

THE VOTE

(THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE).

VOL. IV. No. 91.

SATURDAY, JULY 22, 1911.

ONE PENNY.

NOTICE.

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Published by W. SPEAIGHT & SONS, 98 & 99, Fetter Lane, E.C.

EDITORIAL.

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OUR POINT OF VIEW.

The Blindness of the Bill.

Nothing is clearer as a result of the protest meetings of the past week against the position of women under the Insurance Bill than the utterly negligible quantity of the voteless. Not only have politicians no time to attend to those who have no vote, as Mrs. Bedford Fenwick remarked at the Caxton Hall, but the Press, with certain splendid exceptions, notably *The Manchester Guardian*, has practically boycotted the protests of the women. Important meetings in the provinces have passed almost unnoticed, and London has fared little better. The bare mention of the Caxton Hall meeting, and the substance of the resolution, was all that appeared in *The Times*, and other papers passed over altogether the crying injustice of the Bill towards women. Yet the voice of the women must be heard in spite of heedless politicians and a careless Press. Women must continue their campaign. Even if the Bill be hurried through Parliament there must be no tame acceptance of the insulting injustice. If the public realised that England may be branded by Act of Parliament with the shame of taking women's money and giving them no return, there would be an irresistible outcry. But the public does not know; the Press does not help; and one can only admire the keenness of one of our VOTE sellers a few days ago who chalked the following words on the pavement: "Don't be done out of your news by a sulky Press! Buy THE VOTE!"

The Need for Work.

This is the time to arise and work. The women's voice must sound throughout the length and breadth of the land. The plain statement of facts is sufficient to arouse indignation. If this Bill is the best that men can do in legislating for women, where is their boasted chivalry to the voteless? According to the "antis" politics do not concern women; the Insurance Bill should drive home the conviction that the vote is the only protection against such ignorant injustice. But everybody comes before voteless women in considera-

tion. Mr. Lloyd George may say that it is not from want of sympathy that he resists amendments which will help the women and children, but he does not resist the doctors who have votes. We agree that doctors are important members of the community, yet it is quite possible to magnify their importance out of all proportion. In thinking over the injustices to women, we feel sympathy with Mr. Lansbury's outburst: "Hang the doctors! Anybody would think there was nobody to be considered but the doctors."

Miss Malecka.

Sir Edward Grey's reply to questions in the House of Commons, a few days ago, showed a welcome stiffening of the attitude of the Foreign Office with regard to Miss Malecka's case. Lukewarm inquiries as to nationality have been followed by a determination to know the charge against a British subject, to hasten the trial, and to ensure proper defence, or release on the understanding that she would quit Russia. We are glad to note that an outspoken and determined stand was taken at the Trafalgar-square meeting last Sunday, and Mr. Will Thorne, M.P., who presided, insisted that the Government must intervene, even if it meant sending a Dreadnought or two to Russian waters. England and the United States have taken strong action in similar circumstances on behalf of men; the woman must now have help. Further delay will mean further agitation.

A Victory for Free Speech at Hampstead.

For some time past attempts have been made by the police to prevent meetings being held opposite "Jack Straw's Castle" on Hampstead Heath, a most suitable spot for open-air propaganda. As a consequence, a summons was issued against the chairman of the meeting held on June 12. The Social Democratic Party, the Independent Labour Party, the Hampstead Fabian Group, and the Church Socialist League, united in taking up the question and in putting up a good fight. Legal assistance was secured, and on the day on which the case came on, the small and inconvenient waiting-room at the police-station on Rosslyn-hill was crowded with representatives of Woman Suffrage organisations and others who also hold meetings at the same spot. To the surprise of all, the solicitor for the police, acting on the order of the Chief Commissioner, or of some higher authority, withdrew the summons and consented to pay costs. Presumably the police authorities realised that more trouble would be caused by an attack on the right of free speech than by allowing a continuance of meetings which have been for many years a feature of Hampstead life. We are glad to acclaim this victory, and to hear that a Free Speech Defence Committee has been formed. The secretary is Mr. F. Hurd, 18, Holly Mount, Hampstead.

A Written Constitution (?).

News from America is often refreshingly surprising; but when we read of an eminent judge, on dismissing a suit for separation brought by a wife against her husband, being driven to tabulate the husband's rights, we wonder whether the irresistible march of the women is driving the men to the last ditch—or a written constitution! It is a counsel of despair. If Judge Long wishes the man to reign supreme in the home, "the woman's sphere," let him vacate his seat on the Bench to a woman while he orders the meals at any time he likes and manages the servants—if he can!

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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AT HEADQUARTERS.

The last discussion meeting for this session will be held on Wednesday, July 26, at the "Gardenia" Restaurant, when Mrs. Drysdale will speak on "Emancipation and Motherhood." The chair will be taken at 8 p.m. by Mrs. How Martyn. It has been decided to continue these meetings in the autumn. Mr. G. K. Chesterton will open the course, October 4, by lecturing on "Female Suffrage: The Last Blow to Democracy." Other lecturers in October will be Mr. S. K. Ratcliffe, Mr. Laurence Housman, and the Rev. Hatty Baker.

Mrs. Sproson will be released from prison on the morning of July 21, and will at once travel to London for the meeting of the N.E.C. that afternoon. Sunday, at noon, there will be a demonstration in Hyde Park, at which Mrs. Sproson, Mrs. How Martyn, Miss Jack and other members of the N.E.C. will speak. At 4 o'clock a reception will be held at Caxton Hall, when the donations received for the League through her imprisonment Fund will be announced by our honorary treasurer, Miss Tite.

Caravan.—Miss Sidley will begin our Caravan tour on Thursday, July 26, and it is probable that she will end it by a fortnight's visit to Bournemouth previous to September 25, when our President, Mrs. Despard, will lecture on "Prometheus Unbound" at St. Peter's Hall. We ask our friends in that district to make preparations at once for the formation of a strong Bournemouth branch of the Women's Freedom League.

Branches.—Encouraging reports of work done have recently been received from some of our secretaries. The report from Miss A. M. Clark, of Montgomery Boroughs, is the most encouraging of all. The Branch is under the age of one month, and already has seventy members. Our congratulations to its energetic secretary!

Wolverhampton.—Mrs. Tanner has done good work in this district, and we expect to hear of splendid results following the demonstration to be held on July 26, when Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Sproson, and Miss Neilans will be among the speakers.

Eastbourne.—Mrs. Mustard is working energetically at this seaside resort. All Freedom League workers in London heartily wish her every possible success in her work at Eastbourne, and confidently expect to learn that the results have been most favourable. F. A. UNDERWOOD.

POLITICAL AND MILITANT WORK.

Mrs. Sproson's Release.

This will take place on Friday, July 21, "subject to her good conduct and industry in the meantime," to quote the governor of Stafford Gaol. Mrs. Tanner has been working very energetically in Wolverhampton in preparation for Mrs. Sproson's return, and writes:—

The week's campaign which I have been organising at Wolverhampton ended on Wednesday. I held meetings in the market place each evening, except Sunday, when I had a splendid meeting outside the park gates. At every meeting the policy of tax resistance was explained, and special reference made to Mrs. Sproson's protest in refusing to pay her dog licence. A good deal of indignation has been raised by the severity of the sentence imposed, and also by the action of the authorities in trying to secure a second victim in the person of Mr. Sproson. The members of the local Branch have supported me splendidly by turning up at the meetings and helping to sell THE VOTE and to take collections. Mr. Sproson also rendered very valuable help.

Miss Manning has been in Wolverhampton since

Tuesday making the final arrangements. Mrs. Sproson does not intend to allow her imprisonment to interfere with her duties as a member of the National Executive Committee, and expresses her intention of coming to London for the committee meeting on Friday afternoon and Saturday. We are very glad to have the opportunity of welcoming her to London so soon after her release. With the hearty co-operation of Mrs. Nourse, of the Mid-London Branch, a special demonstration has been arranged in Hyde-park, at noon on Sunday. In the afternoon a reception will be held at Caxton Hall.

In Wolverhampton, meetings will be held on Wednesday, July 26. At the reception to Mrs. Sproson in the afternoon, Mrs. Despard will speak. Miss Manning, Miss Neilans, and others, will speak at an open-air demonstration in the evening.

Tax Resistance in Scotland.

In Edinburgh our Branch is refusing to pay income-tax on bank interest, and Miss Jack sends me the following interesting details:—

The Income-tax people pestered us all the spring months with inquiries as to our income, our employees, &c.; and no answer we gave seemed sufficient, as every other week or so came other inquiries. Consequently I sent them our abstract of accounts for the year with the idea of proving to them our integrity. One item there was: Interest, £1 12s. 7d. Immediately came a demand to pay income-tax at 1s. 2d. per £ on that sum, or rather on £2, amount 2s. 4d. I called at the office to inquire the reason for this action, and it was explained to me that all societies except charitable institutions, are charged income-tax on interest. It was of no use my trying to show that our income is made up of donations, subscriptions, collections, and that therefore we are a charitable society—they would not listen. Several notices to pay came; we gave no heed. Then came a final notice, giving us seven days or a penalty—distraint. Six weeks passed; then on June 11 came a notice from the Sheriff giving us three days to pay up. Nothing has happened since. I dare say nothing more will be done until after the Royal visit.

The Campaign in the Constituencies.

Every day more women are awaking to the fact that the National Insurance Bill in its present shape will be terribly unjust to women, not only to those omitted, but also to those included. For the campaign in the constituencies I should like to suggest that speakers take the Insurance Bill and use it as an illustration—it would seem almost impossible that we could have a better one—of the need for our enfranchisement before such wide-reaching schemes affecting women's lives are carried into law.

Some of the special points that should be brought forward and explained are:—

1. A fresh sex-disqualification is being set up, for while men earning more than 15s. per week pay 4d. and get 10s., women pay 3d. and only get 7s. 6d., instead of 8s. 11d. Men and women earning less than 15s. weekly pay 3d. each, but men get 10s. return for their money and women only 7s. 6d. The basis should have been one of wages only, and the sex of the worker should not have entered into the question at all.

2. The insincerity and dishonesty with which married women are treated in Parliament. Mr. Lloyd George and his followers will have none of the Conciliation Bill, because married women are not expressly included, but in his own Insurance Bill he omits them altogether, insulting them by saying it would be difficult to check malingering and finally making the excuse of want of funds.

3. Expose the usual Parliamentary practice of drafting bills as traps to catch votes, rather than from a desire to "organise the resources of the State for the welfare of the least as of the greatest of its members" as Mr. Lloyd George pretends this Bill does.

As Mrs. Pember Reeves points out, the man with £100 a year and over who is usually an elector benefits tremendously under the Bill, but to the poor wretches earning less than £1 a week it just means that they and their children have to starve a little more than they do already, thus ultimately increasing the number

"THE VOTE" CAMPAIGN.

One of the most useful ways in which members of the Women's Freedom League can help the Cause is to assist in circulating THE VOTE, the organ of the League, not only among the members of the Branches, but among the general public. Miss Hoad, our Vote circulation organiser, has for some time past been busily canvassing London newsagents, negotiating with London hotels to display THE VOTE on their bookstalls, and arranging to have our organ placed in some of the large reading-rooms and public libraries.

Arrangements have now been made for Miss Hoad to visit the large seaside and other centres. She has already spent a week at Brighton, doing good work in calling upon hotel proprietors and newsagents, and bringing the paper before a public which evidently needs educating on Suffrage matters. She received much valuable help and advice from Mrs. Francis, our Brighton member of the N.E.C.

On the 17th inst. Miss Hoad commenced a week's campaign at Eastbourne, where we have many supporters, and as Mrs. Mustard is now organising a fortnight's work for the Freedom League in this district, we are hoping great things from this visit, feeling confident that, if an energetic brigade of VOTE sellers can be organised for the purpose of selling the paper along the front, our circulation will very quickly improve, and our Cause advance among the visitors to this popular seaside resort.

Portsmouth will be the seaside town next visited, and our members there are urged to do all in their power to make Miss Hoad's visit (commencing on July 31) a complete success. Original ideas for pushing the sale of the paper will be welcomed, and any member of the Portsmouth Branch who can make a brilliant suggestion in this direction is asked to communicate with Mrs. Whetton, hon. secretary, 64, Devonshire-avenue, Southsea.

A week to be spent at Croydon and another at Hackney will form an interlude to the seaside campaign, and later on Miss Hoad will visit Bournemouth (where Mrs. Despard will be lecturing on Shelley on September 25). As Miss Sidley will also be at Bournemouth at that time, a splendid opportunity will be afforded for making THE VOTE more widely known.

Branch secretaries of other centres who would like to aid in THE VOTE Campaign are asked to apply to Mrs. Snow, VOTE Sales Department, Women's Freedom League, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, W.C., who is making arrangements for Miss Hoad's missionary visits. L. T. P.

PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

Result of Receipts Competition.

The first prize of 10s. or two fully paid-up shares in the Minerva Publishing Company, Ltd., is awarded to Mrs. Tritton, 1, Northcote-avenue, Ealing. The second prize of 6s. 6d., or a year's subscription to THE VOTE, is awarded to Miss Clarke, Holborn. Will Miss Clarke kindly send full address?

of children who die from insufficient care and nourishment. Other points—and their number is very large—in which the Bill is unfair to women will suggest themselves to those who have read Miss Anson's excellent articles on the Bill. In all cases the moral should be drawn, and the resolution as given in last week's issue should be submitted to the meeting. I have had several letters asking for advice in local work, and would again remind members that I regard it as a very important part of my work to do all I can to help them in their districts.

Mr. Brailsford says that before next spring there must be a Suffrage society in every constituency, and I want the W.F.L. to do its full share in this most important piece of work. Enthusiastic local workers are the first essential to success. Will such workers write to me? EDITH HOW MARTYN.

TREASURER'S NOTE.

At the time of writing, only three days after my appeal for a collection for the League in honour of Mrs. Sproson, I have already the gratification of announcing several donations, and have received more promises. I should like to remind our readers that the coming year must be one of hard work and untiring enthusiasm; we must not only remember that we have received a pledge, but impress the fact upon the country at large. If, as we truly believe, it is women like Mrs. Sproson who have most powerfully helped to bring us so far forward, it is for everyone of us now to add our help, little or great, to what we hope will be the last mighty effort. CONSTANCE TITE.

NATIONAL FUND.

(Branch and District Funds not Included.)

Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1910, £11,595 3s. 2d.

£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
Amount previously acknowledged	1,647	1	0	Miss C. E. Lawson	0	2	6
Miss C. Tite	2	0	0	Per Miss Sidley	0	2	0
Mrs. Despard	5	0	0	Miss E. Branch	2	2	0
Per Mrs. Despard—				Procession Banners—			
Mrs. S. Solomon	2	2	0	Brighton and Hove			
Miss B. Kent	1	0	0	Branch	0	8	6
Mrs. J. S. Dieks	1	1	0	Kensington Branch	0	8	6
Mrs. Nevinston (Lecture Fee)	0	10	6	Liverpool Branch	0	8	6
Mrs. B. Drysdale	0	10	6	Northern Heights Branch	0	8	6
Miss M. I. Saunders	0	10	0	South Shields Branch	0	8	6
Miss C. E. Lawson	0	2	6	Per Mr. Sproson	0	0	0
Mrs. Hutton	0	2	0	Collections	0	4	10
Mrs. Beck	0	1	0	Mrs. Sproson Imprisonment Fund:			
Liverpool Branch	0	7	4	Per Mrs. Drysdale—			
C.T.O., per Miss Alder	0	3	0	Admirer of Militancy	0	10	0
Miss Hitchfield	0	1	0	Miss C. Napier	1	0	0
Mrs. Jones	0	5	0	Mrs. F. Tollemache	0	5	0
For Office Expenses				Mid-London Branch	1	1	6
Fund:				South Shields Branch and Miss Clark,			
Mrs. S. Whetton	1	0	0	Sunderland	1	8	0
For Procession Fund:				P. and M. Dept.	0	10	0
Mrs. L. Sidley	0	10	0	Mrs. de Visnes	0	10	0
Mrs. Vulliamy (Sweated Workers' Section)	6	18	9	Collections and Sales:			
Sale Branch	3	3	0	London	9	7	7
Mrs. J. E. Snow	1	1	0	Total	£1,693	3	6
Mrs. M. M. Jenkin	1	0	0				

TAX RESISTANCE AT STAFFORD.

On Thursday, July 13, a protest was organised by the Women's Tax Resistance League in Birmingham, when a microscope and some jewellery were sold which had been seized for non-payment of King's Taxes from Elizabeth Moffett, M.D., B.Sc., who is Medical Inspector to the Education Committee of Staffordshire. The sale was in the Market Hall, where a protest was made, and immediately afterwards a public meeting was held in the Oddfellows' Hall, presided over by Councillor Simmonds. Speeches were made by Dr. Moffett, Miss Hazel, of Birmingham, and Mrs. Kineton Parkes. The chairman spoke in very sympathetic terms of the action which their fellow-townswoman had felt obliged to take, and then put the resolution to the meeting, which was carried unanimously. In the evening a very large crowd assembled in the market place to listen to addresses from the same speakers.



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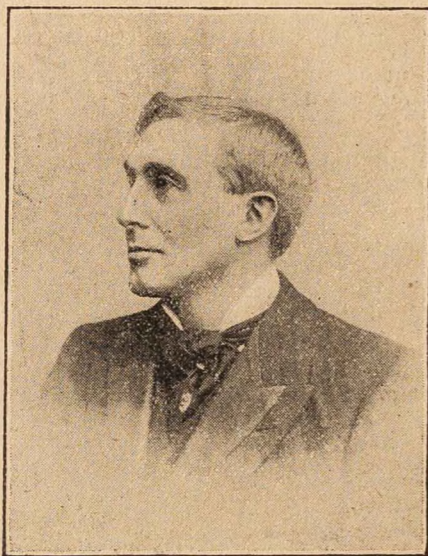
THE MILITANT SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT.

A MAN'S POINT OF VIEW.

The secret of the conversion of any man or woman to the Militant Suffrage movement is, of necessity, an unending subject of interest and discussion. The best that those of us who are in the thick of the fray can learn must inevitably be objective. We can gather the material for the ammunition, load the guns, a few gifted speakers amongst us can actually fire the shots; but it is seldom given to us to learn what internal, invisible revolutions our warfare has brought about.

I therefore valued the opportunity I had the other day in travelling to Bognor, in Sussex, to visit the village of Felpham, where Blake lived and worked for a time, and where, in a quaint, old-fashioned house with a long, rambling garden facing the sea, I discussed the subjective triumph of our work with a whole-hearted believer in our methods—Mr. Stanhope-Sprigg, the literary consultant, to whom publishers and authors repair in all manner of difficulties. Mr. Sprigg has had an interesting career amongst women workers. A few months ago, he resigned the position of editor of *Cassell's Magazine*, and of reader to Messrs. Cassell and Co., to set up as an avowed literary expert, whose experience and advice could practically be at the service of all comers. He remains, however, on the staff of Messrs. Cassell's outside group of editors, and has just completed a big serial work for them, under his own name, which is on the eve of issue in twenty-four parts. Before he was so unexpectedly invited to "La Belle Sauvage," he was for some years one of the principal reviewers and descriptive writers on *The Standard*, being sent by that paper to the United States for some months as special commissioner. Other work he has done in the literary field includes three years' service as literary adviser to the Society of Women Journalists, the foundation and first editorship of *The Windsor Magazine*, the literary editorship of *The Daily Express*, and a position as one of the members of the original literary staff of *The Daily Mail*. For something like twelve years he has been a popular figure at the Savage Club. It is an open secret that he recently declined the editorship of the most powerful daily newspaper in India.

"I believe that the first person who made me think seriously about the importance of the feminist movement was my wife," said Mr. Sprigg, in answer to my question as to how a Conservative journalist like himself came to join the ranks of those who sympathise with the Militant Suffrage movement. "We used to talk and think a great deal about the ideal relationship that was possible to man and woman, but it was all based on the old dreams of poets and writers and, at times, I found it difficult to apply the theory to everyday things. Most men, I imagine, do. They have been brought up with certain ingrained ideas as to their rights and special masculine privileges, and they act a great deal on inherited instinct. It is rubbed into us, like ointment, as youths, that woman's 'sphere' is and should be a restricted one, and that our own has absolutely no limitations. Many of us have blundered in arriving at an appreciation of the Women's Suffrage question as it stands to-day, because in none of the modern problems have we any tradition to guide our minds, and the silly doctrine of over-lordship, which has been part of our education, has, naturally, fettered our decisions.



MR. STANHOPE SPRIGG.

"I think I date my first decided step forward on the road to conviction, to a conversation I had with an active worker in the Women's Freedom League. This lady, I believe, gave my mind a push off into a practical realisation of modern conditions and the great industrial questions which lie underneath the demand for women's political independence. Or, shall I put it this way? Instead of continuing to live in dreams that were Shelley's and Browning's and Tennyson's, I began to see there was in the world around me a possibility of dreams being crystallised into realities, and that this was being accomplished by the women's forward movement.

"I was immensely struck by Ella Wheeler Wilcox's *Battle Song of the Women*, 'The Awakening,' when I read it in *THE VOTE*, some months ago, and I then realised more than ever that this movement is now a world-wide one, and is of world-wide significance.

"Another thing which prepared my mind was all the reviewing I did for some years on *The Standard*. A part of my duty was to receive and review all the novels which the publishers sent to that paper, and nobody could do this without feeling that women writers were calling out in poignant accents for the old order of things to be changed. Not only were women's hearts and minds being hurt but their souls were being crushed and there could come no healing until men turned in their long, cruel sleep, and helped women towards a readjustment of the wrongs of centuries.

"My conversion was complete, I believe, when I became aware, first, with a shocked feeling, then with a curious academic interest, and finally, with genuine sympathy, of the tremendous sacrifices which women in the militant movement were making almost daily. It is, of course, merely a platitude to say that no great work is done without great suffering, but I do feel that the sacrifices that have been and are being made by militant women have given thoughtful men to pause and consider—have brought many men to the confession that only a just and righteous cause could have called forth such self-renunciation.

"I would, however, like to suggest—only suggest—one thing. I may be quite wrong, but it seems to me that you should do more work amongst men. Surely the time is ripe for men and women to work side by side in a League like yours. It seems a drastic suggestion, but I should like to see this great organisation of yours drop the first word of its title, and call itself 'The Freedom League,' thus giving the men who are working in separate organisations, and some who are at present outside all Suffrage societies, a chance to come in and join hands with you in reality, and to feel that the Cause is, indeed, as much their own as it is that of the women 'of the East and of the West.'

"You have asked me to talk about this question from the man's point of view—at any rate, from one man's point of view. Personally, I am never tired of saying that it is men who will actually benefit from the triumph of the woman's movement. They will benefit from the true comradeship which they will enjoy—from the wider outlook upon the land of freedom which will be theirs when that freedom is shared by those who have so long helped to bear the burdens of the world, and who have paid the price demanded of all

true citizens without being allowed to exercise their responsibilities or to receive their rewards.

"One of the things which I have most admired in the woman's fight for the vote has been the tenacity of purpose which has never wavered. Since a handful of you set out to get the vote fifty years ago many tactics have been tried, first one and then the other. It seems to me that even in the face of disasters the women's enthusiasm has developed steadily and insistently. In spite of necessary changes in tactics the object is unchanged, the tenacity of purpose still stands at the root of your efforts. Who amongst you now ever seriously doubts that you will shortly win?"

Mr. Stanhope-Sprigg's question re-echoed in my mind many times during my journey back to town, and the splendid majority for our Cause on the second reading of the Conciliation Bill in the House of Commons and the recent pronouncements of Mr. Asquith and Sir Edward Grey on the question of facilities seemed to me fitting answers to any pessimistic opponent who might decry such splendid optimism.

LOUISA THOMSON-PRICE.

GARDENIA MEETING.

MRS. DESPARD ON CLINICS & OPEN-AIR SCHOOLS

It was sufficient to announce Mrs. Despard as the speaker on the important subject of the proper treatment—physical and mental—of a child to ensure a large gathering at the Gardenia meeting on July 12. So interesting was the lecture and subsequent discussion that everyone seemed reluctant to leave the hall when the time limit had been reached. Miss F. A. Underwood, secretary of the W.F.L., took the chair, and in a happy speech, introducing Mrs. Despard, referred to the broad attitude of the Gardenia meetings, under the still broader shadow of charity, to all vital questions.

Mrs. Despard's lecture was almost autobiographical, necessarily so, because she and her friend have long put into practice what is only now coming to be regarded as essential—namely, the feeding and doctoring of children. Body and brain have not been developed simultaneously. If the body is not well nourished, said Mrs. Despard, the brain cannot work well, and the result is crowded asylums. The touching story of the happy wife longing to share the abundance of her Surrey garden with the dwellers in London's mean streets, the early association with Lambeth, the help given by the husband in cases innumerable, the house to house distribution of flowers with personal interest by the wife; then the separating blow, and the widow finding her truest consolation among her Lambeth friends: all this was told with moving simplicity by Mrs. Despard to point a practical moral. As the story developed, we heard of the house bought in Lambeth, and of the association of a trained nurse in the appealing work of feeding and caring for the children. How good manners quickly became traditional, how rice and milk usurped the place of bloaters and tea, how the tiny ones escorted still tinier ones to "my nurse," how even a scratched elbow was sufficient excuse for the right of admission, and naturally how most satisfactory and encouraging physical and mental development followed. All this, and more, was told.

Public opinion, said Mrs. Despard, had now compelled medical inspection and feeding in schools. It was a most necessary move in the right direction. But mistakes were made, and she gave instances of unreasoning medical tyranny. Mrs. Despard considered that there should be a feeding centre in a group of schools, with two nurses in attendance who should have authority to follow the child home and see the conditions under which it lived; there should be medical inspection and visits from doctors. The work, too, should be linked with the care of infants and of mothers, as well as teaching as to proper feeding. Such wonders had been worked in Sweden, she added, by physical exercises and instruction in deep breathing that a narrow-chested, round-shouldered young man was

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rarely to be seen. She insisted, however, that the work could not be carried on by private enterprise; such efforts were always precarious. It must be permanently and properly established by the authority of the State.

The latter part of her lecture was concerned with open-air schools, and Mrs. Despard gave particulars of the splendid results attained in Halifax and Bradford. Battersea Park, she said, would make an ideal open-air school, in which open-air lessons might be given, irrespective of "standards" and examinations. She ended by insisting that it was the work of women to get conditions improved in this respect. "Our thoughts create a thought atmosphere; we must use our vote for the good of the children, so that they may grow up a happier and purer generation."

An interesting discussion followed, and close attention was given to the story told by a headmaster of an open-air school as to the admirable results obtained, regardless of weather. He also gave the cheering information that the Board of Education is anxious to extend such schools.

A. A. S.

A NEW COMPETITION.

A prize of £10 is being offered by the Women Writers' Suffrage League for the best one-act play dealing with the "Woman Question." As the society is giving a matinée in the autumn for the benefit of its funds, it is more than likely that the successful play will find a place on the programme. All particulars to be obtained by letter only from the Secretary, at the Office of the League, 55, Berners-street, W.

The office of the Women Writers' Suffrage League will be closed during August, but all letters will receive prompt attention.

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THE VOTE.

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SATURDAY, July 22, 1911.

A CRUCIAL MOMENT.

In every great battle or campaign, whether industrial, social, political or military, there are certain well-defined stages.

Preparation—which in the case of rival nations or of rival classes and clashing interests within nations, is often spread over many years. Observation—when the combatants are facing one another in dead earnest and ready for conflict. The result of steady preparation is apparent, and good generalship becomes an essential element for success. Decision—the vital moment when various modes of action present themselves and when one must be chosen. Is it to be a bold frontal attack? Shall the other side be allowed to take the offensive? Or shall the stability of the enemy and his resources be tested by subsidiary actions, culminating in a general forward movement? Everything now depends on correctness of estimate, success resting with the side that has most accurately gauged the strength of the opponent. Finally, comes the crucial moment. No longer can the great issue be delayed. The contending forces must come to grips one with the other.

This is the stage which the memorable conflict between the House of Lords and the House of Commons, that is engaging the attention of the country, has now reached. They are at life and death grips one with the other. A few days more and we shall know (for this is what it means to the plain person) which House and which Party is to be reduced to political impotence, or whether, at the last moment, there can be devised some middle course, and the great final settlement be put off indefinitely.

With all this we, of the woman's movement, have at present nothing to do. From the political game we are compelled to stand aside. We cannot help seeing, however, that much which is being said and urged by the leaders of the men's political parties applies profoundly to our own campaign.

That, like the conflict between the men-politicians, has passed through its initial stages. Many years have been spent in preparation as knowledge has increased, and as the spirit of independence has grown amongst women we have been able to observe the adversary. We know how limited his resources are. A few notably absurd assumptions, with arguments that have been used and knocked over until there can be no life left in them—these constitute his stock-in-trade. Good evidence was given on the day of our last procession that he had not force enough left even feebly to protest against the meaning of the great pageant that unfolded itself in our streets. For men and women everywhere are learning to set aside prejudice and to look facts freely and fearlessly in the face.

And now we are at the last stage. We find ourselves at grips with our opponents. A few months more of waiting and the issue can no longer be delayed. Is it possible for us at this moment to help asking what is to happen if we are once more thrown back?

So early as the year 1884 the statesman, known now as Lord Morley, foresaw in the conflict between the Houses such a moment of crisis, and he threw out words which are being used by men of his party to-day as an ultimatum. "We are dealing," he said, "with a vast and overwhelming preponderance, a huge dead-weight of prejudice, of passion, of interest, of bigotry, impenetrable to argument, beyond the reach of reason, and only to be driven from its entrenchments, not by argument or by reason, but by force."

Could any form of words more clearly or forcibly

embody our position as women to-day at the present stage of our conflict?

Again—and this was from Mr. Chamberlain, speaking in the same year and on the same subject:—"It has been the history of one long contest between the representatives of privilege and the representatives of popular rights; and during this time the Lords" (we should say the politicians, our self-elected Lords) "have perverted, delayed and denied justice."

It seems sometimes strange to us that men who can see with such clearness when it is a question of justice that concerns themselves, should be so blind—as some of the leading Liberals are—to the justice and urgency of demands that do not appear to concern themselves and that have nothing to do with place or party. We thank them, none the less, for their heart-stirring words.

Let us ponder them well! Argument has been tried; reason has been tried; both have failed. "None are so blind as those who will not see." And men as well as women

Convinced against their will
Remain of the same opinion still.

What next? Lord Morley and Mr. Chamberlain have given the word—"Force!"

They tell us that militancy is played out. Militancy, as far as women are concerned, is in its infancy. It has not been fairly or fully tried. And yet we have had some concession in the shape of the Government's pledge for next Session. Awaiting its fulfilment, let us remember that we have still much work to do!

Before every town and village in the country is awake to the importance and urgency of the woman's movement; before the whole of the electorate is with us; before we understand ourselves and bring others to understand what democracy really means—it cannot be said that the work of preparation is over.

We must also observe the adversary. While the owner of the field slept, his enemy sowed tares amongst the corn.

Those who are afraid of the effect upon society of the woman's vote have not laid down their arms because of the pledge given by the Premier. I hear whispers of an unholy alliance between adult and anti-suffragists; and it is an open secret, I am told, that they will unite their forces in this effort to carry a Referendum-amendment through the House. That coalition must be defeated.

It has been said of the night that "the darkest hour is the hour before the dawn." It may be so; but that hour must be lived through if we would see "God's awful dawn of rose" stealing, silent in its glorious promise, over the world. We look for that—the breaking light, the promise of a better day; and for its sake we are ready to do, to dare, and to endure.

C. DESPARD.

NORTH WALES COAST CAMPAIGN.

During the summer months Miss Manning, at the request of the N.E.C., will conduct the Coast Campaign in the North Wales and Lancashire and Cheshire watering places. This campaign has been remarkably successful in past years, and is a pleasant way of helping the League for those who are on holiday. Speakers, VOTE sellers, and collectors are needed. Without the latter the campaign cannot attain the financial success of the last two years. Arrangements have already been made for meetings at Rhyl, Colwyn Bay, Old Colwyn, Rhos, Deganwy, Llanfairfechan, Conway, New Brighton, Crosby, and by kind permission of Lady MacLaren, at Prestatyn. It is hoped that many other places will shortly be added to the list. Miss Manning will be stationed at Llanfairfechan during the greater part of August, and in July and September parties will travel by excursion trains from Manchester, Liverpool and Chester twice a week. Members and friends who are able to give any help are asked to send their names to Miss Manning at Harper-hill, Sale, Cheshire, or to the General Secretary. Speakers are particularly needed for the latter half of August. M. E. M.

PROTEST AGAINST THE INSURANCE BILL.

MEETING AT THE CAXTON HALL.

The great meeting held at the Caxton Hall on July 13, to protest against the unfair treatment of women in the National Insurance Bill, afforded another instance of the excellent way in which women can organise and carry out a meeting. From Miss Gore Booth's brief but practical opening speech from the chair, to the final passing of the resolution with unanimous acclamation, there was not a moment in which the interest of the large audience flagged. Every speaker knew what she was going to say, and said it; there was no overlapping of interest; definite and practical points were raised and emphasised, and the one male speaker, the Earl of Lytton, who received a great ovation, summed up the whole position by insisting that the Bill gave away finally and completely the whole anti-suffragist case. "No such Bill," he said, "could have been introduced if women had had a voice in the matter!"

The meeting was held "to protest against the unfair treatment of women in the Insurance Bill, and to demand political rights for those who are denied political justice." There was only one resolution, but it was a comprehensive one. It was proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and ran as follows:

This meeting protests against the different standards of benefits for men and women under the National Insurance Bill, and against the exclusion of about half the female contributors from any money or health benefit whatsoever.

Against their exclusion from out-of-work benefit whilst they are at the same time obliged to pay their employer's contribution and their own.

They regard maternity benefit as no adequate substitute for ordinary sick pay, and they protest against the disqualification of married women as voluntary contributors.

They consider the bad terms given to Post-Office contributors as especially injurious to women.

They regard the blindness of the Insurance Bill to the interests of women as an instance of that political negligence which is always the lot of the unfranchised, and they urge upon the Government to give the earliest possible facilities next year for the passing into law of the Women's Suffrage Conciliation Bill.

Mrs. Fenwick, speaking on behalf of nurses, declared at the beginning of her speech that the whole significance of the resolution lay in the last clause. The blindness so far as women were concerned in the Bill was a natural result of their lack of political power; politicians had no time to attend to people who had no votes. Mrs. Fenwick showed how, up to the present, nurses who were ill always received generous treatment from the good hospitals; they had the best medical or surgical skill and careful nursing quite free. Under the Bill they would be compelled to insure, but would get no benefit and lose the care and attention hitherto enjoyed. It was most unfair, she said, that any hospital should be put in a position to say: If we pay 3d. a week for you we cannot provide you with the care you have had until now! Outside nurses would fare even worse. As to the maternity benefit, lasting four weeks, and depriving a woman of sick benefit, Mrs. Fenwick declared that the mother ought to be paid double, and that no Government had a right to say that because she had had maternity benefit she had no claim to sick benefit for which she had paid.

Mrs. How Martyn, speaking as the representative of the Women's Freedom League, referred to the police-court protests and other efforts of the League on behalf of women, and insisted that the Insurance Bill gave women "a great new opportunity to organise against a great new piece of injustice." Women had suffered enough already by sex disqualification. There had been a great struggle to remove the sex bar in education and in the professions; there should be equal pay for equal work, but justice of this kind was absent from the Bill. It might have been called a Bill to help "certain classes of workers, mostly men." Instead of starting from the bottom and beginning with the lowest, it was the very poor who suffered most under the Bill. If such a beginning had been made, probably the £1 a

week worker would hardly have been reached; the £3 a week worker is well cared for under the Bill; he has a vote and is already well insured. "We shall boycott the Bill as enthusiastically as we boycotted the Census," was Mrs. How Martyn's parting shot, and it was loudly cheered.

Speaking for the Women's Trade and Labour Council, Mrs. Dickinson gave some interesting particulars of how trade unions managed by women succeeded in giving better advantages than the Insurance Bill offers, and declared that women would have to be in the trade unions in order to pay the insurance. She made an excellent point in referring to the dictum of Cabinet Ministers that they must be made aware of a great demand among women for the vote, and then asked, "How many women have petitioned for insurance?" Better leave the women out of the Insurance Bill altogether, she concluded, and give them votes!

Another very forcible and arresting speaker was Miss Grace Neal, the secretary of the Domestic Workers' Union. She read a letter from Mr. Lloyd George in which it was stated that the benefits to domestic workers would come late in life. Contribution is compulsory, but if a domestic servant receives board and lodging she gets no benefit under the Bill. There are two millions of domestic workers, said Miss Neal, but their money would go to pay others; workmen at sixty years of age are to get part of their contributions returned; domestic servants might contribute up to seventy but would receive no return. Miss Neal brought her able speech—she apologised for its defects, as it was the first time she had spoken at a meeting of the kind—to a close by observing that she could not say on a public platform what she thought of Mr. Lloyd George!

Miss Esther Roper insisted that the Bill would tend to diminish the wages of women, employers would be encouraged to employ girls, not women, and there was already too much of that sort of thing in the labour world. Half the women compulsorily insured under the Bill would get no benefit. If the general public knew these facts they would not sanction the Bill. No women out of work can afford to pay their own and the employer's share; if they get into arrears and cannot make good the payments in a year, the society is permitted to do what it likes with the money. The money is lost to the woman—stolen would be a better word, said Miss Roper.

Mrs. Pember Reeves brought the harrowing evidence of her "budgets" to show how severely the very poor will suffer under the Bill; it is impossible for them to meet the requirements. In cases for which she gave figures as the result of her constant investigations, she showed how payment would have to be made out of the children's food, and there was no chance of the mother getting the maternity benefit. The old idea that men kept a family and women only kept themselves had been proved futile. The Government, she said, meant well by the Bill, but had no one to help who knew the facts; if it passed, she said, it would be the beginning of a great campaign to get it altered.

The Earl of Lytton, as well as other speakers, laid stress on the point of the injustice of penalising women to the extent of 2s. 6d.; men receive 10s. a week, women 7s. 6d.; also no woman's trade has been selected for unemployment benefit. Lord Lytton said that the Bill, as it affected women, was a scathing comment on the belief that the interests of women are most carefully considered by chivalrous men just because they have no vote. One of the strongest points of the suffrage movement is the need for the improvement of the industrial position of women; to remove such injustices, he considered the passing of the Conciliation Bill a matter of the first importance on the political horizon.

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THE INSURANCE BILL IN COMMITTEE.—II.

In following up the Debates on the Insurance Bill one fact stands out very clearly amid all the wordy desert: there is no money to spend on women. An amendment to extend medical treatment to the wives and children of insured persons was rejected by a large majority, as we understand, purely on financial grounds, every Member of the House brimming over with sympathy and admiration for women meanwhile. One went so far as to say, "I put this with all seriousness and earnestness, the manner in which married women are being treated under this Bill is to me a foul blot upon the measure. It is a harsh and cruel injustice, and, by multiplying other benefits . . . at the expense of married women, you are intensifying the hardship." Others followed in the same strain. With all the will in the world, their difficulties simply are that they have no means. They are like the married man who could not afford to take his wife out, so he went to the theatre himself—with a friend. The Chancellor ought to be very grateful to anyone who will remove this obstacle of no money for him, and we can do so with ease. The figure of £2,250,000 is mentioned as that required to extend medical benefits to married women, non-contributing. Very well. In the Unemployment Section, Part II, of this Bill it is proposed than an estimated sum of £750,000 be contributed yearly from the Treasury. We think we may call this roundly, one million, to which no doubt it will amount. This can be diverted from Part II. to Part I. for women and Part II. can be dropped altogether, if necessary. It does not include women at all, and why should women be called upon to pay in taxation £500,000 for the benefit of an experiment in Part II. confined to men and for the benefit of men only, while 6,000,000 women are to be omitted from Part I. because there are no funds to spend on them?

Then there is Payment of Members, £268,000 yearly; we will economise on that. Why should women pay half this sum for men's Members who do not in the least regard their interests, and can never spare any of the country's money contributed by women and men for the interests of women? That leaves one million still to find, and while we are of opinion (pending the actuarial tables, "still to be published") that the women's funds could manage this, we do not think it fair that the burden should be laid on the women's funds alone, and we would suggest, if no better way can be found, that the benefit for unmarried males, under twenty-one, be cut down to the same amount as for women, viz., 4s. instead of 5s., and the amount saved diverted to the mothers' benefits. If this is still insufficient the item of £50,000 for medical research can be also diverted to this heading, and this clause dropped—the matter being clearly out of place in this Bill. There need thus be no difficulty about funds at all if the willing spirit, so very apparent when women are to be taxed for men, be extended for once to allowing men to be taxed to assist women.

LEAH ANSON.

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND WOMEN VOTERS' COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Women Voters' Committee was held on the 12th inst. at the house of Lady Cockburn, 12, Pelham-place, S.W. The committee was formed mainly through the energy of Miss Vida Goldstein to deal primarily with the following questions:—(1) The representation to the Imperial Conference of the disabilities of Australian and New Zealand women under the Naturalisation Act; (2) The representation to the Premier (Mr. Asquith) of the loss of political status incurred by Australian and New Zealand women who come to live in the United Kingdom. The hon. secretary, Miss Quinlan, read a report to date of the work done. A warm vote of thanks was

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passed to Miss Vida Goldstein and to Miss Quinlan for their able conduct of the business of the committee, and great regret was expressed that the latter is unable through press of other work to continue in office. Lady Stout was elected President in place of Lady Cockburn, who is obliged to resign on account of frequent absence from town, Mrs. J. W. Turner, hon. treasurer, and Miss Harriet C. Newcomb, hon. secretary. The address of the committee is International Franchise Club, 9, Grafton-street, W.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN WORKERS.

On Saturday, July 15, the fifth annual Conference was held at the Caxton Hall, Westminster. A most cordial reception to the delegates was given by Miss Gertrude Tuckwell, President of the Women's Trade Union League, and Mr. W. A. Appleton, of the General Federation of Trade Unions.

Miss Mary Macarthur, in her presidential address, said it was a pleasure to realise the forces represented by the delegates; the year had been one of splendid progress. During the historic struggle at Cradley Heath, the women, after thirteen weeks' struggle, returned to work victorious. She referred in terms of grateful remembrance to the late Sir Charles Dilke, through whose death the Federation had lost a staunch friend. According to the submitted report there were forty-eight branches on the Federation books, with a total membership of over 10,000. In England and Scotland, and also Wales, a strenuous campaign was being carried on to break fresh ground, and to give the Federation a footing in districts previously untouched. After the President's address, Miss Gertrude Tuckwell presented a badge to Miss Newton, of Halstead, for special services rendered to the Federation.

Representatives from Cradley Heath, and many other Branches gave brief but earnest and interesting accounts of the many and various improvements in the conditions of their work that had been brought about by the activities of the Federation. The annual report and balance-sheet were formally adopted. The election of officers resulted in Miss Gertrude Tuckwell being elected President, Mrs. Lamont, Vice-President, and Miss Mary Macarthur General Secretary.

Miss Macarthur, in opening the discussion at the afternoon Session on the National Insurance Bill, spoke of its immense importance, and said that it needed the most serious considera-

tion by women. It was an iniquity to claim contributions from workers whose wages were already below subsistence level. The resolutions, which were moved by Mrs. Lamont, on behalf of the Executive Council, were as follows:—(a) "This Conference declares that no Bill providing for the compulsory insurance of the workers can be accepted as satisfactory by the N.F.W.W. unless—(1) It places women on an equal footing with men in respect to benefits. (2) It places upon the employer the whole burden, except that portion paid by the State, of insuring all workers, whatever their age, who earn less than 15s. a week. (3) It provides sickness as well as maternity benefit for all women wage-earners who are compulsorily away from work during the time of child-birth. (4) It excludes the employers' sick clubs from participation in the insurance scheme by taking from them the right to become approved societies. (5) It simplifies the conditions, and reduces the membership required for a trade union to become an approved society. (6) It gives to the woman who leaves her trade on marriage the surrender value of her contributions up to that time. (b) "That, in the event of the National Insurance Bill becoming law, the Executive Council be empowered to take immediate steps for the Federation to qualify as an approved society and to make the necessary alterations in the rules thereof. And further, the Conference agrees that for any special Conference to be called to ratify these new rules, the Executive shall have power to arrange for the grouping of the Branches for representation at such Conference." All these resolutions were carried. Other resolutions relating to fines and deductions, Labour Exchanges, and a minimum wage were also discussed and voted upon.

BARBARA SPENCER.

THE SCOTTISH COAST CAMPAIGN.

The campaign for VOTES FOR WOMEN is booming on the Scottish Coast. Always a crowd is waiting at the now well-known stand on the pier head at Rothesay, increasing as the meeting goes on, in spite of many other attractions. The campaign opened most inauspiciously with regard to weather. We wondered whether the clerk could be an Anti-Suffragist, as for the first week he sent wind and rain. Then he changed his tactics, and tried blazing, merciless heat; but rain or shine the crowds still came. Now, like a true Government official, he has yielded to pressure, and the will of the people prevails. To Rothesay come all classes, all ages, all conditions of people from all parts: from such a cosmopolitan crowd one is prepared for a diversified reception, but scarcely for the sympathy, the quiet, interested attention which have made our meetings so great a success. A noticeable feature of the campaign is the increasing interest of the women who form a large part of our audience. They keenly appreciate the lectures, and buy literature well. The attitude of the men to the awakening of the women is also interesting. "I don't know if I should help your Cause," said a man, laughingly, one evening. "Your speaker doesn't know what she is letting me in for. This is only my wife's second suffrage meeting, and she's a different woman already." The attitude of the local people has changed. Our stand is on the pier at the end of the cab rank, and always the cabmen are ready to move up their cabs and make room for our waggone. "We were all against you at first," confided one of the men to Miss Munro the other evening, "but now we are all for you." Often our speaker is presented with fruit at the end of the meeting. Altogether the Women's Suffrage cause is "going strong" on the coast. People come to look for our chalked advertisements, and a good crowd is the result. We are fortunate in our geographical position; Rothesay standing near the incomparable Kyles of Bute, is an excellent centre.


D. H. THOMPSON.

HER HIGHNESS THE MAHARANI OF BARODA has written a book, to be published shortly by Longmans, entitled "The Position of Women in Indian Life," and dedicated to the women of India. In nineteen chapters the Maharani, who has been a great traveller, gives her views on the woman's movement and insists that its aim is sex-co-operation, not sex-antagonism. A work by so distinguished an Indian will be warmly welcomed.

THE Nationalities and Subject Races Committee has arranged a public meeting for July 24 in the Caxton Hall, chair to be taken at 8 p.m. by Mr. J. A. Hobson. The subject for discussion will be "The Evils of National and Racial Subjection." The speakers and supporters include Mr. F. Mackerness, Professor Kettle, Mr. Keir Hardie, Mr. Alexis Aladin, Mr. W. Scavenor Blunt, the Hon. Bhupendrenath Basu, and Dr. W. E. Burghardt Du Bois. Admission free.

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BRANCH NOTES.

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Herne Hill and Norwood.—Hon. Secretary: Miss B. SPENCER, 32, Geneva-road, Brixton, S.W.

On Wednesday, July 12, a members' meeting was held at 140, Rosendale-road, Dulwich. Various plans for local branch work, including an At Home, as suggested by the N.E.C., were discussed, and it was decided to hold open-air meetings on Friday evenings near the fountain at West Norwood. The first will be held on Friday, July 21, at 7.30 p.m. We hope members will attend and help to sell THE VOTE. The next members' meeting will be held on Thursday afternoon, July 27, at 140, Rosendale-road, when Miss F. A. Underwood has kindly promised to visit us. There will be a business meeting from 3 to 3.30 p.m., and we hope members will endeavour to attend punctually. The next meeting in Brockwell-park will be held on Sunday afternoon, July 30, when Mrs. Nevinson will speak.

Mid-London.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. TRITTON, 1, Northcote-avenue, Ealing, W.

At our Hyde Park meeting last Sunday, Mrs. Gottschalk, Dr. Drysdale, and Miss Le Croisette spoke to a very interested audience. The resolution was carried with one dissentient only. Miss Jameson, Mr. Fox, and Mrs. Nourse gave away 500 Bills at the Marble Arch entrance, advertising Mrs. Sproson's demonstration next Sunday morning. VOTE sellers badly wanted for that day. Will volunteers please send their names to Mrs. Snow, Sales Department, VOTE Office, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi? A meeting was held in Regent's Park on Sunday morning, Mrs. Hyde and Miss Benett were the speakers, and in spite of the attractions of Socialists to the right and anarchists to the left, there was a very attentive and interested audience. At the specially convened members' meeting on July 11, when the question sent from the N.E.C. was put to those present, they voted unanimously in the affirmative. A resolution was passed, and the secretary instructed to send it to the Member for Westminster, calling his attention to the Conciliation Bill, and asking him to give it his support. A good collection was made towards the fund started by the hon. treasurer of the League to show our appreciation of Mrs. Sproson's recent protest. Mrs. Nourse told us that she is combining with Headquarters and holding a demonstration in Hyde-park at noon on Sunday, July 23, when Mrs. Sproson, Mrs. How-Martyn, Mrs. Vulliamy, Miss Jack, and others will speak. Will all Branch members make a special effort to attend this meeting?

West Hampstead and Cricklewood.—Hon. Secretary, Mme. JEANNETTE VAN RAALTE, 23, Pandora-road.

Members are requested to attend the next Branch meeting, which will be held at above address on Thursday, July 20, at 8.30 p.m. We are holding open-air meetings every Tuesday at 8.15 p.m. at Fortune-green. Will members make an effort to attend? Some kind friends have sent things for our jumble sale, but we want more.

Hackney.—Hon. Secretary, Miss P. LE CROISSETTE, 238, Navarino Mansions, Dalston, N.E.

Our "Garden Suffrage Meeting" at Mrs. Catmur's, 23, Terrace-road, last week was a great success, socially and financially. More than one hundred people were present during the evening. Mrs. Despard was enthusiastically welcomed and made a speech that was greatly enjoyed and appreciated. Mrs. Mustard, President of Hackney Branch, also made an interesting speech. In addition to the cake and candy, needlework, and literature stalls there were other attractions in the form of palmistry, songs, recitations, and instrumental solos. A "garden whist drive" is announced to take place on Thursday, July 27, at Mrs. Catmur's house. Tickets, including refreshments, 1s. 6d. each, may be obtained from branch secretary, or from Mrs. Catmur.

Anerley and Crystal Palace.—Hon. Sec., Miss J. FENNINGS, 149, Croydon-road.

We held our usual meeting at the tram terminus last Monday. Miss Turner kindly took the whole of the meeting in the absence of our other speaker. THE VOTE was sold, and a collection taken. Members are asked to make known amongst their friends the Garden Fete which is to be held at The Hermitage, Croydon-road, on Tuesday, September 5 (if wet, Thursday, September 7). There will be no public sale of tickets, so we must all work hard to make it a success. Tickets, 6d. each, ready end of July.

Croydon.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. TERRY, 9, Morland-avenue. Office: 3, The Arcade, High-street, Croydon.

Our Branch has been growing apace lately. Twenty new members within a few weeks, and several fresh men-associates have joined. The Reliance Agency that is conducted from this office by one of our most energetic workers, Mrs. Pyart, is also increasing very rapidly, and brings in many inquirers. Several new pitches for the sale of THE VOTE have been started. We are now holding weekly At Homes on Friday afternoons at the office, and hope that members will make a point of coming and bringing friends. Plans have been set afoot for a big reception to open the autumn activities, when we hope to entertain members of the N.E.C. Mrs. Harvey has promised to produce one of her own plays for us on this occasion. On the 10th inst., we were delighted to welcome Mrs. Snow, who has lately become a member of our Branch. Mrs. Labrousse has under-

taken the office of literature secretary, and will be glad of any offers of help for this department. A Branch meeting was held on the 14th inst. At our next At Home, on the 21st inst., Miss L. Denham will report the Discussion Meeting at the Gardenia. Will members keep the afternoon free? The secretary thanks all members who have come to her aid to lighten her work, and still hopes for more workers, so that no one shall feel their duties too exacting.

Highbury.—Hon. Secretary: Miss JOHN, 65, Marquess-road, Canonbury.

On Monday, July 10, a meeting was held at Northampton House, when Mrs. Mustard and Miss Florence Pell very kindly spoke. Miss Pell spoke on the vote as it will affect women economically. Mrs. Mustard, after explaining very clearly the dangers to the Conciliation Bill from the generosity of those friends who would give us more than we ask, went on to speak on the need of the vote to the woman worker, and gave us some concrete examples of how certain classes of women suffer from their inability to bring pressure to bear on those in power. A Branch meeting was afterwards held at which the resolution from the N.E.C. was passed unanimously. The Branch is very grateful to Mrs. Gugenheim, who so kindly defrayed the expense of the ball. Our weekly open-air meeting was held on Thursday, when Mr. Hammond took the chair, and Miss Irene Miller held a large audience interested for more than an hour in spite of noisy meetings on each side of her. The secretary will feel grateful if members of the Branch who are in town will make an effort to support the open-air meetings during August.

Clapham.—Hon. Secretary: Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD, 31, Rush Hill-road, Clapham-common, S.W.

On Thursday last a meeting of members was held in the Lecture Room of Battersea Public Library to consider a letter from the honorary head of the Political and Militant Department. Miss O'Hallaran was in the chair, and later in the evening Miss Tite addressed the meeting; she asked the Branch to respond to the appeal for a substantial donation to be made to the funds of the League on the release of Mrs. Sproson. A good collection for this purpose was taken at the close of the meeting; copies of THE VOTE and Freedom League Literature were sold.

Southall.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. CUNNINGHAM, Oakdene Hayes, Middlesex.

Mrs. Despard's charming speech, which opened the proceedings at Holy Trinity Hall, on Saturday last, delighted everyone and her kindness in coming was much appreciated. *How the Vote Was Won* was performed by local Suffragists. Mr. S. H. Witte as Horace acted most cleverly. Several London critics were present to report on Mrs. Cunningham's new farce, *Christmas Gossip*. The following is extracted from one account: "This little piece from start to finish gets over the footlights. Not the most trivial act of this absolutely human little play, but is engineered by clever workmanship and stage craft to yield points. Roars of laughter accompanied the farce from first to last, and what need of further proof that the farce is a good one? As might be expected, a very warm reception was given to the three clever artistes who acted and the author who admirably produced it."

SOUTH OF ENGLAND.

Cheltenham.—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. EARENGEY, Ashley Rise, Battledown.

Taking advantage of the kind offer of Mrs. Bewick-Colby to speak for our branch, an open-air meeting was arranged for Monday evening, at Clarence-street Lamp; but finding that another society had also booked the pitch, after the situation had been explained and Mrs. Colby made a brief speech, we departed, promising to hold a meeting at the same place on Wednesday. Mrs. Earengy took the chair on Wednesday, and Mrs. Bewick-Colby, in spite of intense heat, held her audience to the end of a very interesting speech, dealing with the effects of woman suffrage where it was an established fact. She gave her sisters on this side of the water a word of cheer and encouragement. At the close a listener came up to the conveyance from which Mrs. Bewick-Colby had spoken to offer the right hand of fellowship and endorse what she had said about Colorado and the women's vote in that state. Our Branch hopes to hold a garden meeting at the house of a member on the last Saturday in this month, to raise funds and to add to its membership.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.—Hon. Organiser: MISS MANNING, B.A., Harper-hill, Sale, Cheshire.

Eccles.—Secretary, Miss JANET HEYES, Newholme, Hazlehurst, Worsley.

On July 11 Miss Kipps and Miss J. Heyes attended the Urnston meeting called to discuss the Branches Council, but were not heard. They will report to our next Branch meeting. On July 16 the crowd at Eccles Cross revived the old bogies of Adult Suffrage and the woman M.P., but finally the meeting was unanimously in our favour. The speakers were Mr. J. H. Hudson, M.A., and Miss Janet Heyes. Miss Timperley will give special classes in painting on satin, fee, 1s. per lesson. The profits will go to the Branch fund. Tickets may be had from the secretary. Will members who intend spending days at the seaside communicate with the secretary? We can make them profitable to the cause.

Our excursions to the seaside this week have been most successful. On Wednesday Miss Timperley (Eccles Branch), Miss Wright (Manchester Central), and Miss Manning spent half a day at Rhyl, and succeeded in holding an excellent meeting in the evening. The afternoon had been spent in

Vote selling. On Saturday, Mrs. McMillan, Mrs. Halloran (Sale Branch), and Miss Drummond accompanied the organiser to New Brighton, where we were joined by Mrs. Evans and Mrs. McNaul (Waterloo). Here two meetings were held. A cycle parade was in progress at Wallasey, and in the afternoon the party divided in order to sell THE VOTE along the route. In the evening a splendid meeting which had been chalked and arranged by the Waterloo Branch, was held at Shore-road, Waterloo. Miss Woodall (Chester) took the chair, Miss Drummond and Miss Manning being the speakers. During the day the Manchester and Liverpool parties disposed of nine dozen copies of THE VOTE, making a grand total of eleven dozen for our two excursions this week. Our best thanks are due to Miss Drummond for her speeches at the three meetings on Saturday, to Mrs. Evans, Miss Woodall, and also to those members of the Sale and Waterloo Branches who were so indefatigable in VOTE selling and collecting. N.B.—The organiser will be very glad to hear of members who can help in any way in the North Wales campaign, more particularly during the latter half of August.

Salc.—Hon. Secretary: Miss GEILER, Thornlea, Wardle-road. VOTE Agents: Mrs. ASHWORTH, 13, Northenden-road, Mrs. WALKER, 125, Washway-road.

A branch meeting was held in the temperance rooms on Monday, when the members voted unanimously in favour of replying in the affirmative to the question submitted by the N.E.C. on the by-election policy. On Thursday Miss Manning spoke on the Woman's Question at an open-air meeting held at Britannia-grove under the auspices of the Sale Socialist Society. Mrs. Plant took the chair, and spoke with great appreciation of the Political work of the Women's Freedom League. Many of our members were present, and at the close of the meeting copies of THE VOTE were quickly sold.

Manchester (Central).—Hon. Secretary: Miss A. E. HORDERN, 89, Clitheroe-road, Longsight.

The Branch met on Tuesday and Friday this week. At the Tuesday meeting Miss Neal tendered her resignation as President of the branch, and a hearty vote of thanks was passed to her for her services. The Branch decided to reply in the affirmative to the question submitted by the N.E.C. On Friday a further meeting took place to discuss summer activities. It was decided that Branch meetings should cease until the end of October, the organiser to have a free hand in the meantime to make such plans as seemed advisable for the carrying on of the work. It was agreed to join with the Sale Branch in working arrangements for open-air meetings have been made: Monday, July 24, Broadheath, 7.30 p.m.; Tuesday, July 24, Alexandra Park Gates, 8.15 p.m.; Wednesday, July 26, half day excursion to North Wales; Thursday, July 27, corner of High-street, and Upper Brook-street, 8 p.m.; Friday, July 28, the Fair Ground, Urnston, 8 p.m. (subject to the approval of the Urnston Branch); Saturday, July 29, Northenden, 7.30 p.m. Members will receive notices if there is any alteration in these arrangements.

Urnston.—Hon. Secretary, Miss HUDSON, Oaklands, Flixton.

A well-attended branch meeting was held on Tuesday evening at Wills' Room, when the Branch voted unanimously against the Manchester Branches' Council Scheme. The committee has the arrangements for the annual meeting under discussion, and hopes to be able to announce them at an early date.

EAST ANGLIA.—Hon. Organiser: MISS ANDREWS, 160, Norwich-road, Ipswich.

Ipswich.—Hon. Secretary: Miss C. E. ANDREWS, 160, Norwich-road, Ipswich.

The garden meeting arranged to take place at Hintlesham has been postponed on account of illness in Miss Deane's house. Notice will be given of further arrangements which are being made. Will any members who have not yet sent in their collecting boxes please do so at once?

Elmswell.—A well-attended meeting was held last Friday evening in the schoolroom at Elmswell. Mrs. Tippet and Mrs. Foster worked hard to make the meeting a success. Mrs. Tippet's speech on social matters affecting women was listened to with great interest. Miss Andrews presided. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. Foster, to whom we owe thanks for selling THE VOTE, in which work she was ably assisted by Mrs. Hassall. We have a group of members in the district, and only need one or two more to form a Branch.

NORTH-EASTERN.—Hon. Organiser: Mrs. SCHOFIELD COATES, Wilstrop House, Roman-road, Middlesbrough.

Sunderland.—Hon. Secretary, Miss CLARK, 3, Havelock-terrace.

The branch held a very successful and enjoyable garden party on Wednesday, July 12, at Moorside, Cleadon, at which many members from the South Shields Branch were present. Our guests numbered nearly 100. Mrs. Coates Hansen, N.E.C., gave an excellent and instructive address on the Insurance Bill, respecting women more particularly who will come under the scheme. Keen interest was manifested in the subject. Mrs. Coates, ex-President Women's Liberal Association, followed with a very earnest and practical address. The hon. secretary also spoke on current politics. A spirit of real fellowship pervaded the whole audience; it was splendidly manifested in the generous collection and in the addition of new members. To Mrs. Steven-

son, our excellent hostess, and to all kind helpers, we give our sincerest thanks. On Thursday night our hon. secretary tackled Mr. Tom Wing, ex-M.P. for Grimsby, on the Insurance Bill, greatly to that gentleman's surprise. Her questions were backed up by the crowd, and Mr. Wing seem rather disconcerted by the questions asked. We are gaining ground amongst the workers.

WALES AND MONMOUTH.—Hon. Organiser: MRS. CLEEVE, "Chez-Nous," Sketty, Glamorgan.

Swansea.—Hon. Organising Secretary: MISS H. DAVIES, B.A., Training College. Hon. Corres. Secretary: MISS PHIPPS, B.A., 5, Grosvenor-road, Sketty, Glam.

On the proposition of Miss Beatrice Davies, B.A., seconded by Mrs. Knight, a copy of the following resolution was sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and to Sir Alfred Mond, M.P.: "This meeting of the Swansea Branch of the Women's Freedom League calls the attention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the inadequacy of the Insurance Bill now before Parliament with regard to women: (1) in its treatment of married women; (2) in the maternity allowance; (3) in the question of unemployment." We regret very much to announce the resignation of Miss Hilda Davies, B.A., our organising secretary, who is leaving Swansea immediately, having obtained an important post in a new training college in Yorkshire. Miss Davies has done splendid work during her short period of office. It remains now to elect her successor, and the branch will be asked to do this immediately after the holidays.

Montgomery Boroughs.—President, Mrs. SCOTT, Pennant Hall, Abermule; Vice-President, Mrs. BUSCH-MICHELL CROSSWOOD, Welshpool; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. FELIX-JONES, Llanfyllin; Hon. Organising Secretary, Miss ALIX MINNIE CLARK, Newtown.

During the past week I have visited the four Boroughs which were inaugurated in our Branch on July 6, 1911. The seed sown by Mrs. Despard during her visit is rapidly taking root, and the result is that more than seventy members have been enrolled in one week. Offers of help in meetings, garden-parties, &c., are coming from all directions. THE VOTE is selling well, and great enthusiasm prevails among the members.

SCOTTISH NOTES.

Glasgow: Suffrage Centre, 502, SAUCHIEHALL-STREET.

Hon. Secretary: MISS MINA STEVEN.

Hon. Treasurer: MISS JANET L. BUNTEN.

Telegrams: "Tactics," Glasgow. Nat. Telephone: 495 Douglas.

Edinburgh.—Hon. Secretary: Miss A. B. JACK, 21, Buccleuch-PLACE. Hon. Treasurer: Miss M. A. WOOD, 67, Great King-street. Hon. Shop Secretary: Mrs. THOMSON, 39, Rosslyn-crescent. Suffrage Shop: 33, Forrest-road.

There was a very good attendance at the last of the summer At Homes, which was held in the Shop on Wednesday evening. Tea was served by Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Simpson, and Miss A. McLachlan, after which Miss Sara Munro took the chair and Miss A. B. Jack gave a most interesting account of the great procession. The latter part of the evening was devoted to business; the latest development of our tax resistance campaign, referred to elsewhere, evoked great interest. The Shop is open at present from 2 p.m., and is in charge of Mrs. Bell during Mrs. Thomson's absence. As many of the regular shopkeepers are away during July and August, those who can give any time are urgently requested to communicate with Mrs. Bell.

OTHER SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

Church League for Woman's Suffrage.—President: THE BISHOP OF LINCOLN. Offices: 1, St. Mark's Crescent, Regent's Park, London, N.W.

The Regent's Park Branch held a very well attended meeting at 11, St. George's-terrace, on Wednesday evening, July 12, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Seal. The Rev. Maurice Bell was in the chair. The Rev. C. Baumgarten, Vicar of St. George's, Bloomsbury, gave an excellent address on the revision of the marriage service. Father Conran, S.S.T.E., Father Healey and others joined in the discussion. The secretary will be glad of workers to help during the Church Congress at Stoke-on-Trent. The Rev. Claud Hinscliff will speak at the Demonstration at Stratford-on-Avon on Tuesday, July 25.

Cymric Suffrage Union.—President: MRS. D. A. THOMAS. Vice-President: MRS. MANSON-MOULLIN. Hon. Secretary: MRS. DAVIES, 57, Racton-road, Fulham, S.W.

The inaugural meeting, held on July 10, at 69, Wimpole-street, by invitation of Mrs. Manson-Moullin, was well attended, and the enthusiastic start promises well for future success. Welsh women of every shade of opinion are cordially invited to join at once, and to help to form local unions all over Wales, and among Welsh communities elsewhere. On the day of the Investiture of the Prince of Wales the following telegram of loyalty and congratulation was sent by the Cymric Suffrage Union: "To H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Carnarvon Castle—The Cymric Suffrage Union, consisting of loyal, though unenfranchised Welsh women, offer their Prince heartfelt congratulations." Three hours afterwards the following telegram was received with great pleasure: "O.H.M.S., Royal Yacht, Holyhead—The Prince of Wales thanks the Cymric Suffrage Union for their kind congratulations.—EQUERRY."

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

LONDON.

Thurs., July 20.—Highbury Corner, 7.30 p.m. Miss Guttridge, B.Sc.

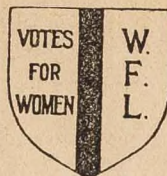
Tottenham, Gas Offices, High-street, 8 p.m. Miss Weir.

Fri., July 21.—West Norwood Fountain, 7.30 p.m. Miss Le Croissette. Mrs. Hobson.

1, Robert-street, 2.30 p.m. National Executive Committee.

Croydon Branch Weekly "At Home," 3, The Arcade, High-street, Croydon. Committee Meeting, 6.30 p.m.

Sat., July 22.—1, Robert-street, 10.30 a.m. National Executive Committee.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Sun., July 23.—HYDE PARK, 12 NOON. DEMONSTRATION TO WELCOME MRS. SPROSON. Speakers: Mrs. Sproson, Mrs. Vulliamy, Miss Jack (Edinburgh), Mrs. How Martyn, Mrs. Drysdale. Caxton Hall, 4-6 p.m. RECEPTION TO MRS. SPROSON. Victoria Park, 3 p.m.

Mon., July 24.—Crystal Palace Tram Terminus, 8 p.m.

Tues., July 25.—West Fortune Green, West Hampstead, 8.15 p.m. Mrs. Van Raalte, Miss Busby.

Wed., July 26.—Gardenia Restaurant, 8 p.m. Discussion Meeting, opened by Mrs. Drysdale. "Emancipation and Motherhood."

Thurs., July 27.—Highbury Corner, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Toyne. Tottenham Gas Offices, High-street, 8 p.m. Miss Leah Anson.

Members' Meeting, 3-5 p.m. (Herne-hill Branch), 140, Rosendale-road, Dulwich. Miss F. A. Underwood.

Garden Whist Drive, 23, Terrace-road, South Hackney.

Fri., July 28.—West Norwood Fountain, 7.30 p.m.

Sun., July 30.—Brockwell Park, 3 p.m. Mrs. Nevinson, Miss Palmer.

Hyde Park, noon. Mrs. Toyne, Y. N. Kennedy, Esq.

PROVINCES.

Wed., July 26.—Wolverhampton, Star and Garter Hotel, Victoria-street, 3.30 p.m. Reception to Mrs. Sproson. Mrs. Despard, Miss Manning, B.A., Miss Neilans.

Market-place, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Sproson, Miss Manning, B.A., Miss Neilans.

Thurs. July 27.—Wellingborough. Mrs. How Martyn.

Mon., Sept. 25.—Bournemouth. Lecture by Mrs. Despard at St. Peter's Hall, Bournemouth, 8 p.m.

SCOTLAND.

Scottish Council. West Coast Holiday Campaign. Meetings at Rothesay, Largs, and other West Coast holiday resorts. Miss Anna Munro and others.

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