

The Common Cause,

The Organ of the National Union of

Women's Suffrage

Societies.

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ONE PENNY.

Notes and Comments.

Important Resolution of the Women's Liberal Federation.

At a special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Women's Liberal Federation, the following resolution was carried:—

That, in view of the Council's enthusiastic determination to secure the immediate removal of the sex disqualification, the Executive resolves that until definite promises are made

Suffrage would bear dispassionate examination. Years hence many views now expressed would be regarded as ungenerous and incomprehensibly pitiable. He believed that the Conciliation Bill would pass. It would be assailed by the most bitter opposition of recent times, and every device known to the Parliamentary obstructionist would be brought into play. The enemy's tactics would be to create a split in its Radical supporters. But, notwithstanding, votes for women were certain. The whole trend of society and political development made



The Door into the Franchise Garden.

"Alice's first idea was that the key might belong to one of the doors of the hall; but, alas! either the locks were too large or the key was too small, but at any rate it wouldn't open any of them. However, on the second time round she came upon a low curtain she had not noticed before, and behind it was a little door, about fifteen inches high, and to her great delight the little golden key fitted."

of a Government Reform Bill including women they will support by all means in their power the Bill promoted by the Conciliation Committee, and will pursue with regard to amendments to that Bill such a policy as circumstances show to be most likely to secure for it a substantial third reading majority.

Sir Henry Norman on the Bill.

In a speech on October 26th, at Blackburn, Sir Henry Norman, M.P., is reported as saying that "the man who said that under no circumstances should women have a vote either had no belief in, or no grasp of, the principles of representative government, or else he must have been very unfortunate in the women of his acquaintance. Not a single argument against Women's

them assured, and soon or late a share of the government would go to those whose co-operation the community cherished."

We welcome these utterances from a man known to be an Adult Suffragist.

A Crying Shame.

On the 24th, in North-West Manchester, Sir George Kemp said:—"I cannot refrain from mentioning the Conciliation Bill, in which I have some share. (Cheers.) I am glad to think it passed with the greatest majority it has ever had in the House of Commons, but I am much more glad that the Government have promised that next year time shall be given for its consideration,

and we shall then see to what extent members of the House of Commons are sincere in their professions of anxiety to give justice to the women mentioned in that Bill. I hope that the Bill may become law, because I believe that the sum of intelligence of the electors would be increased by the inclusion of women, and because I believe it to be a crying shame that they have not had the vote up to the present time." (Cheers.)

The Occupier's Vote.

We are reminded every week—sometimes every day—of the amazing confusion of our registration laws, and, where lawyers and agents and judges all differ, it seems to be a mere toss-up whether a man has a vote or no. In the King's Bench Divisional Court, on October 24th, the 1,285 Newport voters who had been struck off the roll by the revising barrister were re-instated on appeal. Mr. Justice Darling held that payment by the owner on behalf of the occupier was good payment on the latter's behalf, and the occupier could not be distrained upon for the payment of the sum after the owner had paid it. The appeal should accordingly be allowed. The essential thing is that the occupier's name should appear in the rate-book; if this is so, the fact that he or she compounds with the landlord for payment of rates will not tell against him or her as a voter.

Substantial Progress.

There was a distinctly humorous flavour about one passage in the Prime Minister's statement in the House last Thursday, when he said that the Government would give facilities to private members' Bills, which met with a general measure of support from all quarters, and which had made substantial progress. Now, Sir George Kemp's Bill only had 88 votes against it and met with "support from all quarters"; that it did not make "substantial progress" is solely due to the fact that the Government would not allow it time to do so, although it fulfilled the conditions laid down by the Government, that it should be "open to amendment."

Women in Local Government.

Our readers will be delighted to hear that Miss Margaret Ashton has been spared a contest, being returned unopposed to the Manchester City Council. In the elections being held this week there are only eleven women standing. For a variety of reasons, some of them economic, it seems likely that women will for a long time to come be in the minority as candidates for local government; but the present conditions, which make it almost impossible for a married woman to stand until she is widowed, reduce the available number to vanishing point. We wonder how many men could be found if no married man could stand? The women candidates are two each in Manchester, Birmingham, and Carlisle, and one each at Godalming, Oxford, Reigate, Bath, and Cardiff.

Miss Price for Cardiff.

A correspondent writes:—"Miss Janet Price, who has been the organising secretary for the Cardiff and District Suffrage Society, is standing as an Independent candidate, in the Cathays Ward, for the Cardiff City Council. Miss Price's election committee has been formed by representatives from the many women's organisations in the city other than the political party organisations. The latter are not included, because there are representatives of the three political party organisations also contesting the ward. The contest will, therefore, be a keen one, and much interest has been aroused. All are agreed that, even if Miss Price is not successful on this occasion, much good will have been done. Suffragists are active in her support, and have very clearly shown that the Anti-Suffrage League is mistaken in thinking that Suffragists are behind them in willingness to work with their brothers in local government. The recent decision of the Council to

open a municipal lodging-house for women in the city has made it more imperative than ever to try and get women into the Council. We are all grateful to Miss Price for her public spirit, and hope that next week we may hear the good news of her becoming a city councillor. The thanks of Cardiff women are also due to Miss Eleanor Rathbone, who, at much inconvenience to herself, came and addressed a public meeting in the ward in support of Miss Price, and gave an address which was much appreciated."

A Fair Field Wanted.

The *Manchester Guardian* alluded lately to the rapid increase of women barristers in France. There are, it appears, nineteen women advocates, of whom Mlle. Jeanne Elise Porel is the latest. We are very much behind the times here in England, where, although women have applied for admission, they have been so far successfully kept out by men in the profession, just as the chartered accountants still deprive women of chances of really good jobs. One cannot see any reasonable ground for refusing to women the opportunity of having the best advice from their fellow-women in law or business, as in medicine or surgery, and we hope that professional men will be speedily shamed out of such selfish trade-unionism of the wrong sort.

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

We are glad to hear that Exeter, Hackney, Liverpool, Walthamstow, and Warwick Associations of Teachers have passed the resolution sent out in favour of Women's Suffrage by the Executive of the N.U.T. The Lancashire and Surrey County Associations have also passed it.

Enfranchised Women.

We have received a leaflet from the Australian and New Zealand Women Voters' Committee, which was formed in May last "to safeguard the interests of Australian and New Zealand women under Imperial legislation." They have already done good work in securing assurances that our bad English naturalisation laws shall not affect the forthcoming Imperial legislation in Australia and New Zealand. This body of women should be of service not only to their fellow-Antipodeans, but to us of the older world. The hon. secretary is Miss H. C. Newcomb, care of International Women's Franchise Club, 9, Grafton Street, W. A number of distinguished ladies are on the committee, and lectures and addresses are projected. Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G., has promised an address on "Joint Citizenship" for December 6th.

How Women Have Voted.

We have received the statistical returns with regard to the referenda in the Commonwealth of Australia, and also of the voting in the General Elections for the House of Representatives in 1903, 1906, and 1910. The percentages of women electors to whom ballot papers were issued to women electors enrolled for the General Elections were as follow:—

| | 1903. | 1906. | 1910. |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|
| New South Wales | 43.08 | 44.87 | 54.71 |
| Victoria | 48.70 | 51.16 | 62.32 |
| Queensland | 47.17 | 37.12 | 54.78 |
| South Australia | 29.97 | 32.84 | 48.47 |
| West Australia | 15.57 | 29.12 | 55.92 |
| Tasmania | 34.28 | 47.19 | 51.51 |

We call attention to the steady increase.

Our Cartoon.

The little key which Alice holds (Majority) will only unlock the Conciliation Bill door. Either Alice must shrink, as she does in the story, in order to get through into the franchise garden, or another key must be found to open the larger door. Is the Government going to find that other key?

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to The Manager, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.
ADVERTISEMENTS should reach the office by first post on Tuesday.

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LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS should be addressed to the Editor, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., accompanied by a stamped envelope addressed if it is desired that they should be returned. The Editor accepts no responsibility, however, for matter which is offered unsolicited.

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

NOTICE.—This paper should be obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by mid-day on Thursday. If people have any difficulty in getting it locally they should write to the Manager, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., giving the name and address of the newsagent or bookstall from which they wish to be supplied.

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The Position of Women in the Home Rule Bill.

Everyone, whether Unionist or Home Ruler, knows that a Home Rule Bill will be introduced next session, and will almost certainly pass, and also that if the measure passes in three successive sessions it will become law, with or without the assent of the House of Lords.

Of course there are enormous practical difficulties in the way, the chief of which probably will be the adjustment of the financial relations between the Parliament of Ireland and the Parliament of the United Kingdom. Land Purchase, Old-age Pensions, and State Insurance in Ireland are, or will shortly be, established on the basis that Ireland enjoys the enormous advantage of being a partner in the big firm, the advantage, that is, of sharing in the credit and financial stability of the United Kingdom. It will probably be essential to her that she should continue to enjoy this advantage. To take land purchase alone: there have been, under the various Irish Land Acts since 1869, loans advanced to purchasing tenants amounting to over £68,000,000; the number of purchasers being nearly 200,000. All this has been done on the basis of the credit of the United Kingdom. Ireland standing alone could not bear the burden: the weight must be shared by Great Britain. Similar considerations will apply to old-age pensions, and to the scheme of insurance which is nearly certain to become law this year. Hence, as long as Irish finance is based on Imperial credit, it becomes obvious that the Irish Parliament must be, as Mr. Redmond has of late explained with much emphasis and reiteration, a subordinate Parliament for dealing with what are solely Irish concerns.

Now for us Suffragists the question arises, what place will be given in the newly created Irish electorate

to the representation of women? There is every reason to hope and expect that women will be admitted to this electorate. This hope is based on many considerations, the chief of which are:—

1. Women were included in the electorate contemplated in the Irish Councils Bill of 1907.

2. The indications given by Viscount Haldane's speech at Aberdeen early in October on the necessary connection between an electorate for local affairs and an electorate for national affairs, and his significant prediction that Women's Suffrage, in the wider sense, was bound to come, and come soon.

3. The fact that the Irish themselves have always shown themselves very ready to admit women to political, professional and educational equality. As soon as Mr. Russell Gurney's "enabling bill" was passed in the seventies, the first body capable of conferring medical degrees to take advantage of it was the King's and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland. Trinity College, Dublin, was the first of the ancient universities to open all its privileges to women, and to offer *ad eundem* degrees to women who held only Vice-Chancellor's certificates at Oxford and Cambridge.

4. Finally, in this very matter of Women's Suffrage, the Irish members have for many years past voted in a majority of nearly two to one in favour of giving women votes. The picturesque incident will not soon be forgotten of the Lord Mayor of Dublin appearing at the bar of the House of Commons to present in person the petition of the Dublin Town Council in favour of the Conciliation Bill.

There is even some hope that, under the conditions which are foreshadowed, namely, that the newly-created Irish Parliament will be a subordinate Parliament for the transaction of purely Irish business, women's votes for this body will be welcomed even by the National League for Opposing Woman Suffrage. For do they not print every month on the frontispiece of their "Review," that they "maintain the principle of the representation of women on municipal and other bodies concerned with the domestic and social affairs of the community." The Irish Parliament for the transaction of Irish affairs will be one of these "other bodies concerned with the domestic and social affairs of the community." Mrs. Humphry Ward has sought and found consolation for the triumphant forward march of Women's Suffrage in the United States in the conviction that women's electoral power in the States which have adopted Women's Suffrage is really akin to the municipal suffrage which women enjoy in England. She will be able to seek and find consolation from a similar source for the introduction of women into the electorate about to be called into being for the Irish Parliament. For all these reasons, namely, that the Government (in their Councils Bill) have already sanctioned it in principle, that the Irish themselves have shown themselves ready for it, and that even the Anti-Suffragists can hardly oppose it, we believe there is good ground for the expectation that Women's Suffrage will find a place in the coming Home Rule Bill.

M. G. FAWCETT.

The Woman's Handicap.

A brief review of the history of the agitation in Parliament against the women working at the pit-brows will throw some light on what may be described as the struggle between the power of indirect influence and the power of the franchise.

The first attack on the pit-brow women was made in 1872, and successive attempts were made in 1886 and 1887 to close this field of employment to women. That these efforts were unsuccessful was probably owing to the fact that the members of the Government who had charge of the Coal Mines Bills were personally convinced that the work was not harmful to the women.

Mr. Childers in 1886 refused the request made by the

Miners' Conference to insert a prohibitory clause in his Bill, and fought to a successful issue the cause of the women. The matter was regarded as closed. In 1887 the whole subject was raised again when Mr. Mathews was about to introduce his Coal Mines Bill. He was approached by a deputation from the Miners' Conference with a similar demand—namely, to insert a prohibitory clause, the deputation assuring him that the men were unanimous in their demand that women should not be allowed to work at the pit-brow. Mr. Mathews replied that he "would like to hear what the women had to say," and declined to accede to the request of the deputation. He thought at the time that his refusal was sufficient, but the Northumberland and Durham miners placed in the hands of their representatives in Parliament two amendments which would have had the effect of displacing the women. These direct means taken by the miners to compel attention to their wishes necessitated an appeal to the women, and Mr. Mathews intimated his desire to receive a deputation from the pit-brow women. The machinery of indirect influence was set in motion. The pit-brow women selected representatives from among themselves by ballot and contributed from their funds towards the expenses of sending these representatives up to London.

The Mayoress of Wigan took charge of the deputation, which was accompanied by many well-known men and women, some of them having first-hand knowledge of the work. The Mayoress expressed the grievance felt by the women at "this fresh attack made upon them." Attention was also called to the injustice of making the fate of these 6,000 women "dependent upon a chance vote in the House of Commons," and the hope was expressed "that the deputation would put an end for ever to the agitation against the women."

The miners' representatives evidently doubted whether their amendments would be carried, and one less drastic in form was selected as a test, to the effect that girls under 16 should not be employed. This amendment was lost by 188 votes to 112. So far from the agitation being ended for ever, we have seen within the last three months the right of these women to earn an honest livelihood taken from them without the aid of any deputations or public meetings, but very quietly and unostentatiously by a chance vote in Committee of the House of Commons. Another deputation of pit-brow women proceeded to lay their case before the Government, and was given a sympathetic hearing by Mr. Masterman, who expressed his regret that the women had not come sooner, and urged them to use every effort to convince Members of Parliament of the justness of their claim. One cannot help wondering why these women, handicapped by the immediate necessity of working for their living, should have been expected to act with more promptitude and foresight, when Mr. Masterman himself was unaware of the fact that the prohibiting clause had been inserted in the Bill. Moreover, how are these women to convince Members of Parliament that their claim is just? Indirect influence is a very costly affair even for those who have time and money at their disposal, but what must it be for those who lack all means to plead their cause? A further difficulty confronts them in the fact that they are not asked to lay their case before an impartial tribunal, which will carefully weigh the evidence and arguments for and against prohibition, but before a tribunal largely composed of men who have a direct personal interest in the case, and upon whom direct pressure can be brought to give a verdict in accordance with this interest.

We may be told that this is an unfair statement of the actual position, and that Members of Parliament are actuated solely by a desire to do what is best for the women. We can only reply that sentence was passed by the Committee of the House of Commons on these women without any attempt being made to hear both sides of the case before giving a verdict. Hopes are entertained that the sentence may be reversed, and we sincerely trust that these hopes may be realised.

We have seen, however, that a victory does not carry

with it any security for the future, no guarantee against a renewed attack. The cumbersome machinery of indirect influence, with all the strain of work, anxiety of mind, costly expenditure of time and money which it entails, must in the long run go down before the direct power of the vote. Women have begun to realise this fact, and that is why we hear, for the first time in this controversy, the demand of the women for the vote as a means of protection.

E. PALLISER.

Minimum Wages for Tailoresses.

My article last week omitted the figures of the minimum rates which the Wholesale Tailoring Trade Board has resolved to propose for girl and women workers in the trade. These figures have been published in the interval, and I need not therefore any longer withhold them.

For women workers (female persons over 18 years of age with a minimum experience of two years in the trade), the minimum rate is to be 3½d. per hour, yielding for a week of 51 hours 14s. 10d. In many factories, of course, the hours worked exceed 51 (they may legally be as many as 60). For every additional hour of work an additional 3½d. must be paid.

Girls under 18 are accounted "learners," and for them graded rates, rising with each six months of service in the trade, have been fixed. In her last six months of learnership each learner will receive at least 13s. 6d. a week.

These rates, both for workers and learners, are, it will be seen, an appreciable advance upon those proposed by any of the other Trade Boards, and they will effect an immense improvement in the conditions of the worst paid women.

What such women have been receiving, the figures of the Board of Trade inquiry make plain. In 1906 about 10 per cent. of all the women in the wholesale tailoring trade were receiving less than 8s. a week, 24 per cent. less than 10s., nearly 50 per cent. less than 12s., and actually 70 per cent. less than 15s. The worst paid workers of all, those employed in their own homes, are excluded from these discreditable figures, which otherwise would be much more unsatisfactory. All these badly paid workers will substantially benefit under the new proposals.

The better paid workers, in the long run, should benefit too. For be it remembered the new rates are strictly *minimum* rates. The women of exceptional skill or quickness who have received wages higher than those of the normal worker in the past will not lose their superiority in earning capacity, because now the minimum of the trade has been heightened. One may confidently count upon the new rates benefiting "all grades."

The incidental effects of the proposals are also very important. Workers in wholesale tailoring have in the past had to submit to many arbitrary and unfair deductions. In numerous cases shillings a week are stopped for "sewings." In many factories there is a charge for use of "power." Minor deductions are too numerous for mention. As every Trade Board rate is fixed "clear of all deductions," these subtractions from wages now practically cease. Only when earnings exceed the minimum rate can anything be taken away from them, and then, of course, it can only be taken in respect of the excess. For this incidental protection alone thousands of women workers will be grateful. Allied with the better rates it will be received with the deepest joy.

Three months elapse before the rates are actually decided upon and "fixed." Rumour says that they are to be vigorously resisted by some of the largest employers who are pressing women in their employment to petition the Board of Trade against the rate of 3½d. an hour as "too much." A sense of humour is, perhaps, not to be counted upon in a Government Department. At such a petition, however, even the staid official face may be expected to relax.

May I add a word of thanks to readers of THE COMMON CAUSE who have sent donations to help the locked-out lace finishers of Nottingham? The parade of these poor women on Monday last was one of the most touching spectacles I have ever seen. Many trudged along carrying babies, others were old and feeble, one woman got along wonderfully on crutches. They carried banners, "We are refused 2½d. an hour" leading the way. Procession and demonstration lasted nearly three hours, and at the close the women, though weary, were unflagging. Their fine spirit, if aid be continued, should ensure their early triumph.

J. J. MALLON.

In Parliament.

BUSINESS OF THE SESSION.

The House of Commons met again on Tuesday, October 24th, and the Prime Minister announced the intention of the Government to suspend the eleven o'clock rule, and to take the whole time of the House. He added: "if there is any private Member's Bill which has made substantial progress now, and which meets with a general measure of acceptance from all quarters, the Government would give facilities," but, when cross-questioned by three Members, he said: "I do not know of any Bill which at present satisfies that condition."

Of the Government Bills, besides the Insurance Bill and the Budget, Mr. Asquith announced the intention of proceeding with the Coal Mines, Naval Prize, Railway Companies, Shops, Small Landholders (Scotland), and Burgh Police (Scotland) Bills.

Twenty-one days were finally allotted for the Insurance Bill, not without protest from the Opposition. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald pleaded for the Child Feeding Bill, and urged that time should be given for criticising the Executive. The Prime Minister refused to accede to the request of Mr. Healy that information should be given and a discussion allowed on the report of the Select Committee on Irish finance.

THE INSURANCE-BILL: DEBATE ON THE CLOSURE.

On Wednesday the second part of the Insurance Bill (Unemployment) was sent to Standing Committee, and time apportioned for the first part. Mr. Asquith, in announcing the intention of using both the "guillotine" (absolute time-limit) and the "Kangaroo closure" (*i.e.*, the Chairman's discretion to skip what amendments he may select), indicated his opinion that, even in the

absence of obstruction, there would always have to be a time-table for complicated measures.

Mr. Balfour protested against the allotment of time, and answered Mr. Asquith's assertion that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had received 100 deputations, by the comment that this showed how many interests were affected, and how very complex the Bill was. He proceeded to refer briefly to a very large number of unsolved problems connected with the Bill. Mr. J. Redmond asserted that the Bill was drawn up "with special consideration to the wants and conditions of this country," and needed amendment to suit Ireland. Mr. T. M. Healy considered that Ireland needed a totally different Bill, and he protested vehemently against the increasing use of power by the Government: "I own no Government in this House." The House used to govern the Government; now it was the other way about. If the Bill was really so popular in the country, it was strange that it could not be passed in the House without this drastic closure. Other Members protested against the simultaneous sittings of committees on the two parts.

Mr. Lloyd George said social reform was in arrear, and was too urgent to be pursued by leisurely methods. "People are suffering."

SIX CLAUSES PASSED.

On the remaining days of last week Clauses 18 to 23 were added to the Bill. Clause 18 deals with the conditions under which societies may become "approved." These were widened so as to include societies established by Royal Charter, or "having a constitution in accordance with regulations to be prescribed by the Insurance Commissioners." The Chancellor of the Exchequer also announced that he proposed to leave out sub-sub-section (i.) in sub-section 2, and substitute for a minimum membership of 10,000, some form of federation of small societies. Collecting societies, he explained, were also to be admitted.

Clause 19 admits Employers' Provident Funds; Clause 20 deals with security; Clause 21 with the approval of rules of approved societies. Clause 22 deals with Secessions; Clause 23 deals with withdrawal of "approval."

Editorial.

The Editor greatly regrets that, owing to pressure on her space, she is obliged to hold over the A.B.C. page, reports of the International Franchise Club Dinner, the Actresses' Franchise League performance, the Debate with Mr. Chesterton, and other reports, as well as reviews and many letters.

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. **President:** MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.
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From Headquarters.

THE BY-ELECTIONS.

The Keighley by-election is only just over and we have three more to cope with—Oldham, South Somerset and Hitchin. The campaign in Oldham will be conducted by the Manchester and District Federation, and an account of the work will be found elsewhere. Miss Norma Smith is taking charge at Hitchin, and will be glad of help of all kinds. The constituency is one of those in which a motor-car would be invaluable as the inter-railway communication is bad; but both

Hitchin and Letchworth are easily reached from London.

The Conservative candidate has not yet been adopted, but there is every hope that Lord Robert Cecil may consent to stand; he is, of course, well-known as a staunch supporter of Women's Suffrage, and his candidature would be heartily welcomed by suffragists. The Liberal candidate, Mr. T. T. Greg, has also recently expressed himself in favour of the Conciliation Bill, so that the state of affairs in the constituency is eminently satisfactory.

Mrs. Cowmeadow, assisted by Miss Kate Robertson,

is at work in South Somerset, but no information is yet to hand as to the candidates' views. South Somerset is a scattered agricultural district, Yeovil being the chief town; there also a motor-car will be almost essential, and those who appreciate the opportunity afforded by an election for advancing our cause are urged to help both financially and otherwise. By-elections, especially when they come in battalions, throw a strain upon the resources of the Union, but it is impossible not to welcome them, and they give us opportunity of putting our case to the electors when they are thoroughly alive to the importance of political issues. In South Somerset, for instance, we have at present no strong Society, but when the election is over Women's Suffrage will have been heard of throughout the constituency and we shall doubtless have the beginnings of several flourishing societies. Yeovil is not so near London as Hitchin and Letchworth, but it has a good train service, and is accessible from Exeter, Bristol and Bath.

ORGANISERS.

Miss Eleanor Rathbone's generous donation has enabled us to appoint another organiser, Miss Elphick, who will begin work by assisting Miss Norma Smith in the Hitchin by-election; Miss Helena Powell has also been appointed to begin training after Christmas, but unless some large donations for our organisation work are forthcoming, it will be difficult to maintain the work on its present basis.

RESOLUTIONS IN FAVOUR OF THE BILL.

Federations and Societies are reminded of the importance of obtaining from Town and County Councils, and from Political Associations, resolutions in support of the Conciliation Bill.

NATIONAL UNION STALL.

The National Union is having a stall at the Arts and Crafts Exhibition, organised by *The Englishwoman*, at the Maddox Street Galleries, 23a, Maddox Street, Regent Street, W., November 1st to 14th, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. This stall is being worked entirely by voluntary helpers, members of the London Society. The National Union Banner is hung over it, and all our National Union publications, ribbons, badges, crackers, chocolate boxes, are on sale. Members of the National Union who happen to be in London are earnestly invited to visit the stall, and help to make it a centre of Suffrage propaganda among visitors to the exhibition who are not yet Suffragists.

TO SECRETARIES.

The Organisation Committee wishes to call the attention of new societies to the importance of joining their Federations, as the Parliamentary work, which is now of the utmost importance, is conducted mainly through the Federations. It is essential that every secretary should be in touch with the Federation Committee.

Printed envelopes, addressed to the Secretary of the National Union, may now be obtained from the office, price 10d. per 100. This price can be considerably reduced if a sufficiently large number is applied for.

K. D. COURTNEY.

Treasurer's Notes

I am happy to be able to announce another generous offer that has reached us this week. Miss Eleanor Rathbone has offered £100 towards defraying the cost of an additional organiser. Miss Rathbone is a member of the Executive Committee, and of the W. Lancashire, W. Cheshire, and N. Wales Federation Committee, and has first-hand knowledge and understanding of the work that we are doing, as well as of the work that is still clamouring to be done; but I want every member of the Union to realise how valuable such a gift as this will be to our cause—how much it will help us to do at the present moment. It means, in the first place, that we

shall be able to commence work in Cornwall and Devonshire immediately, which, but for Miss Rathbone's timely assistance, would have had to be postponed or left undone; it means that we can put the sense and the justice of our claims before thousands who would otherwise very probably remain ignorant and prejudiced, and therefore opponents of any measure for the enfranchisement of women; in short, it means the power to gain fresh support for the Conciliation Bill, and so the power to bring us nearer to the certainty of success. I am sure every Suffragist will feel grateful to Miss Rathbone, and will share our appreciation of her munificent offer.

HELENA AUERBACH.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GENERAL FUND.

October 19th to October 26th, 1911.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|-------|----|----|
| Already acknowledged since Nov. 1st, 1910 | 1,917 | 13 | 7½ |
| Subscriptions— | | | |
| The Lady Laura Ridding | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. Auerbach | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Alfred Illingworth | 105 | 0 | 0 |
| Miss J. E. Muntz | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Miss Ethel Mathieson | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Miss Winifred Roberts | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Miss E. Cooke | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Donations— | | | |
| Miss Goodrich | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Miss J. E. Muntz | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Miss J. H. Drew | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Miss Nance (for work in support of the Conciliation Bill) | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Miss Finke (for Keighley by-election) | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Mrs. W. S. Rendel (for Keighley by-election) | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Mrs. Earp | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Anonymous | 0 | 0 | 4½ |
| Affiliation Fees— | | | |
| Gourock W.S.S. | 0 | 7 | 6 |
| Younger Suffragists (Associate Society) 1910 and 1911 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| New Forest W.S.S. (additional) | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Royal Holloway College Old Students' W.S.S. | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| | 2,056 | 11 | 0 |

ANNUAL RECEIPTS OF SOCIETIES.

(As per Annual Reports.)

| | £ | s. | d. |
|------------------------|-----|----|----|
| Warrington | 53 | 18 | 5 |
| Glasgow | 347 | 11 | 7 |
| Birkenhead | 45 | 16 | 4 |
| Rugby | 48 | 13 | 0 |
| Haslemere and District | 84 | 10 | 2 |
| Norwood and District | 68 | 4 | 1 |
| Wallasey and Wirral | 58 | 6 | 7 |
| Bath | 60 | 6 | 7 |
| West Herts | 58 | 8 | 4 |
| Rochdale | 58 | 14 | 3 |
| Southport | 47 | 9 | 4 |
| Oldham | 55 | 9 | 4 |

RECEIPTS FOR AUGUST FOR LOCAL WORK.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|----------------------------|----|----|----|
| Redhill and Reigate W.S.S. | 28 | 10 | 0 |

Press Department.

The *Daily News* on Friday, speaking of the Home Rule Bill, says:—"The basis of election will be Manhood Suffrage, and the Bill is very unlikely to confer a vote on women—a reform which will have to be considered separately and on its own merits, as they appeal to Irish opinion."

On October 24th the *Westminster Gazette* had a long notice of the meeting of the National Vigilance Association, with special mention of legislation which was introduced into Parliament recently and dropped.

An interesting article, on "Women in China," appeared in the *Queen* last week. The prominent part which Chinese women are taking in journalism is an interesting feature of their struggle for emancipation.

M. L. MACKENZIE.

Literature Department.

SPECIAL CONCILIATION BILL LITERATURE CAMPAIGN.

Every member of the National Union is urged to give active assistance in the special literature campaign which has now been begun in support of the Conciliation

Bill. The secretaries of societies are co-operating with enthusiasm, but the support of all members is needed in order to make it a success, and to give our literature a wider circulation among the general public than it has ever had before. If only every member will buy a little literature now, and distribute it among her Non-Suffrage friends, we shall have the satisfaction of knowing that the facts about the Conciliation Bill will reach thousands of people who never go to Suffrage meetings, and who have hitherto had no opportunity of realising the nature and meaning of our demand.

NEW PAMPHLETS.

Two new pamphlets are now on sale: "Votes and Wages," by Miss A. M. Royden, summarises the economic reasons for our demand. It is published in an attractive cover, with a reproduction of Miss Emily Ford's charming drawing of the factory girl contemplating the Regulations for Women in the Factory Acts, which she has had no share in making. The number of the pamphlet is A 78, and its price 2d. "Hints on the Organisation of Suffrage Work" has been drawn up by some of the most experienced Suffrage workers in the National Union. It contains directions by experts as to how to organise public meetings, how to take the chair, how to run a Suffrage shop, how to get up a petition, and how to sell THE COMMON CAUSE. Every secretary ought to possess copies of it to give to new workers. The cover is unpretentious, but those who have once realised the matter contained in the pamphlet will think it is cheap at 6d.

I. B. O'MALLEY.

The Common Cause.

MEETING OF CORRESPONDENTS.

A meeting of COMMON CAUSE Correspondents will be held in London on the morning of Friday, November 24th, and we hope for a very good attendance and a large number of helpful suggestions. The work of correspondent for this paper is very laborious, and sometimes we feel that, between the Devil of an Editor and the Deep Sea of the Societies, the harassed correspondent must wish she had never taken up her ever-recurrent responsibility. We would urge upon Federations to have a meeting as soon as possible, with ample notice, so that their correspondent may come with a clear knowledge of their wishes and needs, and help to increase both the circulation of the paper and its representative character.

SOCIETIES' NOTICES.

It has been represented to us that it would be a great help to a busy secretary if, instead of sending out notices to all the members of the society, she could send one notice to THE COMMON CAUSE, to appear in a special column under the name of her society. We have several times urged this labour-saving device upon secretaries, and we are sure that our correspondent's idea of a special column will make it more useful to societies. Members of the Blackheath Society, for instance, will find in our columns to-day a notice of some interest to them. These notices may refer to preparations for coming events, or any other matters. They will be charged at the rates for small miscellaneous advertisements (see note on page 527), and we hope the arrangement will be a help to busy secretaries.

TO SECRETARIES.

We are very much pleased with the response that secretaries have made to our appeal that they should send full lists of "Forthcoming Meetings," with details of time and place. During the last two weeks the number of meetings announced has been almost trebled. We think it would give very little more trouble to secretaries, and it would certainly lighten our work very considerably, if secretaries would send, on separate sheets of paper, announcements of meetings arranged by the Society, and those merely addressed by members of the Society.

Mrs. Fawcett's Engagements.

November 2nd.—Chelsea's Men's League for Women's Suffrage.*
 November 4th.—Gloucester.
 November 7th.—Salisbury (afternoon).
 November 7th.—Wilton (evening).
 November 14th.—London Annual Meeting.
 November 15th.—St. Leonard's.
 November 16th.—League of Young Liberals (Portsmouth).*
 November 17th.—Conservative and Unionist Association (probably Midhurst).*
 November 18th.—Conservative and Unionist Association.*
 November 21st.—Swindon.
 November 22nd.—Southwell.
 November 23rd.—Grantham.
 November 24th.—Nottingham.
 November 27th.—Holborn (London Society).
 November 28th.—Enfield.
 November 30th.—South London (London Society).
 December 1st.—Berkhamsted.
 December 5th.—Rugby.
 December 6th.—Shrewsbury.
 December 12th.—London Society At Home.
 1912,
 January 26th.—Brighton.
 January 29th.—Norwich.
 February 19th.—Crouch End.*
 February 23rd.—Albert Hall.
 *These are meetings organised by bodies not in the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

By-Elections.

| | KEIGHLEY. | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|--|
| RESULT:—Mr. S. O. Buckmaster (L.) | 4,667 | |
| Mr. W. M. Acworth (U.) | 3,842 | |
| Mr. W. C. Anderson (Lab.) | 3,452 | |
| Majority | 825 | |

Mr. Buckmaster returns to Parliament pledged to support the Conciliation Bill.

OLDHAM.

Candidates { Bartley Dennis (Con.)
 A. Lyulph Stanley (Lib.)
 W. C. Robinson (Lab.)
 COMMITTEE ROOMS:—30, Yorkshire Street, Oldham.
 ORGANISER:—Mrs. Aldersley.

All three candidates have replied consenting to receive deputations.

Mr. Robinson has further stated, "If elected to represent Oldham, I shall give all support to the Conciliation Bill. I shall deal with it in my election address."

Mr. Stanley received a deputation on Tuesday, and promised to support the Bill through all its stages, and to vote against wrecking widening amendments. Mr. Dennis receives a deputation on Wednesday.

The Committee Rooms are in a fine situation and have already aroused much interest. Oldham is one of the most "suffrage" towns in the North, and we expect a splendid campaign.

All offers of help should be sent to Miss Robertson at the Committee Rooms, or 85, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester. Speakers will be urgently needed.

HITCHIN.

ORGANISER:—Miss Norma Smith.
 COMMITTEE ROOMS:—9, Bucklersbury Street, Hitchin.

SOUTH SOMERSET.

ORGANISER:—Mrs. Cowmeadow.
 COMMITTEE ROOMS:—19, The Triangle, Yeovil.

EAST BRISTOL.

Candidates { Right. Hon. C. Hobhouse (Lib.)
 Mr. Walter Moore (Ind.)
 POLLING DAY:—November 3.

Organisation.

LADY FRANCES BALFOUR IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

FORMATION OF A SOCIETY AT SHANKLIN.

A very successful meeting was held at Shanklin, I.W. on Wednesday evening, October 25th, when a large audience assembled to greet Lady Frances Balfour on her first visit to the Island. The Institute was filled to overflowing, and the audience listened with the greatest interest and attention to Lady Frances and Mr. Harold Stables, the two speakers.

In the course of the evening the Chairman, Miss Aston, announced that a branch of the National Union had been formed at Shanklin, which, though only a week old, already numbered over thirty members. This is the first branch of the National Union to be formed in the Isle of Wight. The Secretary is Miss Edith Griffith, Snowdon, Shanklin.

Federation Notes.

North and East Ridings, Yorks.
WORK IN THE MALTON DIVISION.

Miss Sheard has been working very hard in this district, and has now left for a holiday, after which she is due at Acomb. Her most important piece of work was in bringing pressure to bear on the U.D.C. to pass our resolution. She had several promises and we hope she will be successful in getting it passed. She held several meetings, at which new members joined, one at Slingsby and one in the yard of Messrs. Yates, numbering about 40, men only. The subject was fresh to them, but when the resolution was put 19 voted for and none against it. Two resolutions have been forwarded to Viscount Helmsley, M.P. and acknowledged by him.

North Eastern.

Advantage has been taken of the presence of members in their constituencies to bring to their notice the necessity of supporting the Conciliation Bill in its present form and of opposing wrecking amendments. The area contains several adult suffragists, but the two we approached last week—viz., Mr. Charles Fenwick, M.P. for Wansbeck, and Mr. Taylor, M.P. for Chester-le-Street, have enrolled themselves once more in the ranks of our reliable supporters. Mr. Fenwick recalled to us that he had "voted for the extension of the suffrage to women in every form in which it has been put before Parliament during the last 25 years," and stated that he would vote for the Conciliation Bill next year and "do nothing that will tend to wreck the Bill." Mr. Taylor has given a similar undertaking and adds that though he is not satisfied with the Bill in its present form he will support it, as he feels convinced that no wider measure has a chance of becoming law this year.

L. F. WARING.

East Midland.

FORMATION OF A NEW SOCIETY AT GRANTHAM.

A branch has been informally started in consequence of two successful meetings held at the end of September, both of which were addressed by Miss Hicks, of Lincoln, and Mrs. W. E. Dowson, of Nottingham. The Hon. Sec. is Miss Roebotham, Fernside, High Street, Grantham. A public meeting is now being arranged for November 23rd, at which Mrs. Fawcett has kindly consented to speak. Grantham was absolutely unbroken ground when Miss Dutton was sent there by the N.U. on September 11th, and the Federation is most grateful for the temporary loan of so invaluable a worker.

Surrey, Sussex and Hants.

A well-attended meeting was held on the 26th at Fareham in support of a society which it is hoped to form shortly in the South Hampshire Division. The chair was taken by the Countess of Selborne, and the speakers were The Lady Frances Balfour and Mrs. Cooper, of Nelson, Lancashire. The resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill was carried with three dissentients. Local support was given by Captain and Mrs. Ramsay; the former seconded the resolution and expressed himself as being in entire sympathy with the principle of the Conciliation Bill.

A crowded meeting was held in Newport, Isle of Wight, on October 27. The chair was taken by Mr. Douglas Hall, member for the Island. The principal speaker was The Lady Frances Balfour, whose most lucid address was listened to with the greatest interest. Rev. Charles Collis and Mrs. Russell-Cooke, of Newport, followed with effective speeches. Many of the prominent residents were on the platform and the resolution in favour of the Bill was carried unanimously. The chairman and speakers were thanked on the proposition of Rev. Arthur Jones, seconded by Mr. Jordan.

The Federation is planning a campaign in the Chertsey division. Lord Lytton is speaking at a meeting at Egham on November 16. We hope any sympathisers in this locality will put themselves into communication with Mrs. Dempster, c.o. Miss Atkinson, Portesbury Hill, Camberley.

South Wales and Monmouth.

FORMATION OF TWO NEW SOCIETIES.

On October 9 I began organising at Bridgend. With the kind help of Miss Williams a society was soon formed. On October 16 we had a general meeting to put the society on a working basis. About 25 people were present. The N.U. constitution was explained, rules were drawn up, and committee elected. Miss Williams became the honorary secretary, and is now working up a Town Hall meeting for November 8, at which Miss Fraser is to be chief speaker. There was a membership of about 40 when I left. One of the M.P.s of South Wales seems to have been much impressed by the activity there. He said it was evident that these women wanted the vote, that their earnestness was wonderful. He did more: he offered his services. If nothing else comes of Bridgend activity, we feel that what has been done has been worth while. But with Miss Williams at the helm we feel that the Bridgend Society will go on to even greater things.

On Wednesday, October 18, I came to Llanelly, which, for the first day or two, seemed very difficult to work. The recent riots seem to have caused a panic in the district; anything new was looked at with suspicion. As the days passed, however, things brightened up, and I have seldom met with more warm-hearted kindness than in this Welsh industrial town. Miss Catherine Davis, the headmistress of the Girls' Intermediate School, an old Girtonian

did all she could to help, and I can hardly express enough gratitude for the way, or rather the many ways, in which she made things easy for me. The members of her staff, too, represented many Welsh and English colleges, were kindness itself, and all but one promised to join the local society. On Wednesday, October 25, we had our general meeting at the Town Hall. The history of the Women's Suffrage movement and the constitution of the N.U. were dealt with, and it was decided to form a society. Rules were drawn up and a committee elected. Miss Catherine Davis became treasurer, and Miss Hettie Evans one of the secretaries. There were about 25 people present, and there would have been more only the caretaker of the Town Hall (we were using a small committee room there) stood at the door and told the men who arrived that it was a woman's meeting, and gave them to understand that it was no place for them. Only one man and a reporter penetrated the mysteries of the meeting. The society starts with a membership of between 45 and 50, with every prospect of growth.

The friendliness of the editors has been specially noticeable. The *Guardian*, the *South Wales Press*, the *Star*, and the *Mercury* are all ready to insert photographs of Miss Fraser in their papers, to advertise the Town Hall meeting which is arranged for her for November 10. The *Guardian* editor, owing to the difficulty of passing round two blocks among six papers (two at Bridgend and four at Llanelly), has said that he will have his own block made and pass it on to Miss Fraser afterwards. He asked for an account of her career to insert with her photograph. One editor said he had always told everyone who asked him about the Suffrage that he was against it, so we considered his consenting to insert a photograph of Miss Fraser in his paper a special triumph.

At two of the principal elementary schools the headmistress summoned her staff for me to address.

L. F. WARING.

North-Western Federation.

FORMATION OF SIX NEW SOCIETIES.

Miss M. Norma-Smith and Miss C. E. Marshall held a very successful series of meetings in West Cumberland, October 23-28.

The series began with a meeting at Whitehaven, organised and financed by the Whitehaven Branch of the Keswick Society. The chair was taken by Alderman J. R. Musgrave (who moved the resolution supporting the Conciliation Bill in the Whitehaven Town Council last spring). A resolution urging Mr. T. Richardson, M.P. for the borough, to continue his support of the Bill through all its stages was carried unanimously. A number of new members joined at the close of the meeting and Whitehaven is now ready to affiliate to the N.U.W.S.S. and the North-Western Federation as an independent Society.

The other five meetings, all in the Egremont Division, were organised and financed by the Keswick Society. They included four public meetings at Egremont, Frizington, Cleator Moor, and St. Bees, and a drawing-room meeting at Seascale, by kind invita-



SEALSKIN

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The treaty about to be ratified between England and the various Powers interested in the Seal industry is of particular importance both to furriers and the general public. Pelagic fishing will be a thing of the past, and in order to prevent the herd being exterminated only a selected number of picked bachelor seals will be slaughtered each year. A very limited number of these will find their way into the English market, and it is thought that before the rookeries have been restocked prices will be doubled.

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| 36 inches long - - | £45 |
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tion of Mrs. Armes. Everywhere the speakers met with cordial sympathy and ready help; the resolution was carried with enthusiasm; literature sold well; and such good collections were taken, that the campaign will probably be found to have paid for itself. Best of all, a new independent Society has been started in each of the places visited, and Miss Shanks of Egremont has consented to act as Hon. Organising Secretary for the Division. The success of the meetings was largely due to the help of local sympathisers, notably Mrs. Chapman and Miss Perry of St. Bees, Miss Lowry and Miss Hayes of Egremont (both these meetings were crowded to overflowing), Miss Lawrence of Arlecdon (a member of the North-Western Federation Committee), Miss Sharpe of Cleator Moor, and Mrs. and Miss Armes of Seascale; and also to the public support of well-known local gentlemen who took the chair at the various meetings—Mr. H. Bonney at Egremont, Mr. Frank Marshall (of Keswick), at Frizington, Rev. W. Taylor at Cleator Moor, and Mr. G. Scouler at St. Bees. The expenses of the campaign were considerably lessened by the kind hospitality given to the speakers by Mr. and Mrs. Gass and Mrs. Wilson at Whitehaven, Mr. and Mrs. Adair at Egremont, Miss Lawrence at Frizington, Mrs. Armes at Seascale, and Mrs. Chapman at St. Bees. Miss Norma-Smith spoke extremely well, and aroused much interest and enthusiasm in her audiences.

Mr. Grant, the member for the Egremont Division, is the one Cumberland M.P. who opposed the Conciliation Bill. A resolution urging him to reconsider his attitude before the Bill is re-introduced next year was moved at each meeting by one of his prominent local supporters, and was carried unanimously, except for one dissentient at St. Bees, who, being a woman is not a "person" and, of course, does not count! C. E. M.

Irish Notes.

The need for organisation and co-operation amongst those interested in social and industrial problems here in Ireland is very pressing; so also is the need for enlightened and broad-minded thought and deliberation upon such subjects. The Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation, whilst working primarily for women's suffrage, may eventually become an association which will be, as it were, the storehouse of the intellect and energy of Irish women workers, and will wield an enormous influence upon public opinion. This is big talk: but those who have paused to reflect upon the social needs of Ireland will acknowledge that such an organisation is badly wanted.

The constitution of the Federation runs as follows:—

(a) To link together the scattered suffrage societies in Ireland in the effort to obtain the vote as it is, or may be, granted to men.

(b) To carry on more propaganda and educative work throughout Ireland than has hitherto been possible.

(c) To form the basis of an association which will continue to exist after enfranchisement; and whose purpose will be to work, through the power of the vote, for the welfare of women in every department of life.

METHODS.

By holding an annual meeting of delegates from the Federated Societies for the transaction of business.

By holding half-yearly conferences in towns which are the headquarters of Federated Societies, the conference to be addressed by chosen representatives from the various centres; and by invited delegates from independent suffrage societies and from organisations existing to further social and moral reform.

By interchange of speakers at the request of societies in the Federation.

By arranging tours for special speakers to address public meetings throughout the country.

By establishing a separate fund for opening up new centres of interest.

TERMS OF FEDERATION.

Any suffrage society that desires to do so may join the Federation provided that it agrees to the terms of the constitution.

A society which joins the Federation must pay to the committee at the central office in Dublin a capitation fee of 2d. for each of its members and associates.

The officers, committee and members of any Federated Society shall be allowed full discretion in the organisation of their local affairs; nor shall the freedom and privilege which they have hitherto enjoyed be encroached upon in any way by the Executive.

Mrs. Duncan, of the United Arts' Club, Dublin, writes of it thus.—"The idea seems to me an admirable one, and particularly so just now, when threatened changes make the friendly co-operation of all Irishwomen interested in good government so much to be desired. I was present at the meeting at which the Federation was formally launched, and from the speeches given at that meeting by women from the south and north, one was made to realise how much such a uniting institution was needed. It seems to me that no existing association could fill the place which the Federation is designed to fill. All the existing societies have their own work, and are, as they should be, quite independent of each other. Each fulfils its own special duties, and has its own distinct sphere of action. The new association, standing outside of all and linking them all together in a common bond, on a broad basis, will, I think, supply what is needed in

Irish life. The tendency here is to segregate rather than to join. It is part of our national heritage, and in many ways an excellent thing. The genius of Irish people is often of a highly individualised type, and only in allowing it free play along its own lines can the best results be obtained. But along with the tendency shown by individuals and groups towards a strongly-marked individuality and differentiation of aim, it is necessary, if we are to get the best results, that there should be consolidating and unifying influences. The Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation would, I believe, be such an influence."

The Dublin Federalists, growing in numbers, have now banded themselves into a new suffrage society, which is to be known as "The Irishwomen's Reform League," and will represent the Federation in Dublin. Its aims will be those of the Federation. Its members will endeavour to educate themselves and others in social and legislative questions, so that when enfranchisement comes, Irish women may use their power with enlightenment. It is hoped that a series of informal meetings in connection with the League will be held throughout the winter, affording opportunities for talks and discussions on various questions particularly affecting women's interests. An effort will be made to come into touch with those who are already working for some reform; and thus the urgent necessity that women should have a direct influence in the government of the country will be pressed home on all sides.

Mrs. Duncan, in speaking of the "threatened changes which make the co-operation of all Irishwomen much to be desired," refers, of course, to the proposed Home Rule Bill. There is no doubt that the fact that a Home Rule Bill is to be brought forward in the spring, must give Irish women suffragists "furious to think." There is just the possibility that Irishwomen might be excluded from the Conciliation Bill on the pretext that Home Rule in Ireland being imminent, the Irish people must be left to settle the question of woman's suffrage for themselves. Some Irish Nationalists are already claiming that right for the Irish people in the event of the Home Rule Bill becoming law (*vide* a letter in the "Nation," of October 7, containing a quotation from Mr. V. Horgan's book on Home Rule). It is obvious that Irish Suffragists, be they Unionists or Nationalists, must bestir themselves to make known their claims, and to use all their influence to ensure recognition of them under a Home Rule régime, as well as under an English Government. For, assuredly, if Home Rule, without a clause granting enfranchisement to women, be granted to Ireland before a Bill for the enfranchisement of English and Irish women has been passed by the Imperial Parliament, then Irish women will have a long and hard struggle to secure their suffrage rights, not because the Irish people are hostile to the idea, but because the new Government will necessarily be over-burdened with business and will be unwilling to devote time to the question of woman's suffrage. It is, therefore, of immense importance that the English Government and the Irish Party should be made aware that there is a widespread and active demand in Ireland for the enfranchisement of women. Let every woman's suffrage society in Ireland make known its firm resolve to agitate for the cause of woman's suffrage before any other cause, under every or any Government.

The Irish Women's Franchise League has been first in the field with a declared policy on this question. It has published a manifesto, which was printed in this paper last week.

L. BENNETT.

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.

DOMESTIC SERVICE.

Nothing infuriates the wrong kind of employers of domestic labour more than to be told that the conditions of domestic labour are unfair, and that there is urgent need for reform in this branch of work.

Some time ago I started to organise a union for domestic workers, and I think I was for some time the best hated person in London. I received shoals of letters from indignant mistresses informing me of the iniquity of the proposed scheme, telling me that nothing but evil could accrue, that a union would make servants disloyal to their employers and oceans of similar rubbish. The majority of these irate ladies mentioned that their own particular servants "had good food and always went to bed by 10 o'clock," and were allowed out one evening a week and alternate Sundays.

But there were a few employers who wished the union all success. I am a domestic worker myself and rejoice in one of the best employers, but this fact will never make me forget that there are thousands of domestic servants less fortunate than myself, and it will not deter me from writing and speaking whenever the opportunity occurs, against the unfair conditions of domestic labour which prevail. There are decent and conscientious employers of domestic labour, and they are usually well served, respected and loved, but there are, as I know from personal experience, far more of the other kind and it is these who create the servant problem.

October 27, 1911.

KATHLYN OLIVER.

HOME LACE WORKERS.

The Notts Branch of the N.U.W.S.S. would like to thank the readers of THE COMMON CAUSE for their response to the plea for help for the lace workers. Already £15 9s. 6d. has been received, and it is only three days since this issue appeared.

It may interest those Suffragists who have so kindly sent donations to hear that the home worker who carried the lace-workers' banner in the great Suffrage procession of June last, carried it again in the Nottingham lace-workers' procession of Monday last, with the wording slightly altered to suit the new need.

I was told to-day at the offices of the new trade union, that after much careful weighing of evidence, they calculated that on the old rates an average worker could earn 5s. 6d. in a week of 55 hours, i.e., a ten hours' day with half a day only on Saturday. Some of the women the Secretary found working all day on Sundays to get a living at all.

I believe there are already nearly 1,500 women in the union, and there is a long "White List" of masters and middlewomen ready to do their best to make the minimum wage Act effective. It is almost unbelievable that one or two of the masters who will not sign on to the "White List" hold important positions in church, and even in civic life in the City.

H. B. DOWSON.

THE DEATH AND BIRTH RATES.

Although many letters have been published adversely criticising the action of the Bishop of London, Archbishop of York and some of their satellites in reproving women for not bearing large families, there are one or two aspects of the question left untouched.

(1) The death-rate is considerably lower than it was, in other words people live to be older, and there are more women too old to bear children, hence the births per 1,000 of the population are not a fair comparison with the rate per 1,000 of a generation ago, and the decline of the birth-rate is less than is represented.

(2) For every child born two people are responsible; one the father, two the mother. From physiological causes the man can, and often does, shirk his share of responsibility, especially when the child is illegitimate, and if he behaved fairly it would cost him money. Does not this same consideration influence the husbands when children are born in wedlock, and is it not generally the husband who objects to having a large family? . . . As the responsibility for the birth is two-fold, so is the responsibility for the prevention of births two-fold.

I enclose my card and am quite willing to have my name published as a very old Suffrage worker and constant reader of the COMMON CAUSE.

O. A. FREDERICA LOVBOND.

3, Oakcroft Road, Blackheath.

Eccles Newsagents who supply the Paper.

The following newsagents in the Eccles Division will supply the paper:—
Mr. Ramsden, 19, Bolton Road, Walkden.
Mr. Healey, 4, Bolton Road, Walkden.
Miss Sixsmith, 176, Walkden Road, Walkden.
Mr. J. G. Holmes, 348, Liverpool Road, Patricroft.
Mr. T. F. Pearce, 291, Liverpool Road, Patricroft.
Mrs. Evans, 119, Liverpool Road, Patricroft.
Mr. A. Denney, 308, Liverpool Road, Patricroft.
Mr. Ashcroft, Liverpool Road, Patricroft.
Mr. Wilkinson, 194, Church Street, Eccles.
Miss Valentine, Church Street, Eccles.
Mr. Speakman, 4, Regent Street, Eccles.
Mr. Ireland, Eccles Cross, Eccles.
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Mr. Carter, Monton Road, Monton.
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Messrs. Cartwright and Son, 71, Stretford Road, Urmston.
Mr. Restall, Station Bridge, Urmston.
Mrs. Grieve, 337, Broad Street, Pendleton.
Mr. Webb, 152, Broad Street, Pendleton.
Mr. W. A. Turner, 112, Broad Street, Pendleton.
Mr. W. Cox, 299, Broad Street, Pendleton.
Mr. Carotte, 151, Broad Street, Pendleton.
Mr. Whitham, 53, Broad Street, Pendleton.
Mrs. Thompson, 13, Broad Street, Pendleton.
Mr. T. J. Fitton, New Lane, Wirtrol.

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- To promote among women the study of their duties as citizens in respect to local government.

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COBDEN SANDERSON. Chair: Mr. Goldfinch Bate. NOV. 28th, MRS.
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STRAND LECTURE ROOM, 15, Adam Street, Strand, W.C.

Work of the Societies in the Union.

LONDON SOCIETY'S RECEPTIONS.

The first of a series of Tuesday afternoon receptions was held at the Empress Rooms, Royal Palace Hotel, Kensington, on October 24th, Miss Palliser in the chair. All present spent a delightful afternoon, as Lady Frances Balfour and Mrs. Fawcett were both able to be present, and their speeches, with those of Mrs. Swanwick, Miss Palliser and Miss Thomson gave plenty of food for thought. It being the first important occasion on which Mrs. Swanwick has appeared since the COMMON CAUSE moved its office to London, she was accorded an exceptionally warm reception, and her announcement that Mrs. Fawcett and Mr. Malcolm Mitchell have joined the Directors' Board of the COMMON CAUSE was greeted with loud applause. Mrs. Fawcett, while warning Suffragists to husband their resources with a sane discretion, struck a note of hopefulness, and this line of thought was developed by Miss Palliser, who while deprecating foolish relaxation of effort based on the assumption that success was assured without it, yet affirmed that "quiet confidence" and a wisely narrow-minded concentration on the "Bill," and it alone, would command success. She added that the battle before us was a soldier's battle in which the vigorous effort of each individual would be the determining factor. Mrs. Swanwick showed the vital interest to women of the three great Bills to come before Parliament this session, and Miss Thomson described the ambitious scheme arranged for the Society's Winter Campaign. The audience gave great pleasure by joining freely in discussion. At the next reception, on November 7th, Miss Emily Davies, LL.D., in the chair, the speakers will be Lady Frances Balfour (engagements permitting), Councillor Juliet Mylne (Chairman, Paddington Board of Guardians), Miss K. D. Courtney and Miss H. D. Cockle (on "The Last Invasion of England").

FULHAM.—On October 24th, a very successful drawing-room meeting was held by kind permission of the Misses Smith, 20, Talgarth Road, at which Lady Frances Balfour took the chair and spoke, as well as Mrs. Corbett Ashley. There was a large and very interested audience, and five new members joined the Society.

HACKNEY CENTRAL.—A drawing-room meeting was held at De Beauvoir Square, by kind invitation of Mrs. Card, on October 20th. Mrs. Clennell presided and an eloquent address was given by Miss Chrystal Macmillan. Owing to the inclement weather the attendance was not so large as was expected, but those present were greatly interested, and two new members joined the Society.

HAMPSTEAD.—Mrs. Bellford, Bedford Lodge, invited her friends, on October 19th, to hear some speeches on Women's Suffrage. Miss Emily Davies, LL.D., was in the chair, and Miss G. Dykes Spicer spoke. About 60 visitors were present and seemed greatly interested in the speeches, several questions were asked, and after the meeting many of those present took leaflets and asked for tickets for the Empress Rooms receptions and remained talking to the speakers; three also expressed their intention of joining the London Society.

HITCHAM.—On October 20th, at Mrs. Seeking's drawing-room meeting, Miss L. Eckenstein lectured on Marie de France and Christine de Pizan. Her address was warmly appreciated and the Conciliation Bill resolution was carried unanimously.

ISLINGTON NORTH.—By kind permission of Dr. Kate Haslam and Dr. Constance Long, a meeting was held on October 14th, for the purpose of introducing Miss Edith Place, District Secretary, to the members of the branch. Miss J. Clarke, P.L.G., took the chair. Miss Place presented a programme for the winter work. Miss Janet Thomson gave an interesting address on "Women Under the Law." There was a good and interested audience, amongst those who took part in the discussion being Lady Horsley, Dr. Long, Miss M. Michael and Dr. Haslam. Literature was sold, helpers enlisted and new members gained.

LAMBETH.—On October 2nd a meeting took place at Alford House, Lambeth Walk. The chair was taken by Miss Cockle and Miss Sheepshanks spoke. A resolution calling upon Major Gastrell to support the Conciliation Bill was passed unanimously. Some literature was sold and a few members gained.

MUSWELL HILL.—On October 21st a meeting was held at the Exchange. Mr. Malcolm Mitchell in the chair. Speakers—Mrs. Merrivale Mayer, Mr. Herbert Jacobs and Mr. J. Simpson. Much interest was shown and free discussion took place.

SOUTHWARK.—A small but interesting meeting was held on October 18th at the Suffrage Shop, 24, Newington Causeway. On October 20th a highly successful drawing-room meeting was held at 24, St. Thomas Street, Southwark, by kind invitation of Mrs. Davies-Colley. Mrs. Theodore, Williams presided and the principal speaker was Mrs. Stanbury. There was a large attendance of influential Southwark residents and a resolution urging the M.P. of the Borough to support the Conciliation Bill was moved by Councillor Gibb, seconded by Mr. Napoleon Sharnan, supported by Miss Houghton, matron of Guy's Hospital and carried *nem. con.* A hearty vote of thanks to the speaker was carried, moved by the hostess and seconded by Lady Cooper-Perry. Miss Deverell spoke on the South London demonstration at the Camberwell Baths, to be held on November 30th and heartily invited all interested to visit the Suffrage Shop.

WINDSOR.—On October 18th, Mrs. Gibb, Hon. Sec., organised a highly successful open-air meeting on Castle Hill, at which nearly 500 people were present, and a resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill was carried and ordered to be sent to the local M.P. The speakers were: Miss H. D. Cockle, Mr. F. N. Sargent, of the Men's League, and Miss Helen Ward. Miss Cockle kindly brought the party down in her motor-car from which the meeting was held.

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE.

CARDEFF AND DISTRICT.—This Society has been very active this month. We have had Miss Fraser here and have added already about 80 new members to our Society. We have now completed a total of 600 members. Everywhere, Miss Fraser has not only converted anti-suffragists, but has revived those already converted. A great many meetings have been held. On November 3 there is to be a reception at Park Hall—speakers, Lady Betty Balfour, Miss Helen Fraser.

One hundred and fifty copies of "Common Cause" have been sold at these meetings and many new regular subscribers have been secured. Badges have been sold in large numbers and free leaflets given away in hundreds at every meeting. We must turn our activities once more to the raising of funds before Christmas.

NEWPORT.—The first drawing-room meeting arranged by this Society, which was only formed a few months ago, was held on October 4th, at The Fields, by the kind invitation of Mrs. A. M. James. Mr. and Mrs. A. M. James were among the first to join the Society. Miss Vivian, B.A., presided, and the speaker was Miss Helen Fraser, who gave an excellent and most convincing address, with the result that ten new members joined, and much interest was aroused. The Newport Society has now nearly 100 members, including Viscount Tredegar and several well-known public men in the town.

MERTHYR TYDVIL.—This Society now numbers close on sixty members. So far, with the exception of one Public Meeting, addressed by Miss Price, when thirty members joined, these numbers have been gained by individual effort. They are looking forward to a visit from Miss Fraser next month, when they expect to increase their membership.

PENARTH.—Mrs. Thompson held a drawing-room meeting on October 25th. The meeting consisted chiefly of members—five out of the six who had not already joined did so. Many copies of the "Common Cause" were sold and four new subscribers secured.

MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT FEDERATION.

ALTRINCHAM.—On October 20th the annual business meeting of the Altrincham Division Society was held in Bowdon, followed by an open meeting. At the business meeting a resolution of regret at the death of Sir William Crossley, Bart., was moved and carried unanimously. The

report and balance sheet were read and adopted and the same officers appointed as in the preceding year. At the open meeting Miss Hester Bright spoke on the Conciliation Bill. Miss Darlington seconded the resolution in support of the Bill, and also gave information about the Bazaar. A resolution was moved from the chair by Mrs. Alfred Haworth protesting against the abolition of women's work at the Pit-brow. Both resolutions were carried unanimously.

CREWE.—A public meeting was held in the Town Hall on Monday, October 16th, at which Miss Robertson took the chair, and Miss Ashton and Miss Deakin were the speakers. Unfortunately, no other topic could compete in interest in Crewe just then with the dismissal of large numbers of men from the Railway Works, and only about 100 people turned up. They, however, showed their sympathy by passing a unanimous resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill.

DARWEN.—On Wednesday, October 25th, the above Society held a very successful "At Home" in the Industrial Hall, Darwen. A very varied programme had been prepared, consisting of a number of musical items, a Duologue, and a "Suffrage" Dramatic Sketch. This last mentioned was splendidly performed. The acting was much appreciated by the audience, and at the same time many valuable lessons were taught. Miss Margaret Robertson, who is always popular with a Darwen audience, gave us a very forcible address. Refreshments were served, and during the interval, the workers passed round among the audience collecting subscriptions and enrolling new members. The "At Home" was our first meeting since the Society was formed, and was organised to get together our members and prepare the way for the large public meeting to be held on November 28th, when Lady Betty Balfour, Miss Margaret Ashton, M.A., and Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A., are expected to speak in Darwen.

ECCLES.—On October 23rd, a social evening was held in the Schools, Francis Street, Monton. About 40 members and friends were present and a most enjoyable evening was spent in listening to songs and recitations, which were given by Miss Margaret Robertson, Miss Hildshaw and Mr. G. Potts. The former gave among other recitations a selection from Olive Schreiner's "Dreams in a Desert," which was well appreciated. After refreshments and an address by Mrs. Norbury, Secretary of the Branch, the rest of the evening was devoted to progressive games.

KNUTSFORD.—On October 18th a large meeting was held in the Drill Hall, Northwich, Mrs. Philip Snowden and Miss Margaret Robertson were the speakers. Mrs. Frankenburg took the chair. Though Northwich has as yet no Suffrage Society, a Secretary being badly needed, the audience numbered some hundreds, and showed by their sustained interest, appreciation and voting that they were much more alive to the needs of Women's Suffrage than the organisers of the meeting had ventured to hope. Only two in the large gathering were found to vote against the resolution. It is hoped that a good Society will speedily be formed there. Hearty thanks are due to Miss Dita Hoffmann, Mrs. Bincoe, Mrs. Cooper, and other members of the Knutsford Society, whose unremitting and enthusiastic spadework beforehand was responsible for so good a gathering.

LEIGH.—On Saturday evening, October 14th, a very successful public meeting was held in the Church Institute. Mr. C. P. Scott was in the chair, and the speakers were Miss Evelyn Deakin, of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, Mr. P. Wilson Raffan, member of Parliament for Leigh Division, and Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A. A resolution, which was afterwards forwarded to the Prime Minister, was unanimously passed, welcoming Mr. Asquith's promise of facilities for the Conciliation Bill, and urging the House of Commons to use the opportunity of passing the measure into law. The audience was quite enthusiastic, and twenty new members joined the Society.

MANCHESTER.—There have been many good meetings held in Manchester during the past month. On October 2nd Mrs. Herford, of Didsbury, very kindly arranged an American tea. Her numerous guests had a delightful afternoon, and enjoyed a recitation given by Mrs. Gamble, and the beautiful songs and selections of music by Mrs. Whitaker and Miss Ella Greene. Mrs. Herford was afterwards able to hard over £8 10s. for the funds of the Society.

On October 9th the Salford Suffrage Association had their monthly social evening, the speaker being Miss Margaret Robertson.
On October 13th Mrs. Hiller, Oakholme, Wilbraham Road, Whalley Range, kindly gave a very successful drawing-room meeting. There were about forty people present. A debate had been arranged for the "At Home," Miss Ashton, speaking in favour of Women's Suffrage, Miss C. Moir, Secretary of the Anti-Suffrage Society, against.

On October 19th a public meeting was held in the Co-operative Hall, Downing Street, East Manchester. The principal speaker was Mr. J. E. Sutton, M.P., who declared himself in favour of the Conciliation Bill, and promised to give it his support next year. Councillor Hallwood took the chair, and other speakers were Miss Margaret Robertson and Mr. J. Ryan.

On October 24th a most successful concert was given in the Manchester Society's Offices, by the junior staff, Miss Lopez and Miss Holbrook. There was a very good attendance and about £9 will be given to the funds of the Federation and the Manchester Society.

SOUTH WESTERN FEDERATION.

EXETER.—The first Suffrage meeting ever held at Kenton took place in the Devon Arms Assembly Rooms on September 30th. Mrs. F. Fletcher, hon. sec. of the branch, presided and announced that this was the first of a series of meetings to be held in the towns and villages around Exeter during the winter. Miss M. P. Willcocks gave an interesting address, and Miss Edith Splatt seconded the resolution, which was carried *nem. con.* The Rev. Arthur Poulton, Vicar of Kenton, moved a vote of thanks in very kind terms. A branch meeting was held on October 4th at the College Hall, about 30 members being present. Miss Montgomery kindly asked the proposed reading circle to meet at her house. Mr. R. Holmes, hon. treasurer, called attention to the need for more funds, and it was decided to hold a whist drive shortly. Mrs. Fletcher then spoke of the political situation and the prospects of the Conciliation Bill. The winter's programme of work, in which it is hoped to work jointly with the W.S.P.U., includes, besides the village campaign already mentioned, an American fair to be held on November 22nd, on which date Mrs. Philip Snowden will address a public meeting in the evening.

PLYMOUTH has little to report this month but good intentions. A great part of the winter's work will consist in supplying lecturers and speakers at debates to all the societies who will accept them. In this work we unite with the W.S.P.U. and the P.C.L.W.S.; the various secretaries have been well canvassed and a good list of engagements made which includes visits to Torpoint, Oreston, Saltash, &c. The great event of our autumn session will be the visit of Mrs. Philip Snowden and Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G., after which we have a bazaar on December 14th to raise our funds, which are again at a low ebb.

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Shop, 54, Long Row, Nottingham. Send for price
list and samples. All profits to the cause.

EAST MIDLAND FEDERATION.

DERBY.—A most successful public meeting was held in the Temperance Hall, on September 25th. Mrs. Henry Boden presided, and the speaker was Lady Willoughby de Broke and Dr. Saleeby. Lady Willoughby de Broke said that the Conciliation Bill was the one measure that had united Suffragists in Parliament whatever their party, and its tactics. It was a compromise, but it was a practical solution. The position of women without a vote was a feeble one, and if proof were needed, the treatment of women under the Insurance Bill was enough to convince an Anti-Suffragist. Dr. Saleeby said that he was interested in Women's Suffrage as a Eugenicist. The worth of a nation was the development of life. Men had begun at the outside of the circle with natural education, and during the last ten years they had discovered the infant and were trying to prevent infant mortality. But Eugenicists saw that there was one stage further beyond the infant, and that was the expectant mother. He believed that national education had been a failure because women, the upbringers of children, had not been consulted, and he asked how legislation affecting the infant and the expectant mother could be successful if wholly carried out by men. Another great problem was the care of the feeble-minded was, and it was women who should be consulted when such legislation was proposed. To-day any man who wanted information about the feeble-minded had to apply to one of three women, Miss Kirby, Miss Dendy or Mrs. Pinnett. In the solution of the real problems that faced the nation the voice of women was needed, and he, on behalf of race culture, strongly supported Women's Suffrage.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—The Burton Society had an open-air week, beginning on September 11th. Open-air meetings were held at Stapenhill, Newton Solney, Winhill, and twice in Burton itself. All the meetings were addressed by Miss Helga Gill, who was ably assisted by influential local Suffragists, both voters and women. The weather was fortunately fine, and the attendance at all the meetings was very satisfactory.

NOTTINGHAM.—On September 21st a garden fete and sale was held at the house of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Dowson. Mrs. Despard opened the proceedings, and afterwards gave a very stirring address, which was well attended. The Greek dancing of Miss Margaret Morris, who kindly came purposely from London, was much appreciated.

On October 10th, during the Congressional Congress, the Nottingham Society co-operated with the Free Church League in arranging a meeting, which was highly successful, and drew a large number of the delegates. The weekly "At Home" on Wednesday evenings have started again at the Office of the Society, and will be continued through the winter.

WEST OF ENGLAND FEDERATION.

BATH.—Miss Johnston wishes us to say she is only co-secretary of this branch. The secretaries are herself and Miss Brunkworth.

CROWBOROUGH SOCIETY.

Two lectures organised by the Countess of Brassey President of the Crowborough branch of the N.W.W.S.S., have been given on two successive Mondays in the Oddfellows' Hall, Crowborough. On the first Monday, Mr. Baillie Weaver had a large and appreciative audience. Two dozen Common Cause were sold. On the second Monday, Miss Evelyn Sharp spoke to a crowded meeting. Many people were unable to get into the hall at all. Thirty-two copies of Common Cause were sold, and more might have been, but for the difficulty of getting about the Hall. On both occasions Mrs. Norris spoke from the audience on behalf of the anti, but the sympathy of the hall was entirely with the Suffragists. The Crowborough Suffrage Society has been in existence since June. Two years ago Miss Helen Fraser came to speak and was listened to by some 50 or 60 unresponsive people. They now want her back. She, without doubt, paved the way for the reception accorded to the two excellent speakers who have just addressed such well-attended meetings in Crowborough. It is being said that the Oddfellows' Hall will have to be enlarged for the benefit of the Suffragists!

Meetings Addressed by Members of the Union.

Miss Cicely Corbett, B.A., for the Forward Suffrage Union within the Women's Liberal Federation, addressed meetings on the Conciliation Bill at the following places—October 12th, Lancaster W.L.A.; October 12th, Morecambe W.L.A.; October 17th, Mottam W.L.A.; October 19th, High Lane W.L.A.; October 21st, Walshaw (Bury) W.L.A.; October 23rd, Hyde W.L.A.; October 24th, Broadbottom W.L.A. At none of these meetings was there any opposition to the Bill, and wherever a resolution was put, it was passed enthusiastically in favour of the Bill in its present form.

MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT.

CLITHEROE.—On Saturday, October 21st, a resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill was brought up by Miss Thom before the Nelson branch of the N.U.T., and carried.

LEIGH.—On Friday, September 29th, Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A., addressed a meeting of the local branch of the N.U.T. Much interest was shown and considerable discussion followed. Four new members were enrolled.

MANCHESTER.—On Thursday, October 26th, by invitation of Canon Cremer, Miss Robertson addressed a meeting of the Christian Conference on "Moral Aspects of Women's Suffrage." No opposition to the general principle of women's suffrage was expressed, but there was some interesting discussion of Suffragist ideals.

MIDDLETON DIVISION.—On the invitation of the Whitworth branch of the B.W.T.A., Miss Robertson addressed a meeting in the Tacit Wesleyan Schools on Wednesday, October 18th. There were quite 60 women present, and they proved a most enthusiastic audience. They were much impressed by the facts of temperance legislation in those countries where women are enfranchised, and many said afterwards that they had never realised before what the suffrage meant, but now knew that they were really keen Suffragists.

WIGAN.—Through the enterprise of members of the Wigan Society, the Wigan branch of the Junior Conservative Association held a meeting on Thursday, October 19th, at their rooms in College Chambers for the purpose of learning about the movement. Miss C. Leadley Brown moved and Mr

F. Stanton Barnes seconded, a resolution calling upon the Member for the division to support the Conciliation Bill, to attend regularly in Committees, and to resist widening amendments. Between 30 and 40 people were present, and the resolution was carried unanimously. The impression made was evidently good, as the Junior Conservative Association is now desirous of getting up a meeting in a public hall or school, in favour of women's suffrage, on their own responsibility, and before the visit of Lady Betty Balfour at the end of November. As the attitude of the Member for the division (Mr. Neville, Unionist) has hitherto been rather doubtful, it is felt that a point has been gained.

WILMSLOW.—On Thursday, October 26th, Miss Robertson, by invitation, addressed the General Committee of the Wilmslow Liberal Association on the Conciliation Bill. Great interest and sympathy were shown, and a general opinion expressed that nothing but misunderstanding prevented a more general support of the Bill.

LONDON.

EAST LONDON.—On October 23rd, Miss Helen Ward was given twenty minutes to address the East London Council of the B.W.T.A. At the conclusion the Society was asked to send speakers to several branch meetings, and many offers of help for the great demonstration were made.

FULHAM.—On October 19th, Miss Ruth Young and Mrs. Bertram addressed the Fulham branch of the Women's Co-operative Guild. After an animated discussion a resolution was passed unanimously demanding that the Conciliation Bill should become law and that friends should refrain from voting in Committee for widening amendments, the resolution being subsequently forwarded to the M.P. for the division.

HAGGERSTON.—On October 26th, by special invitation to the Society at a meeting convened mainly for the purpose, Miss Helen Ward addressed the local branch of the Men's Liberal Federation on the Conciliation Bill, Mr. Gee, L.C.C., in the chair. By previous agreement, no resolution was put, but an animated and friendly discussion ensued and the suggestion was made that a large meeting should be organised in the near future at which the Bill would be further dwelt upon.

MILE END.—Miss May Fielden addressed the Mile End League of Young Liberals on October 26th, and a resolution in support of the Bill was carried.

NORTH WEST HAM.—On October 23rd, Miss Helen Ward opened a debate on Women's Suffrage at the Grove House Literary and Debating Society. Over 40 members were present, and the resolution was carried with great enthusiasm by 41 to 7, a similar resolution on a previous occasion having been lost by two votes.

PECKHAM.—A meeting of the Peckham Women's Liberal Association took place at Collyer Hall on October 12th. Speaker, Miss Janet Thomson, B.A. Some literature was distributed.

STEPNEY.—On October 26th, at 3 p.m., Miss May Fielden addressed the Stepney Women's Liberal Association, Mrs. Glyn Jones, wife of the Member, in the chair. A resolution in support of the Conciliation Bill was carried.

ST. GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE.—On October 19th, at 8 p.m., a debate took place at the Liberal Club, Piccadilly, between Mr. Borradaile, National League for Opposing Women's Suffrage, and Miss Helen Ward, Mrs. Mackenzie Bell in the chair. Mr. Borradaile's resolution was declared lost by two votes.

SUTTON.—On October 26th, Miss M. Goddard addressed a much interested meeting of the Benwell Road branch of the Women's Co-operative Guild on Adult Suffrage, and the Conciliation Bill.

WALWORTH.—On October 25th, a meeting of the Walworth Women's Liberal Association took place at Walworth Hall. The speaker was Miss Ruth Young, and it was agreed to send a letter asking the Member to vote for the Conciliation Bill. Literature was distributed.

WOLVERHAMPTON.

Thursday, October 26th, by the kind invitation of Mrs. Conchie, a drawing-room meeting was held, for the purpose of influencing women Liberals. Mrs. Ring, of Birmingham, was the chief speaker, and urged the claims of the Conciliation Bill as a sufficiently democratic measure. Mrs. Highfield Jones, who occupied the chair, also dealt with the Bill. A keen discussion followed, in which many took part. On Sunday, October 29th, a series of meetings at Wolverhampton Adult Schools was organised. The speaker, Miss Morrison, accompanied by Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Kitson, and Mrs. Price Lewis, visited Heathdown School at 8, Mount Zion at 8.45, and Stafford Street at 9.30. At all a very hearty welcome was given, and the men listened attentively to Miss Morrison's remarks on women's duty to the State and the connection of the vote with social reform. An interesting discussion took place at Stafford Street, and Mount Zion hospitably entertained our party to breakfast, and presented the speaker with a large bouquet of chrysanthemums.

PLYMOUTH.

On Sunday, October 22nd, Miss Phillips gave a lecture on "The Bible and Woman Suffrage," at the Morley Street Men's Adult School. The lecture was most sympathetically received, and Miss Phillips was asked to return in a fortnight to answer questions. On October 25th, the Camden Street Men's Adult School wished to have a debate on Women's Suffrage. As no one would come forward as an Anti., Dr. Mabel Ramsay took the part, and if her words were not very convincing, they provoked much laughter.

NOTTINGHAM.

Mrs. W. E. Dowson has continued her Sunday addresses, which are so very valuable in reaching many who would never otherwise hear of Women's Suffrage. During October she has addressed the Gregory Boulevard Spiritualistic Church, and also the Arkwright Street "Pleasant Sunday Afternoons" Association.

EXETER.

At the meeting of the Devon Union of Women's Liberal Associations, held in Exeter on October 10th, Mrs. MacLaren spoke in support of the Conciliation Bill and the resolution was carried with only four dissentients.

Societies' Notices.

BLACKHEATH.—Will members note that THE COMMON CAUSE is now obtainable on sale or return at Wesalp's Library. If supplies are wanted for meetings two days' notice should be given. Tickets for South London Demonstration, November 30th, can also be obtained at Wesalp's Library.

Forthcoming Meetings.

(The meetings are only given a fortnight in advance.)

ARRANGED BY THE NATIONAL UNION.

- NOVEMBER 2.**
- Stocksfield-on-Tyne—Mrs. Lewis's Meeting—Mrs. Graham Thompson. 3.0
Penarth—Drawing-room Meeting—Miss Helen Fraser. 3.30
Birmingham—Mrs. Goodman's Drawing-room Meeting—Miss Morrison 3.15
M.A., Mrs. Ring.
Marple—"Walden"—"At Home," to discuss arrangements for Afternoon
Federation Bazaar. 4.30
Newcastle-on-Tyne—Langdale Manure Works, St. Anthony's—Miss Bury. 12.30
Newcastle-on-Tyne—Electric Lights, Scotswood Road—Miss Fenwick. 12.30
Newcastle-on-Tyne—Hawthorn and Leslie, St. Peter's—Miss C. M. Gordon. 1.30
Newcastle-on-Tyne—Enfield Road—Dr. Brown, Miss C. M. Gordon. 7.30
Newcastle-on-Tyne—Stanhope Street—Miss Bury, Mr. Foster. 7.30
Leamington—Birch's Music Rooms—Warwick and Leamington Franchise Club. 3.0
Worcester—Mrs. Wilson's Drawing-room Meeting. 3.30
- NOVEMBER 3.**
- Newcastle-on-Tyne—Haggie's Rope Works, Wallsend—Miss C. M. Gordon. 12.30
Newcastle-on-Tyne—Swan and Hunter, Wallsend—Miss Bury. 12.50
Newcastle-on-Tyne—Wallsend Shipway—Miss Fenwick. 1.30
Newcastle-on-Tyne—Bigg Market—Mrs. Billediffe, Miss C. M. Gordon. 7.30
Newcastle-on-Tyne—Pott Street—Mrs. Harrison Bell. 7.30
Cardiff—Park Hall—Reception—The Lady Betty Balfour, Miss Helen Fraser, Mrs. Lewis (chair). 8.0
Worthing—Mitchell's Restaurant—"The Conciliation Bill and its Prospects"—Miss E. Palliser, Dr. Bushnell (chair). 5.0
Birmingham—10, Easy Row—Franchise Club. 5.30
Farnworth—Keasley Mount Wesleyan School—Miss M. Robertson, B.A., Mrs. Andrews (pit-brow girl), F. Shippobottom, Esq., J.P. (chair). 7.30
Manchester Society—Ramsbottom—Open-air Meeting—Miss C. Corbett, B.A. 7.30
Bromsgrove—Market Place—Open-air Meeting—Miss Morrison, M.A. 7.30
Sunderland—Edward Hall—Mrs. Philip Snowden—Rev. F. A. E. Leake (chair). 8.0
St. Budeaux—Masonic Hall—Mrs. Cyril Williams. 8.0
Orpington—Crofton Co. rd.—Mrs. V. Phillips's Drawing-room Meeting—Miss Dutton. Afternoon
- NOVEMBER 4.**
- Penarth—Paget Rooms—Miss Helen Fraser, W. Brace, Esq., M.P. (chair). 8.0
Gloucester—Glevum Hall—Mrs. Fawcett, The Lady Betty Balfour, Sir Hubert Parry, The Lady Maud Parry (chair). 8.0
Newcastle-on-Tyne—Town Hall—Lord Robert Cecil, Mrs. Philip Snowden, E. Shortt, Esq., K.C., M.P. (chair). 3.0
Tunbridge Wells—Mrs. Hansen's Drawing-room Meeting—Mrs. Ennis Richmond. 3.0
Tunbridge Wells—Suffrage Shop—Meeting for Working Men and Women. 7.30
- NOVEMBER 5.**
- Accrington—Dowry Picture Palace—Men's Discussion Class—Miss Robertson. 6.30
Ancoats—New Islington Hall—Mrs. Philip Snowden. 2.30
- NOVEMBER 6.**
- Oldham—Music Room, Werneth Park—Annual Meeting—Miss Dorothy Darlington. 7.45
Uxbridge—Brookfield Restaurant, High Street—Social Evening. 7.30-10
Bromsgrove—Assembly Rooms—Actresses Franchise League—Miss Nina Boyle, Rev. H. D. N. Paterson, M.A. (chair). 8.0
Wilmslow—Drill Hall—Mrs. Philip Snowden, Mr. Barton, M.P. 8.0
Heywood—Trades Hall—H. T. Cawley, Esq., M.P., The Lady Beatrice Kemp, Miss Robertson. 7.30
St. Budeaux—Masonic Hall—Mrs. Cyril Williams. 7.30
Colwyn Bay—Café Royal—Short Speeches by Members—Dr. A. C. George (chair). 8.0
Bradford—Mechanic Institute—The Lady Betty Balfour, Mr. Malcolm Mitchell, Prof. Grieve (chair). 8.0
Huntingdon—Town Hall—Mrs. Rackham, W. Mirrieles, Esq., Rev. W. R. Gardner (chair). 2.45
Shoreham—School Room—Miss Dutton. 8.0
Scarborough—32, Nansen Street—"At Home"—Mrs. Bevan, Mrs. E. R. Cross. 3.30
- NOVEMBER 7.**
- Hull—Committee Room—"At Home." 3-6
Leamington—Winter Hall—The Earl of Lytton, Councillor M. Ashton, Rev. Percy Dearmer, M.A. 7.30
Tadmorden—Co-operative Hall—Mrs. P. Snowden, Miss Robertson, B.A., Ald. Jackson (chair). 7.30
Bristol—111A, Whiteladies Road—Lecture, "The Life and Work of Louisa Alcott"—Mrs. Green Armytage. 5.0
Darlington—Mrs. Mossman's Drawing-room Meeting—Miss C. M. Gordon. 3.0
Newport—Drawing-room Meeting—Miss Helen Fraser. 3.30
Llandudno—At York House (by kind permission of Miss Raw)—American 6d. Sale—Mrs. Kebble. 7.30
Salisbury—Central Hall—Mrs. Fawcett, The Lady Betty Balfour. 3.0
Wilton—Town Hall—Mrs. Fawcett, The Lady Betty Balfour. 8.0
Oxford—Village Hall—Miss Dutton. 8.0
Bideford—The Cut-Round Tea Rooms—Mrs. Merivale Mayer. 4.30
- NOVEMBER 8.**
- Bridgend—Town Hall—Miss Helen Fraser, Miss L. F. Waring. 8.0
Bournemouth—Town Hall Avenue—Annual Meeting. 4.0
Birkenhead—Cloughton Music Hall—Miss Frances Sterling, Mrs. E. Stewart-Brown (chair). 8.0
Burton-on-Trent—Friars' Walk Schools—Mrs. Sadler, Councillor Hutchinson—Quarterly Meeting. 7.30-9.30
Manchester—Milton Hall—Meeting for N.U.T.—Miss Ashton, Mrs. P. Snowden. 8.0
Bristol—111A, Whiteladies Road—Working Party. 3.0

Darlington.—Temperance Institute—Mr. and Mrs. Markham "At Home"—Miss C. M. Gordon. 3.0
 Nottingham—Offices, 54, Long Row—"At Home"—"Great Women"—Mrs. Inglis. 7.30
 NOVEMBER 9.
 Knutsford—King's Coffee House—Cake Sale and Entertainment. 3.30—5.30
 Darlington—Mrs. Atkinson's Drawing-room Meeting—Miss C. M. Gordon. 3.0
 Haslingden—Public Hall—Mrs. Philip Snowden, Miss M. Robertson, Rev. J. W. Nairn (chair). 7.30
 Wallasey and Wirral—Memorial Hall, Liscard—Miss Frances Sterling, Alderman Bulley (chair). 8.0
 Wallasey and Wirral—Public Hall, West Kirby—Miss Frances Sterling, Mr. W. Lang (chair). 3.0
 Ottery St. Mary—Church Institute Hall—Mrs. Merivale Mayer, Rev. J. Metcalfe (chair).
 NOVEMBER 10.
 Llanelly—Town Hall—Miss Helen Fraser. 8.0
 Darlington—Mrs. Draffan's Drawing-room Meeting—Miss C. M. Gordon. 3.0
 Accrington—Town Hall—Mrs. Snowden, Miss Robertson. 7.30
 Brighton—Y.M.C.A. Lecture Hall—Miss A. S. Verrall, Miss Chute Ellis, R. F. Cholmeley, Esq., A. O. Jennings, Esq. (chair). 7.30
 Oxted and Limsfield—Mrs. Clay's Drawing-room Meeting—Lecture, "Education, Its Meaning and Use"—Mrs. Brownlow. 3.0
 Teignmouth—Assembly Rooms—Mrs. Merivale Mayer. 8.0
 NOVEMBER 11.
 Budleigh Salterton—Public Rooms—Mrs. Merivale Mayer—Miss M. P. Willocks (chair). 8.0
 NOVEMBER 13.
 Croydon—Small Public Hall—"At Home" for Teachers—Miss Clark, Rev. H. E. Olivier. 8.0
 Clitheroe—Public Hall—Councillor Margaret Ashton, Rev. Francis Parker, Mr. Tom Smith, M.P. (chair). 7.30
 Starcross—Assembly Rooms—Mrs. Merivale Mayer, Sir Robert Newman (chair). 7.30
 NOVEMBER 14.
 Darlington—Mrs. Turner's Drawing-room Meeting—Miss C. M. Gordon. 3.0
 Hull—Committee Room—"At Home." 3-6
 Bournemouth—Town Hall Avenue—"At Home." 8.0
 Westerham—Drawing-room Meeting—Miss Dutton. Afternoon
 Manchester—St. Paul's Schools, Withington—Councillor M. Ashton, Miss M. Robertson, Gordon Hewart, Esq., P. Offenheim, Esq. (chair). 8.0
 NOVEMBER 15.
 Birmingham—Oxford House, Ashmore Road, Cotteridge—Mrs. Ring, Miss Jessie Wood (chair), Miss Elsie Walford (recitations). 8.0
 Oldham—Moorfield, Greenacres—Mrs. J. W. Taylor's "American Tea." 8.0
 Hastings—Public Hall—The Earl of Lytton, Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., Earl and Countess Brassey. 8.0
 Nottingham—Offices, 54, Long Row—"The Moral Aspect"—Mrs. Newman. 7.30
 Plymouth—14, Tothill Avenue—Drawing-room Meeting—Mrs. Merivale Mayer. 3.30
 Plymouth—Hyde Park School—Mrs. Merivale Mayer. 8.0
 Maidenhead—At "Somersham" (by kind permission of Mrs. Surtees senior)—Drawing-room Meeting—The Lady Betty Balfour, Mrs. Robie Uniacke. 3.0
 Northwich—Miss Pierce's Drawing-room Meeting—Miss M. Robertson. Afternoon

LONDON.
 November 7: Ealing, Buol's Café, Invitation Meeting, Miss M. Sheepshanks, Rev. W. Templeton King (chair). 3.30
 Brixton, Mrs. Haddon's Drawing-room Meeting, Miss Lowndes, Mr. Haddon (chair). 8.0
 Holborn, Mrs. Smedley's Drawing-room Meeting, Miss Winifred Cullis, D.Sc., Miss Ida Smedley, D.Sc., the Lady Frances Balfour (chair). 4.30
 Empress Rooms, Royal Palace Hotel, Kensington, London Society's Reception, the Lady Frances Balfour, Councillor Juliet Mylne, Miss K. D. Courtney, Miss H. D. Cockle. 3.30-6

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November 8: S. St. Pancras, Vestry Hall, Little Russell Street, Miss Roper, Miss Janet Thomson. 8.0
 Stepney, Meeting Hall, Gardner Street, Women's Meeting, Miss Rinder. 3.0
 N. Hackney, Miss Bishop's Drawing-room Meeting. 3.30
 November 9: S. Paddington, 46, Queen's Road, "Pit-brow Women's Work"—Miss Roper. 8.30
 Rotherhithe, Miss A. Martin's Drawing-room Meeting for L.C.C. Teachers, Miss J. Thomson. 5.0
 November 10: N. Paddington, 11, Lauderdale Parade, Maida Vale, Social Meeting. 8.30
 November 11: Sutton, Small Masonic Hall, Cake and Candy Sale. 2.30-6.30
 November 13: Wandsworth, Town Hall, Annual Conversazione, the Lady Frances Balfour, Rev. W. Reed, M.A. (chair). Recitations by Miss Winifred Mayo. 7.45
 Camberwell, 38, The Gardens, E. Dulwich, Meeting for Members and Friends, Miss Ruth Young. 7.0
 SCOTLAND.
 November 3: Glasgow, 202, Hope Street, "Political Education," Miss M. B. Wells. 4.0
 Edinburgh, Music Hall, Lord Robert Cecil, Miss Abadam, Dr. Elsie Inglis (chair). 8.0
 November 6: Greenock, Temperance Institute, Committee and Members "At Home," Music, Speeches, Tea. 4-6
 November 10: Glasgow, Office, Miss Morrison's "At Home." 4.0
 Edinburgh, 40, Shandwick Place, "At Home," Mrs. Melville. 4.30
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 November 2: Dunbar, Corn Exchange. 8.0
 November 3: Edinburgh, Music Hall (with Lord R. Cecil). 8.0
 November 4: Kilmarnock, Art Galleries. 7.0
 November 6: Haddington, Corn Exchange. 8.0
 November 7: Crieff, Porteous Hall. 8.0
 November 8: Selkirk, Victoria Hall. 8.0
 November 9: Innerleithen, Parish Church Hall. 8.0
 IRELAND.
 November 9: Dublin, 35, Molesworth Street, Irish W.S. and Local Government Association Committee Meeting. 11.30
 ADDRESSED BY MEMBERS OF THE UNION.
 November 3: Birkenhead, Trinity Presbyterian Church Debating Society, Miss Wyse. 8.0
 Lynton, Foresters' Hall, Debate, Mrs. Rowe (Hon. Sec. Bournemouth Society). 8.30
 November 5: Nottingham I.L.P. Hall, Freechurch Street, Miss I. O. Ford. 11 & 5.30

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November 6: Ogmore Vale, L.L.P. Meeting, Miss Helen Fraser. Bristol, St. Matthew's Schoolroom, St. Michael's Ward Liberal Club, Debate, Miss J. Bareth. 8.0
 Oxted and Limsfield Literary and Debating Society, Debate, R. F. Cholmeley, Esq., A. Maconachie, Esq. 8.0
 November 7: Warrington, Wydlife Memorial Hall, Debate, Miss Sterling v. Miss Moir (A.S. League). 8.0
 November 8: St. Ives, Women's Co-operative Guild, Miss B. C. Staley. 7.15
 Cottenham, Women's Liberal Association, Mrs. Rackham. 7.0
 November 9: Wakefield, Co-operative Stores, Miss I. O. Ford. 7.30
 November 10: Oldham, Hollinwood Church Institute Mutual Improvement Society, Mrs. Fletcher, Miss Marjory Lees (chair). 7.30
 November 12: Oldham, I.L.P. Rooms, Union Street, Mrs. Jagger. 7.30
 LONDON.
 November 3: Wood Green, W.L.A. Women's Suffrage Meeting, Avenue Lodge, Bounds Green Road, Miss Mildred Ransom. 7.45
 Ealing, W.L.A., Netherleigh Hall, 210, Uxbridge Road, W. Ealing, Mrs. Gimingham. 2.45
 November 5: Catford, Adult School, Langley Road. "The Position of Women," Mrs. Stanbury. 3.0
 November 6: Bermondsey, Oxford Settlement, Stanfield Club, 134, Abbey Street. Debate, Miss Helen Ward and Miss Rosamond Smith. 8.0
 Sutton, Meeting for Women only. The Adult School, Sutton, Mrs. Corbett Ashby on "The Conciliation Bill." 7.0
 N. Kensington, Bosworth Mission Hall, Bosworth Road, Kensal New Town, Miss Rinder. Chair, Miss G. Dykes Spicer. Music and recitations. Songs, Miss Hinds, Miss Lyon, Mr. Joseph. Recitation, Miss Busse. 8.15
 Stepney, B.W.T.A., Stepney Green Tabernacle, Miss Rosamond Smith. 3.30
 W. Newington, St. Paul's Church, Lorrimer Square. "Women's Own." Miss M. Martineau. 3-4
 November 8: West Southwark, Liberal and Radical Association, Southwark Bridge Road, Miss Emily Hill. 8.15
 November 9: Poplar, Presbyterian Settlement, Miss M. Martineau. West Southwark, Liberal Association, Southwark Bridge Road, Miss Fielden. 8.30
 November 10: Rotherhithe, Liberal and Radical Association, Union Road, S.E. 9.0
 SCOTLAND.
 November 6: Peterhead, B.W.T.A., "Social Aspects of Women's Suffrage," Mrs. Cargill Knott. 3.0
 November 8: Newington, Scottish Co-op. Women's Guild, Miss Alice Low. 8.0

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