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### Notes.

**S**PEAKING at the first general meeting of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, held recently in London, Lady Knightley of Fawsley, drew attention to the remarkable progress made by their association for the few weeks since it had come into existence, members being enrolled at the rate of 100 per week.

**I**N reports of the successful meeting of the Association held at 33, Belgrave Square, on December 8, and addressed by Lady Knightley and Lord Robert Cecil, it was said that members had been joining at the rate of 100 a month; but our statement of 100 per week is correct.

**A** COMMITTEE of registered medical women having addressed to the Prime Minister a request that he should receive a deputation in reference to the extension of the Franchise to women, in which it was stated that 538 registered medical women are in favour of such extension, while only 15 are opposed to it, Mr. Asquith replied through his Secretary regretting that pressure of public business would prevent his receiving a deputation, but expressing his readiness to receive and consider any representations that might be made to him in writing. He added that he had read with interest the figures contained in the committee's letter. The committee have since sent to the Prime Minister a written statement of their reasons for advocating the extension of the Suffrage to duly qualified women.

**T**HE Postmaster-General was the principal guest at an "At Home" held by the Association of Post-Office Women Clerks, at the Caxton Hall, Westminster. He had an enthusiastic reception, the large hall and galleries being filled with women clerks from the various branches of the General Post Office.

Mr. Buxton, in the course of an interesting address, dealt with the advantages of combination and also of the courteous

### Notice to Subscribers and Contributors

**Weekly Numbers, 1½d. a week post free. Quarterly Subscriptions, 1s. 8d.; half-yearly, 3s. 3d.; yearly, 6s. 6d. All Subscriptions must be paid in advance. Back Numbers can still be obtained at the Office.**

Articles containing information on the subject of Women's Suffrage should be addressed to the Editor, who will return those not considered suitable as soon as possible if a stamped addressed envelope is sent with the MS. As the paper is on a voluntary basis, and all profits go to help the cause, no payments are made for contributions.

The General Editor gives the widest possible latitude to each of the Societies represented in this Paper, and is only responsible for unsigned matter occurring in the pages devoted to general items.

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE,'

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13, BREAM'S BUILDINGS, CHANCERY LANE, E.C.

and friendly relations existing between the heads of departments and the staff. His reference to Women's Suffrage, of which he declared himself to be in favour, was received with great applause.

This is the first occasion on which a Postmaster-General has been present at a meeting of this kind.

A STATEMENT will appear with regard to the first paragraph appearing unexpectedly this week in the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies' pages so soon as the proprietor has had an opportunity of submitting that part of the statement which concerns them to the National Union. Any inquiries will be gladly answered at once.

BY kind permission of the managers, a talk on Women's Suffrage will be given on Monday, December 14th at the Ickenham Schools. The chair will be taken at 7.30 P.M. by Mrs. Rackham (of Cambridge), and J. Malcolm Mitchell, Esq., will speak.

IN the draft Charter of Incorporation of the University of Bristol, issued last Friday as a Parliamentary Paper, it is laid down that women shall be eligible for any office in the University, and for membership of any of its constituent bodies. All degrees and courses of study in the University also to be open to them.

IN consequence of the action of the member for Eastbourne (the Hon. H. Beaumont) in moving a resolution asking the House of Commons not to proceed further with any Bill for the enfranchisement of Women, the Honorary Secretary of the Eastbourne branch of the Women's Liberal Association (Mrs. Dilks) and several others have resigned their membership.

WE have at last discovered a man-made sex disability of which we approve—Mr. Lloyd George will no longer permit women to hear his speeches. Reading permits of skipping platitudes, irrelevancies, and—well inelegancies.

THE Women's Franchise Calendar being now ready, will those who have paid for the same, and wish their copies sent by post, please forward cost of postage, 3d.

MISS PACKER, of 65, Brixton Hill, S.W., will be glad to have the name and address of the lady who kindly sends her *Women's Franchise*.

WE have received from Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett another 4s., being 1s. a week which she kindly promised towards the publishing expenses of this paper, and from Mrs. W. E. Dowson, 10s. 6d.

### The Suffrage in Other Lands.

GERMANY.—The latest branch of the National German Women's Suffrage Association has just been started in Bavaria. On October 30th a meeting was held at Munich, to organize the new branch and receive a report on the Amsterdam Congress. Dr. Anita Augspurg, in an eloquent address, implored the Bavarian women to do away with the reproach of indifference to political matters which was so often brought against them, and strive to come into line with the other German States, where Suffrage work has been actively pursued for several years. At the same time a special group was founded at Munich, and arrangements made for active propaganda. A course of six lectures is being delivered by Dr. Augspurg on 'The Principles of Civics.' On November 16th a public meeting was held,

at which Dr. Augspurg spoke on the political bearings of the electricity tax, a question just now arousing much feeling in Germany. On November 18th a meeting was held at Nürnberg, which resulted in the formation of a local group in the old historic city. The first regular general meeting of the Prussian branch was held on December 7th and 8th at Berlin.

The Frankfort Society has issued a statement to its members to the effect that, in view of the attitude taken by the "Block" Liberals towards the demand for "universal, secret, direct, and equal Suffrage," the committee can no longer recommend that support be given to this group. This statement seems to have made a distinct impression on the party, which has often in the past received valuable help from women.

THE NETHERLANDS.—In consequence of the resolutions passed at the International Congress at Stuttgart, a change has taken place in the attitude of the Socialists to the question of Women's Suffrage. Instead of the merely negative demand for the abolition of the paragraph in the constitution, declaring women incapable of voting, they now demand the insertion in the revised Constitution of a clause establishing universal, secret, and equal Franchise for men and women.

SWITZERLAND.—A new Church Law has been introduced in the canton of Vaud, which confers the Franchise on women and men alike. Some attempt was made to introduce an amendment placing the sexes in a different position, but this was lost, and the Franchise in ecclesiastical matters is now granted to all persons enjoying civic rights (which, apparently, even women are supposed to do in Switzerland) who are over twenty years of age, belong to the National Church, and have resided in the particular parish three months, if natives of the country, two years if foreigners.

The same question is now being raised in other cantons, notably Zürich, Basle, Bern, and Geneva. In Bern the matter has been under consideration for a whole year, and "in view of the social position of women at the present day and the democratic constitution of the National Church," a recommendation has been framed proposing to take action in the matter.

A. ZIMMERN.

### House of Lords.

NAIRN AND OTHERS

v.

UNIVERSITY COURT OF UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS AND OTHERS.

THE House of Lords on Thursday last delivered judgment in the appeal (fully reported in *Women's Franchise*, Nos. 21, 22, and 23) by five lady graduates of St. Andrews and Edinburgh Universities against a decision of the Extra Division of the Court of Session in their action to have it declared that they were entitled to vote in University Parliamentary elections.

The Lord Chancellor said: This appeal has been argued temperately, with the evident knowledge that your Lordships have to decide what the law in fact is, and nothing beyond that simple question. Two points were raised by the appellants. The first and main point was that they were entitled to vote at an election of a member to serve in Parliament for the Universities of St. Andrews and Edinburgh. The second was that at all events they were entitled to receive voting papers, and on tendering their votes to have their claim decided by the authority set up under the Universities' Elections Amendment (Scotland) Act, 1881. I will take these contentions in order. In regard to the alleged right of voting, the appellants assert that if ancient records are explored there is evidence of women having enjoyed this right, and no adequate ground for affirming a constitutional or common law disability on the score of sex. And, further, that the Representation of the People Act (Scotland), 1868, taken with the Universities' (Scotland) Act, 1889, and the ordinances made under the last-mentioned Act do upon their literal construction confer upon women, if they comply with the requirements, a right to vote for university members. Now, my Lords, it may be that in the vast mass of venerable documents buried in our public repositories—some of authority, others of none—

there will be found traces of women having taken some part in Parliamentary elections. No authentic and plain case of a woman giving a vote was brought before your Lordships. But students of history know that at various periods members of the House of Commons were summoned in a very irregular way, and it is quite possible that, just as great men in a locality were required to nominate members, so also women in a like position may have been called upon to do the same, or other anomalies may have been overlooked in a confused time. I say it may be so, though it has not been established. A few equivocal cases were referred to—I was surprised how few—and it is the same in regard to judicial precedents. Two passages may be found in which judges are reported as saying that women may vote at Parliamentary elections. These are dicta derived from an ancient manuscript of no weight. Old authorities are almost silent on the subject, except that Lord Coke at one place incidentally alludes to women as being under a disqualification, not dwelling upon it as upon a thing disputable, but alluding to it for the purpose of illustration as a matter certain. This disability of women has been taken for granted. It is incomprehensible to me that any one acquainted with our laws or the methods by which they are ascertained can think, if indeed any one does think, there is room for argument on such a point. It is notorious that this voting has, in fact, been confined to men. Not only has it been the constant tradition alike of all the three kingdoms, but it has also been the constant practice, so far as we have knowledge of what has happened, from the earliest times down to this day. Only the clearest proof that a different state of things prevailed in ancient times could be entertained by a court of law in probing the origin of so inveterate a usage. I need not remind your Lordships that numberless rights rest upon a similar basis. Indeed, the whole body of the common law has no other foundation. I will not linger upon this subject, which indeed was fully discussed in *Chorlton v. Lings*. If this legal disability is to be removed it must be done by Act of Parliament.

Accordingly the appellants maintain that it has, in fact, been done by Act of Parliament. They say that the Act of 1868, while confining to men the Franchise described in other sections, adopts different language in Section 27, using in that section the word "persons." I agree that the word "persons" would, prima facie, include women. But in speaking of "persons" this same section limits them to those who are "not subject to any legal incapacity." I cannot doubt that by this limitation, if not otherwise, are excluded all such persons as may by law be disabled from voting. Peers are excluded, as are women. So also are others. If the word "persons" in Section 27 of the Act of 1868 is wide enough to comprise women, then they are shut out by the exception of those subject to a legal incapacity. If the word "persons" is not wide enough to include women then there is nothing in any Act of Parliament that gives the smallest foothold for the appellants' contention. I will only add this much as to the whole case of the appellants. It proceeds upon the supposition that the word "persons" in the Act of 1868 did include women, though not then giving them the vote, so that at some later date an Act purporting to deal only with education might enable Commissioners to admit them to the degree, and thereby also indirectly confer upon them the Franchise. It would require a convincing demonstration to satisfy me that Parliament intended to effect a constitutional change so momentous and far-reaching by so furtive a process. It is a dangerous assumption to suppose that the Legislature foresees every possible result that may ensue from the unguarded use of a single word, or that the language used in statutes is so precisely accurate that you can pick out from various Acts this and that expression, and, skillfully piecing them together, lay a safe foundation for some remote inference. Your Lordships are aware that from early times courts of law have been continuously obliged in endeavouring loyally to carry out the intentions of Parliament to observe a series of familiar precautions for interpreting statutes so imperfect and obscure as they often are. Learned volumes have been written on this single subject. It is not, in my opinion, necessary in the present case to apply any of those canons of construction. The Act invoked by the appellants is plain enough to repel their contentions. In regard

to the second point made by the appellants—namely, that they are entitled to receive voting papers—in my opinion they are not so entitled, because the Act only says that voters shall receive them. They are not voters. For these reasons I respectfully advise your Lordships to dismiss this appeal with costs.

LORD ASHBOURNE.

Lord Ashbourne said: The claim of the appellants is founded on their status as graduates of one of the two universities named. By the Universities' (Scotland) Act, 1889, the Commissioners thereby appointed were empowered to make ordinances "to enable each university to admit women to graduation in one or more faculties," and to provide for their instruction. By the Ordinance of 1892 this power was exercised, and it was declared "to be in the power of the university court of each university to admit women to graduation in such faculty or faculties as the Court shall think fit." The first thing which at once attracts attention is that neither the Act nor the Ordinance gives the slightest hint that the Franchise was at all in contemplation, and there is no allusion to the register of the General Council. The appellants, therefore, must look elsewhere for support to their claim, and they accordingly in their careful arguments rely on the Representation Act of 1868 and the Universities' Elections Act of 1881. By Section 27 of the Representation Act of 1869 a vote is given to "every person whose name is for the time being on the register if of full age, and not subject to any legal incapacity," and the appellants claim that they come within the description—that they are persons whose names are on the register. The case turns mainly on the meaning of the word "person" in that Act. It is an ambiguous word, and must be examined and construed in the light of surrounding circumstances and constitutional principle and practice. Holding the views I do, it is not necessary that I should discuss the words "legal incapacity." In 1868 the Legislature could only have had male persons in contemplation, as women could not then be graduates, and also because the Parliamentary Franchise was by constitutional principle and practice confined to men. The appellants strongly relied on the use of the word "man" in earlier sections dealing with counties or boroughs. It is, however, to be noted that in six later sections before the 27th the word "person" is used instead of "man," and must mean "male person," and I cannot hold that the same word "person" in Section 27 could have a different meaning, even if I could ignore other arguments. I can give but little weight to the few old cases referred to, which are obscured and unexplained, and which are opposed to uninterrupted usage to the contrary for several centuries. I can then entertain no doubt that when examined "person" means male person in the Act. The Parliamentary Franchise has always been confined to men, and the word "person" cannot by any reasonable construction be held to be prophetically used to support an argument founded on a statute passed many years later. If it was intended to make a vast constitutional change in favour of women graduates, one would expect to find plain language and express statement. So far from the Act giving any intimation of a serious innovation, it guards in a saving clause, subject to the provisions of the Act, all existing "laws, customs, and enactments." But here the Act of 1889 and the ordinance are absolutely silent on the subject, and only refer to graduation and academic arrangements. The Act of Parliament itself does not confer the right of graduation, and only delegates that authority to commissioners who did not directly exercise the power, but ordained that it should be in the power of each university court "to admit women to graduation in such faculty or faculties as the said court may think fit," and directed how academic functions are to be provided for. It is to my mind impossible to imagine that the legislature should have conferred by a delegation to commissioners the power either of extending the Franchise themselves to a perfectly new class, or by devolution passing on that power to university courts—a power always jealously kept in its own hands. It is inconceivable that Parliament should do this by implication without a word to indicate the intention, and should thus indirectly place a new construction on an Act passed years before, and reverse a settled and uniform constitutional practice and prin-

ciple. Having reached this conclusion, I must hold that there is no substance in the argument that the appellants were entitled to be sent voting papers. It is true that voting papers should be sent to voters, but if they were not voters where was the right and where was the damage? In my opinion the judgments of the Lord Ordinary and of the Lords of the Extra Division were quite correct, and this appeal should be dismissed with costs.

LORD ROBERTSON.

Lord Robertson said the central fact in the present appeal is that from time immemorial men only have voted in Parliamentary elections. What the appeal seeks to establish is that in the single case of the Scottish universities Parliament has departed from this distinction, and has conferred the franchise on women. Clear expression of this intention must be found before it is inferred that so exceptional a privilege has been granted. We had not the assistance of counsel, but fortunately the question is not difficult. In truth the case of the appellants rests on a very narrow and slender basis, and that is the word "person" in the first and second Sub-sections of Section 28 of the Representation of the People (Scotland) Act, 1868. It is said that while in the clauses relating to counties and burghs the persons enfranchised are described as "male persons," the neutral term "person" is used in describing the university elector, and the suggested inference is that this was done deliberately so as to admit women. I am afraid, however, that a much more superficial reason was what led to the variation. If we turn to the Universities' (Scotland) Act, 1858, which set up the university councils (the bodies which constitute the constituencies), we find that the word used is "person." Now this is exactly what Parliament would naturally do. Minded to give votes to the members of the general councils, it turns to the description of them in the Act which established those councils, and adopts the term there used. This is the genesis of the enfranchising section. What is its effect? Now the "persons" so described were, in fact, solely men, for in 1858 and in 1868 the universities did not receive women as students, and did not confer on them degrees. It is obvious, therefore, that the persons contemplated in the enfranchisement of the Scotch graduates were men. As the case of the appellants is entirely one of words it may be added that in 1858, as in 1868, the avail of the words "male persons" as distinguished from "persons" had been greatly reduced by Lord Brougham's Act, so that the choice of the word "person" had of itself the smaller significance in the direction of including women. The one expression, like the other, needs to be read in the light of the subject matter. The case of the appellants has, as I have said, the word "person" (in the Act of 1868) for its basis, but it is necessary to remember that it is only by virtue of an ordinance of the University Commissioners under an Act of 1889 (dealing purely with academic as distinguished from political matters) that women were made eligible for graduation, and thus were introduced into the university councils. Now it must be allowed that if Parliament has by this means conferred the franchise on women it has taken the most roundabout way to do it. Which-ever view be taken of the merits of the question whether women should vote for members of Parliament, it is at least a grave and important question for Parliament to decide. This question, according to the theory of this appeal, Parliament devolved on a Royal Commission about the details of academic affairs, which had power moreover to provide graduation (and, by consequence, the franchise) for women in one university or in all, according to its absolute discretion. It is difficult to ascribe such proceedings to Parliament and at the same time retain the conventional respect for our Legislature. I have only to add that if I have not in this judgment relied on the words about legal incapacity, it is not that I do not consider the argument on them to be legitimate. But I prefer broader grounds, and I think that a judgment is wholesome and of good example which puts forward subject matter and fundamental constitutional law as guides of construction never to be neglected in favour of verbal possibilities.

Lord Collins concurred, and the appeal was dismissed with costs.

### Forward Suffrage Union.

WE gather from the first year's Report of the Forward Suffrage Union (within the Women's Liberal Federation) that the aim of the Union has been to urge upon the Women's Liberal Federation in its relation as a Liberal organization to the present Government, the adoption of an even stronger attitude with regard to Women's Suffrage. Embodied in the Resolution quoted in the Report is the belief, that in view of the reiterated demands for enfranchisement expressed through countless and unanimously carried Resolutions, urging the Government to adopt Women's Suffrage as one of its official measures, it is neither seemly nor politic to continue to merely serve a party which ignores this constitutional and responsible expression of opinion, while continuing to expect all the support that such a great organization is able to afford.

As members of a Liberal organization, and as loyal adherents to the principles of true Liberalism, it is not possible for the Union to work *against* a Government that, as far as it goes in its efforts to effect Liberal reforms, has its cordial sympathy.

If members are driven to abstain from giving their help to official Government candidates at parliamentary elections, they need not on that account remain idle, but can continue to do educative work, amongst men and women in all the constituencies where Women's Liberal Associations exist, against the time when the justice of their claim shall have been recognized.

### Correspondence.

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

#### Interested Charity.

SIR.—Mr. Theedam suggests the co-operation of men and women Suffragists to feed (as far as one meal on a single day can go) a few thousand people—the Suffragists having one eye to the destitute and the other to the main chance of self advertisement!

The reason why so many women want to win votes is that their experience of philanthropic work shows them the uselessness of efforts like that suggested, which leave the mass of humanity in inhuman conditions.

We need to co-operate to obtain votes for women to make such tinkering with human hunger an impossibility in a state of civilized and rational society.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTI-SPASMODIC.

### BOOKS FOR WOMEN.

#### IDEAL CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR THE UNCONVERTED.

**THE BURDEN OF WOMEN.** By FRANK MOND. Wrapper, 230 pp., 1s. 6d. net; by post, 1s. 9d. Cloth gilt, 2s. 6d. net; by post, 2s. 9d. "Contains things which ought to be said... The real burden is found to be the relations of the sexes in marriage and particularly in regard to congenital and other diseases."—*Morning Leader*. "A strong plea for the enfranchisement of women."—*Western Mail*.

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"The reader will find outlined a very bold yet eminently practical scheme to encourage the breeding and rearing of healthy children. Dr. Eder's views are boldly stated throughout."—*Bristol Mercury*.

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"This book ought certainly to make Mr. Belfort Bax readjust his views as to women's lack of power to form an objective and disinterested judgment, for a clearer, more moderate, and more precise presentation of the woman's point of view than this of Miss Murby it would be difficult to find. To those even who differ from her conclusions will come many plain statements of facts which will bear thinking over."—*T. P.'s Weekly*.

**THE LEGAL SUBJECTION OF MEN.** An Answer to the Suffragettes. By E. BELFORD BAX and others. Wrapper, 6d. net; by post, 7d. ½ canvas, gilt, 1s.; post, 1s. 2d.

"The authors say: 'The Suffragettes have succeeded in inducing a credulous public to believe that the female sex is groaning under the weight of the tyranny of man, and the time has come for confronting this assumption with a plain statement of Law and Fact. The facts show these individuals to be right in one point, namely, that sex-inequality and sex-inequality exist, but they exist wholly and solely in favour of women as against men.'"

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THE NEW AGE PRESS, Ltd., 140, Fleet Street, London.

## National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

OBJECT.—To obtain the Parliamentary Suffrage for Women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to Men.  
The Union is a Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies in Great Britain.

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Secretary: MISS MARGERY CORBETT, B.A.

Treasurer: MISS BERTHA MASON

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Telegrams: "VOICELESS, LONDON."

Telephone: 1960 VICTORIA.

OFFICES: 25, VICTORIA STREET, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.

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

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1908.

Chairman—MR. WALTER S. B. McLAUREN.

MISS MARGARET ASHTON  
THE LADY FRANCES BALFOUR  
MISS FLORENCE BALGARNIE  
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MRS. PHILIP SNOWDEN  
MISS LOWNDES

MISS WARD  
LADY STRACHEY  
And the Hon. Officers,  
ex officio.

### Current Topics.

THE Executive Committee of the N.U.W.S.S. has decided that after January 28th the pages, which have hitherto appeared in *Women's Franchise* under the heading of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, will be discontinued. Members of the National Union desiring further information on this subject are requested to communicate with the Secretary, N.U.W.S.S., 25, Victoria Street, S.W.

The National Union has received a cheque of 20l. from Miss Thornton, the difference of the fare from Australia on a first-class boat and a cargo boat. We are grateful to Miss Thornton for voluntarily undergoing a great deal of discomfort for our benefit.

In addition to the signatures to the manifesto given last week, Mrs. Herringham has received the names of Lady Betty Balfour, Miss Flora Annie Steel, the Lady Knightley of Fawsley, Miss Sarah Reddish, Mrs. Inglis, Miss B. A. Crackenthorpe.

The announcement that Mrs. Alfred Pollard would be one of the speakers at the Tunbridge Wells drawing-room meeting on December 12th was inserted by error. Mrs. Pollard desires us to say that she is unable to accept any engagements to speak at present.

The procession poster, reduced to 6 in. by 4 in., printed in red and black, as a Christmas Card with mottoes, is ready. Prices: 1d., double drawing paper or card; 2d., with inner double sheet, tied red cord; 3d., ditto, with calendar. May be had from Mrs. W. E. Dowson, Felixtowe, The Park, Nottingham. Private name and address printed as required. Orders invited at once. All profits go to the National Union of Women Suffrage Societies.

A very largely attended and most successful meeting was held on December 4th in the Guildhall, Windsor. The vicar of Windsor, Rev. J. H. Ellison, presided, supported by the Mayor of Windsor. Mr. Ellison referred to his conversion to the cause at a meeting addressed by Miss Lydia Becker forty years ago. Lady Frances Balfour said that a great wave of pressure was forcing women on, not so much from the educated, as from the industrial classes, whose lives were more affected by the laws of the country; it was they who were giving an impetus in this forward movement. Congratulations are due to Mrs. Gibb, the energetic local secretary of the London Society, for her splendid organization of this meeting.

Lady Knightley of Fawsley kindly came down on the 9th inst. to preside at the first meeting held in the cause of Women's Suffrage in Wokingham. Over three hundred people assembled in the Town Hall, as much local interest had been aroused by a recent meeting of the Anti-Suffrage League. Excellent speeches were given by Miss Palleris, Dr. Mary Cruikshank, and Councillor Edith Sutton. It is hoped to form a branch of the National Union as a result of the meeting.

Our organizer, Miss Fraser, is at present in Aberdeen, where a Women's Suffrage society in the Union has been formed. On December 9th Mrs. Glegg presided over a meeting, and Mrs. Black and Miss Fraser spoke.

### 5,000 Guineas Fund.

Collected at Chelmsford .. .. .	£2 17 0
Miss Ruby Saint .. .. .	1 1 0

### Suffrage Debates.

**CLIFTON.**—A debate was held at the Ladies' Club on Wednesday, Dec. 2nd, on the proposition "That women ought to have the Parliamentary vote."

Miss Geraldine Hodgson, B.A., and Mrs. Spencer spoke on our behalf, and Mrs. Trapnell and Miss C. G. Price represented the Anti-Women's Suffrage Society. There was a crowded and keenly interested audience, and after a long and animated debate, Miss Hodgson, having the right of reply, made an eloquent refutation of the arguments that working women did not need the vote, and that the law already favoured women in many respects. Members of the Club voted as follows: For the proposal 43, against 22. Visitors: For 37, against 15.

**LEICESTER.**—At the debate of the Y.M.C.A., Monday, Nov. 30th, Mrs. Donaldson was fine. She cut the threads of the Antis' Manifesto before Miss Lindsay (the Antis' organizer) opposed. The latter proved a decidedly weak opponent, arguing that women should not be enfranchised because they could not go to war, because they do not work eight hours per day (!!!), because a man should be the head and the woman the heart of the home (evidently two heads are not better than one, nor two hearts better than one!!); but she assured us that if women were enfranchised the Antis would use the vote and try to use it well.

**EDGBASTON.**—A debate on Women's Suffrage of rather a novel kind took place at Edgbaston on Dec. 4th by an assembly of "young men and maidens." About forty were present, the sexes being equally represented, and a lively series of short speeches followed the openers. The tone and level of the discussion was a high one throughout, distinguished by an entire absence of the levity and jeering which too often characterize the treatment of the subject. The resolution: "That the franchise should be extended to women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to men," was lost by one vote, only six girls joining in the men's vote against the motion, while only four men supported the ladies in its favour. Of the speakers in the affirmative only two were of the male sex, while only one lady could be found to oppose. The line of cleavage was therefore markedly one of sex.

**EDINBURGH.**—On November 23rd Miss Jessica Low had a Suffrage debate as her birthday party. She invited thirty guests; but such interest was taken in the debate that the number actually present was sixty. Miss Sellar and Miss Esther Miller spoke in support of the assertion that "To grant the Parliamentary franchise to women would be detrimental to the community." Miss Mair and Miss Jessica Low moved and seconded the direct negative. The Antis were defeated by 30 votes to 19. Eight new members joined our Society after the meeting.

### Banner Exhibitions.

**LIVERPOOL.**—The exhibition of banners which was held in November, in the Old Blue Coat School, was a great success. It was open for three days, and meetings were held daily at 3 and 8 o'clock. They were all well attended, and among the many speakers who so kindly gave us their help were Miss Margaret Ashton, C.C., of Manchester, Mrs. Allan Bright, Mrs. Egerton Stewart-Brown, Dr. Mary B. Davies, Mrs. Shew of Southport, the Rev. Canon Kempthorne, the Rev. H. D. Roberts,

the Rev. Harry Youlden, Mr. A. E. Jacob, C.C., and Mr. James Sexton, C.C. The bookstall proved to be a very attractive as well as useful feature of the exhibition. A good many new members of our Society were enrolled, and much general interest in our work was aroused.

**BIRMINGHAM.**—The exhibition of banners was held at Queen's College on Nov. 26th and 27th. There was a large attendance to meet Mrs. Fawcett on the first day. Interesting lectures were given during the evening by Miss Fry, Prof. Macmillan, D.Litt., Mrs. Greene, and others on the lives and histories of the women celebrated in the banners. Miss Ashton gave a stirring address on Friday afternoon, and about twenty new members joined the society during the two days.

The **CAMBERWELL** banner show on Dec. 11th was opened by Mrs. Cecil Chapman, who was introduced from the chair by Rev. Hugh Chapman, lately appointed to the Savoy (Chapel Royal), in his first Suffrage speech as a "new convert." A resolution to send up a petition to the Commons from the meeting was enthusiastically carried. The success of the show was due not only to the energy of the local committee, but also to the cordial support given to them by a splendid band of members from other parts of London.

It is impossible to mention all, but among them were Miss Beaumont (and her friends of the Battersea Branch), Miss Davies (whose singing of Mrs. Needham's and other songs gave great pleasure), Miss Duckram (Hon. Sec., Blackheath), Mr. Dawson, Mr. Follett, Miss Forsyth, Miss Gimes, Miss Grigg (piano), Mrs. Herringham, Mrs. Hogg, Miss Joseph, Miss Morison, Mrs. Corbett Singleton, Miss Welsh, Miss Wilson, Miss Wright, Miss Williams, and others

#### Branch Societies.

**GLOUCESTER.**—There was a largely attended meeting in the Shire Hall on December 4th. Miss Palliser took the chair, and was supported by Mrs. Russell Rea, Mrs. Pember Reeves, Mrs. Allan Bright, Dr. Elizabeth Chesser, Mrs. Charles Jones, Mrs. Critchley (President of the Co-operative Guild), Mr. J. Malcolm Mitchell, and Mr. Lloyd Baker. Mrs. James Burton, the Mayoress, was also present. The speeches were listened to with great attention, and were favourably received.

**LEEDS** held an "At Home" at the rooms of the Y.M.C.A. on Saturday, Nov. 28th. The hostesses were Miss Bulmer, Mrs. J. P. Boyd Carpenter, Mrs. Cannon, Mrs. Cross, Miss Ford, Miss I. O. Ford, and Mrs. George Foster, many other well-known local ladies being present. Mrs. Currer Briggs very ably made her maiden speech for Women's Suffrage.

An able address was given by Councillor Margaret Ashton, who moved a resolution urging the Prime Minister to give facilities without delay for the passing of a Woman's Enfranchisement Bill. Miss I. O. Ford seconded the resolution.

**LONDON.**—A successful meeting, arranged by the recently formed Balham Sub-committee of the Wandsworth Branch of the London Society, was held on Nov. 27th, at 34, Dalebury Road. A splendid address was given by Mr. Malcolm Mitchell, of the Men's League. Nearly sixty persons were present, and eleven new members joined at the meeting. All those interested in the movement in Balham district are requested to communicate with the secretary of the Sub-committee at 34, Dalebury Road.

**OLTON.**—By the kind hospitality of Mrs. Jackson a "Suffrage Tea" was partaken of in the schoolroom of Blenheim House on Dec. 2nd. There was a very full attendance, and interest was keen. Mrs. Fellows considered the Government too busy and pressed to be further urged by women. Mrs. J. A. Hill thought and hoped a leisured Government would never be in power. Miss Dormer-Harris was of the opinion that the word impossible should be effectually blotted over, since it could not be erased, from the dictionary.

**ROYAL HOLLOWAY COLLEGE.**—A successful meeting, open to all members of the College, was held on Nov. 26th. Prof. Alexander, of Manchester gave an interesting lecture on "The Meaning of Political Rights." He discussed the relation of the individual to the State, and pointed out that any claim to political rights must be based on three points, viz., that the persons concerned have interests to be protected, duties to the State to be performed, and that the State will be benefited by their enfran-

chisement. The clear and convincing way in which Prof. Alexander showed that women fulfil all these conditions had a noticeable effect on his audience, and many who were not completely won over must have gone away with a much clearer idea of what the Suffrage struggle means.

**SCARBOROUGH.**—The President (Lady Ida Sitwell) and the Committee of the newly formed Scarborough Branch of the N.U.W.S.S. gave an "At Home" at the Royal Hotel on Friday evening, December 11th. The Vice-President (Mrs. Alderson Smith) in the absence of the President, welcomed Miss I. O. Ford as one well able to deal with the cause of Women's Suffrage, and dispel the doubts and difficulties in the minds of those to whom the subject was new. Miss Ford put very clearly the extent of the demands of the N.U.W.S.S., and explained its methods and its policy. Her address was eagerly followed by her audience, and a number of questions were asked. Mrs. Handcock, and Mrs. Hudson of Scarborough, also spoke. Miss Nelson Pringle of Whitby moved the vote of thanks to Miss Ford, and mentioned the proposed scheme for an amalgamation among the Yorkshire branches in order to maintain a paid organizer in the county. A number of new members were enrolled after the meeting.

**SEVENOAKS.**—A very successful meeting was held on December 3rd, when Miss I. O. Ford and Miss Ransom were the speakers. The chair was taken by the Rev. Percy Thompson, Vicar of Kippington, a staunch supporter of the cause.

**SOUTHAMPTON.**—A most successful meeting was held on Nov. 23rd at the Shaftesbury Hall, which was crowded long before the meeting began. The audience listened with deep interest to the excellent addresses delivered by Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D. (who was received with cheers), and Mrs. Russell Cooke.

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Date	Event	Location	Speaker	P.M.
Dec. 17.	<b>Barrhead, N.B.</b> Public Meeting, Public Hall		Speaker, Miss Helen Fraser	8
	<b>Hindhead,</b> Drawing-Room Meeting, Tweenways, Hindhead		Chair, W. Marshall, Esq. Speaker, Miss Palliser	3
	<b>London,</b> Camberwell, "Parliament" Debate		Speaker, Lady Grove	8
	<b>Lewisham,</b> Debate, Congregational Literary and Social Guild		Speaker, Miss Lowndes	8
	<b>Plymouth,</b> Public Meeting		Chair, Sir Charles Radford Speakers, Mrs. Cooper, Mrs. Swiney, Miss Robertson, B.A. Speaker, Miss Helen Fraser	8
18.	<b>Billshill, N.B.,</b> Public Meeting, Public Hall		Speaker, Miss Mein	7
	<b>Darlington,</b> Social Meeting, Temperance Institute. Tickets 6d. Music, refreshments.		Speaker, Miss Olga Hertz	8-10
	<b>Manchester,</b> Weekly Meeting, 85, Deansgate Arcade		Speaker, Mrs. Harrison Bell	
	<b>Newcastle-on-Tyne,</b> Meeting of Phonographers' Society, Church Institute, Hood Street		Speaker, Miss Abadam	
19.	<b>Norwich,</b> Public Meeting			
	<b>Hull,</b> Franchise Tea, Odd-fellows' Hall			
21.	<b>Bournemouth,</b> Debate, Lecture Hall, Congregational Church, Lower Parkstone			
22.	<b>London Society Reception,</b> Doré Gallery			4.30-7
23.	<b>London Society,</b> Lecture, 20, Craven Terrace, W.		Lecturer, Miss Mildred Ransom	8
Jan. 7.	<b>Hull,</b> W.S.S. Lecture		Lecturer, Miss M. Robertson, B.A. Opener, Mrs. Evans	
	<b>Leicester,</b> Debate, St. Stephen's Presbyterian Literary Society		Hostess, Mrs. Le Lacheur	
8.	<b>Tunbridge Wells,</b> Drawing-Room Meeting		Hostess, Mrs. Rendel Speakers, Miss Palliser, R. F. Cholmeley, Esq., M.A.	
11.	<b>Crowborough,</b> Public Meeting		Hostess, Miss Luxmoor	8.30
12.	<b>London,</b> "At Home," 57, Bedford Gardens, Studio 1A		Speakers, Miss Lowndes and others	
13.	<b>London Society Lecture,</b> 130, Inverness Terrace		Lecturer, Miss Helga Gill, Cand. Phil. and Stud. Ped. Norway.	8

## VOTES FOR WOMEN.

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

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

Organising Secretary: MISS ANNA MUNRO.  
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. WOOD.

National Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG.

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.  
NATIONAL OFFICES: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.Sc., A.R.C.S.  
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. DESPARD.

Telegrams: "Tactics, London."

#### Reason, Reporters, and Some Rats.

OUR latest prisoners could not have wished for a heartier welcome than that which they received at St. James's Hall on Dec. 9th.

The meeting was a large and enthusiastic one. Mrs. Billington-Greig, the Chairman, in her impressive opening speech, effectually quieted down two or three gentlemen who obviously had come to scoff, but who remained to pray. The stewards of the Men's League, by their vigilance, succeeded in excluding several suspicious-looking individuals, whose bags suggested rats, and all was peace and harmony, which circumstances account for the fact that hardly any mention of the meeting was made in the press next day. Yet it was a significant gathering. On the platform were women who had been degraded and punished by the State for actions which were now being applauded to the echo by the hundreds of men and women in the body of the Hall. Highly cultured women too—these ex-prisoners of a Liberal Government—as their speeches did not fail to indicate. Every speech struck a high note, every speech contained wit and wisdom, and every speech breathed defiance of the Liberal Government. Miss Muriel Matters, as one of the grille heroines, was accorded a special reception, and by her earnestness and simple eloquence she lifted the subject to a high plane of thought and aspiration, carrying the audience along with her, making them forget pettiness, jealousy, prejudice, causing them to lose sight of everything but the light which leads upward and onward.

"When you see the light, follow it," were her concluding words, and the storm of applause which broke out as she resumed her seat seemed not only a tribute to her powers and heroism, but also sounded a note of gratitude to one who could thus touch the heart while satisfying the intellect.

Mr. Lloyd George—the Liberal women's pet dove—came in for a good share of attention, and Mrs. Holmes, speaking of the Albert Hall meeting, alluded to it as an historic occasion. There, she said wittily, you had the great audience, the great man, the great message—only the message was missing. As the poet says, "It's never the time and the place, and the loved one all together." It is too much to expect in this disappointing world; but the Liberal ladies seemed tolerably satisfied with the presence of the "loved one." Mrs. Holmes again convulsed the audience by remarking that Mr. Lloyd George's attitude first to one section of the audience and then to another aptly illustrated Browning's words: "Every man has two soul-faces, one to fight the world with, one to show a woman when he loves her." Miss Molony and Miss Bremner also spoke, the former alluding passionately to the misery and suffering caused by the exclusion of the maternal instinct from the ruling system.

It was appropriate that Mrs. Despard, "the mother of the League," should present the badges of honour to those of her children who had suffered imprisonment for the cause. Miss Tillard, Mrs. Brindley, Miss Henderson, Miss Matters, Mrs. Duval, and Miss Bremner were in turn decorated with the silver Holloway brooch. The appeal for funds was responded to to the tune of 290l., the audience showing much pleasure and enthusiasm in thus testifying to their sympathy. Finally a strongly worded resolution was carried, with four dissentients. A large quantity of literature was sold, and everybody went home pleased, except the newspaper reporters, who had been tricked into coming in expectation of a rat hunt, and had been meanly put off with a feast of reason and a flow of soul which, as every child knows, are of no use whatever to the press of this country.

#### Sketches in Parliament.

By BOB WISHY-WASH, ESQ., M.P., OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

EVERYTHING going on well since women excluded; national business has been got through, which can be seen with the naked eye. Education Bill withdrawn, causing profound Liberal relief. Terrible danger of settlement averted. Must be careful not to lose planks from our platform.

Westminster—In the Commons.

DECEMBER 5TH.—MR. MACNEILL (N.) asked why the Chancellor of the Exchequer was not in his accustomed place.

MR. ASQUITH understood to say he had sent him out with a message.

MR. MACNEILL.—Cannot the Prime Minister run his own errands and convey his own messages?

MR. ASQUITH.—There are some occasions when discretion is the better part of valour. (Loud Liberal cheers.)

EXCITED SCENE.

LORD R. CECIL.—How about the Women's Enfranchisement Bill?

MR. ASQUITH (*turning pale*).—The noble Lord, as usual, drags in a subject which is dead, which occupies no one's thoughts, which is buried, cremated, forgotten, and consigned to that oblivion which must be the fate of any measure which menaces any monopoly in this country. It lies strangled upon the threshold. To speak of women at all in this democratic House, except in the most jocose manner, is historically untenable, and immeasurably absurd. For my part I do not remember that there ever was a Women's Enfranchisement Bill before the House, and I venture to think that what the Prime Minister of this great Empire does not remember is not worth being recalled by my honourable and noble friend on the other side. (Loud cheers.) Mr. Speaker, I beg to draw the attention of this House to matters of more serious import, and to announce my intention of introducing a fifth Education Bill.

[Sudden commotion caused by Mr. P. W. Wilson falling in a dead faint on the floor; medicine chest produced and a varied selection of drugs administered. After some minutes Mr. Wilson recovered, looked round wildly, and murmured, Who said Matters? P.W.W. reassured by being allowed to examine the Ladies' Gallery for himself, accompanied by a strong escort of attendants.]

MAJESTY OF THE HOUSE.

[During the scene Mr. Lloyd George had slipped in, looking pale and exhausted, sucking an acid drop. He was received with loud cheers and cooing from the Opposition Benches.]

MR. LLOYD GEORGE.—Mr. Speaker, is it in accordance with the rules of this House that an honourable gentleman should call another honourable gentleman a dove?

MR. CROOKS.—Is it a fact that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was sent by the Prime Minister to the Albert Hall with the Prime Minister's own stale old statement about a possible Reform Bill and a probable Amendment at some indefinitely future date, to be served up to the Liberal women as a brand new "message from the Government," knowing that the Liberal women would swallow any lie?

[Loud yells from Government Benches, and shouts of "Withdraw!"]  
MR. CROOKS.—I withdraw the un-Parliamentary word "lie," and I substitute for it "Liberal promise." [Uproar]

MR. TUDOR WALTERS (*vaguely seeing an opening for his one joke*).—May I suggest a compromise. When the whale swallowed Jonah that was not a compromise. (Laughter.)

MR. RUNCIMAN.—I disagree with the hon. member. It is true the whale gave Jonah right of entry, but at this juncture negotiations between the parties became difficult, and—er—I may point out—and my many months of quiet modest work in the background give me, I think, a right to an opinion—I venture to point out that Jonah was not digested. (Loud laughter.)

MR. TUDOR WALTERS (*huffily (his joke having been spoilt by this unexpected wit)*).—Our immediate concern is to decide what the Liberal women swallowed.

THE PRIME MINISTER.—I rise to a point of order. In the eyes of the law women do not exist (except when they commit crimes). It has been emphatically laid down in another place that women are not persons. I suggest, therefore, that it is not compatible with the dignity of this ancient assembly to discuss what non-existent nothings swallowed or did not swallow.

MR. JOHN BURNS.—Hear, hear! Down with the painted Jezebels! *Écrasez la femme!* Especially the married ones. What did the Liberal women swallow?

MR. LLOYD GEORGE—

THE SPEAKER.—Order, order! Honourable members, with the exception of the President of the Local Government Board, need to be reminded that the words "woman" and "women" have been ruled by me to be un-Parliamentary since the day on which the British Constitution was insulted and outraged by the removal of the Grille from the Ladies' Gallery.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE.—I withdraw the objectionable expression, and I ask the House, What did the Liberal whats-is-names swallow?

[Yells of "Jobbery, jobbery, jobbery!" Shrieks of "Snobbery, snobbery, snobbery!" Howls of "Robbery, robbery, robbery!" Earl Winterton continued to yell mechanically after the hubbub had subsided.]

THE SPEAKER (*severely*).—I must inform the noble lord that it is a violation of the majesty of the House of Commons for the noble lord to go on howling after the other right honourable, honourable, and gallant members have ceased.

[The noble lord resumed his seat, muttering "Rats and Pharisees." Majesty restored. The House rose at 11 P.M.]

I am allowed to tell of Mr. John Burns that years ago he used that delightful phrase "*Écrasez la femme*" at a meeting in Battersea. Unfortunately the Battersea people being then, as now, ignorant of the French language, failed to see the joke, and merely thought "Honest John" was using bad language. Mr. Burns, however, with that tenacity of purpose which is the source of his greatness, treasured up the phrase until last night, when he was, at length, able to deliver himself of it to an intellectual audience in an assembly which has ever been noted for its wit, wisdom, and erudition. B. W. W.

### 'The Hour and the Woman.'

THE National Executive Committee has decided upon a new literary venture. To supplement our ordinary pamphlets and *Women's Franchise*, we need a periodical in which the Women's Freedom League position will be stated, in political and propagandist articles of a topical kind.

This need our members know is great. Distinctively militant and popularly written articles are in constant demand. Our members need them; the public needs them; the League requires that they shall be read if the full meaning and purpose of its work is to be understood.

In form *The Hour and the Woman* will approximate to a small magazine, and it will consist of occasional papers issued at such intervals as are determined by events.

Every branch and every member should immediately make arrangements to dispose of as many copies as possible. Street brigades of literature sellers should be formed in every centre. The local arrangements should be put in hand at once. The first number of these occasional papers will be ready on January 9th, the day of the Annual General Conference.

*The Hour and the Woman* ready Jan. 9th.

### An Open Letter to Mr. Lloyd George, M.P.

SIR,—I attended the meeting in the Albert Hall on Saturday last with an open mind as to the wisdom of the militant methods in promoting Women's Suffrage.

I came away convinced that the militant Suffragettes have more political insight than the conventional Liberal. For these reasons: One of the fundamental principles of the Liberal creed constantly repeated is that "taxation without representation is tyranny." You, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, continue to tax women who have no vote. It would appear to those outside the fog of politics that as an honest man you should either publicly repudiate the above doctrine, or refuse to act as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

When you say that "the militant methods delay Woman's Franchise because men must be persuaded to grant it," you insult Englishmen, because you imply that they will not to-day grant justice when they see it, until it is wheedled out of them.

This further implies that, as in the past, the breaking down of Hyde Park railings secured the working man's Franchise; and the stack fires and riots in Sheffield, Bristol, and elsewhere secured the passing of the Reform Bill—so to-day freedom to govern oneself must be fought for. In other words, a democracy must depend on a Providence in the shape of a Liberal or other Cabinet to decide what rights it should or may enjoy, instead of being free by Franchise to say what is wanted.

The militant Suffragettes will thank you for one of the best arguments offered on their behalf.

T. SMITHIES TAYLOR.

### Correspondence.

DEAR FELLOW-WORKER,—The Hon. Secretary of our new Woking Branch writes expressing the interest felt by her members in the subject introduced by me at a debate at the Central Branch last session, and on which, with your permission, I should like to invite discussion in these columns, namely, "That women should replace party politics by constructive methods of social reform." It has a very close bearing on the whole policy of the militant tactics, and though the idea thus stated may sound ambitious, one notable fact which transpired during that debate may, I think, be hailed as proving that it embodies no wild impracticable dream, but a real and existing tendency, which, though largely unconscious at present, may, in these days of intense activity, very rapidly become a mighty motor in human progress. A lady came up from Reading that night for the debate who had been for over a year, I think, sitting on the Town Council, and she informed the meeting that she had from the first adopted this principle, and had succeeded in retaining her independence of action.

The subject is large and difficult, and well worthy of consideration by the best brains among us. What I am pleading for is rather a *method* of dealing with public questions generally, than a new departure in itself. The method once adopted, it will naturally find for itself—is, indeed, already finding—the necessary forms of activity and organization. It means the consideration of all practical proposals on their merits, rather than the study of party programmes as such, and it is of special importance to women that they should try this method now, before the conferring of the Parliamentary Franchise merges them in the one common denomination of "voters" with men.

I believe your contributors, who have already had experience in various forms of Local Government, would many of them endorse the experience of the lady from Reading, and from this basis a tradition might be evolved which, applied to matters Parliamentary, might aid our Women Liberal friends especially, and also our members who are more or less identified with the Conservative or Labour Parties, to solve the vexed problems with which they are confronted at this critical stage. If the next step forward can be agreed on by mutual understanding through clearing up of ideas, no party in or out of the House is likely to be strong enough to resist the leading of the Women's Movement. HELEN MEREDITH, W.F.L. Central Branch. Forest Studios, Marlow Common, Bucks.

### Divisional Organizing Scheme.

THE National Executive Committee has adopted an organizing scheme by which the country will be marked off into divisions for organizing purposes. It is hoped that a yearly sum of 150*l.* will be subscribed in each division, so that an organizer can be kept permanently at work. If any smaller sum is subscribed for organizing in a division, an organizer will be placed in the division for an equivalent period of time.

The divisions adopted by the National Executive Committee (which may, however, be later subdivided) are:—

1. London and District.
2. South of England.
3. Wales.
4. The Midlands.
5. The North-Eastern Counties.
6. The North-Western Counties.
7. Scotland.
8. Ireland.

In each of these divisions a local Hon. Secretary for the Division Organizing Fund is to be appointed, who will collect subscriptions and promote the scheme in other directions, in co-operation with the Hon. Organizing Secretary. The arrangements for the appointments of the local fund secretaries are now in hand. Until the appointments are announced friends are requested to send their subscriptions to the Hon. Treasurer, earmarked for the organizing fund of their division. T. B. G.

### Special Notices.

Queen's Hall Meeting, Jan. 8th, 8 p.m.—Seats are now on sale at the Women's Freedom League offices for this very important meeting, when Dr. Thekla Hultin, a woman member of the Finnish Diet, will tell how the vote was won and is used by the women of Finland. She will be supported by Madame Aino Malmberg and others.

Members and sympathizers are urgently requested to make this meeting known by every possible means. Tickets, price 5*s.*, 2*s.* 6*d.*, 1*s.*, and 6*d.* (the last unreserved), may be obtained "on sale or return," also handbills for distribution. Those willing to assist by acting as stewards, literature sellers, &c., on the 8th, are asked to send in their names to the office as soon as possible.

Lending Library.—Members are urged to present books to the library, as it depends for its growth upon the support of the members.

Books upon such subjects as women's work, women's wages, legislation affecting them, biographies and histories of women, &c., will prove specially acceptable. HON. LIBRARIAN.

The Christmas Party bids fair to be a great success, and the men and children will be glad to hear that good old time-honoured Christmas games are included in the most attractive programme. Miss Irene Miller has promised to give a demonstration of Indian clubs, and there will be two performances of Miss Cicely Hamilton's waxworks, which are a treat in themselves. We are looking forward to seeing Mrs. Sarah Dibbs, otherwise Miss C. Hodgson, and Mr. Victor Duval in 'Lodgings for Single Ladies'; and we are very pleased to be able to announce that members of the South Place Orchestra have most kindly consented to play selections of instrumental music during the evening. There will be one short speech by Miss Muriel Matters.

It is hoped that every one who is not sending in advance a pound of good things to Miss M. Fitt for the pound stall will bring one with them on the 19th, if it is only one pound of sugar, as already intimated, 1*l.* in gold will be accepted as a substitute. Miss Eustace Smith hopes the small iced cakes or plum puddings will not be forgotten for her weight-guessing competition, and Mrs. Meeson Coates begs for anything and everything suitable for a refreshment room for 500 hungry people.

Tickets, 1*s.* each; children half price. Parties of five or more 9*d.* each.

### Branch Notes.

Highbury Branch.—This branch held its first "At Home" at Northampton House, St. Paul's Road, on Thursday, Dec. 10th, from 7 to 10 p.m., and, in spite of unfavourable weather, between sixty and seventy people attended. Miss Leighfield took the chair at 8 o'clock, and after Mrs. Hicks and Dr. Thornett had dealt with the need for women's enfranchisement and the justice of the demand for it, Mrs. Brindley explained the tactics of the League. The audience listened with keen interest, and was evidently convinced by the arguments of the speakers, for when question time came no questions were asked. Several new members were gained; a good collection was taken; and a considerable quantity of literature disposed of.

Sale Branch, Cheshire.—A very successful afternoon meeting was held at the Studio, Tatton Buildings, on Dec. 10th. In spite of a wet day there was a large audience. Mrs. Despard and Miss Manning were the speakers, with Mrs. Nidd in the chair. Militancy was the topic of all three speeches, and a splendid definition and defence of our position was the result. Not a dissentient voice was raised at question time, though many lingered afterwards to discuss different points with the speakers. Much literature was sold, and a generous collection taken. The branch feels convinced that this meeting was particularly well timed, and has done great service to the Suffrage movement in the neighbourhood. L. F.

### A Lucky Donation.

WE are very pleased to acknowledge the receipt of 10*s.* from Mrs. Howes of Bournemouth. This sum represents the reward offered for a lost watch which Mrs. Howes was fortunate enough to find. Mrs. Howes accepted the reward in order to help our cause.

THE At Home at Caxton Hall on the 17th will be the last for this year.

### PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

#### December 17th to January 8th.

Dec.			P.M.
Thurs. 17.	Caxton Hall, Westminster	Mrs. Zangwill Countess Russell Mrs. Despard Mrs. Mills Miss Matters Miss Manning Central Branch Annual Meeting	3.30
	Cheltenham, Lowmandale Sale (Cheshire) "At Home" Free Library 1, Robert Street, Adelphi	Mrs. Billington-Greig Miss Eunice Murray Miss Anna Murray	7.30
Fri. 18.	Glasgow, Dennistown, Blackfriars Hall Montrose, "Young Scots"	Miss Munro	8
Sat. 19.	Trafalgar Square Aberdeen, Club Room	Miss Munro	2
	<b>Caxton Hall, Christmas Party</b>		6-11
Sun. 20.	Aberdeen, Queen Street Hall	Miss Munro	
Mon. 21.	Peterhead	Miss Munro	
Thurs. 31.	Cheltenham Social Jan.		
Sun. 3.	Steinway Hall, Seymour Street, W., London Council "At Home"	Mrs. Despard	6.30
Fri. 8.	Queen's Hall, Langham Place	A Woman M.P. of Finland Mrs. Despard Mrs. Billington-Greig Mrs. Zangwill Mrs. Snowden Countess Russell Miss Matters	8
Sat. 9.	Caxton Hall, Annual Conference		
Saturday,	Mass Meeting, Trafalgar Square, at 2 P.M.	Come to help	

**BURY THE BILL**  
killed by the Government.

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

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

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

Chairman of Executive Committee: HERBERT JACOBS.

Hon. Secretary: J. MALCOLM MITCHELL.

Hon. Treasurers: GOLDFINCH BATE, H. G. CHANCELLOR.

Hon. Literature Secretary: A. I. G. JAYNE.

### Notes and Comments.

We remind our members and friends that tickets for the public demonstration in the Queen's Hall, on Tuesday, Jan. 26th, at 8 o'clock, are now on sale. The prices are as before: Sofa stalls, 5s., 2s. 6d., and 1s.; grand circle, 2s. 6d. and 1s.; orchestra 1s.; balcony and area, 6d. All except the 6d. tickets are numbered and reserved. May we again ask all who can to take tickets early, to avoid the rush at the end; the smallness of our office makes it difficult to deal with a heavy press of work.

We print below some comments on our references to the Albert Hall meeting in last week's issue. We much regret that those references should have misrepresented the views of members of the League. They seemed to us—and we are by no means unaware how widely opinions differ on the tactics question—to embody universal conclusions. That Mr. Lloyd George kept his temper on the whole was the verdict of everybody we had seen, and every critique we had read; whether he ought to have spoken at all, "fully warned as he was," is another question, on which no opinion was offered.

As regards Mr. Clayton's statement that "no allusion was made to the blackguardly ruffianism of the stewards," if he will re-read the paragraph he will notice that we took it as a fact that "temper and violence" had been shown. What we meant to express was the horror—which, surely, we all share—at the fact of these courageous women being damaged in a hopeless struggle with superior brute force, exercised as it is on such occasions by untrained and undisciplined persons. Many of the women, having made their protests, went out quietly when they saw that nothing more could be done. This seemed to us the better course on the whole, and we should have thought that such an opinion scarcely called for the vehement protests which Mr. Clayton and Mr. Ferguson have made. Nor do we think that we can fairly be accused of having herein "criticized officially" the work of any other Suffrage Society. To those who so understood it we express our great regret. It has been always our object to avoid any such criticism, in accordance with the wishes of the members in general meeting and the consequent settled policy of the Executive.

May we once again urge our members to send us reports of meetings at which they speak? Frequently we hear too late of such meetings, but it is very much less frequently that members (as Mr. Victor Albery and Mr. V. D. Duval did last week) send reports. There is no other way by which we can obtain news of the work our members are doing.

### Woking.

MR. JOHN RUSSELL took the chair at a meeting of the Women's Freedom League at Woking last Thursday. There was an unruly element in the large audience, which suffered Mr. Russell and Miss Matters to speak for a quarter of an hour each, and then took the meeting into its own hands. The chairman offered an interval of a quarter of an hour for singing, &c., on condition that a similar time should be allowed to speakers. He also invited on to the platform any speakers representing the musicians. Perfect good temper prevailed, but the chairman's fair offer was unavailing.

### Hendon.

MR. JOSEPH CLAYTON spoke for the National Women's Social and Political Union at Hendon on December 9th.

### Camberwell Baths.

AN Exhibition of the Banners carried in the Great Procession of June 13th last, was held under the auspices of the London Society for Women's Suffrage, at the Camberwell Baths on the 11th inst. The Exhibition was opened by Mrs. Cecil Chapman, and short speeches were delivered by the Rev. H. B. Chapman, Miss Margery Corbett, B.A., Miss Lowndes, and Miss Dawson; also by the Rev. T. Stephens and Mr. T. Gawtrey, L.C.C. Miss Davis sang several songs at intervals.

The Men's League was very ably represented by Mr. H. Baillie-Weaver and Mr. J. Malcolm Mitchell, whose speeches were much appreciated. A very prominent feature touched on by most of the speakers was that all the Suffrage Societies should emphasise the points upon which they agree, rather than decry those upon which they do not. A fair amount of Men's League literature was sold during the evening.

ERNEST J. FOLLETT.

### Notice of Special General Meeting.

38, Museum Street,  
London, W.C.,  
December 15th, 1908.

DEAR SIR,—In response to a requisition, the Committee directs me to give you notice that a Special General Meeting of Members will be held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, on Jan. 7th, at 8 P.M., for the purpose of considering the under-written resolutions.

A majority of the Committee, as at present constituted, cannot see its way to adopt the policy embodied in the first and second resolutions, but recommends the adoption of the third.

Having regard to the importance of the questions submitted, it is hoped that all members will express their opinion, and I am directed to call your attention to Rule 13 (printed below), which entitles you to vote by a signed letter. It is hoped, however, that you will be able to attend the meeting, in which case your voting letter, if sent, will be cancelled.

#### PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS.

1. That it be a direction to the Executive Committee of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage to organize so far as practicable opposition to Government candidates at all by-elections until the Parliamentary Franchise has been extended to women upon the same terms upon which it is now or may hereafter be exercised by men.

Proposed by Mr. Joseph Clayton, seconded by Mr. H. Baillie-Weaver.

2. That it be a direction to such Committee to organize attendance of Members of the League and others to all public political meetings at which a member of the Government is announced to speak, for the purpose of putting questions about Women's Suffrage.

Proposed by Mr. E. Duval, seconded by Mr. John Manson.

3. That, in view of the fact that the Men's League exists for the purpose of securing the adherence of men of all shades of opinion to the principle of women's enfranchisement, and of assisting all the Women's Suffrage societies, irrespective of their tactics, any policy which, by identifying the League as the friend or enemy of one party will narrow its aims, exclude many of its members, and confine its co-operation to one section of the movement, would impair its usefulness.

That it, therefore, be an instruction to the Committee to consider each by-election on its merits, and, so far as funds allow, take such action as in its opinion will

best serve the cause, but, as a settled policy, not to oppose the election of its own members to Parliament, to whichever party they belong.

Proposed by Mr. H. G. Chancellor, seconded by Mr. W. S. B. McLaren.

(Here follows Voting Form.)

#### Rule 13.

Any member unable to attend a General Meeting shall be supplied, on a written request, made at least seven days before the date of such meeting, with a copy of any resolution to be submitted thereat, and shall be entitled to vote for or against any specified resolution, by a signed letter, provided that the same is received at the office of the League one clear day before the date of the meeting.

Having regard to this Rule, no amendment can be taken at the meeting.

\* Please post this letter to the Office so that it shall be in my hands on or before Tuesday, January 5th.

On behalf of the Committee,

J. MALCOLM MITCHELL, Hon. Sec.

### Correspondence.

[The Men's League is essentially a non-party organization, in which all shades of political opinion are represented. For this reason we feel bound to state that the League is not responsible for the opinions of correspondents.]

#### The Albert Hall—and After.

DEAR SIR,—In your official comments on the Albert Hall meeting no allusion is made to the blackguardly ruffianism of the stewards engaged to eject the women who interrupted. Let it, at least, be made plain that the members of the Men's League do not share the indifference of its officials on this matter, and are not to be held responsible for official statements that condone by silence the brutish insolence of "Liberal" (!) bullies. I sincerely hope the time is coming when the Men's League will make it its business to see that these bullies who knock women about at public meetings shall be checked in their performances, just as decent men check such ruffians elsewhere.

So far from congratulating Mr. Lloyd George on his part of the proceedings, it appears to most of us regrettable that he should have gone to the Albert Hall at all, fully warned as he was that his appearance would only provoke disorder. As to Mr. Lloyd George's speech, it seems deplorable that on a great question like Women's Suffrage the Chancellor of the Exchequer can only tell us that the Government, as a Government, have nothing to say. It only makes it plain that those who put Women's Suffrage before party must be in opposition to the Government.

It is, at least, unfortunate that official utterances on behalf of the Men's League should so misrepresent the opinions of its members. May I further add that it is no part of our work to criticize officially the work of other Suffrage societies.

Yours faithfully,

JOSEPH CLAYTON.

DEAR SIR,—May I say a word in support of your commentary upon the Albert Hall meeting of December 5? I am not going to discuss what happened, because I was not there, and second-hand judgments are not very valuable; but I do want to say most emphatically that the policy which flings two hundred women into the enterprise of preventing seven thousand women from listening to any speaker whom they choose to ask to speak to them requires more justification than can be provided by the mere courage of the interrupters. To applaud courage without considering the occasion for it is mere sentimentalism; courage is too valuable a quality to be squandered in an attempt to prove that no one may work for Women's Suffrage without the leave of the Woman's Social and Political Union. Cyrano de Bergerac refusing to let Montfleury play is all very well in a comedy; but the rôle which the W.S.P.U. has adopted is more likely to prove tragic—and if it does it will be the tragedy of the cause.

Yours faithfully,

December 13, 1908.

R. F. CHOLMELEY.

SIR,—I desire most emphatically to express my entire disagreement with the Men's League Editorial comments on the Queen's Hall meeting in this week's *Women's Franchise*, especially with the astounding statement that "we believe we are voicing a unanimous feeling when we congratulate Mr. Lloyd George on the equanimity (!) with which he endured an exceptionally trying ordeal." From the half-dozen independent reports that I have read, I gather that Mr. Lloyd George quite lost his temper, and was exceedingly rude, not to say vulgar, in some of his replies to interruptions. His addressing Mr. Nevinson (a man of world-wide fame) by name, and telling him to "behave himself" (!!!), was a piece of gross impertinence. The only "equanimity" that Mr. George seems to have displayed was in connexion with the brave protesters (women and men) being "thrown out ruthlessly."

I may add an expression of my profound disgust at the hypocritical humbug of the chairman, officials, and members of the Women's Liberal Federation in their action (and inaction) towards the women and men so brutally handled, culminating in an infamous vote of censure on those brave persons. I am thankful to see that some Liberal women have had the courage to write to the newspapers expressing their horror at the brutality done in their name.

Yours faithfully,

DONALD FERGUSON.

Samanala, 20 Beech House Road, Croydon.

December 11, 1908.

SIR,—It seemed to me that Mr. Lloyd George obtained a great triumph on Saturday week, and I agree in the main with your comments. It was impossible to listen to him and not feel that on the Suffrage question he is thoroughly sincere, and I, say deliberately, that whatever may have been the trouble that the meeting may have occasioned, the price was worth paying if only because it pledged one of the leading Liberal statesmen in Europe definitely to the winning cause.

Your readers will infer from what I have said that I regret the organized attempt to wreck the meeting. I do regret it, though I admire the pluck of the interrupters, and in a sense sympathize with their indignation. When one is denied one's just rights Platonic sympathy is no doubt exasperating. And one can quite see that the prison treatment of their leaders has justly irritated the Suffragettes. The fallacy in their position, in my humble view, is that they fail to see that even Mr. George's theoretical advocacy of the Suffrage is worth many votes to the cause in the country. The result of the interruptions unfortunately was to concentrate public opinion rather on the disturbance than on the arguments by which Mr. George upheld the cause; and this, I think, is a great misfortune.

Your obedient servant,

December 15, 1908.

A. P.

### Our Opponents.

SIR,—Surely Mr. Jayne exaggerates the importance of this new Anti-Suffrage committee. Lord Lister's services to humanity are not estimated so highly by those who distrust the results of vivisection and all the inoculation theories. As for Lord Cromer and his archaic political views, his administration of Egypt has only proved successful from the official standpoint; the blot of Denshawai remains. Lord Rothschild and Sir William Anson are the natural opponents of all political and social reform. Mr. Rudyard Kipling is a mournful example of a man outliving his reputation. The great promise of his early literary work has hardly been fulfilled, and now in middle life he is already known as a man who years ago wrote books.

To the credit of the men of letters in this country the great bulk of our writers are with us in this matter. Lord Morley, Mr. Augustine Birrell, Mr. Edward Carpenter, Mr. George Meredith, Mr. Henry James, Mr. Bernard Shaw, Mr. H. G. Wells, Mr. H. W. Nevinson, Mr. H. S. Salt, Mr. John Galsworthy, Mr. Laurence Housman, Mr. Cunninghame Graham, Mr. A. E. W. Mason, Mr. I. Zangwill, and Mr. John M. Robertson—to mention only a few names—are a sufficient guarantee that the intellect of the country is sound on Women's Suffrage.

J. C.

