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Notes.

OUR readers who are in the habit of referring to the column headed 'The Suffrage in Other Lands' will be interested to learn that Miss Alice Zimmern has just completed a book to be published at a shilling, entitled 'Women's Suffrage in Many Lands,' which describes the origin and present condition of the Suffrage movement in twenty-one different countries. The book will be issued about the middle of the month, in time to be read before the International Congress, and will prove invaluable to every one who wishes to understand the International aspect of this great movement.

Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

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

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

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

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE,'  
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80, Middle Abbey Street, Dublin.

MR. HENRY W. NEVINSON, writing in last week's *Nation* in reference to last week's deputation of members of the Women's Social and Political Union to Mr. Asquith, says, "My first question has not to do with the ruinous tactics of our leader, but with the orders given to the police. They said they had orders to make no arrests. The consequence was that for nearly an hour the women of the deputation were hustled to and fro, driven up and down, and very violently used. In the end, as they persisted in their efforts to enter the House, many of them were arrested. The same scene was repeated next day.....By what right does a Minister give such orders? Either it is legal to go as a deputation to the Prime Minister, or it is not. If it is not, the women ought to have been arrested at once, without first being exposed to violence and ill-usage for nearly an hour. In its attempt to avoid the unpopularity of arrests, the Government incurs the responsibility for the ill-treatment involved in its orders.

"My other question concerns the behaviour of Members of Parliament at these scenes. Do they think it worthy of their position to stand as spectators, usually behind the shelter of some door or railing, to mock and jeer at women who, rightly or wrongly, are attempting to vindicate their political claims?"

AT four o'clock on March 31st the remainder of the deputation of the National Women's Social and Political Union spoken of in our last issue again left Caxton Hall on the usual errand and met with the same fate, in varying degrees, as that of the day before. Nine arrests were made. Such scenes as these indicate a position of affairs that is demoralizing for the world in general, the Government, and the women who are sacrificing themselves—some say unwisely, but, with obvious intensity of purpose. The qualities that are displayed in the work and organization of the Suffrage societies, militant and non-militant, and of which there is now so representative a number, are above criticism.

ARRANGEMENTS are being made to ensure the success of the great Albert Hall meeting on April 29th. The International delegates of the Woman Suffrage Congress will be among the audience, and a special presentation will be made to all members of the N.W.S.P.U. who have suffered imprisonment for the cause. Tickets, price 5s., 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d., can be obtained from the Ticket Secretary, 4, Clement's Inn, W.C. Men are admitted to the 5s. and 2s. 6d. seats only.

IN connexion with the N.W.S.P.U., a drum and five band has been recently organised, and about twenty members are in training. The band will be a regular feature on official occasions. Miss Dallas has been appointed secretary.

ON Friday, April 2nd, the Cheadle Society for Women's Suffrage, a recently formed society, which will shortly, it is hoped, be affiliated to one of the larger bodies, held a Public Meeting in the Depleach Hall. Councillor Margaret Ashton was the speaker. The hall was quite full, and the audience was obviously extremely interested and impressed. Miss Ashton covered a large area in her speech, and touched practically all the leading points of the question. Before closing she appealed powerfully to the men, of whom there were many present, and quoted to them the fine words and action of the men of Norway, who said they could not allow their women to suffer as the English women were suffering in order to obtain the vote, and therefore conceded the Franchise to them.

Mr. Mark, of the Victoria University, who took the chair, said he could not allow the occasion to pass without appealing for the formation in Cheadle of a branch of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

A resolution, taking the form of a petition, to be presented to the House of Commons by the member for the division, was moved by Miss Ashton, seconded by Miss Grundy, and carried without a dissentient voice.

THE following new by-law relating to the admission of women was made and ordained at a quarterly meeting of the council of the Royal College of Surgeons held last Thursday, and the solicitor of the college was instructed to submit it to the Government authorities for sanction and ratification:—

"1. Pursuant to the powers conferred by the Medical Act, 1876, and subject to the provisions therein and hereinafter contained, women may be admitted as members and Fellows of the College and may obtain diplomas in dental surgery on the same terms and conditions as men: and so far as it is necessary to give effect to this by-law, words in the by-laws and regulations of the college which import the masculine gender shall also import the feminine gender, and all proper alterations shall be made in the form of the letters testimonial, diplomas, certificates, and licences granted by the College.

"2. Women shall not be eligible as members of the council, and shall not vote at, or take any part in, any election of a member or members of the council, or attend any meeting of Fellows, or of Fellows and members (except meetings

convened for the delivery of lectures and orations), or otherwise take any part in the government, management, or proceedings of the college.

"3. Women shall not be eligible as members of the Court of Examiners, or for any examinership to which the council appoint."

WE quote the following from *The Boston American*, as it will help refute Mrs. Humphry Ward's statement that the movement over there is "approaching defeat and extinction":—

"Leaders in the crusade for Woman Suffrage are enthusiastic to-day as a result of the record mass meeting held in Tremont Temple in the cause of equal Suffrage.

"More than 2,500 men and women thronged the big auditorium, and they rocked the temple with their cheers, as speaker after speaker scored present conditions, and demanded that women be given the right to vote.

"The climax of this great demonstration came when a call was issued for all those who believed in Woman Suffrage to stand. More than 2,200 men and women arose from their seats at the call. This, the leading Suffrage advocates to-day claim, proves conclusively that the people want women to have the right to vote.

"The meeting was a record-breaker from every point of view. So great has become the interest in the question as a partial result of the Women's Suffrage referendum opened by *The Boston American*, that there was not a seat to be had in the great auditorium when the meeting was opened.

"One of the most forceful speeches was that made by Rockefeller's pastor, Rev. Charles F. Aked, who maintained that the Enfranchisement of Women would be a direct cure for misgovernment of American cities.

"The other speakers were Guy C. Ham, Representative William H. O'Brien, Rev. Anna H. Shaw, President of the Woman's Suffrage League, and Franklin H. Wentworth."

WE wish to thank Mr. L. J. Robinson, of 59, Salford Road, Streatham Hill, for sending us his portrait. We should like him in oils (boiling). We trust it is a speaking likeness, which will mean the loss of the gentleman's tongue, which protrudeth itself. The gift arrived, contrary to the donor's evident expectation, on March 31st, and somebody must have stolen (we make no reflection on the sender) the princely sum he mentions as being forwarded.

WE wish again to call the attention of our readers to the practical way of helping the financial side of our paper—that of obtaining advertisements and also by making real use of those advertisements by purchases, application, &c. That the cause for Woman's Suffrage is a real and living thing has proof even in the dry, everyday routine of business life. A significant remark was overheard by our advertisement manager from one business man to another: "Keep in touch with the woman's movement, and you are all right!" House furnishers, painters, decorators, dressmakers, and milliners are all brought into direct contact with the campaign by the constant demand for their various commodities in the colours of the leagues.

MAY we call special attention to the fact that Mrs. Oliver, of 115, New Bond Street, is advertising in our columns? Her wares are within the means of all, and she has charming hats, dresses, tea-gowns, &c., to suit all tastes. We hope that our readers will go and see for themselves. Mrs. Oliver herself is, as we all know, much in sympathy with the movement.

ON Monday evening last the members of the Suffrage Atelier were received by Miss Venning and Miss Shaw at an "At Home," for which occasion Mrs. Shaw kindly lent her

studio. A business meeting preceded the social gathering, and much good and useful work was decided on. The Green, Gold, and White Fair at Caxton Hall, held by the W.F.L., will be the next occasion at which active help will be given. Cartoons, sketches, and other works of art will be displayed for purchase. A feature at future meetings will be the sale of works of artist members in aid of Suffrage funds. Cartoons and posters on canvas will soon be finished and on loan at political and other meetings.

WE have received 4s. from Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett, being her subscription of 1s. a week towards the publishing expenses of this paper.

### Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association.

THE Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association (Offices, 48, Dover Street, Piccadilly, W.) are making arrangements for extending their work in many directions.

The first four months of their existence having been very successful, it is hoped to develop the work rapidly.

The Kensington Committee held a most successful meeting on the 31st ult. at 34, Elgin Crescent, W. (by kind permission of Mrs. Denibas). Miss Chadwick was in the chair. Though the weather was very bad the room was crowded, and the audience listened with deep attention to Miss Packer's lecture on the 'History of Women's Franchise.' The questions asked after the meeting showed how intelligently those present had followed her arguments. Much literature was sold, and several new members joined the Association.

Besides an important meeting on the 23rd the Kensington Committee is hoping to have a series of afternoon and evening drawing-room gatherings during the summer, details of which will be announced later on.

### Actresses' Franchise League.

A LARGE invitation meeting was given by this League in the Grand Hall of the Criterion on April 2nd, at 2 o'clock. The speakers were: Lady Strachey (in the chair), Lady Grove, and Miss Frances Sterling, and Mr. Yorke Stanger, K.C. The hostesses on this occasion were Miss E. Moore, Miss Lillah McCarthy, Miss A. Crawford, and Mrs. Mouillot.

Lady Strachey in her opening remarks referred to several of the arguments put forth by the Anti-Suffrage Society. The physical force theory was a ridiculous one to all thoughtful people; moral force was the master of physical force.

Lady Grove in her speech commented upon how important a part the actresses and actors played in this question, because on the stage they were practically on terms of equality. The drama represents the world, and through its medium the stage showed that the place of woman is as important as that of man.

Miss Frances Sterling said she wished first to deal with the fundamental part of the question, and showed how difficult was the position of women, and how unique, because all men—though some might still be unenfranchised—were possible voters, and no woman, by law, was that. In this way woman was never directly represented, nor could her influence be direct, and an indirect influence would never fulfil the demand of a vote. It was said that chivalry would die out with the vote. Were we, then, to assume that men had lost their chivalry when they gained the vote? A certain sham chivalry, which was the

result of vanity and self-indulgence, might well be lost, that a truer and better might result between the sexes. This equality would break down sex division. Every class and sex should be free and happy, and this could not be whilst the scheme of government was incomplete in the sense of being fully representative. Women must work without ceasing to bring this thing about—militant or non-militant methods, constant work was needed.

Miss Lillah McCarthy read a report, and gave the numbers of the League as 140. A collection was then made, with good results.

Mr. Stanger assured the League of his hearty sympathy.

### Bristol Women's Reform Union.

A VERY well-attended meeting was held under the auspices of the above Union at the People's Mission Hall, Redfield, Wednesday, 31st ult. Miss Tanner gave a short history of the Suffrage movements, and spoke about the necessity of women being protected by the possession of the vote, explained that the word politics meant the "welfare of the nation," and that the welfare of the nation depended on its women as well as its men. Miss Barette gave the different qualifications necessary for a man to have the right to vote, and added that as women were home makers they should help frame the laws that make the home; she gave several humorous stories that were well appreciated.

Mrs. W. C. H. Cross, Hon. Sec., spoke of the great need of women of all classes banding together to work for the Reform, and sketched out the future work of the Union. Several associates joined, and the women asked for further meetings to learn more about Women's Suffrage. Two women present offered to lend their houses for meetings held in that district.

### Two Looks at a Suffragette.

THE first shall be from the "Anti" point of view; and it sees a loud, bold, unfeminine, in fact unsexed creature, devoid of all womanly charm and grace, declaring in strident tones that she is no longer man's inferior and slave, but, on the contrary, his equal, if not his superior.

"Anti" sees in this revolt against the ascendancy of man, a most undesirable, nay, a most abhorrent, upheaval of all the cherished traditions of sentiment and prejudice. Do not nature and religion alike testify to woman's inferiority and subordination? Is not home the one sphere for which she is fitted? Is not patient, submissive Griselda a type of true womanhood?

This unconventional, outspoken twentieth-century woman takes shape before her eyes as an ungainly hoyden, aping man in dress and manners, brazen-faced and brazen-tongued, heckling Cabinet Ministers, shouting at street corners, armed with horse-whips, fighting policemen, pushing her way through crowded thoroughfares, decked in gaudy colours, carrying flaunting banners, and losing no possible chance of making herself conspicuous and obnoxious in every way.

And all for what reason? For the love of notoriety, of course, for the Suffragette is assuredly nothing but a restless, idle, vain, and silly vixen, whose neglect of home and home duties is scandalous, and whose morbid, unhealthy mind craves the stimulant of incessant excitement.

And whither does all this lead? To prison; and that, says "Anti," is the very goal of her desires. She wins that for which she has played: the satisfaction of posing as a martyr; the glory of saying she has suffered for "the cause." And what a cause! The most ridiculous, the most unwarrantable, the

MRS.

## OLIVER,

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most hopeless; for what man in his senses will ever allow woman to intrude upon his well-preserved rights and privileges? She must be taught to know and keep her place, and serve her right if she gets well punished for her audacious attempt to overstep the God-appointed boundaries of sex.

So speaks dear "Anti," wrapped in her well-fitting, comfortable mantle of self-complacency; and she holds up her hands in horror to shut out the sight of the impudent, wild-cat creature who is so horribly unladylike.

Does "Anti" see aright? Is there no obliquity of vision which an application of the Ninth Commandment might rectify?

Is there no other look that can be taken of that much abused and hotly contested subject, the Militant Suffragette? Does there not rise before some of us the vision of a large army of pure-hearted, noble-souled, enthusiastic women, bent on the attainment of their one great aim, the redress of their sisters' wrongs?

For more than forty years such as they have striven bravely for the cause, and have neglected no constitutional or legal means to further it. Their work has not been in vain, for it has inspired their followers with willingness to bear all that may befall them as they plod a weary way strewn with the piercing flints of contumely and scorn. It has been thrown in their faces by the heads of Government that they must do more than merely petition for their rights—that they must give full proof of their determination and desire. Alas! we say, for men's chivalry and sense of honour. To such retort there could be but one answer. Women looked at history, and saw how men had gained their privileges—through riot, fire, and sword. The onus of the women's resolve to fight lies with a Government which, like many another seeking to overcome right by might, calls itself Liberal. Is there nothing pathetic in this determination of the weaker sex to face the pitiless strength of the mighty? The women fight, but as far as physical suffering goes that has all fallen on themselves. Not a drop of blood has been shed; not a blow has injured any but themselves. Surely such warfare has been, till now, unheard of. As for the Cabinet Ministers, one holds them in the same esteem as the craven councillors of Vashti's day.

However much we may dislike the methods of the Suffragettes, we must at least concede that they have the courage of their opinions. Hundreds of them have deliberately chosen imprisonment rather than fines, and it must require no little determination and firm faith in a cause to undergo for it all the privations and discomfort of a Holloway cell. To women of culture and refinement, to those of an untarnished reputation and respectable bringing up, such associations must be most repugnant, as are—to most, if not to all of them—the methods of warfare to which they are obliged to resort.

Can it be imagined that these women spend large sums of money and risk their personal safety and liberty merely for the love of notoriety? Impossible. Look at their past lives. Many of them have spent years in alleviating the woes of the distressed and helpless. Most are workers, and not one will be found among the bridge-playing, society seeking females who figure in the Divorce and Bankruptcy Courts.

Must we not rather believe that to each one has come the call of conscience, the voice of duty, bidding her take active part in this great movement? She sees what has been done for the amelioration of her sex in those lands where Female Suffrage prevails. She knows, and her enemies do not fail to remind her, that all efforts to better the condition of women are futile until they are represented in Parliament. In her mind's eye she sees the host of scantily clothed, ill-fed, and underpaid women to whom home is an utterly unknown sphere, and whose only earthly chance of ease and comfort is to accept the wages of iniquity. It is to save them that, having duly weighed the price which must be paid, she is willing to leave the shelter of her own sweet home and go forth to bear scorn and reproof and the bitter shame of the unkind taunt of unwomanliness. She is upheld through all by the thought of victory, for she knows the cause is of God, and cannot be overthrown.

Is not this second look the one which justice, charity, and the love of fair play bid us take?

C. L. H.

### Correspondence.

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

136, Portland Road, Egbaston, April 1st.

SIR,—Every one admits that unity of by-election policy would be desirable, if it were possible to attain it; but as both sides are convinced that their policy is best, we must recognize that unity is not at present possible and console ourselves with the thought that we are answering the objection of the Antis, that when women are enfranchised they will all vote the same way.

Meanwhile our plain duty is to go our own way and let other people go theirs. Every one is free to support the policy she likes best.

So long as we are active it does not make much difference what our policy is, as unless there is a Reform Bill, and perhaps not even then, we cannot hope to get our votes from this Government. What does matter is that we should all be able to adopt the same policy at the next general election, and our aim now should be not to make sweeping criticisms and raise obstacles but to do everything that will make it easy for this united action to be carried on.

Yours, &c., E. M. GARDNER.

Shapwick, Somerset, March 30th.

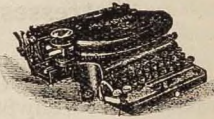
SIR,—In his speech at the Women's Anti-Suffrage League meeting at the Queen's Hall last Friday Lord Cromer quoted from one of George Eliot's novels. "Women," said Mrs. Poysler, "are fools. God Almighty made them to match the men." A very apt quotation for that meeting.

George Eliot, who, Lord Cromer remarked, was one of the most talented of her sex, also observed: "The depths of middle-aged gentlemen's ignorance will never be known, for want of public examinations in that branch."

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### National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

THE reception given on Saturday by Mrs. Fawcett to meet the President of the International Suffrage Alliance was the first social event in connexion with the forthcoming congress. All the guests listened with the greatest interest to Mrs. Catt's lucid exposition of the difficulties with which Suffrage work has to contend in the United States. The constitutions of the States are so framed that they can only be altered by the consent of every male citizen, and that means that any foreigner from any part of the world has a voice in depriving the American woman of a share in the government. Mrs. Humphry Ward had greatly exaggerated the influence of the Antis. It was not they, but the saloon-keepers, who had prevented the adoption of a Suffrage amendment in Oregon.

Difficult as it is to change the constitution of a western State, the difficulties in the East are even greater, for in the older States the element of tradition comes in. Nowhere is the work harder than in New York, where it is said there are more Jews than in Jerusalem, more Irish than in Dublin, and more Germans than in some of the chief towns of Germany. Yet all these aliens have a right to be consulted. In spite of all difficulties the work is growing, and American Suffragists were never in better heart. But it seems that the West will have to be won first, and then perhaps the East may follow. It was news to many of us that in Utah, where we are constantly being told every man has seven wives, who do his bidding at the poll, women are, as a matter of fact, in a minority, also that polygamy no longer prevails there, as an opportune revelation had come to the Mormons, when Utah was admitted as a State, forbidding that which a previous revelation had enjoined.

Mrs. Catt is not only a delightful speaker, but she is ready with her answers, and able to turn to any aspect of her subject. We shall all look forward to hearing her again in Suffrage week!

A SPECIAL EFFORT week is to be held from May 9th to 16th by the N.U.W.S.S. If any branch society can hold public meetings the Executive Committee will send a first-rate speaker or speakers.

The London Society for Women's Suffrage is organizing a pageant of women's trades and professions designed to show foreign visitors to the forthcoming Suffrage Congress the part Englishwomen take in the work of the nation. The massing of the pageant will take place in the arena of the Albert Hall, and, owing to the limits of the space available, it has been found necessary to restrict the number of those taking part to 1,000. The Suffragists will march on April 27th from Eaton Square, with lanterns, insignia, and bands, *via* Sloane Street and Knightsbridge, to the Albert Hall. The pageant is timed to reach the Hall at 8.15, a quarter of an hour after the demonstration begins.

BECKENHAM (N.U.W.S.S.)—On March 31st a large and enthusiastic meeting was held in the Anerley Town Hall. Among the speakers were Sir John Cockburn, Mrs. Philip Snowden, Rev. T. Pyke, with Miss Abadam in the chair. In her introductory speech Miss Abadam spoke of the dense mass of prejudice and superstition that was opposed to Woman's Franchise, and which was not confirmed by reason, but in the promise of new and better conditions would be thrown aside into the dustbin of oblivion.

Sir John Cockburn gave his views on the usefulness of the vote in New Zealand and Australia, and said that it was a fair assumption that the results on a smaller scale would work out the same on larger lines. The drums of the future had been heard in the colonies, and gave promise for the future in the mother country. New conditions must be met with new methods, and it is impossible to unlock the future with the key of the past. The spirit of the age had need of the work of women. In the past it had been an age of acquisition, and women would balance this tendency with her instinct for distribution.

Mrs. Philip Snowden said she must take her text from the former speakers. Those words—"the spirit of the age"—had a twofold meaning; they applied to industrial things as well as psychological. In the past age of the industrial world work had been the product of the individual, and now it was the product of co-operation. The various societies and trades unions were the result of the change, and more votes for men had followed as a

natural consequence. Industrial change affected women equally with men, and yet the Franchise had not been extended to her. "Dependance strangles and cripples love," and so it was that women, through independence, would become comrades with men, both working in the interests of a common activity.

The Rev. T. Pyke, in an earnest speech, gave several convincing reasons for the enfranchisement of women.

BOURNEMOUTH (N.U.W.S.S.)—On March 29th a most successful meeting was held at the Temperance Hall, Boscombe. Councillor Wilson took the chair, and Miss Abadam spoke in her usual convincing manner. Several new members joined the society. On March 30th an "At Home" was held in the Prince's Hall; about 500 were present. Mr. Hume, the President of the newly-formed Men's League, took the chair. Miss Abadam gave a splendid address, a lively discussion followed, many joined the society, and a good collection was taken. The Men's League hope to have a public meeting soon.

IPSWICH (N.U.W.S.S.)—On Sunday, March 25th, a meeting was held in the Public Hall, Ipswich, organized by the Ipswich and County Women's Suffrage Society. Mr. Baillie-Weaver was the speaker, and he dealt in a most lucid manner with the whole question of the Enfranchisement of Women, including Militant Tactics and the Limited Bill. It is not always that intellect and imagination go together. Mr. Baillie-Weaver possesses both in a remarkable degree, and he used his ability in his exposition and support of the Women's Cause.

A resolution was submitted to the meeting calling upon the Government to forthwith pledge themselves to bring in a Bill before the end of the present Session of Parliament granting the Parliamentary Franchise to women on the same terms upon which it is now granted to men. The resolution was carried with a minority of six.

CONSTANCE E. ANDREWS.

LEITH HILL (N.U.W.S.S.)—This Society held a well-attended meeting in the Dorking Town Hall on March 31st, which was addressed by Lady Frances Balfour and Mr. Baillie-Weaver with Miss Drew in the chair.

Letters were read from Lord Farrer and Mr. Leverton Harris, M.P., who are both members of the Leith Hill Society. Lord Farrer aptly asked "are we to go back to the feudal military theory that only those who give personal military service are worthy of a citizen's position? Can a country which has passed the Married Women's Property Act maintain that women are unfit to uphold the greatest doctrine of English liberty—the doctrine which won the Great Charter and the Bill of Rights: *No Taxation without Representation?*" Mr. Leverton Harris wrote "I am convinced that what the cause of Woman's Suffrage most needs at the present time is steady educational work. I do not think the time is very far distant when women who have so great a stake in the country will have some voice in its representation."

Lady Frances, in moving the resolution, said that there is only one answer to the question "What do women want the vote for?" and that is: "They want it for the same reasons as men want it!"

Suffragists admit that men are men and women are women, as that is the very reason why it is necessary and desirable that the Franchise should be granted to women. Turning to the argument that women could not fight, Lady Frances said that she was listening to the Naval Debate in the House last week, and one of the leaders mentioned the offer of a Dreadnought from New Zealand. As the word was mentioned there was a thrilling silence, and amid the silence came the familiar sound—not in a woman's voice, but in the voice of one of the members: "Votes for Women!" New Zealand had enfranchised its women—all its women—fifteen years ago, and it was that State in which women had nearly, if not quite, an equal voting power with men, which was the first to recognize the need of the Mother Country by providing her with a great fighting machine. The speaker also showed how the Factory Acts press more heavily upon women than upon men—how the State every day invades the home—how the question of sweating affects women and children more than men. She made an eloquent defence of the militants, pointing out how they have done no harm to any but themselves, although the exaggerations of the Press may lead people to think otherwise, and she said that she welcomed the Anti-Suffrage League as its existence proves the life and strength of the Suffrage Cause.

Mr. Baillie-Weaver exposed the fallacies in Lord Cromer's speech at Queen's Hall in an able and telling manner. The main point of the whole question, he said, is that the granting of the vote would make women citizens, and with their increasing interest and co-operation with men the conditions of life would be improved. He could not agree with the Anti-Suffrage speakers, who seem to think that the present conditions are such that they cannot be improved upon. Men and women must work together on a footing of absolute equality, and when woman is made a citizen she will

respond gloriously with "full measure, pressed down and running over."

Questions were put and answered, and statistics of women's wages in New Zealand before and after the granting of the Franchise were read.

The resolution was put to the meeting and carried with very few dissentients.

SANDRA BRAY, Hon. Sec.

**LONDON SOCIETY (N.U.W.S.S.).**—On Thursday, March 25th, a well-attended public meeting was held in the People's Hall, under the auspices of the Willesden Branch of the above Society, when the question whether the Franchise should be extended to women on the same terms as men was warmly discussed. The chair was taken by Mr. Gibb, M.P., and Mrs. Gibb was also present.

The OPENER, Mr. H. McKay, contended that women had their own particular sphere, and that sphere should be represented in national life, and he considered that those who took an intelligent interest in politics managed their homes on more intelligent lines, and by admitting women to the political arena they will lose none of their true womanliness or love of domesticity, but shaking off their ignorance and artificiality will become an ennobling influence in the life of the nation.

The OPPOSER was Mr. Alexander Machonochie, barrister-at-law, and was sent down by the "Men's League for Opposing Women's Suffrage." He claimed that the majority of women do not want the vote, and further they should be quite satisfied with the opportunities and protection now afforded them; the number of ignorant men now possessing the vote formed a dangerous element, and it would be bad policy to increase it by the addition of ignorant women voters. Women were entirely lacking in business capacity.

Miss WARD in reply to the opposer's remarks on Adult Suffrage, said that if men liked to give them more than they asked for, women could not be held responsible for that, as they only asked for the enfranchisement of one-and-a-half million qualified women. Dr. Granger Evans pointed out the anomalies in domestic legislation and the unjust attitude of the law regarding the possession of children. On the resolution being put to the vote 64 declared themselves in favour and 33 against.

**PONTYPRIDD (N.U.W.S.S.).**—Two meetings were held on Thursday, March 18th, at the Congregational Hall; one in the afternoon for women only, when Mrs. H. M. Gregory, the President, presided over a large and representative gathering, who had come together to hear Miss Abadam speak on the social evil. Miss Abadam had spoken at a meeting in Pontypridd the previous month, and had proved such a delightful and inspiring speaker that Pontypridd insisted upon hearing her again.

In the evening at the same hall there was a crowded attendance of both sexes. Mr. W. Jones, J.P., presided, and Miss Abadam again charmed her audience by her eloquence. County Councillor Fleming proposed, and the Rev. Edgar Williams seconded, a resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage, which was carried with only one dissentient. Many new members have been added to the Pontypridd Branch as a result of these meetings.

**RICHMOND (N.U.W.S.S.).**—Miss Tuttiett, the distinguished author of 'The Silence of Dean Maitland,' which may now be called a British classic, presided over a crowded meeting at her house, 2, Mount Ararat Road, on the 2nd inst. In her remarks Miss Tuttiett cleverly gave the key-note to the subsequent proceedings. Mrs. Stanbury, in a closely reasoned discourse of three quarters of an hour, pointed out the ill effects on the community of the present system. No thinker could doubt that many of the defects, even in the enlightened men who are bringing about those important changes in the East which we all watch with such approving interest, come from their mothers' failings, which spring, again, directly from the harem and its environment. Necessarily she spent much time in travelling; and, even in Great Britain, when she saw in a railway carriage or elsewhere, so many vacuous men, she thought of the women without citizenship who had brought them into being. Mr. Mackenzie Bell, who followed with a speech of ten minutes, said in his view the question was what was best for the race, and man, as a sex, had probably done all possible already. Therefore it remained for woman to take her share. The decision was really made when education was given to women. We were told sometimes women should not have a vote because they would lose thereby their pristine purity. Very often he thought it rather illogical that those who make this assertion, not argument, never agitate to take the vote from man in order that he might practise more successfully all the virtues. Over tea and coffee a deeply interesting conversation, commenced by Mr. Stanbury, occurred, on the causes of the relative decline of feminine influence in England during the eighteenth, after the importance it had attained in the seventeenth century. The claims of Women's Franchise on the supporters of the cause were also set forth.

**WOLYERHAMPTON (N.U.W.S.S.).**—The Annual Meeting was held in St. Peter's Institute on Tuesday, March 23rd. Mrs. Arnold Shaw (President) was in the chair. Mrs. Philip Snowden was the speaker, and she completely won the hearts of every one present. The Hon. Secretary and Treasurer presented satisfactory reports, the educational work of the Society having gone steadily forward. The number of meetings averaged one a fortnight. Several members joined at the close of the meeting.

### Correspondence.

March 31st.

DEAR SIR,—In this Midland town we are hoping to make a goodly sum (of more than two figures if possible) for the National Union *Special Effort Week*, to be held in the middle of May. We are already organizing small "At Homes" for music, theatricals, dances, &c., and are asking every member to contribute three articles for a sale of work. If only all the branches and members in our Union will work hard for the week, we can certainly raise money enough to enormously enlarge the scope and area of our central organization. The times seem particularly ripe for constitutional work, and we must see that the war chest is well filled.

Believe me, faithfully yours,  
COUNTRY MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL UNION.

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

APRIL		Speaker	P.M.
14.	Uxbridge, Mrs. Davidson's, 59, St. Andrew's. Drawing-room Meeting	Speaker, Miss Lamond	3.30
15.	Stratford-on-Avon, Women's Liberal Association. Subject, "Why Women Should Vote."	Chair, Lady Trevelyan Speaker, Miss Abadam	3
	Darlington, Parochial Hall, Victoria Road	Business Meeting	7.30
	Darlington, Parochial Hall, Victoria Road, Annual Meeting	Speaker, Miss Maude Royden	8
16.	Cheadle, Hulme	Chair, Mrs. Simpson Speakers, Miss Roydon and Mr. Williamson	8
21.	Derby, Orpheus Hall, Stafford Street. Subject, 'Ourselves as a means in ourselves of removing hostility to the Suffrage.'	Chair, Mrs. Alfred Smith Speaker, Miss E. Meynell	3
22.	Nottingham, Annual Meeting, Felixstowe, Ball-room, Culvert's Café. Subject, 'Women's Suffrage: Its Effect on the Moral Question.'	Speaker, Miss Abadam Chair, Dr. Sarah Gray Speaker, Miss Abadam Tea and coffee	7 8 7
	Birkenhead, Drawing-room Meeting	Hostess, Mrs. J. H. Ziegler Chair, Mr. Francis Ivens Speaker, Miss Maude Royden	
23.	Liverpool, Wallasey and Wirral	Speaker, Miss Abadam	3
29.	Bournemouth, Prince's Hall	Speaker, Miss C. Hamilton (Diana of Dobson's)	4
	Broadheath, Congregational Schools. Subject, 'Sweating and the Minimum Wage.'	Chair, Mrs. Dickenson Speaker, Miss Maude Smith	8
30.	Derby, Orpheus Hall, Stafford Street. Subject, 'Women's Suffrage and the case for National and Social Reform.'	Chair, Miss Vaudrey Speaker, Dr. Herbert Moxon	7.30
MAY.		Speaker	P.M.
4.	Kensington, "At Home," Studio 1A, 57, Bedford Gardens	Speaker, Miss Abadam	8.30
5.	Derby, Orpheus Hall, Stafford Street. Subject, 'Women's Suffrage and Legislation affecting Women and Children.'	Chair, Miss Dorothy Martin Speaker, Mrs. Howard James	3
	Cambridge, Public Hall Meeting	Speakers, Miss Abadam Sir Victor Horsley	8
7.	Pontypridd, Meeting, Women only	Speaker, Miss Abadam	2.30
	Pontypridd, Meeting, Men only	Speakers, Miss Abadam Mr. Malcolm Mitchell	8
19.	Uxbridge, Meeting, Women only, Town Hall	Chair, Mrs. Davidson Speaker, Miss Abadam	3.15
	Uxbridge, Meeting, Men only, Town Hall	Chair, Rev. J. Brady Speaker, Miss Abadam	8
21.	Derby, Orpheus Hall, Stafford Street. Subject, 'When we have the Vote.'	Chair, Mrs. Frank Stones Speaker, Miss M. Norma Smith	7.30
JUNE.		Chair	P.M.
9.	Derby, Orpheus Hall, Stafford Street. Subject, 'The Woman Movement.'	Chair, Mr. T. Mawbey, J.P. Speaker, Mrs. W. Dowson	3

## VOTES FOR WOMEN.

### Women's Freedom League.

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

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

NATIONAL OFFICES: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.Sc., A.R.C.S. Hon. Treasurer: MISS BENETT.  
Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG.

President: MRS. DESPARD.

Telegrams: "Tactics, London."

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

### The Croydon By-Election.

If any had been in doubt as to whether the Woman's Franchise movement were progressing, they should have gone down to Croydon during the recent by-election campaign, and they would have come away quite reassured. No fewer than three great societies took shops in the main street for offices, and decorated them all over with bills and pictures and badges, and it was evident to the most sceptical passer-by that they were all bent on business.

Crowded and enthusiastic meetings were held in large and small halls, in market places, and at cross-roads, at all hours of the day and far on into the night.

It was sufficient to go into a shop and state that one was going to hold a meeting on the subject, to be at once accorded a courteous welcome, and a suitable box or chair from which to address the crowd was produced with the utmost goodwill. This would be placed outside at the street corner, and hardly would there be time to get up on it before the passers-by would realize that an opportunity had come to hear the message we were bringing to them, and the audience was there.

Now these crowds were not such as one is accustomed to associate in one's mind with by-elections. They stopped to listen, because they felt they would hear the honest convictions of earnest women who were working for the good of their sisters and brothers, and not the ordinary claptrap of the political agents, who adapt the old motto to their use, "All is fair in love and politics"; who carry messages from their masters of pledges than can never be fulfilled, even if the intentions are pure to start with.

Croydon was evidently prepared to listen, and listen she did. It has been said that women must not have the vote because they will all combine throughout the country. Such a statement could only have been made by a politician for party ends, for no one in a sane moment could have believed in the possibility of such unanimity.

This argument must now be added to the list of other "Anti" arguments that have been tried and found wanting; for were the ladies in Croydon all unanimous? No; there were plenty there who were in favour of, and worked for the Government candidate. This is not the place to discuss the wisdom of that move, but it serves to show that women will not be all of one party.

"Taint a knowin' kind of cattle that is ketched with mouldy corn," and the Women's Freedom League was not going to be caught with the promises of one supporter of the Franchise, when 420 are powerless.

O. LEWIN.

### Probationary Organizers.

THE National Executive Committee has decided to engage a limited number of probationary organizers, who after training will be drafted on to the ordinary organizing staff of the League should they prove suitable.

Two of these probationary organizers are to be engaged at once, and others later, but the number will, of course, be strictly limited, and the appointments will be made from among the most suitable of the early applicants.

The period of training, salary, and conditions of employment, as defined by the National Executive Committee, will be supplied upon application to the Hon. Organizing Secretary,

TERESA BILLINGTON-GREIG.

### At Swansea.

THE first large public meeting held under the auspices of the Swansea branch of the Women's Freedom League took place on Wednesday last, March 31st, when a great triumph was experienced. We were lucky enough to get Miss Muriel Matters to speak. The members of the League have been working for the last few weeks to ensure a successful meeting, and our hopes were more than realized when we saw the Swansea Albert Hall packed to overflowing with about 3,000 people, and crowds turned away unable to obtain admittance.

Mrs. Arthur James (Megan Glantawe) very kindly entertained the audience between 7 and 8 o'clock with an organ recital. Miss M. E. Manning, B.A., who took the chair, opened the meeting by asking the Socialist Male Voice Choir to render some choruses, which they did with great success. Before introducing the speaker Miss Manning made a charming, but short speech on the advantages which will result from Women's Suffrage.

We have to give our warmest thanks to the Socialist Society for the very kind and able help which they gave us both in singing and in acting as stewards. Everybody who has heard Miss Matters and knows the masterly way in which she can hold her audience will quite understand how she "took the wind out of the sails" of any who had come to the meeting to create a disturbance. There were a few interruptions during her speech, but her quick and ready answers, which were so very much to the point, immediately quelled the opposition, and it turned to loud applause. Miss Matters touched upon all the most important points which make women so determined to get the vote, and nobody in the hall, I think, could help being deeply impressed and moved by the eloquent way in which she spoke. The following resolution was carried: "That this meeting is of opinion that the vote should be granted to women on the same terms as it is, or may be in the future, granted to men. This meeting calls upon the Government to enfranchise women this session, as the denial of political liberty to women is a violation of the principle of justice and humanity, and a direct incentive to the use of unconstitutional means."

Questions were then invited, and a great many were asked and ably answered by the speaker. During question time the members of the Women's Freedom League made a collection, and Miss Matters then appealed to the audience for funds, saying: "I want £5 before I leave the building," and in a very few minutes more than this sum was promised, by Mrs. Bastian £1, Miss Dilwyn £1, Mr. Clewes £1, Mr. Seyler £1, and Councillor J. Livingston £1, and many people threw their subscriptions on to the platform with cries of "From a Socialist," "From Sympathizer," for which the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Knight, heartily thanked the givers.

At the close of the meeting Miss Matters was overwhelmed with enthusiastic applause and demands for her signature. It was some time before she was able to leave the hall owing to people crowding to the platform to shake hands with her and thank her for her delightful address.

Three cheers were given for Miss Matters and Miss Manning. The greatest credit and thanks are due to our Hon. Sec., Mrs. E. A. Clewes, on whose shoulders fell the greatest part of the work, and whose untiring energy and wonderful powers of organization succeeded in arranging a most successful meeting. Miss Salmon (Lit. Sec.) and her numerous helpers did good work at the literature stall, and looked charming in white frocks and wearing the League colours.

MURIEL V. HUTTON.

## State Robbers.

Two of our passive resisters, Dr. Elizabeth Wilks and Miss Ansell, have been once more the victims of State burglary. Having refused to pay their taxes, their houses have been entered and their goods seized by the servants of a Government which refuses to recognize them as citizens.

The public sale of Miss Ansell's property last Saturday was made the occasion of a protest meeting held in Kingsway, close to the Sale Room. Speeches were made by Miss Benett, Miss Ansell, and Miss FitzHerbert. A number of men and a sprinkling of women listened attentively, one man expressing his hearty sympathy with the movement at the close of the meeting.

This kind of protest is extremely effective, and those ladies who go through the disagreeable experience are to be heartily congratulated on their pluck and unselfishness.

We want more women to follow their example. Unfortunately the majority have their taxes filched from them before they receive their income; but there must still be many who pay taxation directly to the tax gatherer, and to these we appeal to refuse henceforth the burdens of citizenship until its rights and privileges have been conferred upon them.

## London Council "At Home."

THE last London Council "At Home" of the present season, held at the smaller Queen's Hall on Sunday afternoon, April 4th, was made the occasion of a special welcome to Mrs. Despard, and all the released prisoners who had not returned to the provinces. Dr. Marian Thornett presided. Mrs. Zangwill, in the course of a delightfully characteristic address, touched a graver note in her appreciation of the self-sacrifice and courage shown by the ex-prisoners. Mrs. Despard, in going to the House of Commons to present a resolution to Mr. Asquith, had shown more courage than General French leading a cavalry charge. Holloway, continued the speaker, had been described by an Anti-Suffrage writer as a "rest cure." It spoke much for the strenuous lives of the Suffragists if the discomfort of Holloway was, in comparison, restful. After a few witty remarks by Mr. Joseph Clayton, Mrs. Arnliffe Sennett spoke with her usual animation on the arguments of the Anti-Suffragists, and concluded her address by appealing for funds, the total amount collected in response to this appeal being about 20l. Mrs. Despard, Miss FitzHerbert and Mrs. Manson gave short addresses on life in Holloway, other ex-prisoners on the platform being Miss Milne Farquharson, Mrs. Duval, Miss Sidley, Mrs. Crummev, and Miss Vernon.

## 'How the Vote was Won,' a New Suffrage Play.

By CICELY HAMILTON AND CHRISTOPHER ST. JOHN.

Notice.—For copyright purposes a performance of the above new one-act play will be given at the New Royalty Theatre, Dean Street, W., by kind permission of Mr. Charles Hawtrey, on Tuesday, 13th, at 2.30 P.M.

The cast will be the same as at the Green, White, and Gold Fair.

Members and their friends can purchase tickets for this special performance at the office of the Women's Freedom League, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi.

Prices: Stalls, 1s.; Dress Circle, 6d.; Upper Circle, Pit, and Gallery, 3d.

The proceeds will be given to the Actresses' Franchise League.

TO MEMBERS.—I wish to make an urgent appeal to every League member. Our heavy expenses for postage might, I think, easily be halved, if each and all would read our pages in *Women's Franchise* with careful attention every week, and would regard the notices as addressed to them individually, and come or write to the office to let us know what help they are able to give. Will members kindly send me an assurance that they will do this in future, and that they will press others to read our paper attentively.

S. BENETT, Hon. Treasurer.

## Prize Banner.

LADY RUSSELL has been advertising the cause of "Votes for Women" during her holiday in Mentone. She has returned with a beautiful trophy in the shape of a painted silken banner won at a battle of flowers, and awarded for her victoria "tastefully decorated with asparagus, white marguerites, and mimosa, with the startling legend worked in flowers 'Votes for Women'"—to quote *The Monte Carlo News*. Lady Russell writes: "Our carriage decorated in the League colours caused a great sensation, and the English visitors were most excited. Even the French people shouted 'Votes for Women' as we went round the course. I informed the judges that I should present the banner to the Women's Freedom League Office."

The banner has been gratefully accepted by the League, and is looked upon as one more charming proof of Lady Russell's zeal for the Cause.

## Green, White, and Gold Fair.

THE Fair will be held at Caxton Hall (opposite Christ Church, Victoria Street, Westminster), from 12 noon to 11 P.M. daily, on April 15, 16, and 17, and will be opened at 12 o'clock on Thursday by Miss Ellen Terry, on Friday by Miss Lena Ashwell, on Saturday by Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G.

The special entertainments will be: Side Shows, Miss Cicely Hamilton's Waxworks, Tableaux, Gipsy Tent, Craftswomen at work, Holloway Cell, &c. Theatrical Entertainments by the Actresses' Franchise League and Mr. Henry Ainley, Miss Lena Ashwell, Mr. Hubert Bath, Misses Tita Brand, Patrick Campbell, Constance Collier, Alice Crawford, B. Forbes-Robertson, C. Granville, Cicely Hamilton, Elaine Inescourt, Julia James, Auriol Lee, Marie Lloyd, Misses Lillah McCarthy, Jean McKinlay, Mrs. Mouillot, Misses Edyth Olive, Esther Palliser, Mr. Nigel Playfair, Misses Ellen Terry, Minnie Terry, Madge Titheradge, Hilda Trevelyan, Mr. Ben Webster, Harcourt Williams, Mrs. Theodore Wright, and others.

Decorations by Miss Edith Craig. It is hoped that every member in London will attend and bring friends. Admission 1s.; after 6 P.M. 6d. Stall holders and their assistants and all stewards will be supplied with passes on application to Miss Tillard at the offices of the League. M. L.

NEXT WEEK IS THE GREEN, WHITE, AND GOLD FAIR.—Are all the members dining this into the ears of the public? The Caxton Hall *must* be packed the first day—if this is done there will be no need to worry about the others, so many and various are the attractions we shall offer. We are asking a sacrifice for the Cause, because it is much pleasanter to go away for Easter; but we are sure that every one who can *will* come to the office and get bills to distribute, or balloons to sell. The caravan is going round every day except on Good Friday, starting at 11 o'clock, and needs to be accompanied. These are only a few of the odd jobs crying out to be done. PLEASE COME AND DO THEM. VIOLET TILLARD.

The Green, White, and Gold Fair Committee acknowledges with thanks:—

Box from Bridport to Mrs. Toyne.  
Box from Manchester to Miss M. Lawson.  
Box from Bridport to Miss Pocock.  
Parcel from Bridport to Miss Pocock.  
Parcel from Civil Service Co-operative Society to Mrs. Hicks.  
Box and two parcels from Mrs. Livingstone.  
Small box from a Sympathizer.  
Five Shillings for Pottery from a Gloucestershire Woman.

COMPETITIONS.—Two further prizes of 5s. each have been offered for the best contribution to the Fruit and Flower Stalls respectively.

OUR CARAVAN will be visiting various districts of London during the next few days. If any of our members have Fair contributions that are awkward to send, we will make arrangements for the caravan to call for them if application is received by Thursday evening.

## News from New York.

WE get news of the movement in America from Mrs. Borrmann Wells, who took part in a novel and effective demonstration in New York at 2.30 on the morning of March 9th. The women chose the hour and the place (Newspaper Row) with the object of addressing Press representatives when their labours were ended, and they were about to go home. An attentive crowd of night toilers gathered round the Suffragette lorry, and listened quietly to the speeches of Miss Murphy, Mrs. Sofia Loebinger, Miss Marian Walters, and Mrs. Borrmann Wells (the principal speaker). Many of the unanswerable arguments we know so well were used, and there was a delightfully warlike note in the following: "If we cannot get our right peacefully, it is our duty to get it by force! I have a new slogan: No votes for the men who refuse to grant us women the Franchise! If the men won't give it to us, let all women rise up and prevent them from using the Franchise—if we have to overthrow the ballot boxes to do it."

## Branch Notes.

THE CHELTENHAM BRANCH combined business with pleasure on Saturday, when they held an American Tea Party and Sale at Sirsa House (by kind offer of Miss Lloyd) to raise funds for the work of the League, and to welcome Madame Borovikovski, the first member of the local branch to suffer imprisonment in the cause of Women's Enfranchisement.

Mrs. Florence Earengy, the local hon. secretary, expressed the deep sense of gratitude which the Branch felt towards Madame Borovikovski for her self-sacrificing devotion to the cause, and laid special stress on the necessity for continued militant agitation.

Mrs. Earengy, on behalf of those members and friends who subscribed for the purpose of commemorating the imprisonment, then presented Madame Borovikovski with two books—Mrs. Swiney's 'The Awakening of Women,' and Mrs. Perkins-Gillman's 'Women and Economics,' tied with green, white, and gold, the colours of the League. The Holloway brooch was also presented, and the event will be commemorated by the Branch contributing to the Despard Prisoners' Fund.

Madame Borovikovski thanked those present for their kind reception, and told how, unfortunately, owing to the state of her health, she was compelled to leave after nearly a fortnight; but she could assure her friends that she felt more "suffragettish" than ever, and was perfectly willing to undertake danger duty again. Next time she hoped to be accompanied by many others from Cheltenham, and she made an urgent appeal to all interested to do the cause this service. F. EARENGY.

MANCHESTER BRANCH.—At a well-attended meeting on March 31st, the Rev. C. Peach lectured on 'Women of Shakespeare.' The lecture proved to be, as we expected, an intellectual treat, and many present saw Shakespeare's women in quite a new light, through the masterly and convincing way in which the subject was handled.

Through the kindness of Mr. Forbes Robertson the W.F.L., along with the N.W.S.P.U., were privileged to see the 'Passing of the Third Floor Back' at the Theatre Royal, at a specially reduced price. We all turned out in colours, and it was quite impressive to see so many "Suffragettes," most of them displaying 'Votes for Women' decorations. On April 7th we welcome Miss Vernon and Miss Schofield at the Portland Café. M. D.

SALE BRANCH, CHESHIRE.—The drawing-room meeting arranged by Mrs. Nicholson for March 26th proved to be another interesting and successful function. Our hostess occupied the chair, and her speech added greatly to the good results of the afternoon. Mrs. Nidd, as speaker, held and interested her audience with a charm that seems never to fail. It was unanimously decided to form a new branch, to be known henceforth as the South Manchester. This title will cover a very large suburban district. Literature was sold and a collection taken.

At a branch meeting held on March 31st the Hon. Sec., Miss Hines, reported on the progress of its theatrical venture in aid of funds. The play finally selected is "Mrs. Gorrings Necklace," for which it is proposed to engage the Midland Theatre. The cast will include some of our best known Manchester amateurs. At a later date help in the matter of selling tickets will be gratefully welcomed.

By the kindness of our staunch friend, Mrs. Rose Hyland, another drawing-room meeting was held at Holly Bank on April 1st to assist in the consolidation of the new South Manchester Branch. Mrs. Nicholson again made an excellent chairman, while Mrs. Nidd

was unsparing in her efforts to reach the minds of the unconvinced and of the Anti-Suffragist, both of whom were well represented in the room. It was very cheering to be told after the meeting by an "Anti-" that Mrs. Nidd's arguments had quite converted her to the movement. During a brisk discussion Mrs. Hyland gave an interesting piece of information which she happened that day to have received from an official quarter. It appears that in registering the births of their children Jews register only the male infant. Presumably the birth of a female infant is not worthy of record. Several new members joined the branch, and an excellent collection was taken. L. F.

SHEFFIELD BRANCH.—Good meetings have been held in the Committee Room, Montgomery Hall, on March 15th and 29th, at which local men gave excellent addresses, Mr. Bingham on 'Women and Politics,' and Mr. Wallis on 'The Economic Future of Women.' At both meetings the resolution was passed unanimously, and a few new members were enrolled.

The members are "At Home" in the same room on the evening of April 5th, and arrangements are being made for a cake and candy sale early in May. S. G. BARNET.

WEST SUSSEX BRANCH.—A successful little women's meeting was organized at Chichester by two of our members there, on March 30th. The Hon. Sec. presided, and Miss Madge Turner gave a spirited account of her attempt to carry our resolution to the Prime Minister and its consequences. Much interest was shown, and four new members joined the League, so we feel a start has been made in this unprogressive little town.

DUNDEE BRANCH.—The usual fortnightly meeting was held on March 30th. It was decided to commence a vigorous outdoor campaign, the help of Miss Munro, from Glasgow, being requisitioned for this. Miss Daisy Anderson gave a very thoughtful and original paper on "Shakespeare's Women." J. A. SMART.

LEWISHAM BRANCH.—At a drawing-room meeting held on Tuesday, March 30th, by kind invitation of Mrs. Chandler, Mrs. Manson, the King's Speech Delegate, gave an account of her arrest, trial, and month's imprisonment for seeking to present a resolution to the Prime Minister at Downing Street on February 18th. Two new members joined. With the greatest regret the resignation of Miss Henderson, hon. sec. and former prisoner 'For Lewisham and Liberty,' has been accepted by the Branch, owing to Miss Henderson's removal from the Borough.

On Easter Eve, April 10th, at 8 P.M., Mrs. Manson will speak, in prison dress, at the Catford Adult School, 44, Sangley Road (near the Catford tram terminus), on 'The Prison Experiences of a Suffragette, D x 3, in Holloway Jail.' Questions, discussion, and collection. Admission free.

## PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

April 10th to May 3rd.

APRIL.					
Sat. 10.	Catford Adult School, 44, Sangley Road	Mrs. Manson		P.M.	8
Sun. 11.	Wandsworth Common	Mrs. Duval and Miss Underwood		11 A.M.	
Mon. 12.	Advertising Green, White, and Gold Fair in the streets				
Tues. 13.	" " " "	" "			
Wed. 14.	" " " "	" "		P.M.	3-6
	Glasgow, Albany Galleries, Charing Cross, "At Home"	Mrs. Montgomery			
Thurs. 15.	Lavender Hill Library	Mrs. Nevinson			
Fri. 16.	Caxton Hall, Westminster, Green, White, and Gold Fair,			12 NOON	
Sat. 17.	" " " "			to	
Sun. 18.	Middlesbrough	Mrs. Despard		11 P.M.	
Mon. 19.	Battersea, Large Town Hall	Countess Russell Miss Muriel Matters Miss FitzHerbert Mr. Joseph Clayton Mrs. Despard		8	
Tues. 20.	Leek	The Misses White			
Wed. 21.	Glasgow, Albany Galleries, Charing Cross, "At Home"			3-6	
Thurs. 22.	Olney	Mrs. Despard			
Sun. 25.	Birmingham	Mrs. Despard			
Wed. 28.	Glasgow, Albany Galleries, Charing Cross, "At Home"	Miss Robertson		3-6	
MAY.					
Sat. 1.	Glasgow, Albany Galleries, Charing Cross, "At Home"	Mrs. Craig and Miss Lawrence		7-10	
Mon. 3.	Caxton Hall, Westminster	Reception to International 3 Delegates Mrs. Chapman Catt and others			

Suffrage Day, Albert Hall, Sat., June 19.

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

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

OFFICE: 40, MUSEUM STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Telephone: 8953 CENTRAL.

Chairman of Executive Committee: HERBERT JACOBS.  
Hon. Secretary: J. MALCOLM MITCHELL.

Hon. Treasurers: GOLDFINCH BATE, H. G. CHANCELLOR.  
Hon. Literature Secretary: A. I. G. JAYNE.

### Notes and Comments.

WE have received the third issue of *The Englishwoman*, the shilling monthly edited by Mrs. Grant Richards with the assistance of a committee of four ladies. The standard set up in the first two numbers is well maintained, and we are not surprised to hear that the circulation is increasing. Hitherto both the work of editing the paper and the capital outlay have been borne by Mrs. Grant Richards, a condition of things which obviously cannot be allowed to continue. We strongly urge upon those who see the importance to the cause of the spreading of really first-class articles among the cultured classes the necessity of assisting the Committee financially. All who feel inclined to take shares in the undertaking—only a comparatively small capital is required, and the prospects of the paper are exceedingly good—are asked to communicate with us at once. We shall be glad to send all necessary information.

The notices of the Annual General Meeting at Anderton's Hotel on April 29th, at 8 o'clock, are in the press. They will be posted as soon as possible, together with a copy of the Committee's report. The notice of this meeting given in these columns last week, and repeated to-day, is by the rules of the society deemed sufficient notice. Particular notices of the meeting will, none the less, be sent to each member at the address last registered on the books; but should any member for any reason fail to receive his notice, the holding of the meeting will be in order.

The Open-air Meetings will be continued in Hyde Park on each Sunday throughout April. Next Sunday, being Easter Sunday, will probably find us short of speakers, and we shall greatly appreciate the help of any who can come. Special donations will be required if we are to extend this work as we hope. The intention is to hire vans and visit the suburban districts in the summer evenings.

### Correspondence.

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

#### The "Limited" Bill and "Working Women"

(A REPLY TO "ADULT SUFFRAGE" OF 'THE NEW AGE'.)

SIR.—In your last issue you publish a letter from "Adult Suffrage." The writer of it should have had the insight to see and know that it is just because Mrs. Despard and Miss Pankhurst are true "Socialists" as well as Suffragettes that they have decided that "Votes" must be got before it is possible for women, as a sex, to even discuss Socialism.

Mrs. Despard and others realized after long and splendid service in the cause of Labour and Socialism, how helpless they were, even to wage successful war for Socialism and the betterment of the people, so long as they were refused the efficient and necessary weapon of the vote. And, as Mrs. Pankhurst herself related to me at the time (some years ago), it was because the Leaders of the Labour Party blankly refused to take up the Women's Cause with energy and determination that the women, to their own great regret and sorrow, were compelled to take up their own cause and to concentrate all their energies in one great struggle for the immediate enfranchisement of their sex.

They demand that (to the same extent as it has been granted to men) they shall be granted direct control over that Parliamentary machine which, more and more, every day, regulates and decides the environment in which they find themselves compelled to live—and to struggle. The spectacle of voteless women fighting for the nationalization of land and capital is simply Gilbertian in its humour; for at present, *politically*, women have no existence. Therefore, they demand the vote now, instantly; they rightly and logically object to the enactments of a single, further law affecting their sex (and all laws affect women to a greater or lesser extent) until they shall possess, the proper methods of expressing their consent or dissent to such proposals.

A whole sex (not of one class, but of all classes) are to-day deprived, by an unjust and insulting sex-disability and man-made monopoly, from the exercise of the first elementary right of the citizen of a free State, the right to vote.

Personally, many of us would welcome an Adult Suffrage Bill, but it is idle to deny that there has been no adequate demand from the country for such a Bill (no demand at all comparable with that which has been made for Women's Suffrage), and we have no reasonable grounds for believing that the Houses of Parliament will pass into law such a sweeping measure (including, as it does, at one stroke, the enfranchisement of 10,000,000 women) within the next dozen years, at the very least. Neither is there any great necessity for Adult Suffrage, as the working classes already possess an overwhelming majority of votes.

But there is a great necessity to abolish, at once, the injustice which, merely on grounds of sex, prevents fully qualified citizens from having any voice in respect to the laws which they are compelled to obey, or any say in regard to the taxation which they are forced to pay, which, merely on grounds of sex, prevents fully qualified citizens from having any voice in respect to the laws which they are compelled to obey or any say in regard to the taxation which they are forced to pay.

A "Limited" Suffrage Bill, such as is asked for by every organized Women's Suffrage Society (whether militant or peaceful), without exception, would be a moderate and reasonable instalment of Women's Suffrage, and would be no obstacle, but a help to Adult Suffrage. Such a Bill has already passed a second reading in the House of Commons by a great majority of every party in the House, and might be reasonably expected to pass through the "gilded chamber," and thus into actual law, at no distant date, if the Government would grant the necessary time and facilities.

"Adult Suffrage" repeats the fallacious statement that a "Limited" Bill would not enfranchise working women, but simply women of the upper and middle classes.

Is it conceivable that far-seeing Socialist women like Mrs. Pankhurst, Mrs. Despard, and Mrs. Snowden, and loyal democrats like Keir Hardie and R. J. Campbell would fight so strenuously for a measure which simply proposed to strengthen the hands of wealth and property? The idea is absurd.

Not a single scrap of evidence has ever yet been adduced in support of the theory advanced by "Adult Suffrage" that the Limited Bill would merely enfranchise women of the upper and middle classes. All the available evidence goes to prove the exact contrary, and the truth of the statement recently made by Mrs. Fawcett that an overwhelming majority of the women who would become voters under a Limited Bill would be women of the industrial and professional classes. Your space will not allow me to go into details, but I would refer any "doubters" to Mr. Keir Hardie's pamphlet on 'The Citizenship of Women,' wherein he gives figures in support of his contention that about 82 per cent. of the women eligible to vote under a "Limited" Bill would be working women.

Again, in Bolton, for example, it was recently found that of 5,334 women upon the municipal register (and qualified to vote) 4,752 belonged to the working classes.

From the way certain people argue one would imagine that the rich and propertied women of our country were an immense proportion of the population. But, in my own Parliamentary constituency (Radclyffe-cum-Farnworth) out of 13,898 male voters there are only 671 men who are eligible to vote under the "ownership" franchise; a proportion of less than one in 1,000. And, as women do not enter into trade or possess property to the same degree as men do, we have no reason to think that, if the present basis of the Franchise be adopted in their case, the proportion of rich to working women would be very much greater than it now is in the case of men voters.

Some important figures have been arrived at by Miss Clara Collett (*Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*, Sep. 30, 1908), who gives the following figures in respect to 'Women Occupiers in London' (London is ABOVE the average for the whole country):

Occupied (women who "work out")	..	51 per cent.
House wives (without servants)	..	38 per cent.
House wives (with 1 servant)	..	5 per cent.
House wives (with 2 or more servants)	..	6 per cent.

The 6 per cent waited on by 2 or more servants, include practically all the women in London belonging to the upper and upper-middle classes of society.

All the available evidence goes to prove that the moderate and reasonable extension of the franchise consistently demanded by Suffragists of all sects would, by removing the unjust and degrading sex-disability, put into the hands of the working women of our country "the weapon of the vote," whereby to win further political social and economic freedom and rights for themselves and their fellow creatures.

Yours truly

SAM BROOKS,

Hon. Sec. of Manchester Branch of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

5, Hill Street, Radcliffe, near Manchester.

### Open-Air Campaign.

A SPLENDID meeting was held in Hyde Park last Sunday. When we arrived several meetings were in full swing, but Dr. Drysdale soon drew a crowd with his excellent Chairman's address, and the numbers increased during an able speech by Mr. Th. Gugenheim. The largest numbers we have yet had assembled to hear Miss Dorothy Molony, who, in true Irish vein, varied her discourse from grave to gay with electric effect on a crowd which had been attracted from the mysteries of high finance and theological controversy. Subsequently, Mr. E. Duval and Mr. Victor Duval spoke, the audience showing no sign of a desire to return to the aforesaid subjects, and after many questions had been put and answered, the usual resolution was carried by a large majority.

Who will volunteer for speaking on the succeeding Sundays? Our regular stalwarts must not be worked to death.

### Voteless and Not Ashamed.

BY WALTER M. GALLICHAH.

"I AM one of the 'Antis'; I shall shed floods of tears if women get the vote." So spoke to me, the other day, a young lady who should know better. But I was not surprised at this avowal of hostility towards a measure of common justice affecting her sex. Speaking broadly, the Anti-Suffrage woman is of two types: (1) The woman who is not aware that, in all which concerns the wider issues of life she is gagged and manacled; and (2) the woman who likes to be gagged and manacled.

If you question the average machine-made man, who is dully content with a machine-like life, as to his moral outlook,

and his opinions upon social inequalities, he will stare, shrug his shoulders, and somewhat resentfully inform you that he never worries about such things. He may be sweated, robbed daily, plundered of his rights, exploited in fifty ways, and yet he lives in oblivion, performing the trivial task with a perfunctory yawn, and taking his pleasure grimly at a race-meeting or a football match. More docile human creatures than these you will not discover in any clime beneath the canopy of heaven. There are millions of them in Great Britain. They are the drudges and the tools who are held in subjection that they may provide the more astute and forceful numbers of society with rich meat, and fine raiment, and ample leisure.

The woman who is unconscious of the fetters that restrain her will, her emotions, and her thought, is of the same type as the contented slave-man. She is his counterpart in a sluggish mental disposition; his replica in incapacity for perceiving where the chains gall her, and she is lazily irritated at the complaints of her less tractable sister victims. What do they want? Is it not enough to just exist prettily, to be simply a woman, with a woman's aptitude for wheedling her owners and masters? She affects to sneer at women who rebel against taboos and inhibitions. They are "unsexed," "unwomanly," and their one object is to gain "cheap advertisement."

It is obvious that before you can be freed, you must realize that you are manacled. Now, the state of dependence in which women have lived and moved and had their being for long ages is not without certain advantages and compensations. We are told that a large number of the American negro slaves resisted emancipation. They had log huts, food, and clothing. What more should they want? Their owners were not all bullies and floggers; some of them were as just and kindly as a slave-master can be. The compensations for the woman who is debarred from her share in the making of laws, which she is compelled to obey by the sheer force of powerful authority, are practically those of the plantation slave. She has a home and food, in the wage-earning classes, and in the more favoured orders, she has leisure, luxury, and pleasures. Surely these are enough! She will be content to remain voteless, unrepresented, held in a curb, defrauded of the exercise of a common human right, so long as her sex alone stands for her as woman's chiefest, greatest, and final possession.

The woman, who, while she admits that the gag and the chain are sometimes a cause of discomfort, still accepts them as an inevitable price which must be paid for her privileges, is something of a philosopher. She, at all events, knows that the fetters do sometimes chafe her soul. When she is frank, she is wont to complain in private. But usually she keeps her own counsel, and sets about being a "womanly woman" in the fashion that age has sanctioned and custom consecrated. Her influence, like that of Miss Marie Corelli, is so supreme, so compelling, that she argues herself into the belief that the voteless woman possesses far more sway over the male mind and the deliberations of politicians than the woman who wishes to attain the right of voting. She intends to be "womanly" first and last. All else may perish. She will hold on to this one asset with the stubbornness bred of an æon of masculine domination, severe home training, and the hundred subtle forces that make women dread the unriveting of their bonds of steel.

The "Anti-Woman" secretly, and rarely overtly, confesses that the new order will rob her of the one tyrannous power that she has hitherto exerted. She realizes that she must be something more than a pretty, delightful child, with an incessant appeal to man's instinct of affection, protection, control, and subjugation. She must develop on a broader basis; she must front the world with her lord; she must rely less upon the appeal of her sex; and more upon the attraction of her intelligence.

(To be continued).

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