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Contents.

	PAGE
NOTES	445
THE SUFFRAGE IN OTHER LANDS	446
"MANY INVENTIONS" ON WOMAN SUFFRAGE, &c.	447
ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE	448
CORRESPONDENCE	448
MEETINGS OF THE N.U.W.S.S.	449
WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE (Miss Sidley's Address to the Court, February 26th; Green, White, and Gold Fair; Suffrage Day, June 19th; Cash Received March 1st to 6th; Branch Notes; Prisoners' Breakfast; Programme of Forthcoming Events; Some Postcards, Mr. Asquith and Central Glasgow; The Case of Mrs. Despard and other Suffragists)	450-453
MEN'S LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE (Notes and Comments; Branch News; Proposed Formation of a Sussex Men's League; In Hyde Park; Correspondence; Our Morbid Social System)	454-455

Notes.

THE idea of the International Suffrage Alliance originated in 1902, when the National American Suffrage Association sent invitations to the women's organizations of fourteen countries to send delegates and report on the legal position of women in each of these countries. Representatives attended from Canada, Mexico, and South America as well as the United States. The other countries represented were Belgium, Holland, France, England, Denmark, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Italy, Switzerland, Turkey and Australia. Reports were also sent from Persia, China and Japan.

IT was not till two years later at the International Berlin Congress that the Alliance was formally constituted. In 1906 a third Conference was held at Copenhagen. Last year's meeting at Amsterdam is still fresh in all our memories. It was a brilliant Congress magnificently organized, and if London does as well this year by the international delegates we may well be satisfied. We learn that our visitors are looking forward with special pleasure to visiting England "the storm centre of the movement."

AMONG the resolutions passed at last year's Congress was the following: "That we note with satisfaction the action of the British Parliament in recognizing the administrative ability of women, and the Government's need of it by making them eligible as Mayors and County and Borough Councillors; and be it further resolved, that we extend to the women of Great Britain our hearty sympathy in the splendid struggle they are now making for political liberty; we pledge our loyal support until their well-earned victory shall be won, and we earnestly hope this day is near at hand, because the granting of Woman Suffrage in that great nation will immeasurably advance the cause throughout the world."

MRS. CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT, President of the International Suffrage Alliance has been staying in London on business connected with the Congress to be held from April 26th

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,'

EDITORIAL AND PUBLISHING OFFICE,
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to May 1st. She is now in Austria helping to organize the Suffragists there. These international tours are among the good fruits of the Alliance, for the leaders of one country can often give valuable help to those in another, where the movement is of later origin. And it sometimes happens that the press pays more heed to the utterances of a stranger than to those who live in their midst.

THE National Women's Social and Political Union, on March 30th, at 3 p.m. are sending out a deputation from Caxton Hall to the House of Commons.

Extensive preparations are being made for the Woman's Exhibition on May 13th, which is to last a fortnight, and will provide entertainment for every one.

A dinner to welcome the return of the Holloway prisoners is to be held on March 24th, at 7.30, at the Inns of Court Hotel.

On Tuesday, March 23rd, a meeting is being arranged at which the results of the self-denial week will be declared.

Laurence Housman's articles on the physical force fallacy have been published in pamphlet form at 1d.

At a very large meeting in Birmingham, held recently, all the rowdy element of past experience was conspicuous by its absence. It was pleasing to find the chief ringleader this year fulfilling the duties of a steward.

THE Belfast Branch of the Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association is holding their second public meeting in the Y.W.C.A., Belfast, on Wednesday, March 17th. This branch was reorganized in November last, and is making progress in this city.

The Chairwoman for this meeting will be Mrs. Hobson, principal speaker, Mrs. Chambers and short addresses by Mr. Bassett, Mr. Miles Curran, &c.

MISS TORRY, we are sorry to learn, is laid up with very severe influenza, and will have to postpone her antidote to the Antis' Discussion Tea.

CAN some one supply Mrs. Vearsey, 9, Oval Road, Regent's Park, N.W., with a copy of J. S. Mill's Edinburgh speech?

WE have received from Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett, 4s. (being one month's donation); Miss McGilchrist-Gilchrist, 10s. (being two months' donation); Mrs. Shillington, 1l., and from Mrs. Smithson, 10s., towards the publishing expenses of "Women's Franchise."

WE are asked to insert the following by the CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST WOMEN'S FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION:—

Much good work has been accomplished during the past month. We have had several successful meetings, the most important ones being at the Westminster Palace Hotel, which have already been reported, as have also those at Bath and Clifton.

On the 23rd inst. Miss Packer (Lady Margaret Hall) gave a lecture on 'The History of Women's Franchise' at 68, Great Cumberland Place, by kind permission of W. Edmonds, Esq., to a large and interested audience; and last week Viscountess Gort was "At-Home" to the Association, and in spite of the inclement weather, a large number were present.

Lady Castlereagh, who presided, said that in view of a Reform Bill that was to include Adult Suffrage, she thought it was the duty of their Society to show that they demanded the extension of the Franchise to duly qualified women only. The Association would endeavour to get the sex disability removed, in order that women might be enfranchised on the same terms that men now are.

Mr. W. B. Boyd Carpenter pointed out that great changes in the industrial world had brought women more directly into contact with law, and political representation was the only way that women would gain protection in following their various professions or trades. That women had political instinct was acknowledged by their presence on municipal councils and educational boards, &c.; and if they were—as certain Anti-Suffrage ladies asserted—on an altogether higher plane than man, would not this exalted position, coupled with their political instinct, be infinitely useful to the State and produce character in the future which would benefit the world in general.

Mrs. M. L. Woods said that there was a pressing need that women should have the power of political expression, because all social questions had now become political ones.

Mrs. Nevinson dealt with the question of disabilities which women shared in being barred from the vote—with paupers, lunatics, criminals, children, and peers! She said that it was rightly argued that women's place was in the home, yet this privilege was not that of the majority of working women, who often did a greater share of wage-earning and home-earning than the men. Great industrial changes had driven the woman out into the rough and tumble of a work-a-day life, but with the changes had not come the protection which in this altered state of things they needed.

At the close of the meeting many new members were enrolled.

A Committee has been started in Kensington, with Lady Lockyer as Chairman, Miss Chadwick as Vice-Chairman, and Miss Myra Luxmore, 57, Bedford Gardens, as Hon. Secretary, who will be glad to hear from any ladies, living in North or South Kensington, who will join, and who will also arrange for drawing-room meetings at their houses: speakers will be gladly supplied. Application should be made to her by letter only, enclosing stamped envelope if answer is required. We are also arranging for meetings to be held in other parts of London and the suburbs. Our members are steadily increasing, and our new Vice-Presidents include the Duchess of Sutherland, Miss White, LL.D., of Alexandra College, Dublin, and Lady Wolverton; while Mrs. Margaret Woods has joined the Council. It is very gratifying to learn how well our literature is being received on every side. We have just brought out a new leaflet, entitled 'The Indirect and Educational Uses of Women's Suffrage,' by the late Hon. Mrs. Arthur Lyttelton, being a paper she read at the Conference of the National Union of Women Workers, which was held at Tunbridge Wells in 1906. It can be obtained from the office, 48, Dover Street, at the rate of 3d., a dozen copies. Mrs. Lyttelton's wide knowledge of women's life and work makes her opinion on this question one of special value, and as wife of the late Bishop of Southampton, and a brilliant writer on religious and social subjects, she exercised a powerful influence in many directions. We recommend her paper to those who desire to win over to our cause the large body of women who are actively interested in these subjects, and among whom her name must carry much weight.

The Suffrage in Other Lands.

SWEDEN.—As anticipated in this column, the new Franchise Bill has now become law. It is not a genuine "Manhood Suffrage" measure, as certain conditions are attached to the exercise of the vote. Electors must be twenty-four years of age, must pay taxes, and have served for a year in the army. They must be solvent and "of untainted reputation." An attempt was made to procure the inclusion of women, but this was unsuccessful. It is to be hoped that before long a measure specially enfranchising women may be introduced. It will be interesting to see whether any feminine equivalent to the year's service will be proposed. It is often forgotten that the regular social and philanthropic work done by women is as valuable a factor in the defence of a country as the ability to fight. Dutchwomen have in the past expressed their readiness to do compulsory service for the State, and it is probable that women would gladly consent to some such plan in all the countries where conscription prevails.

ALICE ZIMMERN.

"Many Inventions" on Woman Suffrage, "Physical Force," and "Home Neglect."

BY A SCHOOL MANAGER.

THE attitude of the Press towards the question of Woman Suffrage is significant of the stage at which the question has now arrived.

There still remain many stone and cold-water throwers; but only a few months ago there was not a daily paper which did not negatively, by contemptuous silence, or actively by condemnation, range itself on the side of obstruction.

But an amazing change, which should strike terror into the hearts of the Anti-Suffrage party, has come over the spirit of several of the leading newspapers. I quote from an article in *The Daily Telegraph* of October 26th, 1908:—

"Probably in all the long development of electoral reform and the extension of the Franchise there have been numerous male critics who either did not want the vote for themselves or insisted that it should be denied to some specified members of their own sex. But the great laws of progress sweep on in their majestic path, and, to the amazement and sometimes the disgust of philosophers and politicians, democracy sees itself gradually established in the full recognition of its rights. No one doubts that a Female Franchise is the next step in the political evolution. Our colonies, which often make useful experiments which the Mother Country can study at her leisure, sufficiently prove the direction in which affairs are tending. The more clearly the principle is established that Government is for the people, worked in the interest of the people, and by the people, the more certain it is that women cannot be permanently excluded from exercising votes which we give freely to men far inferior to them in intellect and authority. . . . It is no longer a subject for abstract generalizations; it is a problem which has become gravely and sternly practical."

The Daily News, in an article in its issue of October 26th, says:

"For our part, we are of those who will welcome with deep relief the coming day when the reform for which the Suffragist leaders are contending will be made law, and the inevitable enlargement of women's part in life is reached."

Events have certainly moved with unforeseen rapidity of late; but even so, it was a little rash of a certain weekly academic journal to pronounce, in an article on 'The Ideals of a Woman's Party,' in its issue of February 1st, 1908:—

"It is evidently necessary, in the present instance, to state once more the plain reason why women cannot have the Parliamentary vote."—The italics are mine.

The context is even more loftily didactic:—

"To state them [reasons against Woman Franchise] once more may seem as foolish as to walk about repeating the alphabet, or insisting that two and two make four. The reply must be that large numbers of people are always forgetting the alphabet, or trying to prove that two and two make five."

John Stuart Mill, Disraeli, Salisbury, Balfour, Campbell-Bannerman, and many other notable persons, one must suppose, all forgot their alphabet, and tried to prove that two and two make five; for they were all advocates of Woman Suffrage in one form or another, and were foolish enough to have overlooked the unanswerable logic of the journal in question. To quote only one of the famous names which I have cited, Disraeli, speaking in the House of Commons, said:—

"I say that in a country governed by a woman—where you allow women to form part of the other estate of the realm, peeresses in their own right for example; where you allow a woman not only to hold land, but to be a lady of the manor and hold legal courts; where a woman may be a churchwarden and overseer of the poor—I do not see, where she has so much to do with the State and the Church, on what reason she has not a right to vote."

And what is this obvious and overwhelming reason by which *The Spectator* settles the question of women's enfranchisement in the negative, once and for all? "Because women are inferior to men in physical strength." It is a remarkably weak defence which can solemnly bring forth this as its trump card against the participation of women in the affairs of the nation.

This insuperable disability does not seem to have occurred to the great statesmen who were promoters of Woman Suffrage in the past; and it is not, apparently, considered a bar by the many thoughtful men in and out of Parliament, who support the women's cause to-day. The journal to which I am referring conjures up a horrid picture of men and women ranged against each other over an imaginary Licensing Bill. The women are in the majority, and so are represented by a majority in the House of Commons. The women's amendments go much further towards the restriction of the liquor trade than the majority of men desire; the Bill passes, the men refuse to obey it, and have the whip-hand, because they control the army and the police. Tableau.

It reminds one somehow of Wells's 'War of the Worlds,' and gives one the same delightful thrills down one's back. But, speaking seriously, is it possible that this contingency is brought forward as a genuine argument against granting the vote to women?

In the first place, the House of Lords seems to be left out of the calculations. That national safeguard would hardly let through its meshes a measure calculated to cause uncivil war between the sexes.

But the whole possibility is too far-fetched to need combating. It is unlikely in the last degree—it is practically impossible—that women *en masse* would ever be opposed to men *en masse*; nor is there the smallest probability that women voters will ever be allowed to outnumber the men. The men will see to that. It is the natural political differentiation between the sexes which is responsible for these lurid nightmares. When women become fused into the life of the State—when they are not labelled "Woman," as a thing economically alien to man, but are matter-of-course, responsible citizens, a part of the whole—it will be forgotten that there was ever any such illogical barrier as "sex disability," the mass will be homogeneous.

It is curious to see, again and again, how out of his own mouth the writer of the anti-Suffrage articles is answered.

"Above all," he says, "women, more than men, must always stand for the greatest of all ideals of social reform—the ideal which most closely associates the work and the recreations of toiling men and women with the conditions of the family and the home."

Precisely. It is *just because* the woman stands pre-eminently for these things that it is so manifestly absurd her voice should not be heard in legislation which vitally affects the home and the family. As Zangwill said in his speech in Exeter Hall on Woman Suffrage in 1907: "We demand this vote for women, not because of her manly capacities, but because of her womanly capacities."

A list of some of the women's laws passed in the State of Colorado will give an idea of the kind of legislation with which women are particularly fitted to deal, and which, in those colonies and States enlightened enough to allow them to, they have admirably dealt:—

Laws forbidding the insurance of children under ten years old.

Establishing a State home for dependent children, two of the five members of the Board to be women.

Making mothers joint-guardians of their children with the father.

Raising the age of protection for girls to eighteen.

Establishing a State industrial home for girls, three of the members of the Board to be women.

Requiring one woman physician on the Board of the insane asylums.

Providing for care of the feeble-minded.

Providing for the inspection of private eleemosynary institutions by the State Board of Charity.

Requiring in public schools lessons on humane treatment of animals.

Making the Colorado Humane Society a State bureau for child and animal protection.

Establishing Juvenile Courts.

Providing that any person employing a child under fourteen in any mine, shelter, factory, or underground

works, shall be punished by imprisonment, in addition to a fine.

Requiring joint signature of husband and wife to every chattel mortgage, sale of household goods used by the family, or conveyance or mortgage of the homestead.

Laws forbidding children of sixteen or under to work more than eight hours a day in any mill, factory, store, or other occupation that may be deemed unhealthy.

Laws providing that no woman shall work more than eight hours a day at work requiring her to be on her feet.

Making it a criminal offence to contribute to the delinquency of a child.

For all these acts the women of Colorado are directly responsible. As to the bogey of "home neglect," says Judge Benjamin B. Lindsey in a statement with regard to the women's vote in Colorado: "It does not take any mother from her home and her home duties and cares, to spend ten minutes in going to the polling place and casting her vote, and returning to the bosom of her family; but in that ten minutes she wields a power which is doing more to protect that home now, and will continue to do more to protect it in the future, than any power or influence in the State of Colorado."

To quote Zangwill once more, "There is nothing essentially womanly in being ignorant and careless of the affairs of one's country... I trust that man's chivalry and justice, which have awakened in New Zealand, Finland, and other outlandish places, will not much longer lie dormant in the so-called centres of civilization; and that, hand in hand, man and woman will try to work out the problems of the social order. There is no problem upon which an intelligent woman cannot throw some new light, and in neglecting woman's help men are not merely blundering in what they do do, but blundering still more badly in what they do not do—in the terribly important provinces of life which they leave untouched by legislation. We men require this reform as much for our own sakes as for women's sakes."

And in *The Daily Mail* of November 20th, Lady Grove voices the rising tempest of sound from women of all classes, through the length and breadth of the United Kingdom:—

"I consider it [the demand for Woman Suffrage] as a responsible expression of well-considered thought—a plea for the recognition of the human woman. Without this recognition woman's influence as a whole will never be the source of pure inspiration to the nation that it might, and I believe will then, become."

SCHOOL MANAGER.

Actresses' Franchise League.

ON Friday afternoon last, at the Dover Street Studio, Miss Tita Brand received on behalf of the League. The room was filled to overflowing with an interested and enthusiastic audience. Miss Cicely Hamilton presided, and afterwards spoke in place of Miss Abadam, who was unavoidably absent through illness.

Sir John Cockburn, in an eloquent speech, said that women suffered greatly through want of representation, and in his opinion a measure of such great importance should not be dependent upon private members. It was the duty of the Government to make the opportunity of time for this great question, which was being so largely discussed on all sides. Signs were given, and would continue to be given, and the agitation must continue. Times had changed, and the position of man to woman and woman to man had changed, and man was no longer the predominant member of society. To say that the place of all women was in the home was equivalent to saying that all women were wives and possible mothers. If this were so, the object of every woman would be the providing of that home through matrimony, and marriage would thus become a question of bread and butter. This view of so sacred a rite was a degrading one.

In the past we had had patriarchal and matriarchal ages, and what was wanted in the future was a new age of co-operation between the two. In Australia the practical result of the women's vote was the raising of the moral tone of the country.

Our best thoughts were intuitive, and this gift of intuition was possessed by women in a high degree; this alone should assure their usefulness in civic affairs. The civic circle was

incomplete when represented by man alone. The greatest interests of the family were dependent upon woman, and her claim to the right of a share in civic duties was the greater because of this.

Miss Cicely Hamilton said that true art was inseparable from the civic life of the nation—Milton, Dante, and other great poets, writers, and painters were keen politicians. Art, when shut up in itself, was no living thing; this great movement was one quite in accordance with natural laws. Throughout the history of nature, as interpreted by evolution, active impulses had been at work pushing towards new types. Life could not be continuous without variety of type, and these latter were always produced for purposes of progress. It was these perfectly natural impulses which were urging women towards their freedom, and the vote was only the beginning of new and better things.

Correspondence.

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

To Mrs. Humphry Ward.

DEAR MADAM,—I see from the reports of the recent debate of the question of Women's Suffrage between Mrs. Henry Fawcett and yourself that you said on that occasion that:—

"So far from women's interests being neglected in Parliament, whenever a measure was brought forward concerning women or children, an exhaustive account was taken of the advice and opinion of women. Every line of the Midwives' Act and the Children Bill was considered in consultation with women, and women were abundantly admitted into the preparatory stage of legislation when questions were threshed out in Committee."

So far as this statement refers to the Midwives' Act it is quite inaccurate. I was for several years secretary to the Association for Promoting and Training and Supply of Midwives, the association of lay men and women which had largely to do with the ultimately successful piloting of that Act through Parliament, and if one lesson more than another was impressed upon the women engaged in that campaign it was the utter ineffectiveness of the voteless sex when brought up against male interests, backed by political power, in the persons of medical practitioners who were antagonistic to the proposed legislation. Over and over again during those weary years of endeavour to force that necessary measure of protection for women into law we were confronted with the statement from Members of Parliament: "Your movement has my complete sympathy, but I cannot help you; if I back your Bill my medical constituents will turn me out next election." Had we been able to reply, "Your women constituents will turn you out if you don't," the strength of our position would have been doubled. And I ask any reasoning person if this does not prove up to the hilt that women need the power of the vote for their own and their children's protection.

Women may have been "consulted," but their advice was seldom taken. The council of the Midwives' Institute, the only representative body of trained midwives, had the utmost difficulty in securing a bare minimum of justice for their profession in the Act, and had finally to accept a most unfair limitation of their own representation on the Central Midwives' Board, being obliged to appoint a medical practitioner, instead of being free to send a midwife if they so wished. In fact, the whole history of the Midwives' Act tells against the contention that women's interests are at present adequately cared for by men.

As one who knows intimately the inner political history of the Midwives' Act, I wish to protest most emphatically against that measure being used as an argument in support of the continued disenfranchisement of women.

I enclose a copy of *Nursing Notes* for July, 1908, in which this matter is dealt with, to which I would refer all those who wish to understand its real significance.

Yours faithfully, LILIAN C. MAULE.
55, Culmington Road, Ealing, W., March 4th, 1909.

A STRENUOUS campaign has been carried on in the West during the past few weeks. Meetings have been organized in Plymouth, Exeter, Sidmouth, Tiverton, Wellington, Hemoyock, Devonport, Tavistock, and Truro. Branches of the National Union are now being formed in several of these places. Plymouth in particular has already a strong society, with membership approaching 100. Four of the meetings (of which some seventeen have been held) have been addressed by Lady Frances Balfour, and Plymouth was fortunate enough to secure Mrs. Philip Snowden too. Miss Abadam has done invaluable service to the Cause, addressing public and drawing-room meetings, and making many converts. Mrs. Cooper, too, who has now arrived in Devon from Glasgow, has made a great impression upon the West Country people by bringing them face to face with an aspect of the question which is quite new to many of them. Very much yet remains to be done in the West, but we feel that the ground has now been to some extent broken.

MARGARET ROBERTSON.

BRISTOL (N.U.W.S.S.).—The Bristol and West of England Women's Suffrage Society has taken a shop window for a week at Keynsham, a large village three miles out of Bristol. Here are displayed posters, literature, &c., and placards advertising a public meeting which is to take place in the Drill Hall on the Friday evening. The people of Keynsham have been very shy of coming in to talk or to buy, but many are ready to enter into conversation when we go outside to distribute handbills; and as the other half of the shop belongs to a chemist, his customers take handbills and show a reserved kind of interest. We have been fortunate in securing the support of Mr. Graham Bush, the leading Conservative, as chairman, while the chairman of the local Liberal Association has also declared himself willing to speak for us. A large audience is expected, also lively opposition, but we shall leave behind us many strong supporters of the Cause, and the shop will have made the question of Women's Suffrage familiar to numbers who before thought nothing about it.

CAMBRIDGE (N.U.W.S.S.).—On Monday, February 22nd, a successful public meeting, organized by the Cambridge Suffrage Association, was held in the Town Hall, Royston, Herts. Although the meeting was the first of the kind in Royston, there was an audience of over two hundred, which, with very few exceptions, showed itself attentive and sympathetic. Miss J. E. Kennedy was in the chair, and Mrs. Rackham, Mrs. Heitland, Miss McArthur, Mrs. Ward (all of Cambridge), addressed the meeting.

CHELTHENHAM (N.U.W.S.S.).—A most successful public meeting was held here in the Town Hall supper-room on Tuesday, March 2nd. Deep snow lay on the ground, and a meeting on unemployment was going on, but the attendance was far larger than ever before at a meeting of the old society. Mr. F. W. Rogers, of the Men's League, had come at very short notice from Bristol to take the chair, and made an excellent opening speech, after which Miss Florence Balgarnie spoke. Lady Grove then moved the usual resolution, with the addition that the meeting "would regard any further extension of the Franchise to men, without the inclusion of women, as a national disaster." This was briefly seconded by Mrs. Pollock, after which it was put to the meeting, and carried by a large majority. The temper of the audience was enthusiastic, especially considering how few actual members were present. One or two boys and girls and men at the back appeared to be the only "Antis." The platform was filled with local and other supporters, and apologies were read from the Rector (Rev. Lestrage Fawcett), the Mayor (Mr. J. T. Agg-Gardner), and the President of the Ethical Society (Dr. Callaway).

THEODORE MILLS, Hon. Sec.

LEITH HILL (N.U.W.S.S.).—On March 3rd Mrs. Gordon Pollock, a member of the Leith Hill Woman's Suffrage Society, held a drawing-room meeting, at Mickleham, near Dorking, which was a great success, despite the appalling weather. A letter from George Meredith was read, expressing sympathy with the object of the meeting; also a letter from Mr. Leverton Harris, M.P. for Stepney.

The Hon. Mrs. Bertrand Russell and Mr. Baillie-Weaver spoke. The former related the growth of the Suffrage Movement amongst the women temperance reformers in America in the days of her mother's youth, and told of the treatment which these brave pioneers had to undergo at the hands of their relations and friends, and the

way in which they were scorned by society at large. She said that it was the need for temperance reform which first made her a Suffragist, and pointed out the crying evils in the world which women will have to cope with when the great day of their enfranchisement dawns. Mr. Baillie-Weaver, in a brilliant speech, refuted the Anti-Suffrage arguments. Both speakers received a hearty vote of thanks, and many of the "Antis" present admitted that they were much impressed by what they had heard.

S. BRAY, Hon. Sec.,
Leith Hill Woman's Suffrage Society.
[Notice received too late for insertion, will appear in our next issue.]

Meetings of the N.U.W.S.S.

MARCH			P.M.
11.	Leamington, Drawing-Room Meeting	Hostess, Miss Harrison	
	Southampton, Public Meeting, Victoria Rooms	Speaker, Mrs. Reid Chair, Dr. Stancomb Speaker, Mrs. Philip Snowden	
	London, Highgate, Suffrage Tea	Hostess, Mrs. Herriot Chair, Miss Alice Zimmern Speaker, Miss F. Straker	3
	Reigate and Redhill, Horley Branch, Public Meeting, Victoria Hall, Horley	Speakers, Miss Cicely Corbett, H. Baillie-Weaver, Esq.	8
12.	Olton, Public Meeting	Chair, Vicar of Olton Speaker, Miss Abadam	8
13.	Leicester, Loughborough, Debate	Opener, Mr. Kenneth G. Wheeler	
16.	Haslemere, Barnfields, Drawing-Room Meeting		4.15
17.	Cardiff, Public Meeting	Speakers, Miss Abadam, Canon Talbot	8
	London, Highgate, Dramatic Entertainment, Spears Memorial Hall	Suffrage Play, 'Man and Woman'; Dramatic Tableau, 'Ballad of Fair Ladies in Revolt'	8
	Sevenoaks, Public Meeting, Club Hall	Chair, Councillor Arthur Hickworth Speakers, Mrs. Rackham, Miss Palliser	8.30
18.	Pontypridd, Women only	Miss Abadam	8
	Leicester, Debate in St. George's School	Opener, Mrs. Donaldson	
	Nottingham, "At Home" Circus Street Hall	To meet Mr. and Mrs. Forbes Robertson Chair, Lady Grove Speaker, Mr. Forbes Robertson Debate, Mr. Raphael, Mr. Head, Anti-Suffragist	3.30
	London, Ealing, Oak Room, Lyric Restaurant	Chair, Mr. F. White Speaker, Mr. Malcolm Mitchell	8.15
19.	Haslemere, Meeting for Men only, Shottersmill Schools		8
22.	Bournemouth, Debate, Charminster Road Lecture Hall, Congregational Church	Speaker, Miss Howes	
	Wilmslow, Public Meeting	Miss Abadam	8
	North-Eastern, Drawing-room Café	Debate, Mrs. Harrison Bell, Miss Measham, Anti-Suffragist	2.30
23.	Sheffield, Public Meeting	Chair, Mrs. Garrett Anderson, M.D. Speaker, Miss Abadam	8
	Wolverhampton, St. Peter's Institute, Annual Meeting	Chair, Mrs. Arnold Shaw Speaker, Mrs. Philip Snowden	3.30
24.	Prestwich, Salford, New Forest, Burley, Drawing-Room Meeting	Miss Abadam Hostess, Mrs. Lyon	3
25.	Bollington, New Forest, Ringwood, Public Meeting, Lecture Hall	Speaker, Miss D. Edwards Miss Abadam	8
	Stratford-on-Avon, Public Meeting	Speakers, Mrs. Pember, Reeves, Lady Isabel Margesson	8
	Leicester, St. Mark's Group of Suffrage Circles	Mrs. Donaldson	
	Reigate and Redhill, Drawing-room Meeting, "At Home"	Hostess, Mrs. Shaen, Makepeace Speaker, Dr. Flora Murray	3
26.	Lymm, Cheshire, Bournemouth, Boscombe	Miss Abadam	8
29.	Bournemouth, Boscombe Temperance Hall	Chairman, Councillor Wilson Speaker, Miss Abadam	8
30.	Bournemouth, Prince's Hall, "At Home"	Miss Abadam	4
31.	Beckenham, Public Meeting, Penge Town Hall	Chair, Miss Abadam Speakers, Mrs. Philip Snowden, and others	8
Apr. 29.	Bournemouth, Prince's Hall	Speaker, Miss C. Hamilton (Diana of Dobson's)	4

From March 8th for a month. Miss Gill and Mrs. Cooper will organize a Series of Meetings in Leicester and District.

At the "At Home" at Caxton Hall on Thursday, Mrs. Despard received an enthusiastic welcome; and a special fund for the League to commemorate the sacrifice being made by our prisoners was started, to be known as the "Despard Prisoners' Fund." The following promises were received:—

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Benett, Miss S.	10 0 0	Brought forward	19 0 6
Cobden-Sanderson, Mrs.	1 0 0	Napier, Miss C.	5 0 0
Ferguson, Mrs.	1 0 0	Snow, Mrs.	1 0 0
Fisher, Mrs.	1 0 0	"Thank offering for Miss Turner's pluck"	0 10 0
Gonie, Capt.	1 0 0	Thompson, Mrs. P.	5 0 0
Hamilton, Miss Cicely and Miss G.	1 0 0	Tudor, Mrs.	2 0 0
Livingstone, Mrs.	0 10 6	Turner, Miss Madge	0 5 0
McCall, Dr. Annie	2 0 0	Venning, Miss	1 0 0
Mocatta, Miss A.	1 0 0	Woods, Miss	1 0 0
Mordan, Miss	0 10 0		
Carried forward	£19 0 6	Total	£34 15 6

This fund will be open till the end of March, and those who cannot protest at the risk of imprisonment will thus have a means of showing practically their gratitude to those who do.

Mrs. Despard will, we hope, speak again next Thursday afternoon at Caxton Hall.

Branch Notes.

THE CLAPHAM BRANCH are arranging a whist drive to augment their funds. Saturday, May 1st, tickets 1s. Their patrons are promised an enjoyable evening and handsome prizes. Friends please send for tickets to the secretary, Miss Underwood, 16, Newland Terrace, Queen's Road, Battersea.

CALDICOT BRANCH.—Once more we are vigorously at work, and at a meeting held on March 1st at Mrs. Hillier's (Court House), the resolution demanding the removal of the "disability which debar women from the exercise of the Franchise..." and "calls upon the Government to recognize the Suffragist prisoners at present in Holloway as political offenders, and to remove them to the first division," was enthusiastically carried.

Our Treasurer is forwarding the sum of £3 3s. to the head office in London as our contribution to the "Special Effort Week," and we are arranging to have weekly working parties in preparation for the forthcoming "Green, White, and Gold Fair."

The opportunity of breaking fresh ground has been given to us by the Vicar of Tintern, the Rev. A. W. Washington-Palmer who is kindly lending us the Parish Room there for an evening meeting on March 19th, when Miss Abadam has promised to speak.

LOUISA CORBEN, Hon. Sec.

MANCHESTER BRANCH.—On March 3rd an "At Home" was held at 47, Mosley Street. Owing to the inclemency of the weather, the number present was not so large as was desirable, but those who were present spent an enjoyable evening listening to Mrs. Aldridge's very interesting account of the work done by the Women's Trade Union Council. The blessings of trade unionism were brought home to all, in such a manner that only an experienced worker amongst workgirls could put the case so forcibly. Our speaker for March 10th is Mrs. Rhys Davids, M.A.; her subject is "Women and Freedom in Ancient India." *Don't forget the Cake and Candy Fair, March 22nd.*

WILLEDEN AND MAIDA VALE BRANCH.—On February 23rd a meeting was held at 59, Wrentham Avenue, Willesden, N.W., to inaugurate a branch of the Freedom League in that district. Several members were waiting to join, and an energetic Hon. Secretary was secured by the election of Miss Violet James (9, Wrotesley Road, Willesden, N.W.) to that office. It was proposed that the Branch should work in conjunction with Maida Vale, being known as the Willesden and Maida Vale Branch. Miss Bennett will continue to act as Hon. Treasurer, and Miss Baenziger as Press Secretary.

On Tuesday, March 2nd, a special meeting was held at 134, Portsdown Road, Maida Vale, when the resolution, demanding that the prisoners now in Holloway should be treated as political offenders and placed in the first division, was carried unanimously.

SALE BRANCH, CHESHIRE.—In response to an invitation from the Women's Social Guild of Chorlton-cum-Hardy, a meeting was held on February 22nd, in the Unitarian Sunday Schools, Mrs. Manning was the speaker, and Mrs. George took the chair. Beginning with the power to vote possessed by women in early Saxon times, Mrs. Manning traced its gradual loss and final disappearance in 1835. She then gave an absorbingly interesting account of the modern struggle to regain a lost right, proving the necessity for the present militant movement. A sprinkling of "Antis" was in the room, and the discussion proved brisk. Two ladies joined the League, a drawing-room was promised for a meeting in the near future, and a considerable amount of literature was sold. We have great hopes of forming a branch here. Mrs. Nidd will be the speaker at the next meeting. At a recent branch meeting it

was decided that our "special effort" should take the form of a dramatic entertainment, the results of which, though necessarily somewhat late, will we hope be substantial.

On March 4th a special protest meeting was held at the Temperance House, Cross Street. A resolution was carried unanimously calling upon the Government to remove the sex disability and to recognize the Suffragist prisoners at present in Holloway as political offenders. Mrs. Nidd presided, and the resolution was proposed by Miss Gawthorpe, to whom the branch is greatly indebted on this occasion, and seconded by Mrs. Manning. L. F.

SHEFFIELD BRANCH.—The first two of a series of public meetings, following the large meeting were held on February 15th and March 1st. Mrs. Willson from Halifax was the speaker at the first meeting, and Mrs. Sanderson was good enough to come and speak for us at the second. Both meetings were well attended, the latter was crowded. We gained a few new members each time and passed our resolutions almost unanimously.

There was an Anti-Suffrage meeting here on February 27th, when we certainly scored; even the local papers agreed about that. We proposed an amendment (our usual, well-known resolution) to the resolution of the "Antis," and the amendment was carried by an overwhelming majority, only four (including the lecturer and the Chairman) voting against it. S. G. BARNET, Hon. Sec.

Prisoners' Breakfast.

TICKETS for the Breakfast to our prisoners to be released on March 18th—Mrs. Manson, Miss Schofield, Mrs. Meredith, Miss Povey, Miss Johnson, Miss Vernon—may be obtained at the office, price 1s. 3d. The Breakfast will be at The Cottage Tea Rooms, Strand, at 9 A.M.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.
March 11th to March 31st.

MARCH.			P.M.
Thurs. 11.	Caxton Hall, Westminster	Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Holmes Miss Hilda Saint Eve Mr. John Russell, M.A.	3.30
	Stamford Hill, Northfield School Drill Hall Cheltenham, Lowmandale Manchester, 302, Upper Brook Street	Mrs. Manning	3
Fri. 12.	Hampstead, The Library, Prince Arthur Road Battersea Branch Library, Lavender Hill	Dr. Marian Thornett Mrs. H. W. Nevinson 'Some Man-Made Laws.'	8 8
Mon. 15.	Midhurst, Protest Meeting	Mrs. Madge Turner	8
Wed. 17.	Glasgow, Academy Rooms, Partick Maida Vale, 134, Portsdown Rd.	Miss Olive Robertson "At Home"	4-6.30 8
Thurs. 18.	Gillingham, Dorset Holloway Prison, Camden Rd. Caxton Hall, Westminster	Miss Muriel Matters Release of Prisoners Mrs. How Martyn Mrs. Cope, Mrs. Manson Mrs. Meredith and other Prisoners	8 A.M. 3.30 P.M.
Fri. 19.	Manchester, 157, Chorlton Rd. Tintern, Parish Rooms	Miss E. Manning, B.A. Miss Abadam Rev. A. W. Washington Palmer	3.30 7.30
Mon. 22.	Cheltenham, 41, Winchcombe St. 47, Mosley Street, "Cake and Candy Fair."		8 8
Tues. 23.	Willesden, 48, Chevening Rd. Tottenham, Earlsmead School	Miss Schofield Miss Muriel Matters Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett Mrs. How Martyn Earl Russell	8 8
Thurs. 25.	Caxton Hall, Westminster Holloway Prison	Mrs. Despard Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett Release of Miss FitzHerbert and Miss Sidley	3.30 8 A.M.
Fri. 26.	Cheltenham, Sandford Lawn Holloway Prison	Release of Mrs. Duval Miss Seruya, Miss Ibbotson Countess Russell	8
Mon. 29.	Birmingham, the Temperance Hall Eastbourne	Mrs. Sanderson, Miss Alice Schofield (now in Holloway Gaol) Miss Matters Miss Farquharson, M.A.	8 7.30
Tues. 30.	Wolverhampton, Agricultural Hall	Mrs. Sanderson Countess Russell	8
Wed. 31.	Cheltenham Swansea	Miss Matters	8

Green, White, and Gold Fair, April 15, 16, and 17.
Suffrage Day, Albert Hall, Sat., June 19.

* * All communications intended for the Women's Freedom League columns should be addressed to The Editor, W.F.L., 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., and must reach her not later than first post Saturday.

Some Post Cards, Mr. Asquith and Central Glasgow.

I AM afraid that the Prime Ministerial bacon must have been eaten to the accompaniment of Prime Ministerial growls on the day after the polling in Central Glasgow—that is, if the Prime Minister, like most other men, examines his post-bag at breakfast time. It must have given him a shock to find, after his own august intimation that the subject was forgotten, that it had escaped his notice, &c., about a thousand post cards signed by electors, running after this fashion:—

Central Division, Glasgow, March 2nd, 1909.

SIR,—I have this day recorded my vote against your candidate at the request of the Women's Freedom League, as a protest against your attitude towards the urgent question of Votes for Women.

(Signed) Name.....
Address.....

We intend to carry out this method of bringing direct pressure to bear on the Government at every by-election.

Let us hope that no trembling secretary had to make the unwelcome announcement. Women actually influencing the electors! Monstrous! This must be stopped; their business is to educate the country—to go out into the highways and byways and make themselves a target for the bucolic wit and clods of earth. But if they go influencing votes, why we shall be forced into believing that the electors are demanding Tariff Reform, or anything else, rather than the plain and simple issue of Votes for Women. If this go on we shall have, during an already overcrowded session, to rush through a new Bribery and Corruption Act, making it a criminal offence for women to influence votes.

The post card was a happy idea; it was suggested in the first place, I think, by the questions asked at meetings by worried but conscientious Liberals, who wished to know how they were to impress it upon Mr. Asquith that they had given their votes for the women and not for Tory legislation. "Well, write and tell him so," we suggested. Then a gentleman, who had attended nearly all our meetings and become an enthusiastic convert, said that if we would have them printed he would pay for them. They "caught on" tremendously, and voters coming out of the polling booths asked for them, and signed them then and there. Others came to the various committee-rooms and signed them, and asked for copies to take for their friends to sign. Polling-day was a day to remember in Central Glasgow, and if anything more were needed to prove the earnestness of the women's demand, surely the sight of the patient workers at the polling-booths standing throughout the day in snow and slush, talking, arguing, persuading the electorate to "keep the Liberal out," enduring the jeers and occasional abuse of the assembled crowds, must have driven the lesson home, that women not only want the vote, but are not stopping to count the cost of getting it. The poll was declared amidst breathless excitement—a good journalistic phrase that, but the only one that meets the occasion. Of course we knew that we were keeping the Liberal out, even in Free Trade Glasgow, but I do not think even the most sanguine of us expected such a majority as 2,113 in our favour. Mr. Gibson Bowles, who says, with cheery mediævalism, that the woman's place is at home, and thinks that he has thus settled the whole question of women's sphere, duties, capabilities, and needs—could not face it, and at least two Liberal meetings were left without their advertised "star." "Where is he?" "Gone back to Spain," shouted the delighted victors, with epigrammatic jokes about golf thrown in, which required interpretation to a mere southerner, and a non-golfer.

Glasgow has had a great awakening; hundreds of converts have been made. Keen public interest excited. It only remains now for the earnest workers there to reap the harvest. That they will spare no pains to do so I am convinced, and I am basing my judgment on the kind and considerate way in which they rallied round a worried "deputy-general," pulled her out of many a hole, and worked round her with the most generous enthusiasm, for all of which she sends grateful and affectionate thanks,
M. H.

THE following letter is a copy of the one sent by a sympathizer of the Women's Freedom League to the Prime Minister: Right Hon. H. H. Asquith, 10, Downing Street, Westminster.

SIR,—You have doubtless received quite a number of post cards signed by voters of the Central Division of this city, and as it may have occurred to you that this was merely "another dodge of these women," I now write to inform you that it was a plan organized and financed by MEN of this city, whose burning indignation at the shameful treatment of our women by yourself and other members of the Government prompted this method of informing you that in Glasgow, at least, there is still some spark of chivalry.

You may remember, sir, that you were not above requesting the assistance of the women of Glasgow University in the conduct of your candidature on one occasion, and it said little for your sense of courtesy, to say the least, that you reciprocated by throwing into prison the accredited representative of the women of that University on her recent visit to Westminster.

These women wish the vote for the reason that very necessary legislation is being neglected by men. There are questions of grave import which they better understand than do men, and if their desires can be accomplished the good which will accrue will be a Godsend to the thousands of women and children who to-day are in misery, because of man-made law.

Do not forget it, sir, the action of the Government toward these self-denying noble women is playing its part in the defeat of the Government. And, after all, when a majority of the House of Commons favours Votes for Women, why should you block the way?

Yours respectfully,
R. W. HADDEN.
145, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, March 5th, 1909.

The Case of Mrs. Despard and other Suffragists.

A WELL-ATTENDED meeting, composed almost entirely of men, was held at the Eustace Miles Restaurant on Saturday evening, when emphatic protests were made by the Rev. Dr. Cobb, rector of St. Ethelburg's, Bishopsgate, and other speakers, against the arrest and imprisonment of Mrs. Despard and other Suffragists. The meeting was not convened by any of the Suffragist societies, but by some male spectators of the arrests, who felt that there had been undue interference with the liberty of the subject, and a miscarriage of justice. Mr. Albert Dawson, editor of the *Christian Commonwealth*, who presided, read extracts from numerous letters and telegrams, received from all parts of the country, expressing strong sympathy with the object of the gathering. The following resolutions were carried unanimously:—

"This meeting protests against the action of the police authorities in arresting Mrs. Despard, Miss Sidley, and Miss FitzHerbert, when exercising perfectly constitutional rights in a peaceful manner, and, while rejoicing in the release of Mrs. Despard, calls upon the Government to order the immediate release of the other prisoners, whose cases are identical with hers."

"This meeting further protests against the action of Sir Albert de Rutzen in sentencing Mrs. Despard, Miss Sidley, and Miss FitzHerbert against the weight of evidence."

A large committee was appointed to arrange for a deputation to wait upon the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary, and the holding of a great public meeting in London on March 31st.

The following gentlemen kindly undertook to act as Honorary Secretaries:—Mr. G. W. Bishop, 41, Hayter Road, Brixton Hill, S.W.; Mr. Harry Marshall, Bloomsbury House, Queen's Square, W.C.; Mr. L. W. Phillips, 28, Gloucester Street, E.C.; Mr. J. W. Sidley, Strathleven, Oakleigh Park, N. The office of Treasurer was accepted by Mr. W. M. Dabs, 129, Clapton Common, N.E.

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

OFFICE: 40, 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.

THE next open-air meeting takes place in Hyde Park at 3 o'clock next Sunday. Mr. John Manson will take the chair. Members are earnestly invited to be present.

Mr. S. A. Guest sends us a brief account of a debate at the Willesden Parliament, in which he took part, as representing the Men's League. A motion, "That this House is opposed to the extension of the Parliamentary Franchise to Women," was lost by about 90 votes to 70. The speakers on our side were Miss F. Melian Stawell, Mrs. Montefiore, and Mr. Guest, while Mr. Cartwright Sharp (Men's League for opposing Women's Suffrage) and Mrs. Archibald Colquhoun (Women's National Anti-Suffrage Society) supported the motion.

A similar debate, save that the combatants were all men, took place at the Muswell Hill Parliament last Thursday. Mr. J. Arthur Price (Men's League) seconded the Bill in favour of Women's Suffrage. There was practically no opposition in the form of speeches, but unfortunately the Bill was so drawn up that it failed to secure the support of the Conservative benches, on the ground that it was too extensive, while the Labour representatives opposed it as too narrow in scope. The second reading was thus lost by 12 votes, although on the principle the House was heavily in favour. The position was, in fact, a reduced facsimile of the real thing at Westminster, each party being desirous of making capital out of a Women's Suffrage measure. The mover of the Bill and one other member joined the League. Many others would have joined had there been an opportunity of approaching them after the division.

The Hon. Secretary of our Bristol Branch, Mr. F. W. Rogers, kindly consented at very short notice to represent the League at a meeting of the Cheltenham Women's Suffrage Society last Tuesday week. We learn from Miss Theodora Mills that the meeting was highly successful, in spite of the fact that heavy snow lay on the ground, and that Mr. Rogers in the chair was very well received.

Branch News.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY WOMAN SUFFRAGE SOCIETY has definitely joined the Men's League under the subsidiary title "Affiliated Branch of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage." The Society already numbers sixty-four members. Of senior members of the University the chief members of the Branch are Prof. Sir John Rhys (Jesus), Prof. Gilbert Murray (Christ Church), Messrs. F. M. Powicke, H. W. Garrod, and W. H. Fyfe (Merton), R. Coupland and R. J. E. Tiddy (Trinity), and H. A. L. Fisher (New College). The Hon. Sec. is Mr. J. Drummond C. Monfries (Trinity).

Two meetings have been held. The first was addressed by Mrs. Bertrand Russell and Mrs. Ralph (President of Somerville College W.S. Soc.); the second by Miss Chrystal Macmillan and Mr. Robt. F. Cholmeley, on February 20th. At the second meeting there was a good discussion.

The CLAPHAM Branch, which has devoted itself chiefly to open-air work on Clapham Common and in Battersea Park, is holding a special meeting to consider collection work. The Hon. Sec., Mr. Victor D. Duval, is speaking a great deal. He has

accepted an invitation to move a resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage at a joint meeting of the Grafton Parliament and the South West Parliament on Monday, March 15th.

Proposed Formation of a Sussex Men's League.

At a meeting held in Brighton last Monday week a provisional Committee in connexion with the above was formed. As representative support was at once seen to be forthcoming, it was decided to hold a meeting at the Pavilion, Brighton, on March 22nd at 8 P.M., for the enrolment of members and the election of officers, and to decide upon initial activities. Admission will be by presentation of visiting card, and our Sussex friends are earnestly invited to be present.

In Hyde Park.

"WATER, water, everywhere" was the condition of Hyde Park when we reached the scene of our first open-air meeting on Sunday. The rapid thaw had rendered the gravel circle, where miscellaneous oratory is permitted, an expanse of a material which it would have been polite to call sand. None the less there was a goodly audience when Mr. E. Duval ascended our new platform and introduced the League. Among that audience we saw several well-known Suffragists, including a bodyguard of Men's Leaguers distinguished by the yellow button, as well as women who had braved the inclement weather in order to give our new venture a good send off.

Mr. Duval in a few terse sentences summarized the position of the League and made a very powerful appeal to the audience to recognize the immense importance of the Cause. He then introduced Miss Mildred Ransom, who attracted the largest crowd of the afternoon by a brilliant speech chiefly on the economic aspect of the case in which she is an expert. The undoubted success of our first appearance as competitors with the practised orators of the railing was largely due to the temperate statement of real issues which the crowd could understand.

Mr. Theedam and Mr. Victor Duval, Honorary Secretary of the Clapham Branch, also addressed the meeting. Among the members of the League whom we saw were Messrs. J. Y. Kennedy, Mark Wilks, A. J. Baxter, Julius Singer, Th. Gugenheim, F. Roe.

The second meeting will be held, probably in the same place unless we are able to go on to the grass, at 3 o'clock next Sunday. Readers are urged most earnestly to come and help, and volunteers for speaking are specially needed. We must not tire out the willing ones, and we shall need a large body of practised speakers if we are to carry out the plan of touring the suburbs during the summer evenings.

We wish to thank Mrs. Tillard and Mr. W. R. Snow for generous financial support to this branch of our work, and trust that others will follow their example.

Our sympathy is due to Mr. Hopkins, who, after giving valuable help in the critical stages of the work, has unfortunately broken down and is confined to bed. J. M. M.

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.]

DEAR SIR,—It is only lately that I have joined your League, and, as is probably the case with a considerable number of your members, I should never have done so, had it not been for the militant Suffragists. I cannot conceive how any supporter of Women's Suffrage can ignore the very great services these ladies have done and are continually doing to the Cause. By suffering the indignities of prison life in the second division and the rough handling of thoughtless crowds, they bring home forcibly to every thinking person the fact that there must be something in the movement that would impel highly bred ladies thus to sacrifice themselves. It is this reflection that causes one to look deeper into the subject; hence to discover how unanswerable are their claims, and how essential for the welfare of the country. The amazing part is that many of those thus converted turn against the militants, accusing them of hindering the Cause—surely a strange anomaly. Why, Sir, where was this movement three years ago? There existed then no *Women's Franchise*, no *Votes for Women*, and, far more important, no Anti-Suffrage League. The subject was rarely—if ever—discussed, either in the home or in public; it is now the chief topic of the day. Above all, the pressure brought to bear on the Government by open hostility, particularly at by-elections, where the women's influence has been very great, has brought the cause nearer its goal than it could ever have hoped to reach under the old régime. One should judge methods by results. Had "A Male Worker" done so, he would certainly have thought twice before condemning the W.S.P.U. demonstration, as he did in your last issue.

Addison Road, W.

DEAR SIR,—I should be glad to be allowed to suggest that the "elderly ladies" whom "Male Worker" saw in the deputations of which he writes, may possibly be competent to judge for themselves of their fitness to take part in such a proceeding. It is an amazing thing how few men, even among our sympathizers, seem able to allow women to regulate their actions like responsible beings. These "elderly ladies" really are grown-up!

Yours truly, A SUFFRAGETTE.

DEAR SIR,—As a Liberal I am naturally anxious for the success of my party at the next General Election, which (might I prophesy) will probably be towards the close of the present year.

That success will largely depend upon the treatment by the Government of the Women's question, and therefore, in the best interests of Liberalism, those whom I will term the new school should force the Old Mother Hubbard section to recognize that they must either make their position clear immediately or expect to face the hostility of the Radical or new school section.

For this purpose I would suggest that the Men's League undertake the collection of signatures from men and women who are Liberals undertaking not to work for any Liberal or other candidate who does not put Women's Suffrage in his address.

This list should then be sent to the Prime Minister, and a copy of those within their constituency to all Anti- or doubtful Liberal M.P.s and prospective candidates.

I would also suggest to the Women's Liberal Federation that their society resolve in any constituency where a Liberal is against Women's Suffrage, or fails in his address and speeches to declare himself favourable, they during the election carry on a non-party propaganda for Women's Suffrage, inducing the women neither to support nor actually oppose the Liberal candidate.

Organized withdrawal of support from the party in this way would weigh more heavily, I feel sure, in Mr. Asquith's mind than a much larger external opposition.

Yours faithfully,

H. MACKENZIE THEEDAM.

February 26th, 1909.

Our Morbid Social System.

SINCE lately there has been a strong tendency to bring in women amongst the "Antis"—women who spend more money in confectionery than do their less fortunate sisters in bread. This piece of insidious and sophistical political stratagem may be looked at from two aspects. Firstly, it is nothing but the most disgraceful and shameful move of the capitalist *versus* employee. We may well challenge these "Antis," and ask them how many working women they can number in their party? Are they as well able as the Suffragettes to make such an ostentatious galaxy of their supporters? Can these "Antis" bring together at one time over 300,000 zealous *female* supporters for their party, as has been done by the Suffragettes in Hyde Park not very long ago? If they can carry out this feat then we might sorrowfully admit that we have launched ourselves into an undertaking stupendous in the extreme, and we might then be prepared to be convinced that womankind are not yet ripe for such a colossal undertaking as they desire. All are aware that with Universal Suffrage an assured fact, a peaceful revolution will take place to place woman on the same platform as the man; to demand equal pay for both sexes; and to abolish the sweating system—the Satanic curse of our age. The capitalist stands aghast at such a programme; he shudders to think of such an ideal state of society; he trembles when he is forced to imagine that he will no more be able to call in the coolie when his workmen demand a higher pay or a diminution in the hours of labour. Again, in the second case, as regards the women who have joined this "Anti" party, their motives for doing so are altogether out of the question. What earthly use they serve by zealously opposing Universal Suffrage is quite inconceivable. Whether their sisters obtain the vote or not, we should like to ask in what manner will it interfere with them? They will never be compelled to go to the polling-booths. Man can be justified for opposing the notion of a Female Suffrage, but for women to do so may be styled nothing but a parasitical pseudo-patriotism.

The arguments in favour of giving the vote to women are irrefutable, regard it from any standpoint you will. It is no endeavour to drive man from his throne; it is no mere idle hankering for amusement; it is not woman's wish to oust man from his sphere of life and drive him from his throne; it is not her desire to become the ruler of mankind; and lastly, it is not her desire to doff the petticoat and don trousers. Let man impartially balance these facts in a scale, both sides of which should stand for nothing but *justice*. Let mankind consider for themselves their own quondam position when they were downtrodden, compelled to pay taxes for which they had nothing but tyranny in return. Man has himself already tasted of the bitterness of oppression as well as of the sweets of liberty and freedom. A rich man may sneer at the idea of being hungry, but let him go but a single day without his food, and he will then feel the pinch of hunger, and understand the meaning of the abyss between being rich and poor. In truth, man does not comprehend the amount of suffering that is at present going on around us. So much has this condition of life been knit together that woman herself does not realize her terrible plight, for otherwise she would have endeavoured ere now to arouse the lethargy of her sisters. The pitiable situation in which she finds herself cries for a Cromwell to extricate her from the deep morass in which she has been dragged. Assuredly, it will be a far happier world when woman has realized her great, noble, and republican ideal, and when men and women will be able to work together with one common accord to attain their common goal.

ISAAC GOODMAN.

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