paid vocation because of the scarcity of good servants, but its conditions, even to-day, are too feudal for many freedom-loving (though not necessarily freedom-abusing) women to accept.

PROGRESS.

Work of Societies in the Union.

EASTERN COUNTIES FEDERATION.

CAMBRIDGE.—Much work has been done by the Cambridge Society during the summer. Drawing-room meetings (all of which resulted in an increase of membership) were held as follows:—

Date.	Hostess.	Speaker.
May 5th.	Mrs. Rackham.	Mrs. Corbett-Ashby.
May 24th.	Mrs. A. Hutchinson.	Mrs. Rackham.
May 30th.	Mrs. Ramsey.	Miss Costelloe.
July 3rd.	Mrs. Crosfield.	Miss Corbett.
July 8th.	Mrs. Bidder.	Miss Jameson.
July 17th.	Mrs. Adam.	Mrs. Heitland.
August 1st.	Mrs. Rackham.	Mrs. Stanbury.

On July 1st a garden meeting, well attended, was held at Mr. and Mrs. Tillyard's, mainly for teachers and other professional women. Mrs. Tillyard presided, and addresses were given by the Rev. A. S. Duncan Jones and Miss Corbett. On July 26th a garden meeting was held at Mr. and Mrs. Thompson's, Brunswick Lodge. An address was given by the Rev. C. J. N. Child, and there was a short musical programme.

OPEN-AIR MEETINGS IN CAMBRIDGE.—On July 3rd, 10th, 18th, 25th, and August 1st, meetings were held in the Market Square. Large and attentive crowds were present on every occasion. The speakers were Mrs. Rackham, Mrs. Ramsey, Mrs. Heitland, Mr. Vulliamy, the Rev. A. S. Duncan Jones, Mr. Mirrless, Miss Corbett, and Mr. Stanbury.

In the neighbourhood meetings were held:—
July 5th, at St. Ives. Speakers: Mrs. Kellett, Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. Rackham.

July 12th, at St. Neots. Speakers: Mrs. Rackham, Mrs. Ramsey, Mr. Vulliamy.

July 27th, at Huntingdon. Speakers: Mrs. Kellett, Mrs. Rackham.

July 28th, at Shelford. Speakers: Mrs. Heitland, Mr. Ingle, Mrs. Rackham.

August 4th, at Bishop Stortford. Speakers: Mrs. Rackham, Mr. Vulliamy.

August 10th, at Ramsey. Speakers: Mr. Ingle, Mrs. Rackham.

Four meetings were also held in Huntingdonshire, and it is hoped shortly to start a new society in that county.

SOUTH-WESTERN FEDERATION.

STIMMOUTH.—The committee had an "At Home" on the tennis lawn kindly lent by Miss Leigh Brown; tea was served to about fifty members and friends. Miss Kilgour, M.A., spoke of the various Bills now before Parliament, giving brief explanations and showing how each illustrated the need for the vote. She concluded by referring to the prohibition of women's work at the pit brow. Lady Lockyer urged the claims of the Society, and Miss Chilton moved the vote of thanks to Miss Kilgour, and to Miss Dutton, who presided.

MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT FEDERATION.

ECCLES.—On Saturday, August 19th, the Eccles Society entertained about fifty friends and members to a garden party and Bohemian tea, held in the garden of West Leigh, Broad Oak Park, Worsley, kindly lent by Mrs. Norbury, the energetic secretary. The lawn looked very gay with its trimmings of red, white, and green. Miss Potts (president), Miss Walshe, and Mrs. Barnes addressed the meeting, and recitations were given by members. The proceeds from the sale of tickets for tea and from articles sold at the sale of work and book stall realised £3 10s., which will be handed over to the Manchester Federation. Twenty copies of "The Common Cause" were sold, and four new members enrolled.

MACCLESFIELD.—On Thursday afternoon, July 27th, a successful garden meeting was held at The Limes, Sutton, by kind invitation of the treasurer, Mrs. W. L. White. There was a fair attendance of members and friends, including the Mayor and Mayoress of Macclesfield. Miss Robertson gave an excellent address on the present position of the Conciliation Bill, and urged the desirability of keeping it well "in the lime-light" in order to take every advantage of the promised facilities.

ROMLEY SOCIETY is arranging for a week's special open-air campaign for the week commencing September 25th. Meetings will be held each evening, and dinner-hour mill meetings and afternoon garden or drawing-room meetings daily. Mrs. Aldersley, of Nelson, is to take charge. Mr. Nelson, M.P., has promised to speak at a meeting in support of the Conciliation Bill on November 13th.

Owing to an oversight, the result of Mrs. Hope's garden sale has not yet been made public. In spite of a shockingly wet day, a good number of the "faithful" turned up, bought well, and generally enjoyed the good things provided by Mrs. Hope and her friends. As a result £10 has been handed over to the Federation, and £3 6s. 3d. to the funds of the Society.

SOUTH SALFORD.—A meeting of the South Salford Association was held on August 14th to say farewell to the Rev. A. L. Bradbury, to whom the Association owes so much. Mr. Bradbury is going to India, and the members wished him Godspeed and gave him a Medical print as a small token of their affection, and regret at losing him. It was proposed by Miss Darlington that members of the Association should take it in turns to write Mr. Bradbury an account of the monthly meetings, so that we should not lose touch with him, and this suggestion was welcomed by everyone.

EAST MIDLAND FEDERATION.

The East Midland Societies have this month concentrated their efforts upon preparations for the caravan tour, on which Miss Helga Gill and other workers are now engaged. Preparations are also being made for an autumn campaign in the constituencies in which work is most needed.

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE FEDERATION.

The CARDIFF AND DISTRICT Society is the only one which has sent in any news this month. Owing to the holidays the work has been suspended for a little while. In the meantime the secretary has been busy preparing the autumn programme. The plans include a visit from Miss Helen Fraser for the whole month of October, when she will speak in Cardiff and the immediate neighbourhood. On November 3rd the annual reception will be held in the Park Hall, when Lady Betty Balfour will speak. The ward committees will arrange a series of meetings in their respective areas during October and November. Last, but not least, arrangements are being made for a big demonstration in the Park Hall in favour of the Conciliation Bill. All other societies, political and otherwise, will be asked to join on this occasion. The actual date and other details are not yet fixed.

What are the other societies in South Wales doing? We hope to hear next month. Meantime attention is called to the Special Appeal for the Federation made elsewhere.

Other Societies.

THE NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Excellent work is being done in Lowestoft and district. Meetings at The Triangle, Lowestoft, have been greatly appreciated, and at Oulton Broad and Corton large gatherings have listened attentively to the excellent speeches of Mrs. Clarkson-Swann, Miss Rose Lightman, and Mr. Ponder. This week meetings will be held at The Triangle and at East Anglian Hall, where the Mayor of Lowestoft has promised to take the chair, and next week the campaign will re-open in Mid Norfolk.



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Forthcoming Meetings.

AUGUST 31.	Letchworth—Pixmore Institute—Jumble Sale.	3.30
SEPTEMBER 1.	Bridport—Drill Hall—Mrs. Rackham, Sir J. Cockburn, K.C.M.G.	8.0
SEPTEMBER 2.	Beaminstor—Open-air Meeting—Mrs. Rackham.	7.0
SEPTEMBER 5.	Bridport—Miss Colfox's Drawing-room Meeting—Mrs. Rackham.	5.0
SEPTEMBER 6.	Eccles—Burgon's Hall—"Common Cause" Meeting—Mrs. Darlington.	7.30
SEPTEMBER 6.	Letchworth—Mr. and Mrs. Dent's Garden—"White Elephant Fair."	5.30-9
SEPTEMBER 7.	Stocksfield—Mrs. Waldie Cairn's Meeting—Mrs. Howson.	
SEPTEMBER 9.	Sunderland—West Park—United Demonstration in Support of Conciliation Bill.	3.15
SCOTLAND.		
September 4:	Oban, Volunteer Drill Hall, The Lady Frances Balfour, Dr. Elsie Inglis.	8.0
September 5:	Glenfarg, Mrs. Kirkland's Garden Party, The Lady Frances Balfour.	3-7

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