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# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE THE COMMON CAUSE OF HUMANITY.

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WISDOM IS BETTER THAN WEAPONS OF WAR.

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(NUMBER OF SOCIETIES IN THE UNION 483).

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies is a great association of men and women banded together for the single purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. It was founded in 1867, and now numbers over 52,000 annually-subscribing members, organized into 483 Societies, under the presidentship of Mrs. Henry Fawcett. The colours of the Union are SCARLET, WHITE, and GREEN. Among its members are people of all parties, and people of none. The cause that unites them is the cause of Women's Suffrage, and they work for victory by peaceful methods only. They utterly repudiate methods of violence and rely on political pressure and the education of public opinion. WILL YOU JOIN? (Membership form on p. 54.)

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**HUTTON'S**  
159 Larne Ireland**Notes and Comments.****"Woman's Kingdom."**

We publish a special Exhibition number this week, and feel sure that everyone who sees it will want to visit "Woman's Kingdom." Please remember that it will be open until Thursday, April 30th, and that it is a unique advertisement of the innumerable activities and interests of women in general and Suffragists in particular.

**A Sweated Industry.**

The National Union of Teachers spends every year a large part of its time in considering the grievances of teachers as to salary. At the same time, it rejects by a large majority the proposal that women should be paid equally with men for equal work, and refuses to consider the question of arming two-thirds of its members with the Parliamentary vote. By acquiescing in the payment to women of a lower salary for equal work, the men teachers ensure to their employers a constant supply of "black-leg" labour, by means of which their own salaries are successfully kept down. On the other hand, teachers cannot bring any very great pressure to bear directly upon the Government, as the large majority are women and have no votes. Yet the proposal of Miss Cleghorn and her plucky supporters, that the N.U.T. should express its sympathy with the women's demand for enfranchisement is rejected by a large majority and with no little indignation!

**The Opposition to Women Suffrage.**

A heated discussion has been raging in America as to whether the Liquor Dealers' Protection Association and the Anti-Suffrage League out there have really been co-operating in a campaign against women's suffrage. From a cartoon in the *Woman's Journal* of April 11th we gather that there is no longer any question about the matter. The picture represents a number of men and a woman, seated round a table; underneath are these words:—

"Miss Markeson agreed to return to Butte with two or three other ladies about the first of March, and at that time she would lay her campaign before us for our consideration and possible approval for co-operation. Miss Markeson suggested that the interview and her mission to Montana be kept strictly confidential and secret."—From a statement issued on January 17th, 1914, by the publishers of the National Forum of Butte, Mont., representing the Montana Liquor Dealers' Protective Association, in regard to their interview with Miss C. E. Markeson, who represented Mrs. Arthur M. Dodge, President of the National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage."

**Figures Which "Serve No Purpose."**

Lady Selborne, in a letter to the press, calls attention to a question put in the House of Commons, and its answer. Lord Wolmer asked how many women were known by the police to have "disappeared" during the last ten years. Mr. McKenna replied that "to obtain the figures for ten years would involve an expenditure of time and labour which would seem to be out of proportion to any purpose which the figures could serve." Lady Selborne states that the "labour" would be to look through the police reports for each year. It is almost incredible that such information should be refused on such grounds. "I feel quite sure," says Lady Selborne, "that this answer would never have been given to a question in Parliament if women were voters for Members of Parliament."

**Criminal Law Amendment.**

The Bishop of London will move the Second Reading of a Bill to raise the age of consent, in the House of Lords, on May 1st. We regret that the clause protecting boys up to the age of sixteen has been dropped, and hope it may yet be restored. We should also like to see a clause added extending the time during which a charge may be brought from six months to twelve. On the other hand, the clauses that remain are of very great importance. One raises the legal age of protection for girls up to eighteen, and another takes away the plea of ignorance of the girl's age as a defence for the man.

**The Conspiracy of Silence.**

Sir Victor Horsley points out, in a letter to the *Times* (April 22nd), that in his evidence before the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases, he urged the reform of Registration. The question is one of vital importance, and even the "confidential certification of death," asked for by the British Medical Association ten years ago, and now again pressed by Sir Victor Horsley, would be an advance, since it would mean that our Public Health

Statistics would not be "utterly misleading" as they are now. But this does not go nearly far enough. The cause of death—the real cause, and not a pretended one—should appear on the certificate, and the doctor should be protected from action for libel in consequence. The interests of the wife—and in some cases doubtless those of the husband—absolutely demand this.

**High Prices and a Housewives' League.**

Women are at last attacking the problem of the rise in prices from their own end. An Exhibition and Conference has been organised by the Women's Labour League in St. Botolph's Parish Room (near Liverpool Street Station), on April 29th, from 4.30 to 10 p.m. In the *Manchester Guardian* appears a suggestion to form a Housewives' League, as a result of a conference held in London in March. Its work would be to study prices, enforce a demand for pure products, organise resistance to unfair increases, and work for efficiency all round.

**The Civil Service Report.**

Miss Clementina Black reports that to understand the bearings of the Civil Service Report, it is necessary to study the evidence as well as the report itself, and she therefore proposes to hold over her criticism until next week. The Report certainly contains some inexplicable features; for example, the paragraph which has been so widely commented on in the press, in which the all-round efficiency of women is compared unfavourably with that of men, appears, on careful examination, to represent the view of a minority of the Commission, although it appears in the body of the Report! There were sixteen members, the Chairman having a second (casting) vote. From the passage containing this paragraph, eight members of the Commission dissented. From the paragraph itself another member also dissented. This makes a majority of 9 to 7 against the paragraph, the Chairman's second vote, of course, not coming in. How has it come about that an expression of opinion to which nine out of sixteen members of the Commission objected, appears notwithstanding in their Report?

**The Plumage Bill—A "Strange Silence."**

The *Times* comments with positive pathos on the "strange silence" of women on the Plumage Bill. May we point out that a number of women, including Mrs. Fawcett and several other leading Suffragists, wrote to the press some weeks ago, urging the passage of the Bill, and disclaiming any anxiety about the feelings of women who persisted in wearing the forbidden plumes? As a matter of fact, the whole of the opposition to the Bill has come from men, and if women are apathetic on the subject, it is the worst that can be said of them. The "Sphinx-like conundrum" of their silence, which so vexes the soul of the *Times* is due to the fact that the women who care have spoken, and the women who have not spoken do not care. We regret that there should be any who do not care for the lives of beautiful creatures, but, on the other hand, we can assure the *Times* that there is probably not a woman in the world who would go the length of a man who said in Committee that he would rather every bird in the world were killed than that one person suffered wrongful arrest. We, personally, would cheerfully suffer wrongful arrest several times over rather than lose all the birds in the world at one fell swoop!

**Operations on Prisoners.**

In the debate on the Criminal Justice Administration Bill (April 15th), Mr. Rawlinson raised the question of prisoners requiring surgical operations while in prison. He expressed the hope that the Secretary of State might not be empowered to make an order for such an operation, on the advice of the prison doctor, without the consent of the patient. If these words are inserted, surely it will be impossible to claim any longer that the "operation" of forcible feeding can by any stretch of language be regarded as legal!

**The Active Service League.**

The League Leader has been hard at work getting the Active Service League under way. Now helpers and funds are wanted. Please, read the appeal published in another column. Send in your contribution, and order your uniform! The whole country should grow as familiar with the green dress and red tie of the Active Service League, as Italy with the scarlet shirt of Garibaldi.

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## In Parliament.

[We make no attempt to give a full account of the week's proceedings in Parliament. Our aim is merely to show what Parliament is doing with regard to questions which we have special reason to think would be more satisfactorily dealt with if women had the vote.]

Wednesday, April 15th.

### DURATION OF PARLIAMENT.

MR. LEACH (Colne Valley, U.) asked the Prime Minister if the Government have definitely decided in favour of the Dissolution of Parliament in June, and if the General Election will take place in July?

The PRIME MINISTER: There is no truth in the rumours which have appeared in the Press to this effect.

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION BILL.

MR. McKENNA (Home Secretary) moved the Second Reading of the Bill, and explained its principal provisions. They deal with imprisonment for non-payment of fines, and with the punishment of juvenile offenders. Mr. McKenna stated that nearly 80,000 persons had been imprisoned for fines during the year, March, 1911—March, 1912, many of whom would have paid their fines had time been allowed them. The Bill provides that seven days be given in the case of fines of less than 40s., or longer, at the discretion of the Court on application. Fines are to include costs, which at present frequently exceed the whole amount of the fine, and hard labour is not to be imposed in the case of imprisonment where the fine is not paid. The means of the offender are to be taken into consideration in fixing the amount of the fine.

Dealing with the question of young delinquents, Mr. McKenna proposed that an offender of "proved bad character," may, after being twice convicted of a summary offence, be sent to a Borstal institution. The minimum period of such commitment is to be two years (instead of one), and the maximum three (as before).

"We do not intend the Borstal institutions to be anything like a prison, and as we develop in the management of the Borstal institutions, I can assure the House that they will be more and more removed from anything in the nature of a prison, and become more and more purely reformative and training institutions. But taking a young offender between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one, you cannot effect any real change in his character or habits in a short period of time. . . . We are dealing only with the youthful offender. Our great object is to keep him out of prison. I, indeed, look forward to the day when no person under twenty-one will be found in any ordinary prison, but we have to go step by step, and I believe that in this Bill we are making a long step forward in this direction."

MR. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University, U.) objected to the clause which provides that, "if a prisoner is suffering from a complaint which requires a surgical operation to be performed," the Secretary of State may make an order to that effect. He begged to add "with the consent of the prisoner."

MR. EDGAR JONES (Merthyr Tydvil, L.) said that, at least ninety per cent. of the delinquent children were without criminal taint, and urged the extension of the probation-officer system. He advised the issue of a pamphlet explaining in simple language what the law about children is.

MR. HOARE (Chelsea, U.) urged the extension of the Children Act. He pointed out that very few Children's Courts have been set up, some magistrates being content to let the child sit through the ordinary cases, and then take the child's case at the end, constituting the Court "a Children's Court" for the purpose, and dismissing reporters. He also urged the appointment of special magistrates for children's cases, and a probation-officer for every court.

MR. PRICE (Central Edinburgh, L.) complained of the inequality of sentences, and asked that there should be a Court empowered to revise them. He instanced the case in Glasgow, where a man infected his two daughters, of 11 and 9 years old, with venereal disease, and got six months.

MR. PRATT (Linlithgow, L.) urged that Children's Courts should be held at quite a different hour from the Adult Court, and that offenders of under fourteen should be in the hands, not of the police, but the education authorities. He spoke with great praise of the Children's Court of Mr. Cecil Chapman, "carried on on very humane and excellent lines." Mr. Pratt also pleaded for the appointment of women probation-officers.

The debate stood adjourned.

Thursday, April 16th.

In the debate on Supply, MR. CLANCY (Dublin Co., N.) called attention to the fact that the disgraceful housing conditions in Dublin had been made known to the House of Commons as long ago as 1908, in a speech of his own on the Second Reading of a Housing Bill. There were then 21,747

families living in one-room tenements; there are still 20,108. Tuberculosis is bred in such surroundings, as is proved by the fact that the rate is very high in these tenements, but quite low among the domestic servants who come from them into better conditions in the houses of the rich. It was not the fault of the Corporation, which had done all it possibly could; it was due to the poverty of the towns, the high rates in the towns, and the unwillingness of Parliament to give any assistance. The Housing and Town-planning Act of 1908 had been deprived of its chief financial provision by the House; but even so, all possible advantage had been taken of it in Ireland.

SIR A. GRIFFITH-BOSCAWEN (Dudley, U.) contended that both the Dublin Corporation and the Local Government Board were to blame, and quoted Miss Harrison's report:—

"Miss Harrison stated that according to the last Census there were 118,000 people badly housed in Dublin, against 104,000 under the previous Census. Miss Harrison produced a report which showed that there were 12,000 people living four in one room; 11,000, five in one room; 8,000, six in one room; 5,000, seven in one room; 3,000, eight in one room; 1,000 living nine in one room; 450 living ten in one room; 170 living eleven in one room; and 60 living twelve in one room. That is not living eleven in one room; it is Joseph Downes said that he knew a tenement house not far from the General Post Office in which 88 people lived, and that there was also a house in Henrietta Street where 87 people lived."

MR. BRADY (S. Stephen's Green, N.) said, Commission after Commission had sat, in 1879, 1880, and 1900, and urged reform, but the Corporation could not get powers to deal with the matter. It can only be dealt with adequately on imperial lines.

Friday, April 17th.

### EXPERIMENTS ON DOGS.

SIR F. BANBURY (City of London, U.) moved the second reading of the "Dogs' Bill," the object of which is to prohibit experiments on dogs. The measure, he said, did not stop vivisection. It only prevented scientists who carried out experiments on living creatures from using dogs for that purpose. They could use any other animal they liked. Man had, for his pleasure and profit, made the dog different from every other animal, and dogs should be exempted from being put to the torture of these experiments.

SIR PHILIP MAGNUS (London University, U.) said the Bill was opposed by nearly all the distinguished scientific men in the country, and would do more harm to public health than the millions they had spent on the Insurance Act and sanatoria would do good.

DR. CHAPPLE (Stirlingshire, L.) said that cheapness was only one of many reasons, infinitely more important, why dogs should be used for experiments. Surgery to-day was absolutely painless, and so was vivisection. Hydrophobia had been abolished in this country by experiments on dogs.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH (Under Secretary for the Home Office) said, as far as the Home Office was concerned, he desired to state most emphatically that they did not consider there was any foundation for the charge that there was cruelty at present in this country in regard to this matter.

What he favoured was not the total prohibition of all experiments on dogs, but, if an additional safeguard were necessary, and if the suggestion he now made were accepted, no one would be able to make an experiment upon a dog unless it were proved that no other animal was available for the purpose. That was frankly a compromise. He did not want to oppose the second reading, but he would be under the necessity of supporting or moving some amendment in Committee to give dogs this additional safeguard.

The Bill was read a second time.

Monday, April 20th.

MR. C. BATHURST asked how many women might be co-opted on to the Board relating to women's rural education. MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flintshire, L.) replied at some length, but gave no information.

MR. DOUGLAS HALL (Isle of Wight, U.) asked whether the owners of property could be protected from Suffragette outrages. MR. McKENNA thought the police were doing their best. He was considering the legality of certain articles in a newspaper sold in the streets, with a view to taking steps in the matter.

### Gems from the Debate.

MR. LEACH: "Not only are many Members guilty of speaking at very great length, which tries the patience of some of us who have been speaking for forty years, but some Members of this House speak very frequently."

(To speak for more than forty years frequently, does seem a little excessive!)

MR. HOGGE (E. Edinburgh, L.): "I got up, and attempted to make a speech, and nobody would listen to me. Nobody wanted to. Hon. members cried, 'Divide! divide!' and yet (mysteriously) they had no idea what I wanted to say!" (Sensation.)

## SUFFRAGISTS AND SUFFRAGETTES.

In response to an invitation from the Editor of the *Morning Post* to Mrs. Tennant, to co-operate in finding a suitable term to distinguish militant from non-militant Suffragists, the following memorial has been sent:—

"We, the undersigned, having read the letter of the Editor of the *Morning Post* to Mrs. Coombe Tennant, would reply that we think it desirable in the interests of clear thinking to use the word 'Suffragettes' to designate the militant section of the Women's Suffrage Movement and confine the word 'Suffragists' to the law-abiding sections of that movement, who have always been strongly opposed to methods of violence. We would urge that the former term has for some years been generally used and commonly understood in the sense indicated, and further that it has been officially adopted by the Militant section as the title of their paper, *The Suffragette*.—Signed: G. Lowes Dickinson, Fellow and Lecturer of King's College, Cambridge; Desmond MacCarthy; Professor Gilbert Murray, Regius Professor of Greek in the University of Oxford; Canon Parry, D.D., Senior Dean of Trinity College, Cambridge; Mrs. Henry Sidgwick, formerly Principal of Newnham College, Cambridge; L. Pearsall Smith; Professor James Ward, Sc.D., F.B.A., &c., Professor of Mental Philosophy in the University of Cambridge.

## THE NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS.

### WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

The debate on Women's Suffrage took place last week as we were going to press.

Miss Cleghorn moved—

"That this Conference expresses its sympathy with those members of the National Union of Teachers who desire to possess and exercise the Parliamentary franchise, but because they are women, and for that reason alone, are by law debarred from it."

She disclaimed militancy, but urged that Women's Suffrage would help teachers to secure many of the objects that were embodied in the rules of the Union.

Mr. H. Smith seconded.

MR. A. C. COOK moved that the question of Women's Suffrage was outside the scope of the N.U.T., and the Executive should refrain from supporting motions bearing on the subject. Miss Blacker seconded. Some disorder and interruptions took place during the speeches, and finally Miss Froud moved the previous question. When it was voted on, the Suffragists demanded a division, and this made it impossible to vote on the resolution being taken, as no further time could be allotted to it.

## THE WORKING OF INSURANCE.

The Fabian Research Department is investigating the working of Industrial Life Assurance, the provision of funeral benefit by Friendly Societies, etc., and Mr. Sidney Webb is making an appeal for information under the following heads:—

- (1) The good effects, and the bad, of the canvassing system, which makes Industrial Insurance so costly.
- (2) Whether the insured persons always get what is due to them, and if not, on what grounds payment is refused.
- (3) The good effects, and the bad, of insuring babies' lives; and whether there is now any injurious "gambling in lives."
- (4) Lapsed policies, why they lapse, who profits by their lapse, and what surrender value or fully paid up policy is given to the policyholder in exchanged for the lapsed policy.
- (5) Why millions of poor people prefer the expensive policies of the Companies to the cheaper policies of the Post Office.
- (6) How the Co-operative Insurance works, under which every store member finds himself and his wife automatically insured, in proportion to their purchases, without having to pay any weekly pennies at all.

A full list of points for enquiry will be sent on application to Mr. Sidney Webb, at 37, Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C.

## URBAN DISTRICT COUNCILS.

The following women candidates have been elected:—

- Finchley—Mrs. Alfred Hardie (Independent).  
Hendon—Miss E. C. Growse (Independent).  
Mrs. Richardson Rice (Progressive).  
Kirkham—Miss Birley (Progressive).  
Ilfracombe—Mrs. H. P. Hammond.  
Windlesham—Mrs. Boyce (Re-elected).  
(Fourteen women stood for election altogether.)

## WIMBLEDON BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

Lady Anderson, a member of the committee of the Wimbledon Branch of the London W. S. Society, nominated to represent the Cottingham Park Ward, on the Kingston Board of Guardians, has been returned unopposed. The other nominees retired in her favour.

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- The MARTINI HAND-PRINTED LINEN.—A fine large bird design in black and white.  
50 ins. wide, 4/11 per yard.
- The CHIPPENDALE.—Charming design in refined colours, suitable for use in a Chippendale room. In many treatments of colour.  
31 ins. wide, 1/9½ per yard.
- The CAVENDISH CRETONNE.—An interesting Queen Anne design reproduced in new colour treatment. In four arrangements of colour.  
31 ins. wide, 1/2½ per yard.
- See our windows in Oxford Street, which are specially devoted to black-and-white schemes.
- The GRAND PEONEAS.—This design was actually inspired by a bunch of artificial velvet flowers. It is a magnificent treatment of rich shot colours, and is exceptional when used for loose covers with shot velvet or shot silk curtains. Also in four other fine treatments of colour. Hand-printed Cretonne, 5/9 per yard, 50 ins. wide.
- The CHELSEA VASE.—A design copied exact in every detail from a rare old Chelsea vase now in South Kensington Museum. This design looks delightful for loose covers or curtains in a room with old china and pictures. Hand-printed Cretonne, 5/6 per yard, 50 ins. wide.
- The GENOESE.—Fine reproduction of a rare piece of antique Genoa velvet. Gives an excellent result with old furniture in almost any description of room.  
31 ins. wide, 2/6 per yard.
- The RHODODENDRON.—Charming treatment of Natural Flowers on black ground. Cretonne.  
31 ins. wide, 7/4d. per yard.
- The JAPANESE BIRDS.—The origin of this design was some fragments of very ancient Japanese wallpaper bought from an old designer in Paris, and has proved an excellent design for use with Eastern rugs or decoration. In very bright Japanese colours. Hand-printed Linen.  
4/11 per yard, 50 ins. wide.
- The ROCK BIRD.—Our artist, in reproducing this design from a rare document of Chinese embroidery, has kept in view the enormous waste that usually occurs when cutting loose covers from this style of pattern, and has combined the full beauty of the Chinese birds in their natural floral surroundings without making the design too large. Supplied in four distinct treatments of colour. Hand-printed Taffeta, 5/11 per yard, 50 ins. wide.

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## WOMEN AS DIRECTORS.

Mr. Thomas Ogilvie, of Dundee, has been advocating the appointment of women as directors of companies. He points out that:—

More than one-half (500) of the partners of the Dundee, Perth and London Shipping Company are women, and that if they could be induced to exercise the votes they possess they could easily elect three or four women as directors. The duties are light, and the fees substantial. Thousands of women in all parts of the United Kingdom are shareholders in railway, shipping, and industrial companies of every description. If they were really in earnest about exercising a vote they have here an excellent opportunity for women desiring a career that would give lucrative employment. Frequently vital matters arise which women would treat with instinctive righteousness, with more equity, humanity, and justice than man.

Intimation has been given to Mr. Alexander Gilroy, the Chairman of the Dundee, Perth and London Shipping Company, that at the special meeting of the company, to be held on the 29th inst., it will be moved that the qualification for a director be reduced from £1,200, instead of increased to £1,400, and that two women be elected as directors.

## WOMEN VOTERS FOR UNIVERSITY CANDIDATE.

At a meeting on April 17th of the Welsh University Guild, it was proposed and carried unanimously that if the Welsh University was granted a Parliamentary representative, women graduates should vote on equal terms with men. A copy of the resolution is to be sent to every Welsh Member of Parliament.

## "C.C.C."

This week we publish a special Exhibition number. Will visitors to Woman's Kingdom remember that whenever they have an hour, or even less, to spare, they will find someone in THE COMMON CAUSE Lounge ready to provide them with papers to sell?

## "MORE DARKNESS ON THE WOMAN QUESTION."

Mrs. Stuart, speaking at Norwich at the Annual Meeting of the Norwich Suffrage Society, said:—

"Do not be misled by didactic statements as to the proper sphere of woman, and by solemn assurances that the history of the world proves that women should continue to occupy such and such positions, &c. As to the whole question of women's position in the past, we may well apply Artemus Ward's words to it, and say that 'the researches of many eminent antiquarians have thrown much darkness on the subject, and it is probable if they continue their labours that we shall soon know nothing at all.'"—*(Eastern Daily Press, April 16th.)*

## NEWS FROM ABROAD.

## AUSTRALIA.

## Equal Pay for Equal Work.

Inequalities in the treatment of men and women in Government service in Australia are not allowed to pass unchallenged. The signers of the Minority Report of the Victorian Postal Commissioners, commenting on the alleged inferiority of treatment and of payment accorded to women in the post office department, remark:—

"If these allegations are true, they constitute a serious violation of the principles of the Commonwealth Public Service Act. To close the avenues of employment in Commonwealth Service against women, especially those who are obliged to seek their own living, is a great injustice. This practice is opposed to the intention of the Commonwealth Parliament and to the spirit and the letter of the Act."

The *Woman Voter* for February 17th reports:—

"The question of equal pay for equal work was raised by Mr. Ernslie, M.L.A., leader of the State Parliamentary Labour Party on the 4th inst., in the early morning hours after an all night sitting during the debate on the estimates. To those of us who have stood for equal pay since Woman Suffrage became a question of practical politics in 1891 last week's debate causes deep rejoicing. From 1891 to 1908 the year we won the vote for the State Parliament, equal pay was never even spoken of except by a few members of the Labour Party. . . . In February, 1909, three months after we were enfranchised, equal pay was secured for the junior grade of State school teachers, a reform which marked the beginning of the end—equal pay for equal work right through the State public service and in private employment."

## A MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY.

We have received the following resolutions, passed by the National Council of Women of Queensland:—

(1) "The West Australian National Council of Women at the annual

meeting assembled send sympathy and moral support to the women of Great Britain in their efforts to obtain political rights, and trust that the day is not far distant when women subjects of Oversea Dominions of Greater Britain shall obtain and enjoy their political status in whatsoever part of the Empire they may be domiciled."

(2) "This Council views with deep concern any difference being made in the treatment of male and female political offenders in their efforts to obtain constitutional rights of any kind."

## NEW ZEALAND.

Our New Zealand correspondent sends us some notes on legislation, in which she reminds us that:—

(1) State Registration for Nurses has been law in New Zealand for about ten years.

(2) In all respects the New Zealand marriage laws are placed on a just and equal footing, but a movement is on foot to raise the marriage age in New Zealand to 18 and 16 for men and women respectively.

(3) It is hoped that this year will see some just and statesmanlike dealing with the subject of venereal disease. It has been recommended that a Commission should consider the question. The women's societies are meantime jealously watching the effect of suggestions as to schemes of compulsory notification, fearing a tendency to return to the system which prevailed under the Contagious Diseases Acts, now finally repealed in New Zealand.

## FRENCH ELECTIONS.

The first ballots of the General Election will be held on April 26th, and the second ballots, where necessary, on May 10th. *L'Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes* has issued a circular, appealing to the women of France to use all the influence they have in the coming elections. "What men have been unable to do, you must have courage and patriotism to attempt. Use your influence that the votes go before all else, to men of high character, who will be a force in raising our country. The majority of Members of Parliament imagine that the vendors of alcohol are the masters in elections. That is only a superstition, but it will end by becoming a fact if we leave it alone." It is hoped by the Union that, by means of thus showing the interest of women in social reforms, "the rights scarcely now denied to us in principle will be affirmed in practice as a necessity for the moral and social progress of our country."

## HOLLAND.

The Amsterdam correspondent of the *Daily Citizen* (April 18th) reports that the Congress of the Dutch Socialist Party has just ended.

"On the subject of universal suffrage, it was decided that, if the Upper Chamber opposes the revision of the Constitution, the party will organise a one-day general strike throughout the country." It will be remembered that the revision of the Constitution in Holland is to include Women's Suffrage, according to the promise given in the Queen's Speech from the Throne last August.

## RUSSIA.

The Czar has just recently given his consent to a new law which revolutionises the position of married women in Russia. Dr. Sophia Gordon, writing in the *New Statesman*, remarks:—"A wife could not even obtain a passport without her husband's sanction, and was consequently unable to travel or to take a lodging without his permission, or even to dwell apart from him. The new law practically sets free the separated wife. It gives her full liberty to travel, and enjoyment of property, even if she is under age. She will apply for her own passport; there will be no judicial order for a restoration of conjugal rights, and no summary bringing back by the police." Dr. Gordon also informs us that practically all the progressive parties of Russia include in their programmes complete equality of rights for men and women. Motions for redressing the special legal grievances of women are frequently discussed in the Duma, and the new law is one outcome of these discussions.

A widespread agitation is being set on foot by the League for Woman Suffrage to obtain votes for women in the forthcoming revision of the electoral system by the Duma.

## SWEDEN.

*Rösträtt for Kvinnor* announces the formation of a political association of Liberal women, which includes in its programme:—

- (1) Insistence on preparation for adequate national defence.
- (2) Necessity for social reform, especially in regard to temperance.
- (3) An increased measure of democratic government.
- (4) The solution of the question of Women's Enfranchisement during the ensuing session.

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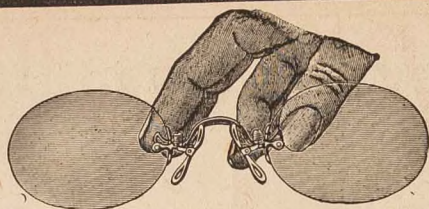
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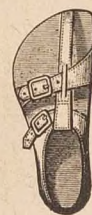
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## The Laugh in the Church.

BY ELIZABETH BANKS.

(Author of "The Luck of the Black Cat," &c.)

Nobody knew the name of the woman who laughed in the church, and those who were near enough to get a good look at her said they had never seen her face before.

It was a solemn moment when the woman laughed. A minister of God was officiating at the ceremony of marriage, and before the altar knelt a young girl of less than twenty, wearing bridal robe and orange blossoms. Her face was pale and sweet and innocent, and in her downcast eyes there was a look of religious awe. On her ungloved hand shone the band of gold which told that already she was legally a wife, although the church ceremonial was not yet quite finished.

By her side knelt the man who had chosen her, now her husband. He was twice her age, but as she was so young herself, that could still leave him a man not old in years. His face was flushed, and blotched in places. His eyes were the eyes of what is known as "a man of the world." He was not tall, and he was somewhat stout. People spoke of him as a "good liver." He had money, plenty of it, so they said, and for years he had been regarded by managing mothers as a "good catch."

"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the Church; and he is the saviour of the body. . . . Let the wife see that she reverence her husband. . . ."

It was here that the laugh had been heard, clear and ringing, and full of a satirical sneer. Both the minister and the congregation were shocked at the sacrilege of that laugh at so solemn a moment. There were those who said that the laugh made them shudder, others who declared that it sent a chill into their very hearts.

Who was the woman, and why had she laughed? So they questioned among themselves. Some said it was just a hysterical woman, one of those who are sure to laugh at the wrong time—at funerals, at tragedies, at weddings. Others said it was merely a school-girl, a friend of the youthful bride's, who had come late and taken a back seat, and just then happened to think of some silly thing which made her giggle—yet who could call that laugh a "giggle"? There were those who thought she might have been a cast-off mistress of the bridegroom, mother of a child which rumour said he had fathered. Then, certain ones said she must surely be one of those young women who, virgin on meeting him, had been left despoiled of their maidenhood and of their trust in men.

So they wondered and conjectured. Some there were who believed that the laughing woman was but a passing stranger, drawn into the church by curiosity, and who, looking first at the little bride and then at the bridegroom, had given vent to a keen sense of humor when she heard the exhortation of the minister.

There was still another opinion. It was held by one who hurried from the church, awe-struck and dumb. To this one it seemed that no living woman had laughed, nor, indeed, any mortal; but that, in derision, God Himself had laughed in the House which men have called His own.

## "A Woman's Work is Never Done."

"If only we could live without eatin'!" said Mrs. Best. "How easy women's lives 'ud be! As it is, first thing as soon as I open my eyes, it's breakfast; no sooner 'ave I washed up—sometimes before I can get to do it—it's dinner; all mornin' runnin' to the oven door, if it's a baked dinner, and runnin' to pull pan lids off, or to draw 'em back, or to poke the fire up to make 'em boil, if it's a boiled dinner; and then another lot of messy pots to wash up; and then to think of a tasty bit for 'is tea; wash up tea things; and then a bite for his supper before we go to bed. An' 'gettin' yer work done in between, an' nervin' yerself to let the baby cry, because if you don't, the pans will boil over, an' all the ashes will blow up all over yer clean clo'se as is dryin' on th' line over th' fire-place! I often tell me 'usbun' as if we'd no bellies women 'ud live longer."

"Well, I don't bother wi' dinners ev'ry day, same as you," answered Mrs. Temple, as she gently swayed her baby backwards and forwards in her arms. "I believe in lookin' after a baby first. Me mother allis said, 'Look after 'em for the first twelve months, an' then you can turn 'em loose.'"

"Nay, you can't, neethur," answered Mrs. Best. "They're only just larnin' to walk then, an' you've to 'ave eyes all over you. When they're three months old like mine, you can lay 'em down an' let 'em roar, while you peg your clo'se out; but when they're past twelve months, they'll either creep, or they'll walk to wherever they want to go, an' yer 'eart's i' yer mouth a 'undred times a day. They'll

either be dabblin' in the dolly tub, or they'll be pokin' yer boiler fire, or they'll be pullin' at yer pan 'andles, or they'll be pourin' water inter 'is best shoes, or they'll be gettin' the scissors, or diggin' i' th' coal bucket—nay, I've four, an' I know! But what do you get for dinners then, if you don't neethur boil nor bake?" with frank curiosity.

"Oh, whatever's 'andy. I don't trouble meself. If I can boil 'taters, I do it; but I go on the plan of lookin' after the baby first."

"Well, you couldn't do that if you'd to live wi' Mr. Best," commented the latter's wife. "An' I doubt if you'll do it when your fourth's come."

"Oh, Mr. Temple agrees wi' me," answered Mrs. Temple. "Neither of us thinks much of food."

"Some women are born lucky," said Mrs. Best, with a sniff. "Mr. Best is a blacksmith, an' when I grumble about 'im eatin' so much, 'e tells me as I should eat, an' all, if I'd to use me muscles an' sweat like 'e does. 'An' 'e doesn't take no excuse, such as th' baby 'as been that cross I couldn't get time to do no vegetables. If 'e doesn't swear, 'e sulks, an' I can't bide to live wi' neither a lion nor a bear. So yer see, I 'ave to manage to feed 'im, as well as look after t' baby."

"Well, I didn't get one like that," said Mrs. Temple. "I don't think I should 'a' got married if there 'adn't 'a' been somebody different to that."

Mrs. Best's upper lip stiffened. "What's wrong wi' 'im?" she demanded. "'E doesn't ever get drunk, an' 'e's good-tempered enough if you fill 'is belly. I don't know 'ow men does their work as lives on what they can catch. Wasn't your 'usband at 'ome 'avin' Lloyd George, a week or two back?" with suspicion. "Yes, 'e was. 'E got a cold, an' it got on 'is chest."

"'E may well get a cold," said Mrs. Best, "if 'e doesn't get nothin' into 'im to keep it out."

"Well," returned Mrs. Temple, with a suspicion of fright in her voice, "I can't help it. This child will not let me get the work done. Last night I was washin' at bed-time. Every time I put 'er down she cried, an' every time I took 'er up she was as good as gold."

"You 'ave to let 'em cry sometimes," said Mrs. Best, "or else learn 'ow to do things wi' 'em in your arms."

"I've done both," said Mrs. Temple, desperately, as they sat down on one of the park seats, the latter with her baby in her arms, and Mrs. Best with hers in the pram beside her. "But the neighbour on the other side 'as knocked at the door once or twice to know if I was killin' me baby, an' sayin' as the noise was drivin' 'er 'usband to the public 'ouse, an' I must stop it off. 'Aven't you 'eard 'er?" (Mrs. Best lived on the other side of Mrs. Temple's house.)

"No, I can't say as I 'ave," answered the latter, "not as I should notice it if I 'ad,—only to feel glad as some'dy else was 'avin' a taste, as well as me. But I'll bet as mine was makin' too much row for me to 'ear."

"What makes 'er so tiresome, do you think?" asked Mrs. Temple, anxiously. "She's well enough. She's gettin' fat. At a lecture I went to before she was born, it was said as a 'ealthy baby never cries."

Mrs. Best laughed. "It doesn't if you'll inter-est it," she said. "But if you've to leave it starin' at nothin' when it wants to be noticin', it'll let yer know as it thinks different."

"Some folks says let 'em cry, an' then they'll learn to be good," said Mrs. Temple. "But I somehow can't do it. It tears me nerves into pieces. T'other day, I got things in to make a dinner, an' she started to roar before I'd 'alf got it ready, an' I was that flustered, I put sugar inter the 'taters, an' salt inter the apple pie."

"Aye, there's a lot o' folks ready enough at teachin' yer 'ow to do things," said Mrs. Best, sarcastically, "but if they'd to look after a toothin' child, an' do their 'ousework, an' get the meals ready as well, p'raps they'd know better what they was talkin' about."

"One 'as told me to let 'em cry 'ad done it," announced Mrs. Temple. "She said as they roared a time or two, an' then be'aved themselves ever after."

"Yes," said Mrs. Best, "some women are born lucky, both as regards 'usbands an' babbies, an' then they 'ave a aggravin' way o' settin' up as eggsamples to everybody else. When you've 'ad your babbies, same as me, you know as there's at least four different sorts an' you've to adapt yourself to them—not them to you—an' every woman knows best 'erself what sort of a 'usband she's got, an' as it's 'er as 'as 'im to live with, I think as folks ought to see as 'e's 'er bi'miss an' not theirs. You do as well as yer can wi' your 'usband an' yer baby, Mrs. Temple, an never mind what them says as is so fond o' preachin'."

They rose and wended their way homewards. "What I allis says is," finished up Mrs. Best, "as us women 'as too much on 'and. I could do me 'ousework an' be a lady if we'd no bellies to fill, an' if I'd no babbies to keep inter-ested; an' if I'd no 'ousework an' no bellies, I could look after me children well enough; an' if I'd no 'ousework an' no child'en, I could fill bellies an' get a bit o' peace in between; but look after childer, an' do me washin', an' bakin', an' cleannin' an' mendin', and fill bellies is donkey's work. I sometimes wonder whether us women are women—or donkeys!"

ADA NIELD CHEW.

## "Ghosts."

A private performance of Ibsen's "Ghosts," organised by Mr. T. T. Grein, will be given on Sunday, April 26th, at 8 p.m., at the Royal Court Theatre. Mesdames Bessie Hatton, Dorothy Drake, Messieurs Leon Quartermain, J. Fisher White, Stacy, and Aumonier will be among the caste. (See Advt., page 62.)

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ABC OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

IN CALIFORNIA—WHERE WOMEN VOTE.

ARE WOMEN INTERESTED IN CIVIC MATTERS?

In Los Angeles, of a total registration of 175,000, there were 80,000 women registered during the first ten days after the Suffrage amendment passed. All over the State women who had been indifferent or opposed to the Suffrage registered as a matter of course and were among the first to organise for civic education and work.

WERE WOMEN REPRESENTED BEFORE THEY HAD THE SUFFRAGE?

In one precinct of California which gave 139 votes against Suffrage to 88 for Suffrage, there were 628 women who voted, to 549 men, in the first city election after the passing of the Suffrage Amendment. In another precinct that went against Suffrage (169 against to 113 for), at the city election following there were 962 votes cast by women to 843 by men. Is it not strange to insist that women were already represented by men when 169 men had voted to deny Suffrage to women in a precinct where 962 women afterwards voted at the very first opportunity?

DO WOMEN VOTE?

Of the women who registered for the very first election in Los Angeles 95 per cent. voted. In some precincts in San Diego 100 per cent. actually voted. In local elections throughout the State the average has been about 90 per cent.

ARE WOMEN CONTAMINATED BY THE SURROUNDINGS OF THE POLLS?

Women do not have to vote in objectionable places in California. The polls are now located in tents in the open streets, in schools and churches and in other innocuous places, vide the following post card from one newly-enfranchised citizen to another:

"Voted at sun-up in a millinery shop! Came forth unsullied, with my interest in the home undiminished and my 'womanliness' intact! What about you?"

In many places women served all day long at the polls as clerks of election, even those women who had formerly been Anti-suffragists.

ARE WOMEN NEGLECTING THEIR HOME DUTIES IN ORDER TO VOTE?

Precincts are small and polling places are always in one's home neighbourhood, so that frequently the housewife needs only to cross the street or go round the corner, taking not more than five or ten minutes out of her busy day. The children play about the

booths, and husband or neighbour cares for the baby while the mother votes.

DOES THE "BAD WOMAN" VOTE SWAMP THE GOOD WOMAN VOTE?

The registration of "bad women" in California has amounted to practically nothing; for instance, in one city precinct frequented by such women, there were but two women's names registered. In none of such precincts in the same city were there more than ten women registered, all of whom may have been respectable wives of working men who lived in those districts.

IS WOMAN'S "INFLUENCE" BETTER THAN HER VOTE?

In San Francisco the Inspector of Buildings says that, now he can say to the builders, when they violate the law about air, light, and space, "There is one organisation of voters (the San Francisco Civic Centre, 220 Post Street), numbering over a thousand public-spirited women, who are going to see whether you violate the law. A dozen of these women are out measuring up your new tenements, and if you don't put up the right sort of buildings you will have all these voters to reckon with."

DO MEN TREAT WOMEN WITH LESS RESPECT?

Since the granting of Suffrage to women, the men of California, in the minor courtesies of life, are no less chivalrous than they were before, while in public life women's advice is found to be valuable, and it is impossible to over-estimate the added dignity and respect with which she is now regarded. Many men who had opposed Woman Suffrage, after the recent elections, honestly stated their mistake and said: "We are heartily ashamed that we voted against women's enfranchisement, for we find women as keen of judgment and as thoroughly alive to public interests as any man."

DO WOMEN MAKE INTELLIGENT CITIZENS?

All over the State, irrespective of occupation, colour or race, the "new voters" have organised clubs for the study of public questions, and have introduced civic sections into existing clubs. Normal classes have been formed to train teachers for the education of civic workers, and study lists and bulletins have been sent broadcast, on Registration, on Voting, on Election Laws, and on other subjects of particular interest to women.

(Reprinted from a leaflet issued by the Northern California Branch of the College Equal Suffrage League.)

THE NATIONAL UNION

Is the great Non-Party, Non-Militant, Women's Suffrage Society. If you approve of our methods and objects, please fill in the accompanying Form and send it to the Secretary.

I approve of the objects and methods of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and desire to be enrolled as a member of the affiliated Society in my district, and to receive their organ "The Common Cause."

I herewith enclose cheque for £ s. d., the amount of my annual subscription. Plus 6s. 6d., one year's subscription to "The Common Cause."

Name (Mrs., Miss, Esq., or other Title.)

Address (in full.)

To the Secretary, Society for Women's Suffrage.

Or the Secretary, National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

\* Please cross out if not required.

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 Roswitha, by Otto Ernst. (1) Roswitha's Day; (2) Roswitha or Philosophy? 2s. and 1s. 6d. each. "Roswitha" is a record of the sayings and doings of a little girl of three or four by her father, a genial and cultured humanist.  
 The Scotsman says: "Roswitha is very real and wholly charming."  
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Note the Address: 81, FRIDAY STREET, off Queen Victoria Street (2 minutes from Mansion House Station).

Woman's Kingdom 'Souvenir.'

If you cannot personally visit Woman's Kingdom, you should NOT fail to send for the Souvenir, which contains a full account of the Exhibition, and interesting matter and statistics invaluable to suffragists. A new photograph of Mrs. Fawcett is on the cover.  
 Price 3d., with postage 4d., from N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.



"Nouvilla." 45/9 "Clive." 25/6 "Cedris." 29/11 "Vera." 29/11 "Vayner." 39/6



"Winifred." 39/11 "Gladys." 45/9 "Ella." 14/11 "Phyllis." 31/6 "Esmeralda." 94/6

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## Correspondence.

THE N.U. AND THE WOMEN'S POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS.  
MADAM,—I was glad to read in a recent issue that it is a mistake to suppose that the National Union intentionally discourages its members from joining, or remaining in, other political associations. I quite understand that Rule v., ii., only applies to officers and members of N.U. Committees, but I submit that if these are obliged to stand aside when their help is most needed in the political associations to which they belong, the practical effect is discouraging to the ordinary members who are not so bound, as well as to themselves. In my own case, at a recent by-election I was quite convinced that I should best serve the interests of the Suffrage Cause by joining the Liberal Women's Suffrage Union, and throwing such little weight as I could into the scale in order to demonstrate that local Liberalism was not entirely hostile or indifferent to the Cause of Women's Suffrage. The National Union was, of course, only doing propaganda work, and not supporting the Government candidate, who was a Suffragist. During the by-election I therefore left the N.U. Committee, for which I was acting as Secretary, and have now returned to my work. I mention this because, though I felt bound to keep the rule of affiliation, I think it is rather ridiculous to be obliged to leave a Committee in order to keep the letter of the law. It does not impress anybody as far as I can see, and only causes inconvenience to the Committee which has to find another secretary in a hurry, and at a time when a good deal of work is going on. I felt quite sure I was serving the real interests of the National Union best by acting as I did, for I cannot see how we are to get a Liberal Government Measure if the Liberal Party is to be deprived of the active support of those who are most keen on Women's Suffrage. We do not want the Anti-Suffragists to have it all their own way. Surely, such a body as the Liberal Women's Suffrage Union could be safely trusted to work for the right people, and one should not be obliged to leave the National Union in order to work with it? I quite realise the debt we owe to the Labour Party, and I hope those who can do so will help it as much as possible, but I do think the present election policy of N.U. tends to check the process of education in Suffrage principles with regard to the other two great parties which are, at present, less enlightened on this question.

Another point I should like to urge is that the present election policy of never supporting a Government candidate bewilders and mystifies those whom it is meant to impress, and to whom Women's Suffrage is one of many interests. Even the Labour Party failed on one occasion to understand it, and most of the time of the Council Meeting was taken up with assiduous efforts to make it clear and to justify it to ourselves. Could not something less intricate be evolved which would enable us all to work for the one great Cause with a little more liberty and discretion? A. CONSTANCE DAVIES.

[It does not seem to us "intricate" that Suffragists should refuse to support the candidates of a Government which refuses to support any measure of Women's Suffrage.—Ed., C.C.]

### MILITANCY.

MADAM,—Law-abiding Suffragists are honestly puzzled to know on what principle the Executive discriminates between Sir Edward Carson and Mrs. Pankhurst. The Law Officers to the Crown advised a prosecution of Mrs. Pankhurst for conspiring to commit breaches of the law, and they secured a conviction. The public has not yet been informed whether the Law Officers consider that a conviction of Sir Edward Carson would follow a prosecution. Even if they do, the duty of the Executive is to weigh the considerations for and against a prosecution. There is no legal obligation to proceed. There might be, if Sir Edward's organisation in Ulster led to breaches of the peace. So far, Sir Edward claims that his organisation helps to maintain the peace.

The W.S.P.U., on the contrary, was held by the jury to be responsible for breaches of the peace. Had the Executive been engaged at that time in negotiations for an alteration of the law, and had the W.S.P.U. an organised force as formidable as the Ulster Volunteers, a prosecution would probably have defeated the larger object of the Executive. Mrs. Pankhurst was subsequently convicted of responsibility for the destruction of property (at the risk of loss of life). If Sir Edward can be shown to be similarly responsible, it might be the duty of the Executive to proceed against him, even at the risk of a prosecution leading to disorder. A LAYMAN.

MADAM,—In view of the condemnation of violence [as practised by militant Suffragists and threatened by the people of Ulster] repeatedly expressed of late in THE COMMON CAUSE, editorially as well as by correspondents, may I venture to ask how this is to be reconciled with our support of the Labour Party, which has not only had frequent recourse to violence in this country, but has lately welcomed with open arms the leaders of a party in South Africa which is committed to a policy of violence? It will be of great assistance to me and others if you can give a satisfactory explanation. I believe it to be a stumbling-block to many members of the N.U. A NON-MILITANT.

[The Labour Party, like the N.U.W.S.S., has constantly deprecated the use of violence, and—again like the N.U.—is as constantly held responsible for the irresponsible acts of some of those who are working for the same objects as itself. In this we both suffer for the errors of others. With regard to the South African Labour Party, we have no information, but we observe that the DAILY CITIZEN of March 11th urges the use of ALL CONSTITUTIONAL METHODS in support of the deported Labour leaders. Owing to pressure on our space, important letters have had to be held over.—Ed., C.C.]

## A MINE OF INTERESTING INFORMATION.

In addition to attractions of a lighter kind, "Woman's Kingdom" contains a perfect mine of information, useful to anyone interested in the woman's movement or the welfare of children. A man who had adopted a seven-months old baby came in looking very harassed and disappointed, but after a long talk with one of the Commissionaires went away much cheered, with a copy of "Hints on Infant Management," and another of THE COMMON CAUSE, saying that he had learnt more about the care of children in this one section of Olympia than in all the others put together.

Indeed, a considerable proportion of the N.U.'s exhibition is devoted to children. Besides the Kindergarten shown in our photograph there are an Infant Welfare and School Hygiene stall, a Babies' Play-room, and an exhibit showing two rooms designed by Miss A. C. Sewell specially on behalf of City children. These are thus described in the excellent catalogue:—

In the Kitchen-Living-room, practically all the furniture, saving such movable articles as tables and chairs, is a fixture. It is designed to give plenty of floor space for the children; is so simple and cheap that there should be no difficulty in fitting it to houses of low rental at the time when they are built; and whatever vicissitudes the family went through, the children would still have the benefit of the house furniture—which, in poor neighbourhoods, is so often sold or used as firing in times of trouble. The "dresser," the wall-cupboards, and the Baby's Own Corner, are worth particular notice. In the Children's Room, Miss Sewell demonstrates convincingly that a poor family can house its boys or girls most practically for an outlay on wooden boxes, &c., of a few shillings. The children themselves can do the work, as Miss Sewell has proved in Canning Town, and the beds and cupboards made by their own handiwork, and each painted a distinctive colour chosen by the proud possessor, render them intensely individual and precious possessions to be cared for and kept clean with all the ardour of proprietorship. Once this taste for "making things" has been developed, a strong incentive is given to boys and girls to attend classes in craftsmanship, and to foster any sense of beauty they may possess. (The stove and crockery are kindly lent by Messrs. Jas. Shoobred & Co.)

Visitors interested in these exhibits should make a point of seeing Miss Sewell's Model of a Housing Scheme for London's poorest, shown in the Housing and Town-Planning Section, Stand 127, organised by Miss D. Burrell Frost, where are to be seen many charming models and plans of housing schemes, dwellings, and cottages.

### COME AND ASK QUESTIONS!

Among the many stands supplying information to the public may be mentioned The National Union Office (86), The N.U. Information Bureau (85), the Non-militant Suffrage Literature Stall (87), the Betterment Book Room (26), the International Suffrage Shop (61), the Nursing Section (82), the French Section, organised by l'Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes (102), the Women Taxpayers' Agency and Legal Advice Bureau (49), the Day Servants' Hostel (103), the National Association for Women's Lodging Houses (92), and the stands conducted by the International Women's Suffrage Alliance (80), the Women's Municipal Party (83), and the Women's Local Government Society (84), and the Domestic Workers' Union (13).

### WOMEN IN PROFESSIONS.

At stand 45, organised by Miss Lyon, data as to professions open to the women in this and other lands can be obtained, and at stand 29 (Mrs. Hoster) full information is given with regard to secretarial training, &c. At the next stand is shown Mrs. Hoster's "Office and Work," where the most up-to-date equipment and methods may be studied. Among other stalls illustrating what women are doing in professions may be mentioned those of the Women's Agricultural and Horticultural International Union (18), Miss Ellen G. Eggar, garden designer and architect (47), stand 139, where Miss G. Griff may be consulted on machinery of all kinds and electric appliances, and Miss A. Preston, motor instructor, on motor appliances, and stand 81, where women's work in time of war is illustrated by a model of a Swiss improvised hospital train, Balkan War photographs, &c.

### THE ARTS AND CRAFTS SECTION.

It is no invidious comparison to declare that quite the most wonderful of all the very interesting exhibits in this section is the portfolio containing some dozen etchings by Käthe Kollwitz. Though some may be repelled by the almost brutal treatment of many of the subjects, the half savage force of this artist is so remarkable that these etchings alone would make a visit to Woman's Kingdom an important pilgrimage. "Death and Woman," "The Unemployed," and "The Guillotine" may be described with a certain frugidity of restraint as works of genius, and it is unfortunate that their late appearance made it impossible to include them in the catalogue.

Next in importance, perhaps, are the sculpture exhibits.

Miss M. C. Buzzard's "Ebb and Flow" is a charming phantasy, exquisitely treated, and her bust of "Mrs. Grundy" is delightfully humorous. Miss H. F. Rock's "Sorrow," "A Frog, He would a-Wooing Go," and "Sleep," are three very beautiful little statuettes, and Miss D. A. A. Rope's exhibits are all excellent. Miss C. Courtauld's relief in plaster, "A Sea Chase," is full of rollicking gaiety in conception, but is hardly bold enough in design. Miss C. M. Stockdale's bronze group, "Camels," is admirable, but is at a disadvantage through being placed in a somewhat obscure corner. Miss E. M. Rope's beautiful bas relief work should also be noticed.

The Suffrage Atelier Exhibits occupy all too small a space. Miss Jessie Walters' large poster, "Snared," is startling rather than beautiful, but "Eliza Comes to Stay" is an adorable piece of work. Miss Louise Jacobs' "Borderland" and "In Pierrot's Garden" are two delightful lithographs, and Miss E. B. Willis exhibits an attractive hand-print, "The Old Man of the Sea."

Miss Gwen White's democratic panel for a bookcase is an enterprising attempt to revive the old art of painting on wood, and it is interesting to learn that the artist is still in her teens. Miss Edith Vaughan's illuminating is an enchanting piece of work, and no one should fail to see the designs for stained glass by Miss M. I. Chilton, A.R.C.A., Miss D. A. Courtney, and Miss Mabel Esplin. Among the jewellery exhibits, some of the most exquisite are Miss E. C. Woodward's champlevé enamel Crucifix, a necklet and ring of pale topazes, quaintly set in pale gold by Miss Gladys Tawse, and a case containing a variety of ornaments by Miss G. Conolly. Miss Garençière's silver work is also very beautiful, and Mrs. Roscoe Mullins and Miss S. M. Martineau have some especially lovely exhibits. The lace work, some of the bookbinding, metal work, and weaving exhibits, and Miss Jack's wonderful pottery are excellent.

Mrs. Mairet's hand-woven and dyed exhibits (Stand 55) present a feast of alluring colours and enticing materials which it is difficult to pass by, and the Irish Section organised by the Irish-women's Suffrage Federation has a bewildering display of Limerick, Youghall, and Carrickmacross lace, embroideries, linen work, pottery, and jewellery. The embroideries shown by Miss Yates, the sister of the poet, and Miss Gleeson and Miss Prager's bas relief work are especially fine, and it is scarcely surprising to learn that, among women with so strong a sense of beauty, no friction is caused by the jarring creeds of Protestants and Catholics, Home-Rulers and Ulstermen. The pottery work of Miss Richards and Mrs. Gwynne-Jones cannot possibly be passed by, and it is very interesting to hear from the makers a description of the process of manufacture. Madame Mullier's lace work is a miracle of beauty, and Miss Stella Randle, at Stand 53, and Miss Lucy Russell, at Stand 41, both have leather work exhibits whose cheapness and beauty are very well worth a few minutes' contemplation. Finally, no visitor to the Exhibition should fail to see the wonderful embroideries shown at the Greek Peasant Industries Stand, the lace at the South Indian Village Industries Section, and the hand-made rugs, linens and silks shown at Stands 34 and 35.

### THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SALON.

In this gallery is exhibited some of the best work of women photographers. Judging by the exhibits, photography is undoubtedly one of the crafts in which there is a great future for women. Many have, of course, made a place and a name for themselves already; and certainly, in delicacy of workmanship, skill in posing, and judgment of the possibilities of the sitter, especially in the case of children and of animals, the work of women compares most favourably with that of men. The section is one of the most striking in the whole exhibition. For names of exhibitors and subjects, see catalogue.

### THE FINE ART GALLERY.

A full list of exhibits under this section will also be found in the catalogue, which can be obtained from the offices of the N. U. (4d. post free).

### DO NOT FAIL TO BUY OUR CATALOGUE.

Space will not permit of a description of all the many interesting and beautiful features of Woman's Kingdom, but readers who are unable to go to the Exhibition should send without fail for a catalogue. In this will be found not only a full account of all the exhibits, but a mass of information, invaluable to Suffragists, on a great variety of subjects. Many Suffragists, too, like to give their custom to art and craft workers, tradesmen, and others who support the enterprises of the N. U. The catalogue has a new photograph of Mrs. Fawcett.

# "WOMAN'S KINGDOM." SOME ATTRACTIVE FEATURES.

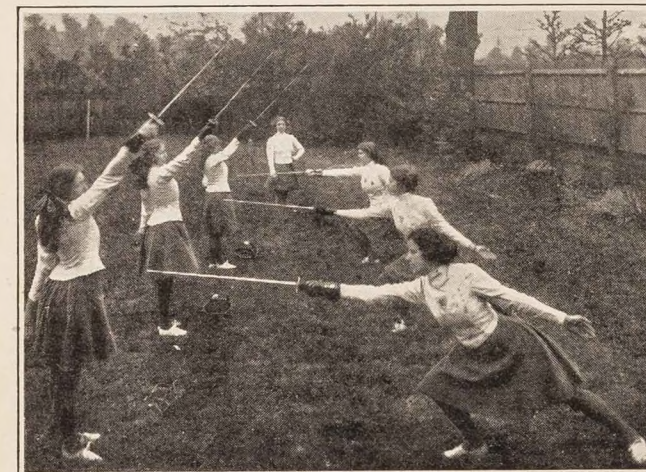
(Photos specially taken by Miss VIOLETTE COTTON.)



THE KINDERGARTEN,  
where any little visitors to the Exhibition may play.



Photo lent by Crouch End High School.]  
DANCING,  
by students of Crouch End High School and College.



Photos lent by Crouch End High School.]  
Displays of fencing, Jiu-Jitsu, &c., are given daily at Woman's Kingdom by pupils of Madame Edith Garrud, and students of the Crouch End High School. Unfortunately, a photograph of Madame Garrud, specially taken for this issue of THE COMMON CAUSE, did not turn out sufficiently clear for reproduction, owing to the bad light.



MODEL LIVING ROOM,  
planned by Miss Sewell.



WOMAN'S HOLIDAY CAMP,  
organised by Miss Eileen Strick, of the Moraine Lake Fishing Camp, Alberta, Canada.



COMMISSIONAIRES AND "COMMON CAUSE" SELLERS  
at Woman's Kingdom.



OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL UNION  
at Olympia.

### THE N.U.W.S.S.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies has established an office at Olympia for the time. It has also transferred its "Enquiry Bureau" there, and eager enquirers at the office in Great Smith Street, anxious to know "whether it is a fact that the earthquake in California is supposed to be due to Women's Suffrage," and "how many Suffragists have red hair?" are now sent on a journey down to Olympia for the information. When they get there, however, they get a great deal more information than they expected, and find that in "Woman's Kingdom" Suffragists show unexpected ability to cope with the most domestic problems as well as with fencing, wrestling, and no doubt (if necessary) earthquakes.

Two Federations of the N.U.—the Scottish Federation and that of Surrey, Sussex, and Hants—have organised special stands. So, too, has the Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation.



THE DUCHESS OF MARLBOROUGH  
visiting the Stall of the Women's Municipal Party, of which she is President.

### OUR DISTINGUISHED GUEST.

The Duchess of Marlborough, who visited the Exhibition on Friday, April 17th, is a convinced and ardent Suffragist. She is specially interested in the use made by women of the electoral franchise they already possess, and to this end has founded the "Women's Municipal Party," with the object of stirring up the women municipal voters of London to a greater interest in London's affairs. The party hopes to increase the number of women members of the County and Borough Councils. The Duchess comes of a "Suffrage" family, for her mother, Mrs. V. H. Belmont, of New York, is one of the leaders of the movement in the United States, and with her immense wealth, social influence, and splendid enthusiasm, is a great asset to the cause. Both mother and daughter were visitors at Budapest during the gathering of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance there, in June, 1913.



THE SCOTTISH FEDERATION'S  
STALL.



EXHIBIT OF THE SURREY,  
SUSSEX & HANTS FEDERATION.



STAND OF THE IRISHWOMEN'S  
SUFFRAGE FEDERATION.



## LABOUR SAVING IN THE HOME.

Among the many useful and beautiful exhibits shown at "Woman's Kingdom" are a number of devices for saving labour in the home. The principle of the vacuum cleaner has already been explained in our columns, and our readers will remember that these handy little machines extract the dirt from carpets or upholstered furniture without raising dust. Their use is, therefore, far more hygienic than the old-fashioned system of sweeping with a broom, and letting the germ-laden dust fly all over the room, to be collected afterwards by dusting. It also saves a good deal of time and trouble. The "Daisy" Vacuum Cleaner can be seen among Messrs. Thompson's labour-saving devices, at stands 5 and 6.

The saving of work accomplished by using gas instead of coal is now so widely recognised that it scarcely calls for comment. Specially convenient types of stove, toasters, etc., are shown by the Harris Gas Stove Co., Ltd. (Stand 4).

In country houses an enormous amount of work can be saved by the use of a really good paraffin electric set, for generating electricity for lighting purposes. The same power can be used for heating, and for electric vacuum cleaners, irons, etc. A house lighted and heated by electricity keeps wonderfully clean, and is a luxury well worth while for those who can afford it. The electric sets shown at "Woman's Kingdom"—and explained by Miss Griff, consulting engineer—can be supplied either as paraffin, petrol, or gas engines; they take up very little space, cost a comparatively small sum, and are easily and cheaply installed.

Water heaters of various kinds are also shown. In most of these the water is heated by means of gas, but one is shortly to be put upon the market which is heated with oil, and this should be invaluable in country places where there is no gas. A very neat little "Record" water heater is shown by Messrs. Chapman (Stand 140).

The O'cedar mop is an ingenious invention for dusting, cleaning, or polishing linoleum, etc., which prevents the necessity of going down on hands and knees to clean the floor. It is also useful for cleaning under beds, or dusting high furniture, between bannisters, and in corners. Another type of mop is sold together with a bucket and soap tray, and a scrubbing brush for stone or tiled floors completes the set, and enables boiling water to be used, as the hands need not come into contact with it. The hands are also saved by the use of a very neat little apparatus for washing clothes. The garments are simply put in a pail full of hot soapy water, and beaten with an instrument something like the lightning egg beater which are now so widely used in cooking, only, of course, on a much larger scale.

For cleaning silver, a wonderful metal plate is shown, which is simply laid in a basin of boiling water with a little soda, and the moment any silver or electro-plate article is placed in contact with it the tarnish vanishes as if by magic. An excellent plate and metal powder for cleaning not only silver and other metal goods, but also glass, tortoiseshell, etc., is the Clarovite (Stand 117), and a useful anti-septic cleanser for cleaning marble, mosaic, tile floors, kitchen utensils, &c., is shown by the Gospo Co. (Stand 116), while at Stand 125 (Messrs. F. Staines), many useful kitchen utensils and ingenious labour-saving appliances are on view.

Several kinds of instruments for paring and slicing vegetables and peeling and coring apples, are to be seen, and well repay in saving of time the small cost of purchase. With their use, too, all sorts of dainty effects can be obtained for garnishing. Another boon to the housewife is a little set of muslin covers with three-ply wooden rims, for protecting the contents of jugs or basins from the germ-laden housefly.

We have already mentioned the charming room furnished for £5, and the room specially designed for providing healthy accommodation for children at a small cost, and will content ourselves with reminding readers that the Exhibition contains devices for saving money as well as labour.

Some fascinating holiday camps are attracting great attention. These show simple and inexpensive outfits, specially suitable for women. A Roadside Bivouac shows an ideal equipment for the camper who travels the roads—a small rubbered bivouac tent (as supplied by Willmont & Co., Bank-chambers, Victoria-street, S.W.), a ground-sheet and roll-up cork mattress (as supplied by Messrs. A. W. Gamage, Ltd.), a woollen sleeping-bag (as kindly lent by Dr. Jaeger's Sanitary Woollen System Co., Ltd.), a few simple cooking utensils, and a spirit stove (for emergencies), all to pack on an ordinary donkey-barrow, such as can be hired complete for a few shillings a week.

Essential to a complete travelling equipment are field-glasses, some excellent examples of which are shown at the adjoining stands, 105 and 106, by Messrs. R. S. Neumann, who also show eye-glasses, etc., including some of specially dainty design. Outdoor costumes for woman a-field are shown by Messrs. Burberry (Stand 75).

To those who are in search of a country home, the Home Freeholds scheme will be of special interest, and full particulars of this can be obtained at Stand 104.

A brief survey of this Exhibition would not be complete without some reference to the many appetising delicacies displayed on the stalls. Cakes and sweetmeats of every kind can be obtained, including old English syllabub, made by Mrs. Youngman. Excellent curry specialities, ready for use (Miss M. Chanter), some dainty samples of jellies, jams, &c. (Messrs. Chivers), and some natural food-cure delicacies (shown by the Wallace P. R. Foods Co., Stand 12, who will be happy to send samples to anyone mentioning this paper), can all be seen at Olympia. Every reader of THE COMMON CAUSE should take advantage of the offer made by St. Ivel, Ltd., who have had samples of their St. Ivel cheese packed in cartons of the N.U. colours, which can be obtained by mentioning this paper. Messrs. Neaves will also be pleased to give samples of infant and health foods.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

At Stand 60 is shown charming leadless glaze ware. (See page 62.) Some delightful scents, and also the T. and C. Olive Oil soaps, are shown at Stand 128 (Messrs. Badington and Kutassy), and examples of all sorts of materials dyed in beautiful soft shades with Dolly Dyes at Stand 110. A department for Thuringian pine and soap is under the supervision of Mrs. Wiseman, at Stand 146. Cooking and housewifery exhibits by the senior girls at the Crouch End High School, are shown at Stand 20.

## LANTERN LECTURES.

Visitors to Woman's Kingdom should note that popular lectures, copiously illustrated by lantern slides, are given every evening at 5, 6, 7, and 8 p.m. There is a daily lecture (with slides) on "Anti-Sweating." The British Women's Temperance Association have secured the use of the lantern room on Friday and Saturday at 7-45 p.m. On Saturday afternoon at 4 and 6 p.m., Mr. Joyce will show the photographs taken by his brother on Sir Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic Expedition. A crowded room and appreciative audience have already proved the popularity of the following subjects—all to be repeated during the ensuing week: "New Zealand," "Norway," "Great Women of the Past," "Women at Work," "Lands where Women have the Vote," and others. Admission free.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC SECTION.

Miss Violette Cotton (Stand 56), who has taken most of the photographs which we are using in this issue, is offering very special terms to visitors to Woman's Kingdom, a reduction of 10s. being made on a pencil sketch drawing, the usual charge for which is 35s.

## WHAT THE PRESS IS SAYING ABOUT WOMAN'S KINGDOM.

*Daily Citizen*, April 17th.—"The place is decked out for the delight of children, and when they are tired out with it, there is the charming little nursery awaiting them in the Woman's Kingdom upstairs, where they can be safely deposited while their mothers study the many devices invented for their welfare and that of domestic life generally, in the section organised by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. . . . The British woman has plenty of triumphs. On the wrong side of her milestone are only the law, the Bench, and the higher grades of the civil service."

*Daily Telegraph*, April 11th.—"The Exhibition is to remain open until the end of the month, and for most people it is unlikely that a single visit will prove sufficient, for there is so much to be seen. Handicrafts and professions show the wider range of women's interests, proving how education and training are turned to account. An exceedingly fine section has been organised by the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland. Arts and Crafts are well represented, and a section is devoted to photography. Pottery making and painting, carving and gilding, and South Indian village industries are amongst exhibits that all provide opportunities for the development of individual talents."

*Times*, April 13th.—"The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies concerns itself in an interesting *addendum* with cheap but good housing, the preparation of food, physical training, fresh air, and intellectual culture—a branch of activity which reflects directly on the well-being of the child."

*Manchester Guardian*, April 14th.—"The idea is, of course, that Woman's Kingdom covers everything that a woman can do well, and this Exhibition must be taken as a sketch of some of the activities that women claim by accomplishment. The National Union has its own office, with its literature, its weekly paper, and its Information Bureau. Close by is the stall of the Woman's International Suffrage Alliance where questions will be answered by experts, and where illuminating tables and cartoons show the effect of women's vote. . . . If you want a servant you can apply to stall No. 13, in the name of the Domestic Workers' Union. . . . There are two book-shops and an exhibit by that lively organisation, the Suffrage Atelier, which has also carried out all the decorations of Woman's Kingdom. The feeling of jolity, fun, and good humour which pervades the place, is largely due to their work. In the arts and crafts the Exhibition is rich; beautiful weaving, embroidery, lace, rugs, leather-work, etc."

## UNITED SUFFRAGISTS.

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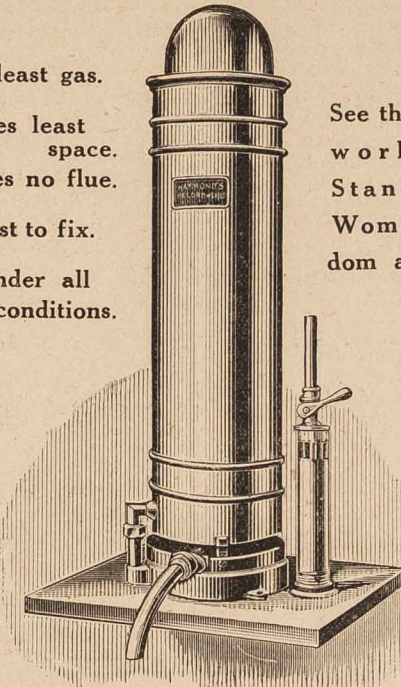
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ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS to be addressed to The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., and all ADVERTISEMENTS must reach the Office not later than first post on Tuesday. Advertisement Representative, S. R. Le Mar.

NOTICE.—This paper is obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by mid-day on Friday. If any difficulty is found in obtaining it locally, please communicate with The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

### "Half-Made Law."

An interview which was published in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, with one of the promoters of the Bill to open the solicitors' profession to women, reported him as saying that the question of their admission "could never be a matter of great public interest, as the only persons who were concerned were the ladies themselves who want to enter the profession." Mr. Hills is an Anti-suffragist. We ought not therefore, perhaps, to be surprised at this extraordinary misunderstanding. It is on such misunderstandings that honest Anti-suffragism lives and thrives. But this seems to us one of the most extraordinary that has yet been put forward. It would be quite as near the truth to say that the admission of women to the medical profession was of interest only to medical women. Perhaps there were even people who once thought so. To-day everyone knows that the health of women, and the attitude of mind of women towards their health, has been revolutionised by women doctors. One has only to remember how complacently the world accepted from men doctors the axiom that "woman is a natural invalid"—with all its disastrous implications—to realise the enormous debt which women owe to women doctors for their cheerful conviction that woman is naturally healthy and sane. We accept these benefits so easily that perhaps we may even be found ungrateful to those who have won them for us. We remember, indeed, and with an enthusiasm of admiration, the fight made by the first women medical students, as one which broke down old conventions and stupid prejudice. We are glad to remember, too, that a new and most honourable profession was by these women opened to other women. But perhaps it is too soon yet for us to realise the far greater benefit which has been conferred on their sex by women doctors in slaying that most subtle and corrupting form of slavery—the slavery of "natural" ill-health.

Probably a revolution only second in importance to this awaits the advent of the woman lawyer. Important in any country, the administration of the law is trebly important in our own, from the fact that so large a part of it is "judge-made" or "case-made" law. So much of our law is not written on our statute books, so much of it rests on judicial decisions. And it is the conviction of women that judge-made law has been on the whole even more prejudicial to their interests than statute-law. This is natural. Statute law has been made by men responsible indeed only to other men, but still, because they were elected representatives, sensitive to public opinion. And public opinion is formed in part by women. But lawyers are not elected, represent nothing but a professional interest, and are to a much less degree sensitive to public opinion. Thus it has happened that laws passed by Parliament with the clear intention of conferring on women some right, have been interpreted in a clean contrary sense to that intention in the law-courts, on the ground that they could by a technicality be made to bear another sense; while when technically the law was in the woman's favour, technicalities have been impatiently swept aside in favour of the clear intention of those who passed the law. We need only instance the Act of 1907, by which Parliament intended to give to certain qualified women the right to sit on City and County Councils,

\* *Beyond the Law.* By A British Mother. (St. Clement's Press Ltd., price 4d.) pp. 32.

not allowing them to be disqualified by sex or marriage. Revising barristers, almost without exception, have, nevertheless, decided, by a curious process of reasoning from technicalities, that married women can not be elected to City and County Councils, and they are accordingly shut out. On the other hand, where, technically, women were entitled to the vote, on the ground that Lord Brougham's Act of 1851 laid it down that "the word 'man' included woman," their claim was set aside as being manifestly opposed to the intention of those who passed the franchise laws. "Intentions" which disqualify women are stoutly upheld in the face of technical flaws; they are disregarded when they are favourable.

Equally important, though less obvious, is the whole tendency of the legal profession to administer the law in such a way as to emphasise the masculine point of view. It is here that we expect an extraordinary change when women begin to share in the administration. It is certain that there is a difference—not an antagonism, but a difference—between the point of view of men and women on certain subjects, and the over-emphasis of one or the other produces not a human, but a one-sexed civilisation. Both are needed for a really humane law. This fact is illustrated in a very remarkable way in a little pamphlet recently sent to us, called "Beyond the Law." It sets forth the unjust and in-humane position in which the law allows a woman to be put, without offering any redress or even admitting the existence of a grievance. Briefly, the case is this: A sum of money was left to the children of a woman, to be paid to them when she died. It sounds simple enough. We are not told whether the money was badly needed or not. It does not touch the point at issue. What does touch it is the fact that one person is allowed to use the life of another as a convenience to his own will about his property, and to make the death of that person a financial advantage to someone else. In this case, by a refinement of cruelty, it is a mother who is forced into this position, and it is her children to whom (financially) her death is to be an advantage.

It will be said that here, at least, is no sex-grievance, since, though the case is peculiarly hard on a mother, it is clear that a man's life might be used in just the same way. That is true; but the interest of the case is the way in which it illustrates, not a grievance of sex, but a difference in the point of view. Laws made solely by men exhibit a profound indifference towards life, and an enormous sense of the sacredness of property. Sometimes their laws hurt themselves. That is not the point. Women would have shown a greater respect for life; possibly too little for property. Again, we want both points of view.

In this case, a woman's life is used as a convenience, without her knowledge or her consent. She is put into a position which no one will deny to be detestable, towards her own children. Yet so entirely does the law disregard her life, that she could not even raise a case in her own behalf! She sought to do so, and was repeatedly informed that she had no interest in the matter. That is to say, of course, she had no property interest! Had the testator sought to bequeath any material possession of hers away as his own, the law would at once have stepped in to protect rights so sacred. But he merely took her life, and, in the writer's expressive phrase, "damaged" that. Therefore she has no interest in the matter.

Her children could raise a case, and (at her request) they did. They had property at stake, and so they might do so. She might not, because she had none—nothing but her "damaged" life.

The pamphlet, which is written in very simple language, is moving by its very simplicity. It pleads with great earnestness for the admission of women to the legal professions. Not till women administer the law, thinks the writer, will it be seen clearly how careless—how callous, rather—the law is towards all rights but those of property. We are reminded in reading it of the fact that a child's life may be insured in our country, and its death made a source of profit to the insurer. In countries where women have the vote, they have sought to abolish, and in several cases have succeeded in abolishing, this infamous misuse of "rights." But here, if a mother were to object to anyone insuring her child's life, she would speedily learn that she had "no interest in the matter." Even so this mother, who passionately—and most justly—resents the use to which her life has been put without her leave, against her wish, is met with the assurance that legally she has "no interest" in the case.

This question is one which goes as deep as any into the heart of the Suffrage question. It is all the more impressive, perhaps, for being entirely unsensational, and in no way created by sex-prejudice. Here is no suggestion that men have desired to injure women. Here is merely one more proof of the way in which

"one-sex legislation" hurts men and women alike. For laws which disregard the most sacred human rights must in the end wound and "damage" all. No one can doubt, who looks at our gorgeous, squalid, modern civilisation, that the whole race has suffered from the absence in our legislature of the point of view of those to whom life is more sacred than any property. *Si argumentum requiris, circumspice.* Meanwhile, "a British Mother" sets out with indomitable soul to fashion for herself (and us) a weapon with which she attacks the whole principle of testamentary law—a whole system, hardened by tradition into an almost invulnerable strength. It is, indeed, a little weapon and a mighty opposite: but the stone of David slew Goliath.

### Women's Vote and the Care of the Child.

"Just as in the home the care of the child is the mother's first care, so in the State the care of the child is the woman voter's first interest," writes Miss Vida Goldstein, in her pamphlet upon Women's Suffrage in Australia. Woman is strong in the sense of futurity, and that is one of the many reasons why she makes such an admirable citizen. Hand to mouth measures, temporary expedients, she rejects with scorn; because her eyes are fixed on the future of the race of which she is the guardian. Our Northern ancestors realised this when they made their chief goddess, Frigga, the guardian of the secrets of the future, a stern custodian and absolutely incorruptible, for she never revealed these secrets even to the other gods.

This ideal of woman is in curious contrast to degenerate modern conceptions, which represent her as frivolous, and living in the present only, while she is utterly incapable of guarding a secret. In New Zealand and Australia we find that the enfranchised women have set themselves to reduce the rate of infant mortality, and the Dominion can boast of the highest rate of natural increase in the world, while Australia follows close on her track. It is commonly said that, where women vote, the marriage and birth rate will fall; but in these British dominions of the Southern Hemisphere, both rates have almost uninterruptedly risen. In New Zealand, in 1893, the year women were enfranchised, the marriage rate was 6.22 per thousand, in 1912 it stands at 8.81 per thousand. In Australia in 1901 the rate was 7.32 per thousand, and in 1912 it was 8.79; the rate in England being 7.5 per thousand. The birth rate, too, has steadily risen since 1906. In 1911 it was 27.1 per thousand, the highest record for ten years, and this was again beaten in 1912, for it was then 28.65 per thousand. In England the birth rate was 25.1 per thousand in 1911, and has fallen since that date. In New Zealand the rate was 25.89 for 1902, but had risen to 26.48 per thousand in 1912. The New Malthusians are teaching us, however, that it is the quality of the children born, rather than the quantity that is of importance to the State, and the real triumph of these British people in the Southern Hemisphere is the reduction they have effected in the annual toll of infant life. The rate of mortality of infants under one year has been reduced in New Zealand to 51.22 per thousand, the lowest rate in the world, and in the Commonwealth, the rate, which stood at 111.36 per thousand in 1902, was reduced to 68.49 in 1911, after nine years of Women's Suffrage.

#### SOME USEFUL REFORMS DUE TO WOMEN'S INFLUENCE.

Women may claim the credit for this preservation of life, for, as has already been shown, it is due to the reforms they have initiated and urged upon their representatives. The maternity grant of £5 paid to the mother, the pure food and milk supplies, have had a most surprising effect on the health of the rising generation. Under the heading Milk or Dairy in the year-books for the two countries, there is a long account of the legislation for inspection. The Housewives' Union in New Zealand, have done yeoman's service in securing pure food, and are helping, by dealing direct with the producers, to abolish the middleman and reduce prices. In Australia there has been appointed a commission to inquire into the prices of the necessities of life, and women have sat upon that commission. The training in mothercraft, the appointment of women doctors to teach physiology in the Government schools and training colleges, the teaching of sex physiology to boys (this subject is included in mothercraft for girls), have removed from these antipodean countries the reproach that Herbert Spencer levelled at the British nation in 1860, that it gave no instruction in the most important of all activities, that of "the rearing of offspring."

New Zealand has also instituted a band of nurses, called Plunket nurses, after the wife of a former Governor, who originated the idea. These nurses attend mothers in their con-



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finements up-country, and in their homes in town, and the deaths of mothers in childbirth have been reduced from 5'86 per thousand in 1903 to 3'73 per thousand in 1912. In Australia, as in New Zealand, there are excellent maternity homes, and, in both countries all nurses are registered after training; such a measure of registration has been vainly petitioned for by voteless women in these islands.

#### WOMEN'S ECONOMIC STATUS.

One factor of great importance to the life and health of the rising generation must not be overlooked. The economic position of women is so much better in the lands where these workers are enfranchised. The girlhood and womanhood, the potential and actual mothers of the race, are not sweated at starvation wages, or forced to supplement these by immoral earnings. The minimum pay for a woman worker in the factories in New Zealand is 25s. per week, and for girls in Australia sixteen shillings per week. Very few except those who are apprentices are kept at this rate, as I have gone over the books of some big firms, and found, as a rule, less than one-eighth of the employees were in receipt of the minimum pay. There is now a strong movement for equal pay for equal work, which has led to the Federal Government adopting this as a principle for all its employees. The Federal Government employs a large number of clerks of both sexes, and it controls the postal, telegraph, and telephone services, the offices for the Defence Force, and the Customs; and it will soon have its scope greatly extended, for the last referendum showed that there was a surprising increase in the number of votes for the transfer of many other departments (railways, trusts, education) from the State to the Commonwealth. The women of both political parties are making equal pay a plank in their platform, and cannot fail ultimately to raise woman's wages in all employments.

But although women can earn good wages in Australia and New Zealand, mothers are very rarely forced to be bread-winners, and victims of an iniquitous social system, such as Sarah Savage, are not to be found where women vote. In New Zealand and the State of Victoria widows and deserted wives are in receipt of pensions from the State, and the ne'er-do-well husband is drastically dealt with in New Zealand. He is given employment by the State, and his wages are paid to his wife. If he be a prisoner, he is made to work at one of the Government tree-planting districts, and his wages are given to his family. The Workers' Dwelling Act in New Zealand has made it possible for every artisan to have a house and garden of his own. By the payment of £40 down, and a moderate rental for 25½ years, he becomes the owner of his house and the land around it. The children may be brought up on a land that their father is winning for his own, and it is delightful to see the zest and vigour with which parents and children work upon their little plot of ground. Every advantage of education is extended to the rising generation in these new lands, and the best of teaching can be had without payment. Free passes on the railways enable the children to go to schools in the towns, or far up-country, and a salaried teacher is provided by Government if five children can be found to attend the class. The child may pursue his course from the kindergarten to the university, and his parents need not disburse one penny for his training. I use the masculine pronoun for convenience, but what I have said applies to both sexes. Bursaries are granted to all competent students who wish to take a university course, and cannot afford board and lodging for the three years.

#### PLUMP, SMILING, ROSY FACES.

No schoolmaster or mistress in these new lands is forced to face the cruel problem of endeavouring to teach starving pupils. One master at Bathurst, N.S.W., almost laughed when asked if the children ever came hungry to school. "Look at them," he said, and the rows of plump, smiling, rosy faces certainly did not suggest insufficient nourishment. When I was Joint Principal of a school in Sydney, my partner and I urged our pupils to give a Christmas treat to poor children instead of a gift to us. Every year, more than 100 little ones were collected in our garden and paddock for sports and games, in the lovely summer sunshine. Only once in nine years did one little boy suggest taking his cake home to his mother, as if cake were a rare treat. None of these children at our fêtes looked hungry, and none of them had that pitiful drawn look that is the result of insufficient nourishment in early youth.

There is much legislation concerning child labour, the term child being held to apply to anyone under sixteen. In four of the States of Australia, no child is admitted to work under fourteen; in South Australia the minimum age is thirteen, and in Victoria fifteen. There has been a steady decrease in the

number of children so employed. In 1907 it was 5'88 per cent. of all employees, in 1911 it was 4'47. So child labour is not driving out the adult worker. Careful regulation of the hours and wages paid to girls and boys is found in the Factories and Shop Acts of New Zealand and Australia, the minimum in the former country being 5s. per week, rising 3s. every year till the pay reaches £1. Plenty of opportunity is provided for physical exercise and recreation, as the hours of work are short, and all the parks have places allotted for children's play. Evening schools, technical colleges and university lectures provide means of mental improvement.

Health is well cared for, as is proved by the exceedingly small percentage of lads between the ages of thirteen and fourteen who are rejected as physically unfit to serve in the Defence Force. As was pointed out in my article, "The Women's Vote and the Empire," 100,000 lads presented themselves for enrolment, and only 4,000 were rejected as unfit. In Germany, nearly half those who present themselves are rejected. It is very doubtful whether any country in the world could show so large a percentage of healthy lads as Australia can.

#### WHAT IS DONE FOR THE NEGLECTED CHILD.

Excellent institutions for destitute children are provided or subsidised by Government. The Infants' Home, Ashfield (N.S.W.) is a happy, homelike place; the State Children's Relief Board of N.S.W. is doing admirable work, and all the States of the Commonwealth are striving to give a real home life to each child by boarding him out under supervision, instead of treating the little ones in masses. The Adoption of Children's Act in New Zealand allows no premiums to the adopting parents, and a magistrate's sanction is required. This safeguards the children from cruelty and neglect, and the Protection of Children's Act institutes such strict inspection of the boarded-out children as to prevent baby-farming in any form. The Society for the Protection of Women and Children, ever on the alert, sees that all these excellent Acts are carried out.

Children's Courts were established by the Act of 1906 in every place in the State where a Court of Petty Sessions is appointed to be held. The Courts have the power to commit to the Neglected Children's Department or the reformatory schools. In New Zealand the child is sent back to his home, and kept under surveillance there.

#### EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS.

There is no such distinction of up-bringing for the boys and for the girls as exists in the old lands of the world. If the daughter has the taste or inclination for a professional career, she is given the opportunity to follow it as readily as her brother, and very few men or boys think it in any way derogatory to help with household work. Little children of both sexes accompany their parents to the polls, so from the very early days they learn that both father and mother are equally citizens, with powers and privileges, and responsibilities which they, both boys and girls, shall one day exercise. A beautiful comradeship, the outcome of equality, grows up between them, and is shown in the generous admiration of the one sex for the work of the other.

It is shown, too, in the ready co-operation of boys and girls in the school, and afterwards of men and women in social and business life. A head-master of a mixed school in the Commonwealth told me how one of the girls was so good at mathematics that she had beaten competitors of both sexes in the three States. "We should have been surprised at this thirty years ago," he said, "but I'm not a bit surprised now. Women have never had equal opportunity with boys in the past. We are only now beginning to learn what they can accomplish when they are no longer handicapped by tradition and prejudice."

MARGARET HODGE.

#### WHAT "ACTIVE SERVICE" MEANS.

Sometimes we hear people apologising for being able to do so little to help the cause of Women's Suffrage. Now, whether we are fortunate enough to be able to do active work ourselves, or whether for any reason whatever, we can only be lookers-on, we ought all to welcome the formation of the Active Service League. Some, no doubt, can do no more than give their hearty encouragement to the League, but many others, we feel sure, will gladly pledge themselves to devote at least one week in the year to open-air propaganda in the cause of Women's Suffrage. The prospect of open-air campaigns should be especially attractive in the coming months, and the programme of work already sketched out for the Leaguers includes such pleasant items as Suffrage Summer Camps, Coast Campaigns at seaside resorts, Saturday afternoon tramps and bicycling parties to villages and hamlets where "talks" and informal

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meetings will carry on the work so well begun by the Pilgrimage, of dispelling ignorance and spreading familiarity with the aims and objects of our movement. All these things are waiting to be done by active Suffragists, but what of those who, for one circumstance or another—age, health, occupations, home ties, absence abroad, &c.—are prevented from doing any of them? How can they help the League? They can help by the very effective way of helping it financially, for in a hundred and one ways money will be needed. The schemes outlined here, be they ever so well planned, cannot be set on foot without the necessary funds; they are none of them expensive schemes, but they will all require the spending of a little money. Then there is the question of enrolling as many Leaguers as possible; many, no doubt, would volunteer for service during brief holidays; but, not being among the wealthy, they may hesitate to do so through inability to pay for uniforms or train fares or necessary incidental expenses. A fund to promote the work of the A.S.L. would remove all these difficulties and make the success of the League a certainty. We shall gladly open such a fund, and Mrs. Harley, our inspiring League Leader, promises a donation of £10 towards it. No one who cannot be doing active service herself need any longer apologise for being unable to help our cause, for by sending a donation to the Active Service Fund everyone will be able to take part in one of the most useful ways of promoting Woman's Suffrage that have yet been devised. Please send contributions, marked "For the Active Service Fund," to the Hon. Treasurer, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster.

**SUFFRAGISTS AND THE N.U.T.**

In view of the Easter Conference of the National Union of Teachers, Miss Scott and I began to do Suffrage work in the district about a month before, though the splendid work of Mrs. Rinder and other members of the Lowestoft Society made it possible to leave Lowestoft itself and many outlying villages almost entirely in their hands. Mrs. Worthington, President, devoted much of her time to speaking for us, and gave a series of nursing lectures in aid of the funds. Dr. Worthington also spoke, and helped by motoring us to meetings and in other ways. A particularly interesting debate on Women's Suffrage was arranged by a debating society that is run mainly by the professional men of the town, at which a lawyer, Mr. Seth Bailly, took the pro side, and was supported by Dr. Worthington, Canon Aitchison, and others. Mrs. Garrett opposed, supported by two clergymen of Kirkley, and Dr. Bury in the chair.

Mrs. Worthington addressed the N.U.T. delegates in Norwich. Yarmouth invited Miss Sheepshanks to lecture on the more world-wide aspects of Women's Suffrage. Public meetings were also organised at Kingsfield, Barnaby, Hopton, St. Olave's, and at Beccles and Bungay.

The Trades Council at Lowestoft asked me to speak for them at an open-air meeting on Sunday, April 5th, and on Easter Monday Sir Victor Horsley addressed a large meeting on the Lowestoft Parade.

On Easter Monday we had collected most of our forces in Lowestoft, and various other societies of the Eastern Counties Federation showed their sense of Federation responsibility by giving valuable assistance. Norwich, Cambridge, Letchworth, Yarmouth, Southwold, and Diss brought contingents, mostly with banners; banners arrived representing Colchester, Hitchin, Ipswich, &c., and helpers came from as far afield as Sheffield and Wolverhampton. Miss Willis, Hon. Sec. of Norwich, opened house at Lowestoft for the week, and gave hospitality to Miss Scott and myself. Mr. and Mrs. Harrison, of Letchworth, Miss Jarvis, of Sheffield, Miss Rigby, of Wolverhampton, and Mrs. Turton, of Yarmouth, all devoted time to helping us, and amongst members of the Lowestoft Society, one hardly knows where to begin or end. Mrs. Ponder was generally at the shop from morning till night. Mrs. Jeffries, aided by Mrs. Barcroft, undertook the management of the tea-rooms, opened to meet heavy expenses. The town was divided into four districts, under four ward captains—Mrs. Worthington, Mrs. Jeffries, Mrs. Bignell, Miss Cooke, Numbers of members canvassed the town and sold THE COMMON CAUSE. Miss Parker was the record ticket seller. Hospitality was given by Mrs. Worthington, Mrs. Leighton, and Mrs. Oppenheimer.

Activities culminated in the meeting at the Marina Theatre on Easter Tuesday. In the evening the Lowestoft society gave a reception, at which Mrs. Fawcett was the guest of the evening. Short speeches were made, and there was a miscellaneous programme, arranged by Mrs. Taylor.

**Notes from Headquarters.**

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.  
President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries: Miss K. D. COURTNEY, Miss C. E. MARSHALL (Parliamentary), Miss EMILY M. LEAF (Press), Miss EVELYN ATKINSON (Literature).  
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. AUERBACH.  
Secretary: MISS CROOKENDEN.  
Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.  
Telegraphic Address—Voteless, London. Telephone Number—1960 Victoria.

The Half-yearly Council will meet at the Chelsea Town Hall on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 28th and 29th. The first session will begin at 10.30 p.m., on Tuesday. It is hoped that all delegates will take the opportunity of being in London to visit the Woman's Kingdom Exhibition at Olympia, a very full account of which is to be found in the special supplement to this issue of THE COMMON CAUSE. The attractions include exhibits illustrating every aspect of the Woman's Movement, and cannot fail to appeal to all who are interested in enlarging the scope for women's energies.

Catalogues, including a list of the plays arranged by the Actresses' Franchise League, will be on sale in the Council Hall.

The Daily News also has an attractive series of entertainments, and reserved seat tickets for the "Springtime Revue," a delightful exhibition of children's dancing, include admission to Woman's Kingdom. For those who have not time for the Revue, the admission to Woman's Kingdom is 6d., after 6 p.m., 3d.

All visitors to the Woman's Kingdom Exhibition at Olympia should make their way to the Stall 87, where the Literature Department has several new publications on sale. A new photograph of Mrs. Fawcett has been specially taken for the Exhibition, by Miss Lena Connell, and is a most excellent likeness. Autographed copies are 5s. and 2s. 6d. A picture postcard in the colours represents that familiar figure "the sitter on the fence," and should have an irresistible effect. A glorified edition of the Tudor Rose Badge, with clear "N.U." in the centre, is now for sale at 1s. 6d. The red is a bright one, and the lettering clear. The Literature Department is often asked for printed receipt books for the use of Societies; these have now been prepared with the National Union heading, space being left for the name of the Local Federation or Society. Each receipt form has coloured corners, and Societies should find them well worth purchasing at 9d. the book of 100 forms.

**Women's Suffrage Mandate Fund.**

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Mrs. Streetfield (Albert Hall collection) ... 5,277 19 10	
	£5,298 14 10

**Contributions to the General Fund.**

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Miss Winifrede Borrow ... 5 0	West Stanley and District W.S.S. ... 17 6
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Lady Clare Annesley ... 10 0	Ilkley W.S.S. ... 1 6 0
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	Hull W.S.S. ... 3 1 3
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	Rochester W.S.S. ... 1 9 6
	Sutton Coldfield W.S.S. ... 1 5 0
	Tynemouth W.S.S. ... 1 0 6
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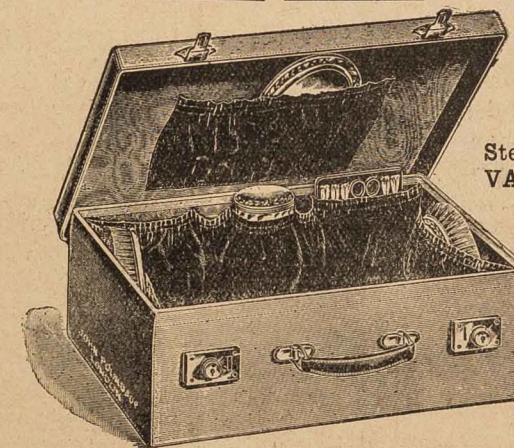
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**News from the Societies and Federations.**

**Oxford, Berks and Bucks Federation.**

**ASCOT**—A meeting was held at the Windsor Forest Institute, in the invitation of Mrs. Barron, on March 18th. Speaker, Miss Geraldine Cooke—Chair, Mrs. Robie Uniacke. The speaker was excellent; the audience good and interested.

**BERKS (NORTH)**—On the invitation of several members of the National Union of Railwaymen, the Society held a meeting at Didcot in the Drill Hall on April 3rd. Chair, Mr. A. O. Jones, N.U.R.—Speakers, Miss Geraldine Cooke and Mr. Gillett, who kindly consented to replace Miss Helga Gill, of Oxford, at short notice. The hall was full. The audience listened at first attentively, but gradually became very noisy. The resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage was lost by a large majority. Miss G. Post asked various questions. The Society held a hot another meeting shortly in the same district.

**BUCKS (MID)**—An evening lecture was held, by invitation, on March 24th at Chesham Bois School. Miss G. Looker was to have spoken on "Public Health Legislation affecting Women," but as she was at the time called to the House of Commons for consultation on the Underground Workshops Bill, Miss Dick (Sanitary Inspector) took her place.

**CROWTHORNE**—March 17th—Meeting in connection with the Educational Campaign, held at the Iron Duke Room. Miss Geraldine Cooke lectured on the "Disabilities of Wives and Mothers." Mrs. Robie Uniacke, who was warmly received, gave an address from the chair. The resolution demanding a Government measure for the enfranchisement of women was carried unanimously.

**March 25th**—A meeting was held for adult women at the Iron Duke Room—Address by Mrs. Vulliamy, of the Criminal Law Amendment Committee—Chair, Mrs. Robie Uniacke. The collection of 21 was handed over to the Criminal Law Amendment Association.

April 3rd—Annual meeting for members and "Friends" was held at the Iron Duke Room. Tea given by the Committee. Mrs. Robie Uniacke was re-elected Chairman. Miss Hamilton Ramsay was elected Hon. Secretary, in place of Miss Fox, who was obliged to resign the post owing to pressure of work. Mrs. Uniacke, who was warmly received, gave a vote of thanks was given for all the work Miss Fox had done for the Society, which was started owing to her efforts. A vote of thanks was also given to Mrs. Reid, who resigned from the Committee. There were thirty-three present. Eight "Friends" became members. Twelve badges and literature were sold. Short address given by Miss Hardcastle.

On March 11th, in connection with the High Wycombe W.S. Society, a public meeting was held in the Town Hall. There was a large representative attendance. The subject was "The Religious Aspect of the Women's Movement," the speakers being the Rev. Canon J. Rushby Smith (Vicar of Christ Church, Wycombe), the Rev. Robert Gillis (Free Church League for Women's Suffrage), and the Rev. Claude Hinselife (Secretary of the Church League for W.S.).

By kind permission of Miss Daniel, a very successful meeting took place at Airlie House, Marlborough, Wiltshire, on March 21st. There was a good response of members, and also a few visitors present. Miss Fox (Secretary to the Central Association for the Care of the Mentally Deficient) addressed the meeting, her subject being "The Mental Deficiency Act."

**KING'S SUTTON**—March 31st—A drawing-room meeting was held at Greycourt for members and "Friends" of the Society. Mrs. Ring spoke on "Women and Girls in Industry." The meeting was well attended and much sympathy for the sweated worker in our industrial world was aroused by the speaker.

**OXFORD**—March 10th—Drawing-room meeting at Mrs. Keatinge's—Speaker, Miss Helga Gill.  
 March 11th—Circle meeting—Speaker, Miss Helga Gill.

March 12th—Reception given by Miss M. Venables to Trade Unionist who attended the Albert Hall meeting—Speaker, Professor W. M. Geldart.  
 March 19th—Drawing-room meeting at Miss Price's—Speakers, Mr. Cecil Chapman on "Women under the Law," Miss Grace Hadow—150 present.  
 March 23rd—Meeting at Charlbury to start Branch of Oxford Society—Correspondent, Miss Bowly—Twenty-six members.  
 Miss Helga Gill and Mr. A. B. Gillett, of Oxford, have addressed Federation meetings at Slough (March 26th) and Didcot (April 3rd) respectively.

**WOKINGHAM**—March 20th—A good meeting was held in the Town Hall on the above date. Mrs. Robie Uniacke was in the chair. Speakers, Miss Geraldine Cooke, who spoke on the "Disabilities of Wives and Mothers," and Miss Violet Eustace. Three new members and five "Friends" two dozen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold. Collection, 11s.

**ORGANISER'S REPORT (MISS MASON).**

**WORK IN NORTH BUCKS AND LEIGHTON BUZZARD**—Unfortunately, the only Society in North Bucks, that of Buckingham, has languished, owing to the lack of a Secretary, and there is no immediate prospect of re-forming it, though twenty-two members and over a hundred "Friends" have been enrolled. There is, however, hope of starting a Society at Wolverton, which, with its thousands of men employed at the printing and carriage works, is probably, from the point of view of votes, the most important place in the constituency. The services of a Chairman and Secretary are already promised, and there is much keen feeling in the town. Several members have also been enrolled in Blechley and Fenny Stratford. The Leighton

Buzzard Society had also lapsed for want of a Secretary, but Miss Barrand has enrolled forty-five members and forty "Friends," and the Society will be formally reconstituted when the prospective Secretary returns from abroad.

Altogether seventy members and 260 "Friends" have been enrolled during the month, and twelve dozen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE have been sold, besides literature and badges. The public meetings were, in most cases, full to overflowing, and the resolution was always passed with only one or two dissentients.

**MEETINGS HELD:**

**BUCKINGHAM**—Mothers' Meeting and Men's Brotherhood addressed by Miss Mason. Public meeting—Chair, Rev. J. B. Kirby, M.A.—Speakers, Mrs. Haverfield, Miss Mason—Collection, £1 5s. 7d.

**BLECHLEY AND FENNY STRATFORD**—N.U.R. and Women's Co-operative Guild, addressed by Miss Mason. Women's Guild, addressed by Miss Rochford on "The Religious Aspect of the Women's Movement." Open-air meeting—Chair, Mr. Oliver Wells (Secretary, N.U.R.)—Speaker, Miss Mason. Public Meeting—Chair, Councillor Chignell—Speakers, Miss Geraldine Cooke, Miss Mason—Collection, 12s. 5d.

**WOLVERTON**—Public meeting—Chair, Mrs. Hawkins-Ambler—Speakers, Miss Cooke, Miss Mason—Collection, 12s. 9d.

**LEIGHTON BUZZARD**—Public meeting—Chair, Rev. C. E. Douglas—Speakers, Miss Cooke, Miss Mason—Collection, £1 9s. 6d.

**THORNBOROUGH**—Public meeting, arranged by the Rev. Evan Hughes, Vicar of Thornborough—Chair, Mrs. J. T. Read—Speakers, Mr. J. T. Read, Miss Mason.

**Eastern Counties Federation.**

The Organising Secretary has worked with Miss K. M. Courtauld in North-East Essex for a week. All the elementary schools in the district were visited, and many hundreds of leaflets distributed among teachers and others. Small village meetings were held in Great Maplestead and Grinstead Green, and the interest shown was very encouraging. A meeting for teachers was held at Halstead, when the Vicar of the parish was in the chair. Miss Creak and Miss Courtauld spoke, and a resolution was carried. Altogether, about eight villages and towns were visited.

The newly-appointed Cambs. County Sub-Committee met for the first time on March 20th. It was decided to have some organising work done in North Cambs. directly after Easter. Miss Garlick's services have been secured for this work.

**GREAT YARMOUTH**—March 23rd—A public meeting was held in the Supper Room, Town Hall. The chair was taken by Mrs. Richard Worthington, of Lowestoft. Miss Sheepshanks gave an interesting address on "The Progress of Women's Suffrage in other Countries." There was a good attendance. Reporters were present, and full accounts of the meeting appeared in three local papers.

**SOUTH-EAST ESSEX SOCIETY**—April 3rd—A successful drawing-room meeting was held by Mrs. Aston at Oak Hall, Westcliff-on-sea. The speakers were Dr. Kerslake and Miss Cohen, the former speaking from the point of view of the professional woman, gave an interesting address. Miss Cohen emphasised the high aims of the Suffrage Movement, and its increasing appeal to thoughtful and intelligent people in all sections of the community.

**NORWICH**—April 4th—By kind invitation of Mrs. D. O. Holmes, an at Home was given to Norwich delegates to the N.U.T. Conference. Mrs. Worthington spoke. Some members of the Norwich Society were able to go over to Lowestoft to help during the Conference, and an article on "Education and the Women's Movement," by Mrs. Mothram, was inserted in the *Eastern Daily Press*.

April 15th—The Society held its annual meeting. The chair was taken by Mrs. J. Stuart. Mrs. Fawcett spoke to a large gathering on "The International Movement for Women's Suffrage." Several new members were enrolled. Collection, £3 9s. 24d. The report of the year's work showed a considerable growth in every direction.

**STOWMARKET**—April 1st—Mrs. Heitland spoke at a meeting of the Stowmarket Women's Liberal Association. Miss Prentice took the chair.

**HOLT**—March 26th—The first annual meeting of this Society was held in the Concert Hall, which was very prettily decorated. The chair was taken by the President, Mrs. Meyrick-Jones, and after the business was over Dr. Mary Bell gave an excellent speech. Tea was provided, over one hundred people attended, and several new members joined.

**FELIXSTOWE, WALTON, AND DISTRICT**—During April members of this Society were very busy over the elections for the Urban District Council. Two members of the Committee—Miss Bonnis and Miss Bell—stood for election. They were unsuccessful, but much good work has been done by the canvass, and Suffragists found. Miss Place also stood for election as Poor Law Guardian, winning one of the two seats by a handsome majority at the top of the poll. Miss J. Adams is doing good work, selling papers every week, for the last five weeks disposing of three dozen a week.

**HARLOW** held its first Suffrage meeting on April 7th. There was a good attendance. Miss Young took the chair, and Miss Creak spoke. A resolution was carried, and three members joined. It is hoped that a Society will soon be formed.

**IPSWICH**—At the annual meeting, held in March, this Society decided to change its title from

"Ipswich and County" to "Ipswich Women's Suffrage Society," as since its formation many new Societies have been founded in its neighbourhood and affiliated direct to the National Union. The members decided to adopt a Lightening Campaign, and to do village work during the summer; also to start a Speakers' Class in the autumn. A rummage sale realised nearly £10.

**EAST HERTS SOCIETY**—Hertford, March 27th.—A fairly attended meeting was held in the Council Chamber, when Miss Penrose Philip gave an interesting address on "Poor Law Children: What Can we do with them?" Miss Philip pointed out the good treatment of these children was the interest of the ratepayer. The Chairman, Rev. H. R. Humphreys, commented on the fact that so little had been done to carry out the suggestions of the Royal Commission on the Poor Law, and said that the chief hope in this direction lay in granting women the franchise.

**HODDESDON**—March 27th.—Miss Philip addressed an interested audience on the subject of "Poor Law Children." The meeting was held in the Town Hall, and was presided over by Dr. H. S. Appleford.

April 4th—A very successful meeting was held in the Baths. The chair was taken by Mr. John Cameron Grant. The speakers were Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Ruth Young, Mrs. T. A. Overton (President of the Local Society), and other a large and representative audience listened with great attention to the growth of the movement in all three political parties, and she gave an emphatic denial to the idea that Women's Suffrage had received a set-back. The resolution was moved by Miss Ruth Young in an eloquent speech from the workers' point of view. Mrs. Overton seconded, with an appeal for support. The resolution was carried with one dissentient.

**BOSTON**—March 26th.—A successful public meeting was held at the Assembly Rooms. The chair was taken by Mr. Cooke-Yarborough, and Miss Muriel Matters gave a fine address. New members were made, literature and papers sold, and everyone present was favourably impressed.

**HITCHIN, STEVENAGE, AND DISTRICT**—Two very successful meetings have been held at "The Chesnut"—one on March 25th, the other on April 8th. At the one, Miss S. A. Villiers gave an address on "The Need of the Parliamentary Vote." The speech was specially interesting, as the nurses' point of view was put forward. At the other, Miss Manuel spoke most ably on the work done by women who had the vote, specially on the subject of temperance, thus showing how the best interests of the community would be forward. Two new members joined. Badges were sold.

April 17th—A very good meeting was held at Tods Green, Stevenage, by kind invitation of Mrs. Burke. Miss A. Villiers was the speaker. The enrolment of four new members showed how convincingly she addressed the meeting. Badges were sold.

**LETCHWORTH AND DISTRICT**—March 26th.—A meeting for women was held at Hinworth. Miss M. Sugden spoke. The audience was small, but appreciative. Mr. Wolvelly Farham took the chair. The Free Church League for Women's Suffrage was held in Letchworth. Dr. Marlon Cockerell presided, and Mrs. Vulliamy gave a most inspiring address. The report showed a year of steady work and a large number of new members. The financial statement was most satisfactory.

April 2nd.—Mrs. Heitland and Miss M. Sugden spoke at a meeting at Ashwell. There was a large attendance of men.

April 3rd.—A meeting was held at the Church Schools, Norton. The chair was taken by Mrs. Tabor, the speakers being Mrs. Prentice, Miss M. Sugden, and Mr. C. Harrison.

The Speakers' Class met for the last time on March 31st, and open-air work for the coming season was planned. Fifty new members and several "Friends" have joined. A section of the Active Suffrage League is being formed. Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Harrison represented this Society at Lowestoft, and kindly took the banner.

**West of England Federation.**

**BRISTOL**—March 25th—Meeting in Hamilton's Rooms, Park Street. Mrs. Randall Vickers was in the chair, and Miss Helen Sturge gave an interesting and amusing account of what she saw of the Suffrage Movement during a visit to Canada and the U.S.A. Appeals for help in special branches of the work in Bristol were made by Miss Tanner and Mrs. H. Hicks.

March 27th—By the kind invitation of the Misses Tanner, a drawing-room meeting was held at Downs Park West for the purpose of forming a Branch in Westbury-on-Trym. Mrs. Skemp took the chair, and a fine speech was made by Miss Abadam.

April 3rd—A working party was held at St. Andrew's.

April 7th—At Home at the Office, 40, Park Street. Miss Clough spoke on "The Mental Deficiency Act and its Probable Effects."

April 9th.—Miss Tanner addressed the Greenbank Co-operative Society. It has been arranged that, at the working party at the Office on the first Tuesday of each month, a special address shall be given on some aspect of legislation affecting women. At the other Tuesday working parties reading and discussion will proceed as hitherto.

**CHELTHAM**—A meeting for members only was held on February 24th. Miss Gardiner proposed a resolution condemning militancy. This was seconded by Miss Bourne, and though opposed by Mrs. Swiney and others, was carried. On March 28th another similar meeting was held, at which Miss Heath's motion to exclude from membership in the future all supporters of militancy, seconded by Mrs. Arthur Jones, and opposed by Mrs. Swiney, was lost. Mrs. Angus gave a drawing-room meeting on March 26th, when Miss Grace Hadow, of Cirencester, spoke. A storm lessened the attendance, but a good many pamphlets were sold, and much interest

was shown. Preparations for the Gloucestershire Forest of Christmas Trees, to be held in December, are beginning.

**KEYNSHAM**—On March 24th, at the Lesser Drill Hall, a social evening for members and "Friends" was given. Miss Adamson, of Bath, gave an excellent address, after which several questions were asked, to which the speaker ably replied. Yearly subscriptions were taken, members generously responding. Badges were sold, and literature distributed. Several musical items given by Miss Redpath, were enjoyed during the evening, and the proceedings terminated with votes of thanks.

**NAILSWORTH**—On March 31st the local members of the N.U. met, and formed a Society. Mrs. Meade-King (Amberley) and Miss Blacke (Nailsworth) were appointed Secretary and Treasurer.

**STREET**—Since Christmas our Society has been very active. Nine of our members rehearsed the play, "Man and Woman: A Question of the Day," by Mrs. Ward, of Cambridge, and gave two very successful performances. The second, under the auspices of the local Branch of the Men's League. These proved excellent pieces of propaganda, new members being enrolled on each occasion. Refreshments were provided in a most interesting address on "Children under the Poor Law," followed by a useful discussion on some of the points raised. The chair was taken by Mrs. Warner, member of the Langport Board of Guardians. These meetings are very valuable in winning the sympathy and understanding of people interested in these questions, but not particularly keen about the Suffrage. Appropriate literature has been distributed, and "Friends" enrolled, as well as members.

**SWINDON AND NORTH WILTS**—A series of debates and discussions with local bodies have been lately held. Debates have been seen to and received from the Swindon Trades' Council, the Machine Workers' Union, and the Junior Imperial League. The various points of view of the Movement were explained, discussed and objections dealt with, and from the sympathetic atmosphere and the earnest character of the debates, it was felt that many of those who attended, not already convinced, would in future give more serious thought to a movement bound to be an important factor in determining the future destiny of the British Empire.

On April 3rd a public meeting was held in the Mechanics' Institute. The proceedings were enthusiastic, and rendered especially interesting by the Rev. Ivory Cripps' repudiation from the chair of the Free Church League for Women's Suffrage, and by Dr. Massie and others. Mr. Fenner Brockway, Editor of the *Labour Leader*, gave a most able speech, in the course of which he made the following significant statement: "We in the Labour Movement have come to understand that this is an urgent and immediate question. We have taken up the attitude, not only that we are going to support Women's Suffrage, but that we are going to support any franchise measure, even though it extends the vote to more men, if it does not recognise the claims of women." The resolution demanding a Government measure was seconded by Mr. Reuben George, and carried unanimously.

**TAUNTON**—During the fortnight, March 15th to 25th, a shop was opened near the Lyceum, with the help of our local Organising Committee. Besides leaflets, books, and pamphlets on the Suffrage question, which, with copies of THE COMMON CAUSE, were on sale, there was a most interesting exhibition of dolls, large and small, designed to illustrate women's work in the past and present. There was also a very instructive contrast provided in two models showing the difference between a home kept by sweated labour, and one with a proper wage. The shop was besieged with enquirers, 670 adults, to say nothing of children, visiting it to ask questions. Hundreds of others paused to read the leaflets in the windows. On March 25th the campaign was brought to a close by a meeting at Flook House, kindly lent by Miss Sibby. Mrs. Hudleston presided, and Miss Abadam spoke splendidly on "The Connection between Women's Suffrage and Moral Questions." Miss Thurstan proposed the resolution, which was carried unanimously. Twelve copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold, and during the fortnight eight new members and forty "Friends" were enrolled.

On April 4th the first monthly drawing-room meeting was held, by kind invitation of Mrs. Hudleston, at 11, The Crescent. Miss Phillis was in the chair, and reports of the shop, finance, and the Federation Committee meeting at Yeovil were read, and a new member was added to the Committee.

**TROWBRIDGE**—On March 30th a Society was formed here, with Mrs. Pullinger, The Haive, as Secretary; Mrs. Shapley, 10, Bradley Road, Treasurer; and Mrs. Miller, Trowle Side, Press Secretary. The latter reports that the local paper, insertions and report meetings well, and were most anxious for details of the newly-formed Society. Both of the local candidates are favourable.

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE**—On March 21st a public meeting was held in the Town Hall. In spite of the fact that Mrs. Philip Snowden, the advertised speaker, was unfortunately prevented, by serious illness, from fulfilling the engagement, the meeting was most successful. Mrs. Cooper, who had valiantly come to the rescue, was thoroughly appreciated as a speaker by the crowded audience. The

**FOWLER'S Complete Fruit, Vegetable & Game Bottling Outfits**

THE Apparatus is also a Steam Cooker and Milk Pasteurizer.



**MAKE IDEAL WEDDING AND OTHER PRESENTS, for Home and Abroad, and are guaranteed to give satisfaction.**

20/- OUTFIT.—Consisting of Patent No. 1a Round Apparatus, Steam Cooking Stand, Thermometer, Book of Directions, 24 Bottles, the necessary Covers, Rings, and Clips, and 1 Bottle Brush.

35/- OUTFIT.—Consisting of Patent No. 1 Round Apparatus, Steam Cooking Stand, Thermometer, Book of Directions, 42 Bottles, the necessary Covers, Rings, and Clips, and 1 Bottle Brush.

50/- OUTFIT.—Consisting of Patent No. 1 Round Apparatus, Steam Cooking Stand, Thermometer, Book of Directions, 84 Bottles, the necessary Covers, Rings, and Clips, and 1 Bottle Brush.

One of the Bottles of each Outfit is filled with Fruit. Each Outfit is complete with everything that is necessary to successfully preserve Fruit, Vegetables, and Game.

**The Patent Cooking and Bottling Apparatus of each Outfit** is not only for Bottling Fruit, Vegetables, and Game, but is also a Steam Cooker for cooking Fish, Poultry, Puddings, Hams, Mutton, Vegetables, etc., and being fitted with a Thermometer it is a scientific apparatus for making Beef Tea, Chicken Broth, and other kinds of dietary for invalids.

The Apparatus may be used on an ordinary Kitchen, Oil Stove, or Gas burner. The Apparatus is in use for Cooking Food by Steam.

Rev. J. Holden (Chairman) reminded his audience of the memorable utterance of a great statesman...

The Trades Council and Labour Party sent delegates to the Albert Hall Demonstration, and since have been unanimously passed the resolution demanding a Government measure.

West Riding.

In spite of the Easter holidays intervening, very active work has been done during the past month...

E. F. F.

This branch of the Federation work has received an impetus by Miss Margaret Robertson's visit, and she addressed meetings in Rotherham...

We are hoping to have Miss Hiltson with us for a time to work in East Leeds and West Bradford...

ORGANISATION REPORT.—Since the last report was sent in, Miss Brandebourg has been working in Halifax...

BRADFORD.—Mrs. Fawcett visited Bradford on March 9th, and a most enthusiastic meeting was held at the Church Institute...

A Lightning Campaign was organised in honour of her visit, and every member is asked to obtain one new member at least...

We are sorry to say we have been compelled to change our office, and the new address is 7, Belle Vue, Manningham Lane...

The following meetings have been held in Bradford and District in connection with our Society: Guild (Women's) Speaker, Mrs. Robinson...

March 29th.—Bradford Moor Women's Co-operative Guild—Speaker, Mrs. Robinson...

April 2nd.—Tong Women's Liberal Association—Speaker, Mrs. Grafton-Newbould...

April 5th.—Trade Union meeting, N.U.R. (Laisterdyke Branch)...

April 5th.—Associated Society of Railway Servants—Speaker, Miss Odium...

April 6th.—Society of Pattern Makers—Speaker, Miss Burgess...

April 10th.—Associated Society of Engineers—Speaker, Miss Burgess...

April 16th.—Society of Coachmakers—Speaker, Miss Ashley...

DONCASTER.—A small, but successful, meeting was held in the Albany Cafe on April 2nd...

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

THE annual meeting will be held on the evening of May 13th, when Miss L. O. Ford, of Leeds, will be the principal speaker...

Huddersfield.—On April 2nd Mrs. Studdard gave an address on "The Present Position of Women's Suffrage" at the Crosland Moor Liberal Club...

LEEDS.—On March 22nd the Railway Men's Union organised a mass meeting for the South African deportees in the afternoon...

On March 29th Miss Margaret Robertson addressed a crowded I.L.P. meeting in East Leeds (Mr. O'Grady's constituency)...

On April 1st the Committee was "At Home" at the new Offices, 55, Park Square. Miss Sykes (Secretary of the Industrial Law Committee, Leeds Branch) gave an interesting address on "Industrial Law Concerning Women and Girls"...

North-Eastern Federation.

BIRTLBY.—On March 23rd a very successful social evening was held at the Suffrage Rooms, Birtley. Mrs. Farndale presided...

CHESTER-LE-STREET.—On April 4th a meeting was held in the Church Institute...

GATESHEAD.—March 25th.—A well-attended meeting was held at Cuthbert Street, Bensham...

April 1st.—Miss Beaver addressed an afternoon meeting in the Bewick Hall on "Housing"...

April 8th.—At Cuthbert Street, Bensham, Miss Burgham read the most interesting paper on "George Elliot: Novelist"...

April 13th.—At Cuthbert Street, Bensham, Miss Burgham read the most interesting paper on "George Elliot: Novelist"...

April 16th.—A members' meeting was held at the Suffrage Rooms, Birtley...

April 19th.—At Cuthbert Street, Bensham, Miss Burgham read the most interesting paper on "George Elliot: Novelist"...

April 22nd.—At Cuthbert Street, Bensham, Miss Burgham read the most interesting paper on "George Elliot: Novelist"...

April 25th.—At Cuthbert Street, Bensham, Miss Burgham read the most interesting paper on "George Elliot: Novelist"...

April 28th.—At Cuthbert Street, Bensham, Miss Burgham read the most interesting paper on "George Elliot: Novelist"...

April 31st.—At Cuthbert Street, Bensham, Miss Burgham read the most interesting paper on "George Elliot: Novelist"...

April 34th.—At Cuthbert Street, Bensham, Miss Burgham read the most interesting paper on "George Elliot: Novelist"...

April 37th.—At Cuthbert Street, Bensham, Miss Burgham read the most interesting paper on "George Elliot: Novelist"...

April 40th.—At Cuthbert Street, Bensham, Miss Burgham read the most interesting paper on "George Elliot: Novelist"...

April 43rd.—At Cuthbert Street, Bensham, Miss Burgham read the most interesting paper on "George Elliot: Novelist"...

April 46th.—At Cuthbert Street, Bensham, Miss Burgham read the most interesting paper on "George Elliot: Novelist"...

APRIL 28. Norwood—Chestnut Road, West Norwood—Drawing-room Meeting—Hostesses, Mrs. and Miss Hubbard—Speaker, Mrs. Rawlings 3.30

APRIL 29. Islington—Cattle Market, North Road—Opening Meeting—Speaker, Mr. F. W. Flood 8.0

The Provinces.

APRIL 24. Birmingham—"Smethwick"—Mrs. Ring will address the Pattern Makers 9.0

Birtley—Co-operative Hall—Speakers, Miss G. Cooke, Miss C. M. Gordon—Chair, the Rev.—Farnedale

Bournville—Ruskin Hall—Speaker, Mrs. Ring—Dramatic Performance, "How the Vote was Won" 7-8.30

Bristol—3, Hurlingham Road—Working Party—Address by Miss Bowie 7-8.30

Cambridge—Women's Co-operative Guild—Miss Creek on "Joseph Mazzini and the Women's Movement" 8.0

Leicester—Suffrage Office—Mrs. Cowmeadow on "Why Working Women Need the Vote"—Chair, Mrs. W. J. Harris (President, Surrey Branches Women's Co-operative Guild) 3.0

Leicester—Temperance Hall—Speakers, Mrs. Gatty (N.U. of Shop Assistants), Miss Blackstone—Chair, Mrs. Ryden 8.0

Southampton—Art Gallery—Annual General Meeting—Election of Officers, &c., and Speeches 3.30

St. Neots—Corn Exchange—Speakers, Mrs. Ramsey, Miss D. Mason, B.A. 8.0

Stockfield—Drawing-room Meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Farley Graham—Speaker, Miss G. Cooke—Chair, Mrs. Pumphry 3.0

APRIL 25. Redcar—Institute Hall—Drawing-room Meeting—Miss H. Fraser on "Women and the Industrial Problem. How Men will gain by Women's Suffrage" 7.30

APRIL 27. Birmingham—Primitive Methodist Chapel, Edward Street—Women's Liberal Association—Speaker, Mrs. Ring—Chair, Mrs. Chute 8.0

Croydon—3A, The Arcade, High Street—Speaker, Mr. A. Gibson 3.30

Manchester—Temperance Hall, York Street—Hulme Suffrage Club—Speaker, Mrs. Atack 8.0

APRIL 28. Bristol—40, Park Street—At Home 3.0

East Bristol—1, Barrow Road, Laurence Hill—Mrs. Tilly on "Round about a Pound a Week" 3.0

APRIL 29. Bristol—Y.M.C.A., Totterdown—Speaker, Miss J. M. Barrett 3.0

Llangollen—Pavilion—Public Meeting—Speaker, Miss Helen Fraser—Chair, Mrs. John Mahler 8.0

Sutton Coldfield—Maney Institute, Holland Street—Jumble Sale 3.30-9.30

APRIL 30. Amersley—Reading Room—Miss G. Cooke on "The Religious Aspect of the Woman's Movement"—Chair, the Rev. F. Windley, M.A. 2.30

The Green—Speaker, Miss G. Cooke 8.0

Brentwood—Little Hall—Drawing-room Meeting (by kind permission of Mrs. Haynes)—Lady Darwin on "How American Women have Used the Vote"—Chair, the Rev. G. N. Grestley 8.0

Bromsgrove—The Institute—Whist Drive and Dance 8.0

Dewsbury—Exchange Hall—Speaker, Mrs. Rackham—Chair, Mr. W. B. Crawshaw 7.30

Hull—All Saints Parish Room—Musical and Dramatic Entertainment 8.0

Sheffield—Montgomery Hall—Reception and Annual Meeting—Speakers, Mrs. Rackham, Miss Helen Clark—Chair, Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher 3.30-7.30

MAY 1. Birmingham—Queen's College—Members of Franchise Club and Friends—Mrs. Harley on "The Active Service League" 8.0

Parton—Reading Room—Speaker, Miss G. Cooke—Chair, Mr. W. Farrer 8.0

Walsfield—Church Club, Westgate—Speaker, Mrs. Rackham—Chair, the Rev. J. G. Love 3.0

APRIL 30. Leith—Wilson's Hall, Hope Street—Public Meeting 3.0

MAY 1. Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—Miss Alice Low on "The Council Meeting in London" 4.30

Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—At Home—Miss Cecile Barclay on "Woman's Suffrage from an Actress's Point of View"—Recitations by Miss Cecile Barclay—Chair, Miss London 4.30

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